Homework Online Tutoring Support Launched

Part of the school’s 2007 Technology Plan, the new TKIS HOTS (Homework Online Tutoring Support) system went online at 5:00PM on Monday, February 12th. Every TKIS student from Grade 4 to Grade 12 can now access their own online tutor for ‘live’ Homework and Tutoring support for Maths, English, Science, SOSE and general research. Every student has been provided with their own Username and Password and can access qualified tutors from home from 5:00PM to 9:00PM Monday to Friday. Links to the live online support can be found on the school’s website or by pointing your Internet browser to www.yourtutor.com.au

If students need assistance in connecting or have lost their usernames or passwords, they should contact Student Services at the Student Services Counter in A Block either before or after school or during recesses.

“TKIS is determined to be on the cutting edge of new technology and to explore any worthwhile options that can help our students be the best that they can be”, explained school principal Geoff Mills. “When ever our students are having problems completing their Homework or class assignments, they can now find qualified tutors online to help them. Though this is an expensive resource for a small school to provide, I am confident that it will prove to be an excellent investment in the ongoing success of our students”, concluded Mr Mills.

TKIS HOTS is run by Tutoring Australia Pty Ltd who have been successfully providing similar services for many of the larger and more prestigious private schools throughout Australia since 2005. TKIS is one of the first schools to go online in Queensland. The service allows TKIS students to use online whiteboards and chat tools, to talk one-on-one with their own private specialist tutor. So now, if a parent is faced with a question they can’t answer in their child’s homework, they can simply say: “Why don’t you go online and ask your tutor?”

2007 Technology Plan Up and Running

A strategic plan for the development and integration of technology into all aspects of education at The Kooralbyn International School was launched at the end of 2006. This plan outlines the acquisition of computers and I.T. Infrastructure throughout the school throughout 2007 and specifies several ways in which technology will be integrated into all subject areas from Prep to Year 12. Some of the strategies include:

- The installation of large screen TVs and DVD players in every classroom.
- Wireless Internet access across the entire upper campus of the school meaning that every classroom will have broadband Internet access.
- The establishment of an online Homework and Tutoring Support system to provide ‘real’ help to students after school hours (see cover story).
- The installation of latest Internet-based Security Cameras throughout the school (see separate story in this Newsletter)
- Cinema-style Digital Projectors in the library and main computer lab
- A total upgrading of all computers in both computer labs (including latest Pentium IV Dual Processor technologies and flat-screen 20” monitors for every classroom computer)
- The installation of Teachers’ PCs in every classroom and staffroom from Prep to Grade 12.
- A heavy investment in audio and video production facilities for the school
- A Digital Classroom Music Lab to allow a more ‘hands-on’ approach to the teaching of music in the school
- A heavy investment in digital teaching resources and software programs

The investment and strategies outlined in the school’s 2007 Technology Plan will ensure that TKIS students are able to gain the latest educational benefits that modern technology can provide. “New technology is certainly not the total solution, but by ensuring that the school’s technology is cutting-edge, we can at least make sure that no TKIS student will be disadvantaged by inadequate resources and for SOME of our students in SOME subjects, the new technology WILL have a direct and significant impact on their learning experiences which should translate into measurable improvements in outcomes”, suggested school principal Geoff Mills, at the launch of the Technology Plan.

The school’s 2007 Technology Plan is planned to be funded largely through the Federal Government’s ICT Technology Infrastructure Program ($50,000) and through the State Government’s School Community Development Program which matches dollar-for-dollar the $30,000 investment from the school’s own budget.

School Bus Fleet Gets Into Top Gear

With the growth of the school, the transport requirements here at TKIS are increasing rapidly and to help meet this need, the school plans to purchase a late-model 22 seater bus to add to its small fleet of 12 and 14 seater buses. The new bus will be fully air-conditioned and seat-belted. A budget allocation of $40,000 has been set aside in the current round of the Federal Government’s ‘Investing In Our Schools’ Grant Program. The new addition will make it considerably easier for teachers to organise school excursions, arts visits, career days, etc.

