Dear Parents, Students and Kindon Community

Welcome back to term 3! So much to achieve this term.

The Flying Start Program

This year will mark the final year that Year 7 will be a part of primary school in Queensland.

We are working with the department to manage any impacts on our primary school community, as we adjust to the move of what would traditionally be the year level to lead the school.

Why is Year 7 moving to high school?

The move of Year 7 to high school was announced in 2011 and follows on from earlier reforms to introduce a Prep year in 2007 and raising the entry age for Year 1 by six months in 2008.

By 2015, almost half the students in Year 7 will be turning 13 and in their eighth year of school, which is the right time for high school to begin. Educators agree that young teenagers are ready for the greater independence and depth of learning that high schools provide.

In high school, our students will also have access to specialist teachers and facilities which will position them to take advantage of the Australian Curriculum.

Delivering Year 7 in high school will also bring Queensland into line with the majority of other states and territories, which will benefit families moving interstate while their child is still in secondary school.

Support for students in the early years of high school

As part of the Flying Start reforms, all secondary schools have been encouraged to strengthen their learning environment to better cater for young adolescent students, and support their transition from primary to secondary.

In state schools, a Junior Secondary phase of learning will be fully implemented for students in Years 7 to 9 by next year (2015). Each secondary school has developed its own model for Junior Secondary which focuses on the specific academic, social and emotional needs of its students.

Junior Secondary seeks to ensure the bridge between primary and secondary school is safe, strong and consistent for all students.

Dale Minchenton
Exciting changes await our Year 6 and 7 students this year, as 2014 marks the final year that Year 7 will be a part of primary school in Queensland. Next year, our current Year 6 students will become the first group of Year 7 students in high school.

To provide a smooth transition we are supporting students and parents, and working with our local high school to ensure the move is a great success.

As a result of the introduction of the Prep year, almost half of our current Year 6 students will turn 13 in 2015 and will be in their eighth year of school, which is traditionally the right time to start high school. Our students will have greater access to specialist teachers and resources in high school, such as science teachers and labs, which will open up new and exciting educational opportunities.

Over the coming weeks and months we’ll be sharing more information with you, to help you and your child prepare for the move to high school.

We are confident that all of our students will experience a smooth and successful transition to high school. If you would like more information on the move of Year 7 to high school, you can also visit www.flyingstart.qld.gov.au

Again this year Kindon State School is supporting School's Bilby Day on Friday 12th September.

Students will be encouraged to “Go Green for Bilbies” and wear green clothes for the day, paying a gold coin to support the Bilby Foundation.

Students of all years will be entering the “Face the Challenge” Bilby Crossword as well as writing a Bilby play to be performed on School's Bilby Day.

Join us all in supporting the bilbies and come and watch our play.

Rumour!! - A big bilby may be joining us!! Watch this space!!
Meet the Curriculum

Health and Physical Education (HPE)

HPE is one of the few remaining learning areas from the previous QCAR framework, which has not yet been incorporated into the Australian Curriculum. In HPE students are expected to use their enthusiasm for physical activity and curiosity about how the human body works, relationships and feelings to explore their health and well being. They individually and collectively make decisions, apply skills and take action to promote their own and others’ health and well being, movement capacities and personal development. The knowledge and understanding to be developed falls into three areas:

Health to understand that it is multidimensional and influenced by every-day actions and environments.

Physical activity to understand the fundamental and simple specialised movement skills that are foundations of physical activity.

Personal development to understand personal identity, self-management and relationships develop through interactions in family and social contexts and shape personal development.

Each of these areas has equal learning and assessment focus, and of the maximum of 80 hours per year allocated to HPE, it is expected that about one third of the time is apportioned to each area.

Reading  Ways to help your child with reading comprehension...

After “Text Participant” the next step in reading comprehension is “Text Analyst”, “What does this text do to me?”

Read through the text with your child. After reading/discussing, ask these questions. They can be asked in any order. Focus on getting your child talking about the story. Make sure they always explain themselves fully.

- Is this text fair?
- What would this text be like if the main characters were boys/girls from different cultural background?
- Why do you think the author chose that particular word/phrase/title/illustration?
- How would this text be different if told in another place or time or point of view?
- Are there stereotypes in this text?
- Who is allowed to speak?
- Who is quoted?
- What is fact and what is opinion?
- What does the text favour or represent?
- Who does the text reject or silence?

Always get the students to justify themselves by asking ‘WHY?’

“Reach for the Stars” is the numeracy element of National Literacy and Numeracy Week. This year, the Reach for the Stars activity is all about drinking water!

Some of the questions that will be asked are:

- What is the major source of drinking water in your school?
- How many water bottles does your class have today?
- How many of each type and capacity?
- Is there any water other than in water bottles in your classroom?
- Excluding water bottles, how many metres away is the nearest drinking water from your classroom doorway?
In our Classrooms - Term 3

Technology
This term for technology in Years 3 - 6, students will be given the opportunity to enter the Origin Energy “Little Big Idea” competition. A great incentive is that our school’s brightest thinkers could be jetting off to NASA’s Space Centre later this year, as first prize.

For this project, students will be inspired to come up with a great idea. There are no limits on how little or big this idea is. It could be a new invention, a smart way to save energy or a clever idea that helps people or makes their lives easier.

Their little big idea has to be original and realistic. If they had unlimited money and lots of help, it should theoretically be possible to make your invention or bring your idea to life. No flying skateboards or shrink rays. Although that would be cool.

25 - 31 August

National Literacy & Numeracy Week

Last year, students had heaps of fun performing “Herman and Rosie” as part of “Read for Australia”. They performed both here at school and at Kaloma Home for the Aged.

This year we will again rise to the challenge with both literacy and numeracy. This year’s “Read for Australia” book is “Sunday Chutney” by Aaron Blabey. Sunday Chutney examines the theme of friendship, imagination and resilience. Sunday Chutney moves around from place to place a lot and so she is in the habit of making new friends. She uses her vivid imagination to cope with being the new girl at school. In this wonderful narrative, ‘Sunday Chutney’ illustrates the importance of being you!
Community Notices

Trampoline safety is flippin’ important

On average 8 people a day are injured on a trampoline. Over 3,000 trampoline-related injuries are reported each year in Australia. Kids five and nine years are at the highest risk of injury. While many of the injuries are relatively minor, some incidents can result in serious injuries and can even be fatal. The most common cause of injury is from falling from the trampoline.

Is your trampoline safe? The five-step safety checklist

Follow these simple steps:

One at a time
Make sure there is only one child on the trampoline.

Supervise
Watch children at all times, and take extra care with younger children as they are more prone to serious injury.

Safety padding
Always use safety padding on the frame.

Check
Regularly check the:
- mat and net don’t have holes
- springs are intact and securely attached at both ends
- frame is not bent
- leg braces are locked

Hazard-free surrounds
Make sure:
- the area around the trampoline is free from hazards like fences or garden furniture
- there is an overhead clearance to avoid objects like trees and wires.

Changes to Blue Card system
On 1 July 2014, responsibility for the blue card system transferred from the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian to the Queensland Public Safety Business Agency. Blue cards issued before 1 July 2014 will remain valid until they expire and applications received before 30 June 2014 are being processed as normal.

New, updated blue card application forms are now available and should be used to avoid processing delays. DETE employees should use the Government-paid employee application form while all volunteer applicants should use the forms available on the Blue Card website.