Welcome to 8/9A

Dear Parent, Carer and Students,

May we take the opportunity to welcome you and your child to this class in 2013. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year. To assist in ensuring the year gets underway smoothly could you please read and consider the following material. This letter provides you with information on:

- Your child’s teachers for 2013
- Your child’s weekly timetable
- Our College expectations and class rules and a few operational procedures
- Specialist programs and key events
- Ways of keeping communication and information moving between school and home
- Term 1 Unit and Assessment Calendar.

Communication

We understand the importance of communication with home and different forms of communication work with different people. Our class letters are published at the beginning of each semester. In this letter you have been provided with direct email links with staff members as well as links to other important documents to assist with communication.

Junior Secondary Teachers encourage parents who have questions or concerns to email (individual emails provided on front page) or phone them. Alternatively, as teachers are often difficult to phone, you can leave a message with the college office outlining; your name, student, teacher/s you wish to speak to; short overview of your question/concern and staff will get back to you promptly.

Junior Secondary Handbook

To assist with management and communication all students in Year 7-9 have been allocated a Junior Secondary Handbook. The Handbook has two main purposes:

1. A student diary for students to use throughout the year.
2. A text book for our Student Wellbeing Program. (The Learning Curve)

The Learning Curve focuses on the following habits:

- Living – promoting social emotional growth.
- Learning - teaching how to learn. The program uses an array of learning approaches and study skills which develop curiosity and a love of learning
- Thinking - teaching how to think creatively and critically. Using Habits of Mind and higher order thinking tools students learn to transfer knowledge and skills across subjects and reflect on what they learn.

The Learning Curve Wellbeing Program connects students, parents and teachers. It assists with building sustainable and transparent learning partnerships within school communities. It provides regular opportunities for parents to be part of their child’s learning. Students, Teachers and Parents can access online resources at the following web address:

Username: KurandaDSC    Password: KDSC4881
Welcome to 8/9A

Universal Expectations / Class rules

Kuranda District State College is a School Wide Positive Behaviour School (SWPBS). Our whole college has three universal expectations which help shape rules and procedures both inside and outside the classroom. Students will, throughout the year, be taught different aspects of these expectations.

Within the first few weeks in the classroom we will discuss what it means to be a safe respectful learner within the classroom and this will form the basis of our classroom rules. Students complete most core lessons in their assigned Roll Class Room. Teachers using this room have a set of shared expectations and class arrangements to assist with consistency of expectations.

Please note: Electronic devices like Phones, IPODs and headsets are not permitted in classes.

Bookwork, Homework and Assessment Policy

Staff across the college have established a set of consistent expectations around student bookwork. These expectations are outlined in the poster on this page. Student bookwork will be checked regularly and the high expectations outlined in the poster aim to assist students to develop skills to become good learners.

A comprehensive copy of our homework and assessment policy is outlined in the Middle School handbook (available on the school website or from the office).

This policy outlines students in Year 8 and 9 up to 5 hours. To assist with homework and assessment the Semester 1 unit and assessment calendar is attached.

On average students will complete one summative piece of assessment every 5 weeks in each of their core subjects. They are often meant to complete these over a number of weeks using class and home time. It is important to consult the Semester Planner to gauge when major assessment is due.

In addition to summative assessment for each subject, Junior Secondary Students will also be given small regular homework items, especially in core subjects. This will vary depending when subjects are met. Typically, homework will be set at the end of one lesson and will need to be completed for the next lesson. This homework could include: completing homework tasks. The handbook themselves contain valuable vocabulary and number activities which students can complete to hone basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Managing Your Time and Being Prepared

A key to a successful start to the year is about being prepared both at school and home. To help with a quick transition to Learning in 2014 consider the following:

- **Books and Resources** - Full list of student requirements for 2014 are available from the school office. The P&C are still selling Year level book packs at the college. These packs are very competitively priced and contain all the stationery requirements for the years. They also have available some key additional items like dictionaries and calculators.
- **Uniform** - Most students have started the year looking great in their uniforms. These are also available through the P&C at the school. One area that is a focus for improvement is the need for only basic jewellery: one watch, bracelet, simple necklace and earrings.