



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Learning is what we are about at Gilston. Our outcomes are the product of intentional teaching and explicit instruction. Teachers are at the forefront of this instruction, however we have a **wonderful team of support staff** who assist in a variety of ways each day to support student learning. Our **paraprofessional teacher aides** are often face-to-face supporting students, our **office staff** ensures the efficacy of our school-wide systems and procedures, our **facility officers** and **cleaners** ensure that the environment in which we work and learn is fit for the task. Support services provided by these **dedicated people** are essential to our success and with **"Support Staff Week"** this week, I wish to **publicly acclaim their respective contributions** and thank them.

I am pleased to announce that **Jolie** Angus has welcomed **Digby** William into her family. Digby arrived last Tuesday weighing in at **6lb 7oz**. Both Jolie and Digby are doing well

Each year, to ensure that our teachers are abreast of the **best teaching methods**, we commit a significant portion of our school budget to their **professional learning**. Their expertise is fundamental to the success of the learning that occurs for students. Recently teachers have been released to **collaboratively plan year level units** and shortly more will be released to attend **professional learning with Dr Anita Archer**, a world-renowned expert in explicit instruction. Having teachers away from class is not something that we choose to do lightly and the expectation is that the skills developed in the time off class will deliver dividends in the enhanced consistent instruction in the future. This learning is in addition to that which is undertaken outside school hours, before and after school. To **minimise disruption** to instruction, we continue to source replacement teachers familiar to the students and our teaching expectations at Gilston.

On the topic of learning, I attended a **conference** from Wednesday to Friday last week in Brisbane. Beyond the content from the **high quality speakers**, I was able to **"harvest" ideas** from other leaders from across Queensland. Extending my **network** has always been a priority to ensure that I can take advantage of the learning from others. It was also an opportunity to **affirm our instruction practices** at Gilston in light of research from throughout the world.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday to Friday	5 September 9 September	Great Book Swap
Thursday	8 September	Book Character Parade
Friday	9 September	Last day payment STARLAB
Monday	12 September	P & C Meeting 7.00pm.
Friday	16 September	Last day payment Year 4 Camp
Wednesday Monday	5 October 10 October	Calendar orders taken

2016 Explicit Improvement Agenda

- Mastery of maths concepts – efficiency through CMC program
- Embedding scripted guided reading and monitoring of reading behaviours
- Embedding consolidation instruction through slides

Gilston Expectations

- Be a Learner
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

Current Attendance Levels

P	1	2	3	4	5	6
94.95	94.57	94.55	94.69	94.13	93.82	94.15

Thank you for **preparing** your children so well for the **photographs**. I have not seen so much attention to hair detail in a long time, especially on my head. These photographs will be distributed as soon as they are returned to the school. If you have any questions about them, please direct them to MSP on 5668 9110

Do you want your child to **attend Prep at Gilston in 2018?** That's right, 2018? If so, please **call the office to express your interest now**.

It is **dad's turn to be spoilt this Sunday**. I know that our busy P & C volunteers have arranged for the stall to be stocked and the students are excited about "going shopping". To all fathers out there, including mine, **Happy Father's Day!**

I am signing off two weeks early this term to enjoy some time with Linda travelling throughout this great land of ours. I wish for you a rewarding family time when the school spring break arrives.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT **Student Attendance Report**

All students are expected to come to school every day and on time every day. It's not okay to be away. Staff at Gilston State School monitor attendance of all students. Once the cycle of absence starts it can be very difficult to stop. It can be hard for your child to feel as though they are a part of the class. They may not be sure of what's going on in classes. They are likely to lose touch with their friendship group and feel on the 'outer'.

A number of research studies "consistently indicate positive and statistically significant relationships between student attendance and academic achievement" (Gottfried: 2009). **We stress with our students the importance of being responsible for their learning and being part of the strong learning culture of Gilston State School.**

An attendance rate of 95% means a student is away from school an average of 2.5 days per term, or two weeks a year. What looks like a reasonable attendance rate still has the potential to negatively impact on a student's results. A 90% attendance rate means the student is away one day per fortnight or four weeks per school year and this is likely to have a clear effect on student results.

While we recognise that students will become ill and be unable to attend on some days we are drawing to your attention to the need to be present at every opportunity. This includes being on time for the commencement of every school day. Our school commences at 8.55am.

A Strong Learning Culture at Gilston State School

What does a strong learning culture actually look like? Early last year I accompanied some of our teachers on a visit to Broadbeach State School. We wanted to make sure that we were delivering the best kind of education for all our students. For a number of years Broadbeach students have been 'killing it' when it came to NAPLAN improvements in all areas. Since the time of the visit we have adopted Explicit Instruction and Direct Instruction in regard to teaching Literacy and Numeracy. Over the last two years our NAPLAN results, PAT (Progressive Achievement Tests), data shows our students are also doing very well. Moderation between CMC (Connecting Math Concepts) and the Australian Curriculum shows that CMC mastery tests place a student above the national standard for their age.

