Dear Parents and Families,

What a great term it has been!

Last week we had a visit from the School Improvement Unit to assess the progress made since our School Review in February last year. The reviewers spoke with Staff and Students and gave the following feedback: Of the Students interviewed, 99% of students understood our school expectations and the Primary Students could clearly outline the new lunch time rules and procedures. (We were happy to report to the visitors that our positive behaviour records have doubled since this time last year and our negative records have halved) All students interviewed knew where the well-being rooms were and how to access them appropriately. Classes were observed to be calmer and teachers were focusing on teaching and learning. The work done on reading was evident in the lower year levels and this needs to continue into the higher grades as a priority. Students reported that attendance was a priority in the school. (Our attendance rate is the highest it has been in six years.) Thank you to our whole school community for a great team effort to support this work. There is more to do however and together we can achieve great results for our students. Thank you also to our dedicated P & C, particularly those in executive and volunteer roles for their work in 2015. The Annual General Meeting will be held Monday 21st of March 6pm at the College. Karl Gunter, our Head of Curriculum is returning to his school in Lara in term 2. Thanks to Karl for the way he has connected with our community and for the work he has done for the College. Michele Neubecker will work in this role in Semester 2. By 2017, all leadership roles will be filled permanently. Finally, thank you to Jo Dean and Sue Maltby for their work in the canteen and service to the school community. A new tender process is being developed and will be advertised shortly.

Have a great Easter break with family and friends and I look forward to seeing you all in term 2.

Sharon Jones
College Principal

Primary Leadership Camp 2016

Two weeks ago we went on a 2 day camp to Holloways Beach. We did lots of things to learn new leadership skills like challenges and teamwork. We learnt how to public speak, and people came to tell us about how they became leaders and what they had to do as leaders. It was a great adventure because we made a lot of new friends. One of the activities was the High Ropes. This taught us teamwork skills as we had to work together to make it across the obstacles. It was scary and fun at the same time. We learnt so much that we know we are now ready to be awesome leaders for 2016.

Photo: Francesca, Indianna, Samara and Isabella
Hi Kuranda Community, I hope this newsletter finds you well? I have had a wonderful start to the year and I am pleased to see much teaching and learning happening in our classrooms. It is with sadness that I write to inform you of my move back to Laura. At the start of term 2 my wife and I will make the move back to our Cape York home where I will resume my position as Principal. I have been thoroughly impressed at the dedication and hard work by all Kuranda staff and parents. The school is on an explicit improvement journey and this has been reflected in the improved behaviour statistics, grades received in class and teacher satisfaction. I look forward to hearing more about the progress of the College in 2016 and wish you all the best into the future. Yours sincerely, Karl.

In 2015, the KDSC Support for Student Learning Team (SSLT) developed, reviewed and implemented several systemic processes and systems to support our school improvement journey. These included reviewing our Pedagogical Framework; and whole school curriculum plan in Mathematics, English and Science to ensure sequenced and aligned learning across the College. We also developed and implemented a collaborative planning process to support teachers in the quality implementation of the Australian Curriculum, Standards of Practice for Explicit Teaching, Classroom Environment, Bookwork, Collaborative Unit Planning and Student Wellbeing Referral. In 2016, the SSLT will further develop and implement the whole school curriculum plan to include all key learning areas, and develop additional Standards of Practice i.e. Moderation, Student data collection, analysis and intervention. We will also implement the Whole School Approach to Reading, and review our Assessment and Reporting Framework. If you would like information about the above mentioned systems and processes please contact the school. Your feedback is always valued and welcomed. It has become evident that a number of parent/carer and emergency contact details are no longer current. It is essential that your contact details are up to date so we can easily make contact with you particularly in the case of an emergency. Please text, email, and phone or write a note with your current contact details.

Senior students were all recently issued their assessment calendars for the semester. Every student has assessment to be working on, whether it be assignments, revision, preparation for tests, rehearsal or continuing work on practical skills development. It is important that all senior students put in their best effort with assessment to create opportunities for success now and into the future.

We also have several students who have been applying for the rare opportunities of school based apprenticeships and traineeships. Two of our Year 10 students, Amber and Alesha Smith have just been accepted into Certificate 3 Hospitality Traineeships with Rainforestation, Congratulations girls. Year 11 student Jeffrey Hunter has also been shortlisted for a traineeship in Certificate 3 Tourism which has a challenging interview and application process, good luck Jeffrey and congratulations on being shortlisted so far. The recent leadership induction acknowledged the excellent work of our school leaders who will continue to lead by example and work with the student council to continue improving our College. Well done student leaders, we look forward to your involvement and contribution to the school.
As the end of Term 1 draws near, the Junior Secondary students are being encouraged to stay focused on their learning. Teachers are working hard to maximise learning time, as it is only a short 9 week term and the holidays are just around the corner. Students may be required to do homework for various subjects and are asked to write their due dates for homework and assignments in their diary. Where possible, parents and caregivers are asked to support their children with completion of the required tasks. Thank-you parents and carers for your ongoing commitment to your child’s learning. Working together, we can expect higher engagement in class and improved results for the students. Interim student reports are due out at the end of this term with A-E judgements for Key Learning Areas and Behaviour. This provides an indication of where the students are sitting and an opportunity to identify ways they can improve. Throughout Term 1 I have had the pleasure of getting to know the students and many families. It was great to see many families at the Parent Meet and Greet earlier in the term. In Term 2 I look forward to our first round of parent-teacher Interviews for the year. Parents and carers can expect an invitation to meet with your child’s teachers to discuss their progress.

