



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes
Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

Edition: 07/2017

Date: 8 March, 2017

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au

PHONE : 5501 2333

ABSENCE LINE : 5501 2360

FAX : 5501 2300

admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au

PRICIPAL'S REPORT

At Gilston we employ **teaching practices** that research has confirmed to be effective and efficient. With limited time and a wide curriculum, approaches including Direct Instruction (DI) have been incorporated to assist student's master concepts that are fundamental to future learning. This year I have been **impressed with the success** of a new DI program focused on phonological and phonemic awareness in our younger students. This high-yield strategy is having a significant effect on student learning.

Yesterday Brian Ragh, our **Assistant Regional Director**, visited to check our progress towards our school goals. He spent a significant amount of time speaking with teachers in Year 2 and a sample of students from Year 5. Through these conversations he gained an insight into the **expectations and actions of year level teams** and how teachers set **goals** and provide useful **feedback** to students regarding their reading. Brian's **feedback was positive** and his encouragement was to remain focused on the refinement of our Professional Learning Teams and to continue to provide clear direction for students regarding their learning.

Next Thursday we will be hosting the first of our **information sessions for parents** of students commencing Prep in 2018. This is part of the **Enrolling Families project** that has **proven to be very successful** in preparing our students for a **smooth transition into school**. I look forward to meeting our new families and reconnecting with existing families.

During Thursday and Friday last week nearly 1300 state school principals gathered for the **biennial conference** on the Gold Coast. The program included presentations by key members of Education in Queensland, including Minister, the Honourable Kate Jones and international and local speakers who focused our attention on **leading student learning**. I am pleased to report that much of what we heard was **affirming** in the context of our school and supported the researched-based instruction techniques that we employ. We also had the privilege of listening to Liz Ellis (netball) and Victoria Cross recipient, Corporal Mark Donaldson whose personal stories provided perspective and motivation.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	13-17 March	Swimming Year 1,2 and 4
Thursday	16 March	Prep 2018 Parents Information 9:30am
Monday	20 March	Gala Day Year 5&6 Firth Park
Monday	20 March	Gilston State School P & C Annual General Meeting 7.00pm Admin Building
Wednesday	22 March	Year 6 Leadership Day
Friday	24 March	P&C Movie Night (Hall)
Wednesday	29 March	Cross Country
Friday	31 March	9:15 am P-3 Easter Concert (Hall)
Friday	31 March	Last Day Term 1
Tuesday	18 April	First Day Term 2

2017 Explicit Improvement Agenda

Response to intervention (RTI):

Target driven intervention through:

- Data Analysis
- Consistent Core Instruction
- Progress Monitoring
- Supplementary and Intensive Intervention

Gilston Expectations

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

Current Attendance Levels

P	1	2	3	4	5	6
96.83	95.87	95.82	95.75	94.64	95.27	94.20

This week is [Queensland Women's Week](#) (6 to 12 March). The theme is Queensland Women: Be Involved. Lead the way. This theme calls on women and girls to participate and pursue leadership roles in their community and workplace. [International Women's Day](#) today is the highlight of Queensland Women's Week, and its theme #BeBoldForChange invites us all to take the pledge for a more inclusive, gender-equal world.

Learning and development is about a **balance between challenge and support**. I am confident that each of you can think of how this applies to your development. So it is with learning for students. **Vygotsky** referred to the "**zone of proximal development**" as the zone just beyond our current level of development or learning. Our teachers continually analyse student progress to ensure we direct our **challenge** in this zone and provide the **support** required for success.

Supporting teachers to remain at the cutting edge of their profession is a goal for our school. Consequently we **provide time and facilitated learning** to ensure teachers continually improve. In the coming weeks there will be times when your child's teacher will be **released for professional learning**. At this time one of our regular relief teachers will replace them in the classroom.

At the end of term our teachers will be **meeting with parents** to discuss student progress and forecast the next stages in their development. I **urge all parents** to embrace this opportunity to collaborate with teachers to gain the most from the education experience.

Collaborating with staff from schools within the **Nerang Alliance** has led to significant gains in recent years. An integral part of this collaboration is the Principal Retreat each year where we set strategic direction and commit to individual actions for the greater good of the Alliance. This Sunday and Monday I will be working with my colleagues from Nerang SHS, Nerang, William Duncan, Worongary, Beechmont, Canungra, Numinbah Valley and Numinbah Environment Education Centre.

Finally on a disappointing note: It is apparent that some parents believe that the **rules regarding parking inside the school grounds** does not apply to them. From this point forward breaches will be referred to the **Queensland Police Service for prosecution**. These referrals will be supported by vehicle details, registration and where available, photographs.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT **Reading volume REALLY matters**

In today's world we are bombarded with a plethora of information from many different mediums. How we individualize and interpret that information is a very subjective process depending on a number of factors. One fundamental influencer is how effectively we can read that information and how well we can comprehend the information given, as this affects our processing and use of that information. So how can we ensure that children are given the best opportunities to develop these skills? The one most important thing is to have them read daily, and to read for an extended period of time so they develop a love of reading through a clear understanding of the importance of being very proficient at it. Here's some research about children who read and the effects of it in regard to standardized testing;

A child who reads for **TWENTY MINUTES PER DAY**, which equates to approximately 1,800,000 WORDS PER YEAR, scores in the **90th PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS**.

