PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

“Teachers have it easy. They work from 9.00 til 3.00 and have all those holidays.” If you think this, you are not seeing what I see. With only three weeks until the end of the term the volume and quality of forward planning that is being produced is impressive. I liken it to a three kilometre sprint at the end of a marathon. I am in awe of the productivity that permeates our school at this time and commend highly the wonderful teachers who dedicate inordinate amounts of time to ensure the best outcomes for our students. They will certainly deserve a break when the bell finally rings at 3.00pm on 12 December.

Volunteers add the silver lining to our school. They spread mulch on the gardens and butter on the bread, they count money for the banking and sight words in the classrooms, they meet to position the school strategically and to plan to raise funds, they sell uniforms and lunches, they source sponsors and secure grants and the list goes on. I look forward to sharing a coffee with the wonderful folk who have helped out this year. On behalf of a grateful Gilston School Community, I thank each and every volunteer for being part of the silver lining.

Finally, it is our water babies’ turn to shine this week as we gather for the swimming carnival. The event, whilst having a serious side where races are won and records are set, is an opportunity for our girls and boys to enjoy each other’s company. The house spirit will be alive and well as will the sportsmanship to which we are accustomed.

95% was our target for attendance this year. We almost hit the mark; however families choosing to take a break from school during the terms have set us back in our quest. We know we had a wave of illnesses with which to contend but unexplained absences were in fact our downfall. I will be happy to celebrate with those students whose attendance has been exemplary this year and to reveal the class with the best attendance rate.

Those parents who have attended the Enrolling Families sessions will have heard of the importance of nursery rhymes. I challenged parents of families joining us with Prep children next year to ensure they shared nursery rhymes at home. Recently I asked Jo-Anne Lenan, one of our most experienced early childhood teachers, to nominate the top 10 nursery rhymes that parents could teach their child prior to school start. To develop, rhyme, rhythm, counting skills, vocabulary, speech, actions to accompany verse and to have fun, she gave me the following list: Humpty Dumpty, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Baa Baa Black Sheep, 1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive, 5 Little Ducks, Jack and Jill, Hickory Dickory Dock, Old Macdonald Had

2014 Explicit Improvement Agenda

- Reading and Spelling
- 21st Century Learning
- Consistent and Positive Behaviour Management

Gilston Expectations

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

Current Attendance Levels

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<th>Level</th>
<th>1</th>
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</table>
a Farm, Hey Diddle Diddle, I’m a Little Teapot.

Next week Kylie has coordinated the annual Japanese Kids Being Teachers day where the students teach the younger students about aspects of the Japanese culture and language. Be sure to ask your child about their experience on Tuesday.

**Vehicle access to the school grounds** without authority is an offence. Breaches by parents delivering or collecting students from the PCYC jeopardise the service’s future as their agreement includes clear direction that parents are not to bring vehicles onto the school grounds. Parking permits are approved by me for those people who have a legitimate reason to access the grounds. Illegal parking may result in reports to police.

Our BYOD policy has been uploaded to the website for your information and any parent wishing to express interest in having their child in a BYOD class must complete the last two pages of the document and return them to the office prior to this Friday 28 November.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

**Bruce**

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**The value of a School Chaplain**

A School Chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school and provides a listening ear, caring presence, and a message of hope. Chaplains run positive, fun activities for students and assist in fostering supportive, caring school communities.

Working with other members of the school’s support team, the Chaplain cares for students struggling with issues such as difficult relationships with other children or family members, poor self-esteem, family breakdown, and depression.

The partnership between the school and the Chaplaincy Service, supported by local churches, businesses and community organisations, provides a network of local support and assistance. These positive relationships help young people to face difficult issues, and provide hope, connection, meaning, and purpose.

The Chaplaincy Service is available to everyone in the school community regardless of their religious beliefs.

**Meet our School Chaplain – Samantha Bond**

Samantha Bond is the Chaplain at Gilston State School on Thursdays and Fridays. During her time here she runs group programs and individual sessions. Group programs encourage social and emotional learning with a focus on resilience, coping skills and life skills. Some of the programs that will be offered in 2015 include:

- Kids with Courage
- Bella Girls
- Shed men
- Breakfast Club

Regular or one off one-to-one sessions with children going through a difficult patch like divorcing parents, friendship/family struggles, self-esteem, grief and loss are also offered by the Chaplain.

Gilston State School has applied for money to fund our 2015 Chaplaincy service. We are waiting to hear whether our application has been successful.

Until next time,

Kelly Clark

**INTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

Please note that Instrumental Music will be held Thursday 27 November this week NOT Friday 28 November.

**P & C NEWS**

Tempting as it is to have an unbridled rant when I see poor parking choices from just a few of our Gilston parents, instead I would like to thank and encourage the many families who do the sensible thing. It is because so many at Gilston choose wisely when it comes to our children’s safety and think of others that we do not park in the drop off area, or be so ridiculous to park across the bottom end of Worongary Road and drag small children out into moving traffic instead of simply using the crossings, those who do STAND OUT so loudly. I encourage us all to finish the year on a positive and safe note by continuing to be the safety conscious community we are.

Gilston Christmas Wishing Tree for Children in Foster Care

Are you able to support the Pyjama foundation by providing a Christmas gift for a child in Foster care? Donations of new and unwrapped gifts are to be placed in the box at the Office. It brings warmth to your heart when you know you have touched the life of a child you may never meet, but put a smile on their face all the same.

**Back to School Uniform Shop Hours – 2015**

Dates to note in your diary for back to school uniforms - Tuesday 20 January, 2015 (10.00am-12noon) & Thursday 22 January, 2015 (2.00-4.00pm).

