Dear Parents and Families,

As we draw close to the end of term, I would like to thank you for your part in supporting your child’s learning. Last week our Year 12’s completed their Queensland Core Skills test. This is an important contribution toward their pathway to higher studies. Thanks to Katherine MacFarlane and her team of dedicated teachers who have been preparing the students for this important test and I wish them all well.

Parents of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students should now have received an individual NAPLAN report. Our Support for Student Learning Team with Heads of School have analysed the results and have developed an action plan to inform our focused teaching and targeted intervention.

As it is warming up, I would like to remind our school community of the importance of wearing our correct school uniform which is endorsed by our College P and C Association. Wearing our KDSC school shirt and black shorts is symbolic of the respect for self and the College. If you are having any issues with uniform or have not received your Child’s NAPLAN report, please contact your Head of School.

Finally, thanks to Families, Staff and Community groups for a successful NAIDOC celebration held in week five. It was wonderful to see our students engaged with such fun and culturally relevant learning.

Enjoy your September break and I will see you in Term four.

Sharon Jones
College Principal

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**Date Claimers**

- Breaky Boost every Thursday
- 11 Sept - P-7 Disco
- 16 Sept - Last day of Term 3
- 5 Oct - Labour Day
- 6 Oct - Start of Term 4
- 12 Oct - Immunisation for Year 8 & 10

**Upcoming Events**

- NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS
  - The Kuranda Stars Cheerleading Team are heading off to Brisbane in the last week of term to attend and compete at the National Schools Cheerleading Championships. The 18 girls ranging from year 4 - year 9 have been training for 2 years on their routine to go and win the title again for our age group. In 2013, the girls came first from 10 schools in their division. We look forward to the experience and are hoping to bring back a trophy.

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**Queensland College of Teaching Excellence In Teaching Awards**

Inspirational teachers deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication to making a difference in young people’s lives...and our very own senior teacher Ms Ruth Moxon has been nominated in the Excellence in Teaching Awards.

“I will tell you why Ruth Moxon deserves to be recognised for her excellence in teaching at Kuranda District State College. Ruth was the best teacher I have ever had...”said QUT Bachelor of Engineering student Liam Wrigley. Mr Wrigley is one of more than 20 former and current KDSC students who have written or signed inspiring letters praising the Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics teacher.

“She was passionate about the subjects she taught and as a result, many students including myself became passionate about the subjects,” another former student wrote.

Bravo Ms Moxon...we salute you
Junior School Prep - 2
Our Student Wellbeing Officer – Beau Cox has been looking at the number of behaviour incidents that have been recorded, and he was pleased to inform us that there has been a steady decline in both major and minor incidents from term 1 for Junior Primary. It is excellent that our students are remembering more and more – with the support of all of the staff – just what behaviours make them safe, respectful, and learners. Well done to our students! To help students transition from Kindergarten to prep, the junior school recently hosted 2 very successful visits from the Kuranda District Kindergarten. For our prep students, it was a chance to be ‘the older ones’, and show the visitors, their teachers and parents around, as well as say hello to their former teachers. The Kindy students and their families were able to join in with activities, eat a healthy snack with our prep students and then enjoy a play on our junior playground. For the teachers of both the Kindy and KDSC, it was an opportunity to talk together and plan further events that will make the transition from Kindy to Prep smooth and stress-free.

Year 3 - 6
All parents of students in Year 3 & 5 should have received their child’s NAPLAN results. The NAPLAN tests identify whether all students have the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for their learning. Students are assessed using common national tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. It was pleasing to see growth in many of the areas particularly in writing for our Year 5 cohort. Many of our students have achieved well across all areas of the Naplan tests. Please contact your child’s classroom teacher if you have any questions regarding the tests. Just a quick reminder about our Year 4 - 6 camps, deposits are required by the end of week 8 (Friday 4th September). If you having difficulties with the deposit please contact the school. More information regarding camp will be available to students by the end of term. We have a school disco on the 11th September to help raise money for our camps. Please support our Prep – Year 7 disco by dressing in camouflage. Bring the whole family along for fun, games and some great food.