The new bus will also help the school’s regular water safety/swimming programs, golf and tennis programs, visiting students’ groups and the large number of sports carnivals that occur throughout the year. Selected staff will be assisted by the school to obtain the appropriate Licenses to ensure that there are qualified drivers on campus at all times.

School Bus Fleet Gets Into Top Gear

What's Coming Up

Mar 31 PALS Annual Autumn Dinner Dance on Saturday at 6:30 PM - Dining Hall
Apr 2 PALS Meeting, 7:00PM Main Library. All welcome.
Apr 5 Last Day of Term 1
Apr 6 Good Friday - Start of Mid-Term Holidays
Apr 16 Boarders’ Day
Apr 17 First Day of Term 2
Apr 25 School Anzac Day Parade at K.C.A.
Flight Simulators for Aviation Mastery

By second term this year, the school’s new Aviation Mastery Program will be assisted by the purchase of two high-tech flight simulators. These simulators will allow students of the school’s Aviation Program to inexpensively practice stick-pedal-throttle maneuvers safely and efficiently from our Ground School on the lower campus.

With our Aviation Mastery program, TKIS becomes one of the few schools in Australia to allow its students to gain their Pilots Certificates, Pilots Licenses and potentially even their Commercial Pilots License, while still studying at Secondary School.

The school’s new Flight Simulators allow students to safely practice all manoeuvres from take-offs to landings, straight and level flight, instrument flying... all from the comfort and safety of the ground school classroom.

Open only to TKIS students from Grades 9 to 12, the TKIS Aviation Mastery Program is based around the government accredited RA-Aus flight training curriculum with the option for students to upgrade into GA (General Aviation) Pilots Licenses and perhaps even gain their full Commercial Pilots License at a fraction of the cost that such licenses would otherwise cost through commercial flight schools.

The Flight Simulators are being set up to match the flight characteristics of the Jabiru J160 and J230, the aircraft that our Aviation students will be receiving most of their practical flight training in.

Phonics Specialist to Join TKIS

TKIS has appointed a U.S. specialist in L.E.M. Phonics to support the primary staff in literacy and remedial literacy studies. Mr Travis Bradach will be joining the TKIS Primary School team in Second Term this year. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the fields of phonics teaching and will also be responsible for in-service all primary and secondary staff to integrate phonics into our primary school’s English literacy and secondary school’s foreign languages and ESL (English Second Language) strategies.

Phonics is the teaching methodology for reading, spelling, pronunciation and writing that breaks words down into their smallest component syllables (usually called phonemes) sounding them out (using a system of rules) and then re-assembling the word as a whole. This was generally how reading and writing was taught in Australia up until 20 or 30 years ago and has been the basic approach used in schools in the U.K. for the last century. But following a change in the U.S., most states in Australia (including Queensland) abandoned the British phonics system and instead adopted the American ‘whole word’ approach, in which the student was required to simply learn/memorise the sounds and meanings of words as a whole word. Supporters of the ‘whole word’ approach point out that words without meaning are of little value. However, the adoption of this ‘whole word’ approach in schools, coincided with the well-documented down-turn in reading, spelling and general literacy standards of school students in both Australia and the U.S. The National Research Council in the U.S. has recently joined the National Reading Panel and suggested to the U.S. Congress that ‘old-fashioned’ Phonics should be urgently reintroduced in all schools in the U.S. as soon as possible. They point out that though there is obvious value in ‘whole word’ approaches for older students in terms of comprehension and vocabulary... the ‘whole word’ approach “simply fails as a teaching methodology for early reading, spelling and pronunciation ... for younger students”.

Apart from the growing wealth of international research that clearly advocates the re-introduction of Phonics into schools, Australia has been slow to change back. The official policy of the Queensland Education Department (all State schools) is still ‘whole word’, but discussions with the QSA (Queensland Studies Authority) have indicated that as a new school TKIS has the right to use whatever teaching methods we feel will provide the ‘best’ outcomes for our students in terms of the QSA syllabus requirements. As such, TKIS will continue to push the Phonics approach and have already commenced in-service Primary School staff in L.E.M. Phonics.