Our students are finding this shift to be somewhat challenging. **It is necessary for a learner to be able to resist their habitual responses and the temptations for short-term gain** while simultaneously holding at bay any distractions that will bring them back to the learning here and now. For example, to escape from the immediate press of completing a task in class, not attempting a question in a test, gaining negative attention or choosing a familiar but inefficient approach to an investigation. The challenges students are articulating is evidence of change, and we need to support them in resisting their habitual responses and building new neural pathways in regard to building a strong learning culture in themselves.

The experiences of very young children influence the ways in which they build their cognitive skills that support their school-readiness (Bodrova & Leong, 2006). The interplay between the physical development of the brain and the development of behaviour and skills goes on throughout primary school and into secondary school. The rhetoric about the need to move from an industrial model of education to a post-industrial model has been talked about for quite a while now. So with this in mind, Gilston has mandated to enact this transition through the adoption of direct and explicit instruction. The values, experience and expertise of teachers through the collection and analysing of student data has shown we are achieving this shift towards a strong learning culture. Students too, though, need to be more flexible in their approach to learning in a number of areas to enable them a strong future.

GALA DAY

On Monday 5 September the Year 5 and 6 students will travel to Firth Park to compete in sport competitions against other schools. They will enjoy T-ball, Cricket, Oztag and Boxball.

Students require full school uniform, a hat, lunch, water bottle and sunscreen. As always, a behaviour code of conduct will apply to all players and spectators. Students must adhere to sun safe procedures when attending this event. We look forward to another great day.
Scott Stavar

MUSIC NEWS

Instrumental Music Testing

Recently the Year 3 students and a small number of Year 4s took part in a music test to determine the most suitable candidates for the Instrumental Music Program in 2017. All of the results have now been passed on to Steve Broxton our Instrumental Music teacher. During term 4, Steve will assess the data and choose certain students for next year's program. He will send notes home with the selected students next term.

Choir

The junior and senior choirs have resumed this week. Both choirs are working towards a performance at the Family Arts Night on 21 October. The senior choir students are also rehearsing for a performance at Surfers Paradise for "Music Count Us In" on 3 November.

Eisteddfod Choir

Don't forget that the eisteddfod choir party will be held tomorrow at 1st break. Eisteddfod choir students should bring a plate of party food to share.

Alison Miller / Music Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club Issue 5 orders have been delivered to students this week.

Book Week – Gilston will be celebrating Book Week in Week 9 of Term 3. There will be a Book Character Parade on Thursday and a visit from local librarians on Tuesday who will run activities with students.

Also **'The Great Book Swap'** will be held all of Week 9 in the library. This supports the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

GILSTON GOURMET

Thursday 1 September - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 2 September - **HELP NEEDED PLEASE**

Ice Blocks – Jane B

Monday 5 September – Paula Black

Ice Blocks – Dawn F

Tuesday 6 September - Melanie Harrison

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 7 September - Help needed

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Thursday 8 September - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 9 September – Tracey Zimmerman / Paula Black

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Just a reminder that Nicole is away on holidays from 6 to 16 September. Mel Wright and Karen Bowden will be looking after the tuckshop while I am away.

If you are able to help the girls out for an hour or two, I am sure they will appreciate it.

Have a great week,
Nicole Meesen
Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CLEANER

Gilston State School has positions available for two cleaners at 16 hours per week and 13.5 hours per week. ADO's (Accumulated Days Off) must be worked in addition to these hours.

Application Packages may be collected from Gilston State School 588 Worongary Rd Gilston.

All applications must be in writing and address the 'How you will be Assessed' section of the Application Package. These may be emailed to jwall344@eq.edu.au or forwarded to the Business Services Manager, Gilston State School, 588 Worongary Rd, Gilston Qld 4211 marked 'Private and Confidential'.

Applications close on Friday 16 September 2016.

The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000 requires the preferred applicant to be subject to a Working with Children Check

The successful applicant may be subject to a probationary period.

Direct enquiries to the Business Services Manager 5501 2333

ROBINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL – ENROL IN 2017. Enrolment forms should be returned to the school office ASAP. All enrolling students MUST fill out official enrolment documentation and attend an enrolment interview regardless of the primary school they have attended. For more information or to be sent an enrolment pack, please contact Mrs Judy Galbraith. jgalb2@eq.edu.au

JUNIOR OZTAG Sign up. Nerang Oztag, Richard Kniepp 1300 469 824, www.nerangoztag.com

BLOSSOM INTO SPRING FASHION SHOW – Saturday 3 September, 2.00pm. Mudgeeraba Uniting Church, Franklin Drive. \$5 adult, gold coin student, free under 12. Cash only.