A child who reads for **FIVE MINUTES PER DAY**, which equates to 282,000 WORDS PER YEAR, will score in the **50th PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS**.

And a child who reads for **ONE MINUTE PER DAY**, which equates to 8,000 WORDS PER YEAR, will score in the **10th PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS**.

Furthermore, the attributes children will develop through a quality reading regime is a learning gain in leveraging prior knowledge will have a size effect of 0.65. A gain in vocabulary techniques (sorts, word cards, etc.) of 0.67. A gain in reading comprehension instruction of 0.60, and wide reading on the topic under study of 0.42. To top all this off the gain in the ability to summarize of 0.63.

These figures in isolation may not mean much, but you may have heard about John Hattie. Specifically, you may have heard about his research (*Visible Learning*, 2008), on the factors that affect student achievement. Hattie uses **effect sizes** to show the relative impact of each factor. An effect size of 0.4 is regarded as **average or typical**.

Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development. (Kofi Annan). The onus being upon the individual taking up the challenge.

Kind regards
Graeme

NEWS FROM THE SPORT DESK

Gala Day – On Monday 20 March the Year 5 and 6 students will travel by bus to Firth Park Mudgeeraba to compete in sports against other schools. Teams have been training each Friday afternoon in preparation for this event. Students require school uniform, lunch, water bottle and sunscreen. Payment has been extended to this Friday. We look forward to another great sports day.

Congratulations to Year 6 student Riley Hearn on his selection in the Oceanic District Rugby League Team. Another future Titan in the making. Well done Riley.

Tennis – Recently, the following students represented Gilston at the Gold Coast Primary Schools Tennis Challenge; Bree McRobert, Trinity Rollison, Kalen Templer and Isaac Allen. They played some impressive tennis, just missing out on the semi-finals. I'm sure they will perform well in our school tennis tournament later in the year. Well done team.

Yours in sport
Scott Stavar

GILSTON GOURMET & UNIFORM NEWS

I would also like to inform the parents who have pre-ordered sports shirts, homework satchels and library bags that these items have been ordered and will be here within the next couple of weeks.

When I receive this stock, I will inform you all through our school newsletter and then proceed to get these items to your child.

Tuckshop Roster

Thursday 9th March- Help needed

Ice blocks: help needed

Friday 10th March– Amelia Edwards/ Jenny

Ice blocks: Help needed

Monday 13th March- Jenny/Help Needed

Ice blocks: help needed

Tuesday 14th March– Caroline Fitzroy/Melaine Harrison

Ice blocks: help needed

Wednesday 15th March - Kirsty Robertson

Ice blocks- help needed

Thursday 16th March- Rachel Delany

Ice blocks – help needed

Friday 3rd March –Amelia Edwards/Jenny

Ice blocks: help needed

Reminder to all parents that we make Birthday cupcakes; so if your child is having a birthday and you don't have time to make them, come and see Nicole in the tuckshop. Birthday cupcakes are \$35.00 for a class set of iced cupcakes.

On Friday 24th March P & C are holding a school movie night in the hall. As we always have food available on this night, we are looking for volunteers to help serve food and drinks. If you are available to help out, please let Nicole know.

Have a great week

Nicole Meesen Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICES

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY - Please see attachment to see if you may be eligible to apply for help with back to school costs.

HINTERLAND DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION – Coaches/Parents Information Session Saturday 4 March 9.00-10.00am. Season starts Saturday 25 March 2017. For more information visit www.hinterland.qld.netball.com.au

GC FIVE A SIDES are teaming up with Soccer X to provide a 20 week training programme for U5 – U7's soccer players.

The programme will offer a fun & educational introduction to soccer for boys & girls. All sessions will take place at Robina & Tweed Heads. For more information please visit

www.gcfiveasides.com

ROBINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL SIGNATURE PROGRAM INFORMATION EVENING - Monday 27 March 5.30pm (Academic Excellence, Japanese Immersion, Community Action Service, Sport Academy Programs). Performing Arts Centre, 1 Investigator Drive, Robina. For more information contact acar61@eq.edu.au

BASKETBALL

Coomera City Warriors Basketball Club is our Local Basketball club that pride themselves on delivering a positive sporting experience for all focusing on fun, fitness and friendships. Catering for beginners to more skilled players, Warriors have both boy and girl teams that participate in summer and winter seasons, providing a safe indoor sporting option for the whole family all year round.

If you require any further information, visit their website coomeracitywarriors.com.au or pop them an email at warriors@seahawksbasketball.com.au.