L.E.M. Phonics is an intensive phonics program, designed in Australia specifically for Grades Prep to 9 which has become one of the more popular Phonics programs in U.S. schools since it also covers reading difficulties like dyslexia and other remedial reading strategies. Travis Bradach is a registered instructor in LEM Phonics having worked directly with the originators of the program.

PALS (P&F) Re-elect Committee

At the March meeting of TKIS PALS (Parents, Alumni and Local Supporters) P&F Association, the management committee of the Association was re-elected unopposed. The Vice President and Acting President is Ms Lilian Van Buschbach and the secretary is Ms Jose Robbemond. Congratulations to the ladies and to the entire PALS team for their tireless work and efforts last year. PALS are a group of volunteer parents, alumni (former graduates of the school) and local supporters who meet every month to support TKIS in providing the best education it can and to help build TKIS into an international school of excellence for the community.

Meetings are held at 7:00PM at the school on the first Monday of each month and all parents, former graduates and local supporters are welcome.

Sat March 31 Autumn Dinner Dance

The school’s tireless P&F Association (PALS) have set the date for this year’s Autumn Dinner Dance. With last year’s being such a great success, the team are hoping to make this year’s event even bigger. The annual Autumn Dinner Dance is for adults only and promises great food (again provided by Master Chef Mr Rudi Van Buschbach) and entertainment (provided by entertainer/musician Arden Forster.)

Senior students of the school will be volunteering with waitering and many others have chipped in to make the night a fabulous event.

The cost is $35 per person and includes a sensational three course meal with coffee (an exquisite vegetarian menu is also available) and drinks are sold separately.

Yes the evening is licensed. Pre-Dinner drinks start at 6:30PM in the lower campus Dining Hall which will be decked out in all its finery. It’s an evening of pampering for adults...so organise the kids to be minded somewhere, LOCK THE DATE IN and make sure you book early...for the ‘poshest night’ on the school’s calendar. (Bookings close mid-March).
Post-Secondary Courses To Start this Year

Negotiations have now been finalised for the establishment of post-secondary courses on the lower campus of the school to commence in late 2007. A wide range of post-secondary courses in the Business, I.T., Education, Sports Management, Aviation and English Language areas are planned, with the school now already licensed to offer Certificate IV in TESOL (the Teaching of English to Students of Other Languages). Though licensing agreements have already been established with several Post-Secondary Education providers, very little can be said about the proposed programs until the school receives official accreditation from the Office of Higher Education.

“All we can do at this stage, is continue our research to determine the market need and assess which courses will prove the most beneficial and popular within the local community,” suggested school Principal Mr Geoff Mills.

Given the interest that has been generated locally for the proposed new tertiary campus in Kooralbyn, it is hoped that additional information will be available by June of this year.

ALUMNI Have a Voice

From suggestions made by the school’s PALS (P&F) Association, a new Online Alumni Forum will soon be added to the school’s website. This link from the school’s HomePage <www.tkis.qld.edu.au> will allow former graduates of the school to get together, discuss issues, plan events and contribute to the ongoing success of their Alma Mater. The site will be managed by former graduates of the school but will be supported by the TKIS PALS (Parents, Alumni and Local Supporters) P&F Association.

An active Online Alumni Forum has a lot to offer a small specialised school like TKIS. Apart from offering a vehicle through which former students can extend their expertise and advice to current students, it can help spread the word about this remarkable little school of which we are all so proud. In return, an online Alumni network allows old boys’ and ‘old girls’ to easily stay in touch with each other (where ever they are in the world) and network for the benefit of their own careers and professional development.

A long and impressive legacy of graduates have passed through the school here at Kooralbyn. In fact, since 1985 an estimated two thousand two hundred men and women spread across all continents of the world, covering all walks of life can call TKIS their Alma Mater. What an incredible wealth of experience and talent this group represents. The current and future students of TKIS could benefit immeasurably from a connection to these wonderful world citizens. The new Online Alumni Forum will help build such a connection.