Thanks for a great start to the year. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Inclusive education happens when children with and without disabilities participate and learn together in the same classes. Research shows that when a child with disabilities attends classes alongside peers who do not have disabilities, good things happen.

www.pbs.org/parents/education/learning-disabilities/inclusive-education/

Kuranda District State College is an inclusive school. With a team approach, classroom teachers, support staff, disability support, external agencies and visiting specialists, a comprehensive program is developed to meet the individual needs of the students in the classroom. Being inclusive is more than meeting academic needs. It is about building personal and social capabilities. Every student has something to offer the learning environment.

This term has seen the start of three lunch time groups across the College Year 10 -12 Girls Thursday second break: Year 4 - 6 girls Tuesday and Thursday first break; Year 4 - 6 boys Monday and Friday first break. Each group runs a range of engaging and interactive activities to support student wellbeing and encourage strong peer support and understanding across our college. Boost Breaky continues to be a popular program every Thursday morning - a big thanks as ever to our parent helpers. In Term 2 we launch a few new and exciting Lifeskill Programs across the school that fit within our curriculum targets and also equip students with essential social and emotional learning skill. Radiance starts for Year 10 girls this week and ‘Men’s Business’ for Year 10 boys. We are also introducing a Drumbeat Program for Year 4/5 students. Chappy Deb has taken up a regional role. For 2 days per week, coordinating programs in schools alongside other Chaplains for the remainder of this year. She will now be at KDSC 2 days per week. Chappy Lau joins us from Edge Hill SS and will be at KDSC until further notice for 2 days per week. He will be based primarily at the Primary Campus.

Please feel free to contact your Chappies via the school office or on email at debbieh@chappy.org.au and lauc@chappy.org.au

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Reading at KDSC!

Hi Everyone! Did you know that teaching students to read is the most important task for any school? Here, at KDSC, our fantastic staff have commenced reviewing our ‘Whole School Approach to Teaching Reading’ (WSA2TR). In term 3, 2015, we have set up a working group that meets every fortnight before school. This team has driven the process of reworking our vision, values and the givens (how it looks in the classroom) and we now have a DRAFT of our vision statement that we would like to share with you.

‘At KDSC, reading is our core business. Every student will be a passionate and skilful reader by reading every day in every subject. They will become life-long learners who are active, successful participants in a diverse, global society.’ At our recent parent open afternoon, many of you were keen to become involved in our journey. For children to become successful readers and for our vision statement to become a reality for all of our students, we need your support and input. During term 2, we will be offering you the opportunity to attend reading workshops and to give feedback on our vision, values and givens. We will also be asking our students for their thoughts about the teaching of reading at KDSC. Our first family and community reading get together will be in term 2. If you have a preferred time for when you would like to meet, please let me know via email (gtayl134@eq.edu.au) or phone the school (4085 5333 extension 377).

The workshops could be before school, during school hours or after school in the afternoon or evenings. In the meantime, I have also some useful links you might like to explore! Dr Seuss – Tips for reading with your children http://www.seussville.com/Parents/tips_reading_child.php 10 tips on hearing your child read http://www.topmarks.co.uk/parents/ten-tips-on-hearing-your-child-read

Happy Reading!
Ms Debra Taylor
Master Teacher

Looking After Our Skin To Prevent Skin Infections

Hand washing is important to prevent the spread of skin infections. We should thoroughly wash all parts of our hands with soap and running water for 15-30 seconds, and dry them with a clean towel or disposable paper towels regularly and in particular:

- before and after touching/changing a dressing on an infected area
- after going to the toilet
- after blowing your nose
- before handling or eating food
- after touching animals including domestic pets.

Cover boils or other skin infections with a waterproof dressing. Don’t handle food if you have skin infections or open wounds that cannot be kept covered. Don’t share personal items such as clothes, towels or grooming items such as nail scissors, tweezers, razors and toothbrushes. If you share a bed with someone, keep sores or wounds covered overnight. Tell other people in your household if you have an infection and share this information with them.

Measures to prevent spread of infection:

Children should stay home from school if skin infections or open wounds cannot be kept covered, until either healed or drainage can be contained using a waterproof dressing. Parents please ensure your child’s boil or sores are covered with a dressing prior to them coming to school in the morning to help us prevent further spread of infection to other students and school staff.

It is best to seek medical help if:
- there is a fever
- there is more than one lesion
- sores keep coming back or not healing (this could indicate other medical problems are present)
- the person with the sores is feeling generally unwell

Information taken from QH fact sheet 2011

For more information about skin sores please contact Karin Klein your School Health Nurse at KDSC

Term Dates

2016

Term 1
Wednesday 27th January to Thursday 24th March

Term 2
Monday 11th April to Friday 24th June.

Term 3
Monday 11th July to Friday 16th September

Term 4
Tuesday 4th October to Friday 9th December

Health Nurse
Karin Klein
School Nurse

After School Care

Before Care
6:30 AM - 8:45AM

After Care
3:00 PM - 6:00PM

Please note students in the community that don’t attend Kuranda District State College also have access to this service.