OUR FOCUS:  Attitude, Attendance, Achievement

From the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to all Kin Kora Kids, parents and staff and also to the many new families about to experience what it is like to be part of the Kin Kora school community.

**Staffing**

For the next six months, until the Principal position is permanently filled, I am very honoured and excited to continue as Principal of such a great school. I am looking forward to again working with the professional staff here at Kin Kora and the wider community to maximise student outcomes.

With a number of staff taking leave and moving away from Gladstone, it gives me great pleasure to welcome the following staff who have joined Kin Kora’s highly professional team: Irene Milic (2D), Sarah Reynolds (2E), Rachel McMullin (3D), Melissa Newton (4B), Paige Frendo (Special Needs), Denim Hector (Special Needs), Andrew Shonhan (Master Teacher) and David Roby (Psychologist). In addition to these new staff, I would also like to welcome back from leave: Chrissy Hilson (2D), Chris Hall (4C) and Tanya Kalantary (3/4F).

**Class Placements/ Teacher Allocations**

We have had a very busy start to the year with many new enrolments. As is always the case, class placements and teacher allocations cannot be confirmed until we supply the Education Department with the exact number of students we have in attendance by the eighth day of the school year i.e. Thursday 7 February. There are also set limits to class sizes that need to be adhered to. We ask for your patience and understanding whilst this process is occurring. A letter will be sent home or phone contact made if changes are to occur to your child’s teacher/ placement. If / when this occurs please don’t hesitate to phone if you have any concerns.

**PREP News**

We extend a special welcome to our PREP students who are beginning their school journey with us. This is a very exciting time for these new Kin Kora Kids and their families. We are fortunate to have very experienced and capable PREP teachers who have an excellent reputation in the Gladstone schooling community. We remind PREP parents that the PREP students operate on two different timetables to allow more space and supervision in their eating/ play area at break times.

**Tuesday Parades**

To optimise curriculum time for our students, our weekly Year 1 - 6 parades will only happen on the even weeks for Term 1. As per the information sent out last year, our first Tuesday parade for 2015 will be on the 3 February. Lower and Upper school parades will continue as per normal on the Wednesday and Friday.
Parent Information Nights
Each year we conduct brief meetings with parents to enable us to provide class specific information and answer any questions you may have. These sessions run concurrently to enable parents to visit all their children’s information sessions. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday 18 Feb  
5 – 5.15pm PREP  
5.20 – 5.35pm Year 1  
5.40 – 5.55pm Year 2  
6 – 6.15pm Year 6

Thursday 19 Feb  
5 – 5.15pm Year 3  
5.20 – 5.35pm Year 4  
5.40 – 5.55 pm Year 5

All sessions will be conducted in your child’s classroom.

Uniforms
All Kin Kora Kids wear their uniforms every day, reflecting the pride they have in themselves and their school. We certainly appreciate the efforts you have made to ensure that your children arrived in uniform and well equipped for their first week at school. We would also like to inform you that Kin Kora State School bucket hats are available from the school office for $10. These hats are reversible with the reverse side being your child’s sports house colour.

Electronic Newsletters
I would like to remind everyone that hard copy newsletters will not be distributed in 2015, they will only be sent out electronically. Consequently, I would like to remind all parents that the newsletter can be viewed via the “QSchools” app. The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from Kin Kora State School and other Queensland state schools.

How do I download the QSchools app?
To download the app visit the application store for your device:

- iPhone/iPad
- Android
- Windows phone
- Windows PC

The app can manage updates from multiple schools which is useful for parents who have students in different schools.

Important Information for Classroom Volunteers
The safety of your children is paramount. Therefore, at Kin Kora, we are extra vigilant regarding our classroom workers and volunteers. To this end, we request that classroom volunteers obtain a blue card and attend our Kin Kora Induction Program (1 hour) before commencing work in our classrooms. The office ladies can assist you with your enquiries and you can simply go online to access the necessary blue card application documentation.

Our first Kin Kora Induction Program will take place on Monday 16 February from 9.15am-10.15am in the Resource Centre. Please book by phoning the Kin Kora office. We will organise repeat workshops throughout the year. All participants will receive an induction card which includes your photograph.

School Departures Arrangements
Please ensure that your child knows collection arrangements each day. It is helpful for younger students to have a ‘bag tag’ indicating daily collection arrangements, particularly if these arrangements vary from day to day or week to week. This means less distress for littlies and also makes it easier for us if we cannot make contact with you quickly. It is very difficult for office staff to take and relay a large volume of messages to children if parents ring each day to get messages to their children prior to the 3pm bell. We would really appreciate your assistance with this.
School Leadership Induction Events
Year 6 Leadership Induction - Tuesday 3 February at 8.50am
Term 1 Class Captains - 3, 4, 5 and 6: Friday 13 February at 9.00am
Term 1 Enviro Captains - Tuesday 17 February at 8.50am (1-6) and Wednesday 18 February (PREPS) at 9am

Your Teachers
Last week, Kin Kora teachers were involved in three days of professional development. I am pleased to say that we have a very dedicated, professional and keen group of teachers who are committed to your child's academic and social well being.

Our children learn best when the school and parents work together to ensure that our Kin Kora Kids become the best that they can be. I look forward to another exciting year at Kin Kora and invite you to make contact with your class teachers or administration members if you have concerns or commendations regarding your child's well being and progress at Kin Kora.

Yours in Education
Justin Harrison
Principal

Smoking – New legislation
From 1 January 2015, smoking is banned at all Queensland state and non-state schools, and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries.

The law applies at all times – during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays. It includes the use of all smoking products, including regular cigarettes and devices commonly known as electronic cigarettes.

School land is defined as land on which a:
- state school provides education programs under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- non-state school provides primary education, secondary education or special education under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2011
- state or non-state school provides other educational facilities, instruction or activities, for example, sports grounds, and including land that is owned or leased by the school.

Five metre buffer
The buffer is a 5 metre no-smoking area around the perimeter of the school, beyond the school land boundary; including all structures in this area, such as bus shelters and car parks. This area does not extend into residential or business premises that share a boundary with school land.

Enforcement
If you see someone smoking within the 5 metre buffer, tell them that it is illegal for them to smoke in this area.
If you wish to report a breach of these tobacco laws, contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Medical Issues
If your child has an Epipen, Asthma, or any other medical condition Action Plan, please ensure school has an updated version for the beginning of 2015. All children taking any medication also need to renew medication forms annually. Forms are to be filled in and handed in to the office prior to starting school.

Change of details
For parents who have changed their address or contact details recently, there is a new form available on our website for you to complete and return. It is important that the school has up to date information for each of our students.
Please go to www.flexischools.com.au to order your child’s tuckshop requirements. Please drop in and see Sam or phone her on 0417 101605 if you need assistance with this process. All volunteers are MOST welcome to join our team of tuckshop ladies.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 3 Feb</td>
<td>School Captains, House Captains, Prefect Badges on parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 4 Feb</td>
<td>GYCM Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Feb</td>
<td>Class Captains Yr 3-6 on parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16 Feb</td>
<td>Volunteer induction 9.15am - 10.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 17 Feb</td>
<td>Enviro Captains badges on parade</td>
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<td>Parent Info night Yr 3 - 6</td>
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</tbody>
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**Prep 100% Attendance 2014**

**Nude Food 2014**

**Final Parade 2014 Awards**
Volunteers Afternoon Tea