TKIS Tennis Serves Up a Winner

Tennis will be added to the growing list of Mastery Programs offered by TKIS in Term 2 of this year. Arrangements have been made with the Kooralbyn Resort, who have donated two of the tennis courts in the Resort tennis complex, for the exclusive use of TKIS students. The school will upgrade the nets and equipment for these courts, including adding the latest in high-tech tennis training equipment (ball machines, etc) and be working with Tennis Australia to develop an accredited School of Excellence right here in Kooralbyn.

Apart from potentially attracting elite junior athletes from around the world, the new Tennis Mastery program will offer a wide range of fringe benefits to all TKIS students, including access to world class coaching staff, the latest in training and coaching technologies and an improvement in resources and accessibility to practice facilities.

Like all Mastery Programs here at Kooralbyn our new TKIS Tennis Mastery will focus on the ‘complete athlete’...providing an intensive career training pathway. The program will deal with a wide range of subjects including coaching, fitness, diet, weight and strength training, sports psychology, competition strategy, career planning and motivation.

Mastery programs are integrated into the school timetable here at TKIS, with coaching and practice sessions scheduled all day Monday and additional sessions and competition on Wednesday afternoons. Students are also encouraged to participate in external competitions on weekends and are assisted to participate in State and National competitions.

The type of Hip Roof Shade Structures that will be built over the school’s Basketball Courts this winter.

With the assistance of the State Government’s SCDP (School Community Development Program), the school plans to erect permanent shade sails over the existing basketball courts between the primary and secondary schools in June of this year. One court will be available for the upper primary school and the other for the lower secondary school.

The new hi-density shade sails will provide an additional 440 sq meters of covered all-weather play area for our students and are part of the school’s ongoing maintenance and improvement program. Though the areas can be used for sport and PE classes right across the school, the prime focus was to provide much needed ‘covered play areas’ for Middle School students during lunch breaks. “We have to encourage our students to get out and have healthy active play during their free time,” explained Head of Primary Ms Sylvia Melior. “The shade sails are a ‘best of both worlds’ approach providing protection from the sun while still allowing students to play and exercise in the beautiful, clean, fresh country air that we enjoy here in Kooralbyn.”

Funding for the expensive project has come from a number of sources, including... The KCA (Kooralbyn Community Association), TKIS PALS (P&F) Association who continually support all efforts of the school, the school’s own ongoing Maintenance and Development budget and, the State Government’s ‘School Community Development Program’ which will potentially match the investment dollar-for-dollar.
TKIS Classrooms are '...so cool'

The school has recently commissioned a local air-conditioning specialist Sub-Cool, to upgrade all air-conditioning throughout the school and to ensure that no room is inadequately air-conditioned. Work has already commenced and should be completed by late March.

Last summer, students and staff complained that the air-conditioning was not sufficient to keep certain rooms cool in the hot summer afternoons. These rooms have been identified and Sub-Cool was brought in to solve the problem. Mr Ken Williams of Sub-Cool suggested a number of strategies, including relocating certain heat-generating devices, ensuring that all existing air-conditioners were operating at their full potential, upgrading or replacing air-conditioning units that were too small for their application, and installing an ongoing maintenance program on all units, developing 'habits' that would improve efficiency and reduce energy costs and generally ensuring that the school could be adequately air-conditioned at the lowest cost.

Since it re-opened three years ago, one of the school's objectives has been the establishment of 'optimal learning environments'. No one can be expected to operate with full concentration or absorb complex concepts or perform at their best, if they have external distractions to deal with. For this reason, TKIS wants to provide learning environments that provide optimal lighting, heating (or cooling), comfortable furnishings, suitable colours, adequate ventilation, clean air and quiet sound environments.

"There has been a lot of world-wide research conducted over the last decade about optimal learning environments and 'temperature' has always been high on the hit-list", explained school principal Mr Geoff Mills. "This current work should go a long way to getting our classroom rooms where they need to be and allowing our students to perform at their best while in class", he added.