**Uniform Prices will be rising in 2015** so you may wish to make your purchases before the end of the year.

For those attending Nerang High School, the Nerang High School Uniform Shop will be open on Saturday, 6 December 2014 from 9.00am-12 noon.

Kind regards, Narelle Reed – your not for much longer P&C President. Tel: 0403046920

**GILSTON CLUB NEWS**

**Book Packs** can be picked up Tuesday 2 December, Wednesday 3 December & Thursday 4 December (next week!) between 2.30-3.30pm each day from the Library. All Grade 3, 4 and 5 students are welcome to pick their book pack up as it contains new and unwrapped gifts for their parents to open.

Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students will need a parent to pick their book pack up as they are bulky and heavy. If you feel your younger child is capable of picking theirs up, they will need to provide a signed note from you to say you want them to pick it up. The letter is to come with the child and to be handed to the ladies handing them out. You need to be aware that if you let them pick theirs up, they take full responsibility once it has been collected. A note confirming all this will be coming home in each child’s bag.

**Artwork Fundraiser** – we hope everyone is happy with their orders. We realise there are a few missing, but Trudy is on the case to sort these all out. The artwork cannot be
returned to the classes until all issues have been sorted, so if you have a query regarding your order, please contact us NOW. We would also love some feedback as to what you thought of this fundraiser. For this, and all things Gilston Club, please email us at gilstonclub@gilstonss.eq.edu.au Thanks… Lisa - Chairperson

GILSTON SPORTING GREATS
Our region is compiling a list of students who attended schools in South Coast and have gone on to represent their country and/or have a professional career in sport. If you know of any past Gilston SS pupils that this applies to please let me know. I will publish this list of great Gilston sports people in the next newsletter. Thank you. Scott Stavar

SWIMMING CARNIVAL YEAR 4-7
This year’s carnival will be held on Friday 28 November. The students will travel by bus to All Saints indoor swimming pool and compete in a variety of events.

To add to the fun, we are having a Crazy Hat theme.

A pre-ordered food menu has been distributed.

A reminder that swim caps are compulsory and are available in house colours at the tuckshop for $7.00

We look forward to another great event.

YEAR 6 & 7 BEACH GALA DAY
On Monday 1 December our Year 6 and 7 students will be participating in a Beach Gala day with Tallebudgera, Nerang and Coolangatta State Schools. The students will participate in various sports, the aim of which is to have fun, improve skills, interact with other schools and develop team and school spirit.

The students will arrive at Kirra Beach and start their games at 10.00am. All parents, relatives and friends are welcome to attend and support, assist and cheer on the Gilston teams.

Remember to bring a fold up chair

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Scott Stavar – PE Teacher

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 27 November – Bec Moore
Ice Blocks – Karen

Friday 28 November – Jade / Theresa
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 1 December – Mel Moore / Alex
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 2 December – Ame Seagrove / June Stewart
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 3 December - Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed”
Thursday 4 December - Help needed

Ice Blocks – Karen

Friday 5 December – Kristy / Brenda / Jade / Teresa
Ice Blocks – Karen

Still need Year 5 parents to help on Year 6 and Year 7 Graduation nights on Tuesday 9 December and Wednesday 10 December, 2014.

If you can help please come and see Nicole in the tuckshop.

Have a great week.

Nicole – Tuckshop Convenor

LIBRARY NEWS
A huge thank you to all the parents and children who supported the library Book Fair over the past two weeks. Due to your generous spending the library has now earned commission from the sales to purchase new books for next year and keep our library shelves full of new and interesting books for our students.

The last Book Club orders for this year were sent off this week and students and parents should have their orders arrive at school next week.

There will be no more student borrowing from the library this year. We ask students to return all books they have to the library this week please during their library borrowing time.

Overdue and Lost Books
During the next two weeks, the library will be conducting a stock take and all overdue books are required to be returned promptly. Letters have been sent home to families who have overdue books. If the book is at home please return it this week. If you have lost the book please speak to the librarians about it so we can remove the book from the loan system and also speak to the librarians about paying for the replacement cost of the lost book/s.

Thank you

Librarians Shelley Batson and Kathy Stone

COMMUNITY NOTICES
GOLD COAST BASKETBALL CAMP – 12/13/14 January, Hillcrest College, Reedy Creek – 9.00am-3.00pm - $100 for 3 days or $50 per day – 5-17 years – www.goldcoastbasketball.net.au

LITTLE LIFESAVERS @ Tallebudgera Creek – 14-16 January – 8.00-10.00am - $95 which includes long sleeved rash shirt, wet bag, water bottle and BBQ on last day. Ages 5-11 years. Enquiries littlelifesavers@lifesaving.com.au or 5566 1008.

The 2014 Mudgeeraba Community Carols Sunday 30 November at Firth Park Mudgeeraba. Come down from 4.30pm and enjoy loads of Entertainment including jumping castles, face painting, McDonalds Farm and much more. Bring a picnic or buy from the local food and drink stalls. The Carols will commence at 5pm with performances from Division 9 local schools. Santa will be arriving at 5.50pm, and then we will continue the festivities with all singing along to the Christmas Carols. Plenty of parking available, so we hope to see all the community out at this wonderful event to start celebrating the joys of Christmas.

Nerang Branch Library hands on writing workshop. Be inspired by young author Eillina Escott who will demonstrate her writing and illustrating techniques. For ages 7-13, Friday 16 January, 10.00-11.00am. Phone 5581 7180 or book online at http://bit.ly/GCLibrariesEvents

JUNIOR GOLD CAMP - Parkwood International Golf Course 5-9 January, $299, Ages 9-16 years. Phone 1800 753 127 or http://www.sportscampsaustralia.com.au

HELENSVALE NETBALL CLUB SIGN ON DAY – 31 January, 10.00am-2.00pm – Fees $220, Viney Park, Yaun St, Coomera