Junior Secondary Years 7 – 9
By now you should have received your child’s NAPLAN report. Along with all students achievement and diagnostic data these results are currently being analysed to determine each student’s point of need, focus areas for improvement at class level, year level and whole school level.
In weeks 9 & 10 Years 7, 8 & 9 will participate in our annual Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT). Along with NAPLAN results these tests assist us in monitoring each student’s current strengths and weaknesses and inform teaching and learning. Please remind your child/children in years 7-9 that they are always welcome to make a time to meet with me during lunch times to discuss their achievement data. If you require further information or have not yet received a copy of your child/children’s NAPLAN report please contact me via email jbran28@eq.edu.au or phone 40855333.
Chaplain’s Chat
Some exciting events to share with you from the KDSC Chaplaincy Service this month are:-
- Prep-Year 7 Disco - FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 5-7.30pm. Theme is Camouflage Dress - so come along in your best costume and with those dance moves ready. We are including Years 7s in the fun this time as part of our proceeds go towards School Camp in Term 4. The Primary Student Council have been actively involved in some of our planning and are preparing some delicious food - curry, sausage sizzle and cakes, as well as our Cyber Cafe pizza. So come along and bring the family for a great night of food and entertainment.
- Year 7 and 8 students are currently involved in a 6-week Lifeskill Program. This week’s message was about stereotyping and friendship cliques. We are learning important life lessons about ourselves and others and are being encouraged to take the focus off self and accept and value the differences in other people who may be different to ourselves. See some of the photos here of our fun stereotyping activity
- I run a weekly Senior Girls Group ‘Chicks Talkin’ second break on Thursdays, where the girls select topics relevant to their lives that we discuss and run activities around each week. I’m excited to announce that we are about to launch a Senior Boys Group called ‘I hard Yakka’ run by our volunteer Hector and our own Lachie. Each session will involve some sort of physical challenge for the boys to tackle at their level plus a short lifestyle message to also challenge the boys as they grow into young men. Watch this space for more information!
Please feel free to meet me at the school Thursdays or contact me with any questions or ideas about Chaplaincy at KDSC. Be Blessed, Chappy Deb debbieb@chappy.org.au

Important Information for Parents of Year 7 and Year 9 girls
Adolescent Scoliosis (Spinal Curvature)
The Spine Society of Australia has recommended that parents do a self detection test for curvature of the spine. in female students in year 7 and Year 9. This test is explained in detail in the brochure which will be given to each female student week 9 this term. For more information about scoliosis please visit the www.spinecarefoundation.org or discuss with your family doctor. There is now a new online forum where girls and their parents can obtain general advice from certified specialists who manage patients with spinal curvature. In the fashion forum girls will be able to ask advice and tips on how to best dress a spinal curve. www.scoliosis-australia.org for more details.

Years 10-12
Senior School Senior students are really feeling the stress of assessments at the moment. Organisation and time management are key to managing the study load, and it is important for students to prioritise to maximise outcomes. The senior Assessment Policy has been informed by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and it is important that all students adhere to the expectations.
The Assessment policy states that students
- must sit for examinations/ supervised assessment items on the set date
- must submit drafts of assignments as detailed in their task sheet
- must ensure that they (or their assessment supervisor when the assessment was required to be completed under examination conditions) have retained a copy of the assessment item
- must (when they have legitimate reasons for requesting extensions of due dates for assignments) submit requests well in advance of those due dates.
Extensions will be granted by the Head of School due to illness, bereavement or representation in a regional or state competition. In all cases, documentation must be supplied. Please review the Senior Phase Handbook for further information. Parents and students are encouraged to come and talk to me about any concerns you may have getting assessments submitted on time.

Get your children starting the day with a healthy breakfast. Why not try some of these suggestions?
- Cereal with fruit
- Toast with toppings such as baked beans, spaghetti, cheese and tomato, vegemite, peanut butter, scrambled egg, bananas.
- Try using a variety of breads like muffins, crumpets and bread rolls.
- Fresh or tinned fruit salad with yoghurt.
- Banana or other fruit smoothie.
- Last night’s left overs..
Sustainability News:
Kuranda District State College has created a new elective class for grades 7, 8 and 9 in 2015 called 'Sustainability' where students learn about environmental science and agriculture, and sustainable design. The class has set up an aquaponics system which includes jade perch and red claw are on their way! We have been planting new crops and using the produce in a variety of ways including starting a produce subscription program. We are educating the community too by creating a website, filming a documentary, and working on other individual projects; such as a walking and bike track, permaculture chicken tractor to assist with pest management and fertilizing the orchard as well as providing eggs for the cooking classes. Infrastructure and processes are in place for the addition of goats to help manage the guinea grass sustainably. We all feel extremely grateful to be contributing to the school and community and it doesn’t even feel like learning because it’s so much fun. Thank you to Mrs. Hudson and Mr. Anwyl for all your expertise and knowledge and for allowing us this fantastic opportunity to save the planet for all mankind, now and in the future.
By Chloe Dyer

Science week at the Tanks with 6A
On Wednesday the 19th of August, year six attended a science excursion to the Tanks Art Centre in Cairns that was presented by JCU. When we got there we were seated and the presentations began. James Cook University scientists presented facts about the good and bad about parasites, worms, bees, mosquitoes and venomous animals. Our class was given a scenario that we that we had to think about throughout the day. The scenario was, if we had gone to a space station for ten years and on our return no one was left on earth; where did the people go? We had to come up with a scenario through the displays JCU provided. We also had to explore fossils in rocks on the geology display, parasites from the parasite table, a real bee hive and finally a dengue fever table. And there was a drawing competition that Lance Deshong won. He sketched the best parasite judged by JCU students. Our class learnt a lot from this excursion and we had a great day also.
By Nikki Whipp and Rosie Tortike