Fine Arts Mastery reaches for the Stars

Pressure from students within the school has motivated TKIS to consider a Fine Arts Mastery program to commence in Term 2. Like the school's existing Mastery Programs, the proposed new Fine Arts Mastery (FAM) will provide a broad curriculum of practical studies with a focus on career pathways. The proposed new program will cover both Visual Arts and Performing Arts. Students will be able to specialise in any combination of art, sculpture, pottery, drama, dance and music.

Additional information will be provided shortly, but any students interested in finding out more should contact Mr Jon McGhee during normal school hours.

The proposed program will run all day Mondays and Wednesday afternoons. It is anticipated that costs will be somewhere within the $500 to $800 per term range, depending on final numbers of students.

World Famous Senior Coach in Golf Mastery

Though long-time TKIS coach, Mr Peter Clughton PGA will remain as the Senior Consultant of the school's successful Golf Mastery Program, his international commitments this year have forced the school to find someone to provide the regular 'hands on' management of the coaching program. We have been lucky enough to lure highly-respected PGA coach Mr Mark Officer to this position. Apart from being an elite coach in his own right, Mr Officer is world-famous as the inventor and developer of the 'PerfectStroke' golf system that our Golf Mastery program has been using successfully for the last couple of years.

'Mark joined us at the start of last year as a visiting consultant coach and is the perfect person to continue the great work started by Peter as he knows our unique training and coaching curriculum and is of course the world's foremost authority on the PerfectStroke golf training system... being the inventor of the system itself", explained TKIS Golf Coordinator Mr Paul Rogers.

'Peter has left me with an excellent curriculum, some highly talented young golfers and a superb infrastructure here at Kooralbyn ... I see great things happening for some of these kids in the future', added Mark Officer, about the exciting new challenge that faces him. 'It's a bonus for me to have a school with a great golf tradition like TKIS to be able to see the PerfectStroke system in practice and it's an ideal environment in which to develop new training and coaching aids'.

Mark appears regularly with his brother on Australia's popular TV program 'The Golf Show'.

Hi-Tech Security Cameras Keeping Us Safe

Part of the 2007 Technology Plan, TKIS will soon have a network of sixteen security cameras placed around strategic areas of the school including all entry and exit points, areas where students play and congregate, pathways, classroom entrances, carparks and out-of-bounds areas. The cameras utilise the latest in IP (Internet Protocol) technology, allowing high resolution images to be recorded directly to computer disk and stored for up to 76 hours.

The cameras have excellent low-light characteristics, permitting the recording of images even at night. They also have two-way audio capacity meaning that not only can audio be recorded with the video images but staff can send spoken audio messages directly to an individual camera if required... "Okay Johnny, hop down from there please..."

The 16 cameras will be monitored by a staff member during lunch breaks and recesses, before and after school, but the cameras have motion-sensing devices which automatically start recording when ever motion is detected within their field of vision - I know...we're sure to get hundreds of hours of wonderful video footage of crows flying around the school grounds during..."
Equestrian Mastery sets the Bar High...

This term saw the reintroduction of an Equestrian Mastery program here at TKIS and already the signs are that this new program will be very successful. Based around the EFA nationally accredited Equi-Skills curriculum, the TKIS Equestrian Mastery Program (TEMP) covers horsemanship, equine studies, eventing and competition. Under the passionate management of qualified instructor Ms Leah McCarron, (herself a graduate of TKIS and member of the former school’s Equestrian Program), TEMP provides a broad range of studies and practical training for our horse-loving students.

Utilising the full equestrian facilities of the Kooralbyn Resort, students have access to jumps, fields, horse sand pits, stables, exercise yards and competition circuits. The school has structured its timetable around the needs of Mastery students and allocates all day Mondays and Wednesday afternoons each week, for this intensive program. Students are of course also encouraged to practice after school and to participate in competitions on weekends. Like all the Mastery Programs here at TKIS, students are also required to maintain Minimum Grade Point Averages in their academic subjects as well.

Kooralbyn and the entire Beaudesert Shire, have a rich tradition in equestrian pursuits. Our new Equestrian Mastery Program is hoping to become an integral part of that long local tradition. The students are already preparing for our first round of inter-school competitions later in the year, but TEMP is not just about competition, it’s also about developing pathways for careers within the equine industry and practicing the safe and healthy management of horses.

Costs range from about $500 per term to $800 per term, depending on whether the student provides their own mount or whether a horse is provided by the school. For further information about the TKIS Equestrian Mastery Program, please contact the school during normal office hours.

International Fun Games @ TKIS

On Friday August the 3rd this year, TKIS will again become the venue for the annual International Fun Games. Students from Australia, Germany, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Papua-New Guinea and maybe France and Singapore will be battling it out on the field of silly-sports. As its name suggests, the Games’ are a way for students to compete in a range of ‘fun’ events with other students from around the world...and to enjoy the challenge of such unique competitions as The Backwards Jump, The Somersault Race, The Water Balloon Catch, Wheel Barrow Race, National Anthem Singing, etc.

This will be the third year in a row that TKIS will host the event. In 2005 Germany won, last year Australia won...but this year Korea will have a strong team and looks like being the early favourites with another strong showing expected from Japan.

Winter Ski Trip Announced

A tentative booking has been confirmed for the school’s Ski Trip to Jindabyne this winter and students have been given an information sheet and booking notice to take home to parents and carers.

The cost is $920 per student and includes transport, accommodation, meals, lift passes, beginners lessons and ski hire for five days. A Booking Deposit is required and details can be obtained from the Office or by contacting the Ski Trip Coordinator Ms Leanne Rogers during office hours. There can only be a maximum of 38 students included and so it has been decided to limit applications to Secondary Students only this year.

School Band fanfares the start of 2007

TKIS will launch its instrumental music program later this year with an ensemble consisting of brass, woodwind, strings, percussion, guitars and keyboards. Apart from normal classroom music and choir the school will be placing a strong emphasis on instrumental music this year with support from the proposed new Fine Arts Mastery program. TKIS is lucky to have a number of teachers who are qualified music specialists including the Principal, the Senior Mistress and several of the teaching and support staff. “For a small school we have an amazing number of music specialists available to us,” explained Senior Mistress Ms Sylvia Mellor, herself a music teacher and keyboard specialist.

The school has budgeted to add a large number of new musical instruments this year including...
• 10 new guitars • 8 new electric keyboards
• 2 new electric drum kits • 3 new clarinets
• 3 new flutes • 3 new trumpets
• 2 new saxophones • 6 new violins

With the addition of this new equipment, Instrumental Music will be integrated into all grades in middle school, senior school and Boarding School with the objective of building two or three different music ensembles and preparing students for performances at the Beaudesert Show and other events throughout the year.

This year TKIS expects music to have the priority it deserves in our curriculum, with the hope of encouraging as many students as possible to take on music right through into their Senior studies.
After School Dance Classes

This term, the TKIS Dormitory runs a regular dance class on Monday afternoons after school in the Lower Campus Dining Hall for Female Boarders. Run by talented young local performer Ms Alex Simon, the classes focus on providing a structured program of dance routines and fun. Dance provides the three components of any well-rounded fitness program: stretch, resistance training and aerobics. It also combines utilisation of the body, mind and, most essentially, the spirit.

At this stage the program is only open to female boarders of the school, but the Boarding Committee, will assess the outcomes of the classes this term and assess whether there would be sufficient interest and budget, to broaden the scope of the program to also make it available to other sectors of the student body.

The girls attending the classes this term have been raving about their progress and are certainly appreciative of the additional after-school activity provided by the school.

Film & TV Unit Exports
TKIS around the world

By mid-year 2007, the school’s Production Department will be enlarged to include new field film units, an audio recording studio, a post-production suite and a three-camera television studio. Combined with the additions to the music department, this will allow TKIS film and music students to produce short films, music video clips and perhaps more importantly...to produce DVDs of our own teaching resources for sale to other schools around the world. With TKIS’s strong emphasis on English Second Language (ESL) studies, it is proposed that a business plan will be developed to start producing multimedia teaching resources for ESL and other subjects including several of the school’s excellent Mastery programs.

“One of the responsibilities we have as a ‘school of excellence’ is to share the wealth of expertise we have with others – both the local community and the broader educational community,” explained school principal Mr Geoff Mills. “These new production facilities will not only allow us to better meet the needs of our own film, drama and music students but also allow us to ‘export’ our teaching expertise to those who can benefit from it,” he continued. “This export strategy holds many benefits for us, including helping to promote the school both nationally and internationally and of course generating revenue that can be re-invested back into the school to even further strengthen the various programs we provide,” concluded Mills.

Arts Council Visit a 'Huge Hit'

TKIS Secondary School students were granted a rare privilege earlier this month, when they were fortunate enough to witness a remarkable performance by members of the Queensland Arts Council’s performing troupe who traveled out to Kooralbyn to perform in the KCA Hall.

Based on the theme of ‘bullying’, the fast-paced play managed to combine humour, emotion and an exceptional standard of acting performance.

Organised by the TKIS English Department, our students sat mesmerized for an hour while the actors performed to an extremely appreciative audience. Apart from valuable the thematic lessons of the play, the performance was an excellent experience for the school’s drama students who were particularly enthralled by the professionalism and enthusiasm of the actors.

At school assembly the following day, Ms Jane Bluncck (Senior Coordinator of English) was given a rousing cheer from the student body for her tireless efforts in securing the Arts Council performance for the school.

Boarding News

Alex Simon takes some of our female Boarding students through their paces on a Monday afternoon Dance class. [Closest to camera: Isabella, Lara, Natasha, Arlene, Alex and Tresh.]

A Three-Camera studio setup in the ground level of Freeman House will give our Film & TV and Drama students a competitive edge in terms of professional experience this year. The facilities will also be used to produce Teaching Resources for ESL, sports and other subject areas.
Senior Girls attend International Womens’ Day Function

Last Friday 9 March 2007, thirteen female students from years 10, 11 and 12 and three teachers attended a luncheon at the Beaudesert RSL to celebrate International Womens’ Day.

The Luncheon was organised by the Beaudesert Zonta Club, an international service club which works towards improving the status of women throughout the world.

The guest speaker was Professor Ian Frazer who helped develop a vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer. Professor Ian Frazer was the Australian of the Year in 2006. He gave an interesting talk about his introduction to researching, his love of skiing which sometimes hindered his university studies, his wish to please his wife to develop a more interesting conversation at the dinner table other than medical data, but emphasised the importance of vaccination in all young women.

Professor Frazer highlighted to our students, those from Beaudesert High School and audience that the vaccine would be available later this year beginning for all Australian female students between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age.

His work is recognised throughout the world and at present he is working in developing countries such as Vanuatu where there is a large percentage of the young female population already suffering from cervical cancer.

Sasha Laws-King, our School Captain, a guest of the Zonta Club was seated at the table with Professor Frazer with other invited guests and Zonta members. As well all the students from TKIS enjoyed a pleasant excursion.

Professor Ian Frazer was given a cheque from the Zonta Club to help continue the research and distribution of the vaccine throughout the developing world.

Many thanks to staff members Ms Jane Blunck and Ms Sylvia Mellor for coordinating the function on behalf of our senior girls and congratulations to ZONTA who work tirelessly in the community to advance the causes of women and a range of gender equity issues.

URGENT Request for Homestay Families in 2007

With up to fifty students arriving at TKIS from around the world this winter for the International Fun Games, an urgent call has gone out to local families in the Kooralbyn and Beaudesert Shire areas to become homestay families to host students from Germany, Japan, Korea, China and France during the Winter months.

Homestay families are paid a tax-free allowance to cover costs and expenses and the students provide an excellent opportunity for cultural exchange and language improvement.

Interested families should contact Ms Lisa McCarron at the school during normal office hours.

Energy Conservation Theatre Project

Theatre students of TKIS have been selected to participate in a major project funded by the Beaudesert Shire Council. The Council put out a tender for proposals to produce a theatrical performance to be aimed at 9-12 year olds carrying Energy Conservation messages to be performed at Eco Expo in 2007. The proposals had to address two main points:• Why do we need to conserve energy?• How can we personally conserve energy in our own lives?

Valkyrie Blacksmith, of The Firedance Production Company was the successful tenderer. Her proposal which is heavily based around the performances of our students, utilises many facets of performance and production including: acting, dance, singing, music, lighting, sound, AV and sets, etc. The Kooralbyn International School has been very fortunate to have been selected as the only school to participate! Well done guys!

Four performances will be held on Friday 25th May 2007 at the Beaudesert Show Grounds.

TKIS Newsletter - March 07 - Page 7
Believe in Yourself

Science Department Gets a ‘Make-Over’

The Main Science Block on the lower campus will be re-commissioned thanks to the Federal Government’s ‘Investing In Our Schools’ Program. A funding application has been tentatively approved for the refurbishment of the main Science Block which will give TKIS students access to a fully-stocked and safety-compliant quality science facility.

A major appeal will be run at the end of Term 2, (including the compulsory ‘Sausage Sizzle’), to encourage anyone who can help to join us for a ‘big clean up day’ to help bring the old Senior Science Block back to life.

Other Science Department News...

Science Mastery in place :
TKIS Science Department opened a Science Mastery – Science Extension Program as of first term this year. This program is directed by Dr Colbow and welcomes students interested in science extension all day on Monday, after a thorough selection among potential participants.

BHP Science Competition :
Four science students across the year 8 to 10 cohort are enrolled into the BHP Science Competition. Testing of their scientific and mathematical knowledge will take place on Thursday 17th May. Let’s encourage them in their efforts to extend and find out more about Science and its application to other fields of knowledge.

Science Ambassador :
The selection of the new Science Ambassador for TKIS has taken place during Term 1 2007. Stephanie Booth, Yr 11 Biology, Chemistry and Multistrand Science was unanimously elected to this position. She will take over from Sasha Laws-King who filled the position with great acclaim during 2006. This position requests a Yr 11 student, to enhance the awareness of science at his/her school and to work as a liaison person between TKIS and the University of Qld.

Science Excursions :
TKIS Multistrand Science plans to hold an excursion to the Hydroponics farm soon after the Easter Break. This will be the first excursion of a whole cycle that will guide year 8-10 during the year. Besides, the TKIS Science Department is busily working to prepare its contribution to the Scholaire Book Fair held at TKIS end of May in Term 2. The topic will be ‘rainforest’.

Library wins Book Grants

The TKIS Library is buzzing with news of a $300 Book Grant from the Beaudesert RSL and a $3,000 Grant as part of the Government’s ‘Investing In Our Schools’ Program.

PARENTS’ CORNER

STUDENT ABSENCES:
Please remember to ring the office if your child is going to be absent from the school. It is our duty of care to know where students are if they are not in class. If you could ring us in the event of an absence – we would certainly appreciate it.

PARENTS’ ONLINE SUPPORT CENTRE:
We have had a few enquiries lately from parents who are trying to access homework for their children. The website to log on to is <www.tenis.qld.edu.au/homework.html>
This page will display what homework and/or assignments have been set and what dates they are due to be handed in. It is quite a useful link for parents.

MEDICATION POLICY:
If your child needs to be administered with medication whilst at school, could you please ring and request a Medication Policy be sent home with your child. There is a form for parents to complete with the name of medication to be given, times medication is to be given etc. This needs to be signed and returned to the school before school staff can administer any prescribed medication to students.

NEW ONLINE HOMEWORK SUPPORT CENTRE:
Parents/Carers are asked to remind students in Grades 4 to 12 that they should regularly access the school’s Homework Online Tutor Support (HOTS) system (see story cover page).

The Homework Support can be accessed by going to <www.yourtutor.com.au> selecting The Kooralbyn International School and entering their personal Student ID and Password.

PALS (P&F) ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:
PALS meetings are held at the TKIS Library at 7.00 p.m. on the first Monday of every month. Please find listed below the dates for 2007.

April 2nd
April 30th
June 4th
July 9th
August 6th
September 3rd
October 1st
November 5th
December 3rd

www.tenis.qld.edu.au