



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ANZAC Day is a most significant day in the Australian calendar. The spirit of the ANZAC was certainly evident in our school assembly and in the services on Monday. At the march, generations of Australians came together to honour those in our armed services both past and present. I know that the members of the Nerang RSL were very pleased to have students take part in the march and in the ceremonies. Marching under our Gilston banner were: Kate, Clare, Bianca, Amy, Tyrone, Andrew, Lilly, MacKenzie, Alysha-Rose, Tahlia, Kayley, Nina, William, Taylor, Ava, Charlotte, Riley, Bella, Kendra, Marcus, Taj, Music, Miracle, Mia, Amy, Ellie, Olivia, Rohan, Misha, Lilly, Pyper. Other students from Gilston participated in a range of services and marched under banners including Guides, Scouts and sporting clubs. I thank and commend families for prioritising participation and attendance at these events.

The **Explicit Improvement Agenda** that is included on the left of the front page of our newsletter each week **narrows our focus** to ensure success. The Connecting Maths Concepts element is the only "new" agenda item this year and we continue to refine our adoption of this direct instruction program. The second and third items were refined last year and this year we are embedding these practices. If you have any questions about the agenda, please contact me as I will be happy to re-explain why we have chosen these items and the predicted outcomes of their adoption.

Two weeks ago I spoke about some **fund raisers** to assist Marcus' family in their acquisition of a special vest to help his physiotherapy. Please see the details on Graeme's section about the first of these.

This morning we welcomed some teachers from **Nerang State High School** to observe some practices in Year 6. As part of the Nerang Alliance of schools we continue to share practices with a view to making the education experience in our alliance seamless.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the **bush dance this Friday**. Please ensure you book your tickets early to take advantage of the discounts. Details in flyer sent home.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	29 April	Bush Dance Last day Book Club orders
Friday	6 May	Last day for orders of jumpers and jackets from Uniform Shop
Monday	16 May – 23 May	Book Fair in the Library
Monday	23 May	District Cross Country
Wednesday Friday	27 July – 29 July	Year 5 Camp Tyalgum Ridge Retreat

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
96.16	95.53	95.92	95.83	94.92	94.51	95.17

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Going Bush for a cause – Friday 6 May

In the near future (6 May), we are holding a back to nature lunch activity for all the children at Gilston. During the first break play time we are inviting everyone to bring a gold coin and spend the time on the school's nature trail. In some cases it will be the first time children and teachers will have been in the area and should make for a lot of fun, learning and interacting in a different way in a different setting. The proceeds gained will be used to support one of our students and his family, so please get your children involved for a guaranteed different kind of lunch activity.

Are we there yet?

I wrote last week describing 'Learning' as a culture, and students as human beings needing to understand their environment. The environment I'm meaning is that of coming to school with an intention to learn every day, not any other predisposition. Further to that I've arranged some data from different sources to highlight the need for our children to adopt this stance. This would mean they have the desire to come to school on time, all the time, plus have the desire to be engaged with their learning during their time at school.

Today's centre of high performance in school education is East Asia. Four of the world's five highest-performing systems are Hong Kong, Korea, Shanghai and Singapore, according to the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), assessments of students. In Shanghai, the average 15-year old mathematics student is performing above his or her counterpart in Australia, the USA, the UK and Europe.

In recent years, many OECD countries have substantially increased education expenditure, often with disappointing results. Between 2000 and 2008, average expenditure per student rose by 34% across the OECD. Large increases in expenditure have also occurred in Australia, yet student performance has fallen. As the world's economic centre shifts to the East, there is scope to learn from its most effective school systems to improve our children's lives. Success in high-performing systems is not always the result of spending more money. Korea, for example, spends less per student than the OECD average. Nor is success culturally determined, a product of Confucianism, rote learning or Tiger Mothers. Only 11 years ago, Hong Kong ranked 17th in assessments of reading literacy (PIRLS) and Singapore was ranked 15th. Just five years later (in 2006) they ranked 2nd and 4th.

Monitoring Australian year 4 student achievement internationally:

Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2011

- With an average reading score of 527 points, **Australia's score was ranked lower** than that of **twenty** other participating countries where English is not the first language.
- **Ten per cent** of Australian Year 4 students reached the advanced international benchmark, 32 per cent the High benchmark and 34 per cent the Intermediate benchmark. **Almost one quarter of students did not reach the Intermediate benchmark.**
- Female Year 4 students scored higher on average in the PIRLS assessment than did their male peers. Greater proportions of female students reached the advanced international benchmark while greater proportions of male students did not reach the Intermediate benchmark.
- The Australian Capital Territory was the best performing state in terms of both average reading score and performance at the international benchmarks.
- Students from homes with more literacy resources (in terms of books in the home) have higher achievement, on average, in reading than students from less well-resourced homes.

Reading is probably the most important skill for children to develop in their early years, underpinning learning in all other areas. Recognising the importance of reading in the development of children, the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) marked the beginning of the 21st century by inaugurating the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) study, to measure children's reading achievement at Year 4, every five years.

Year 4 is an important point in children's development as readers, as it is at this age that most students make the transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

For the first time in 2011, Australia participated in the PIRLS assessment. Australia also participates in PISA, in which one of the three assessed domains is reading literacy, with 15-year-old students.

Participation in PIRLS presents policy makers with an opportunity to benchmark Australian students in this core skill against other countries at an earlier stage of their development as learners, and thus complements participation in PISA.

Stories are everywhere - but not all are always accessible to all

Philip Pullman said that "after nourishment, shelter, and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world." Any person breathing knows this to be true. From telling stories around the fire, to the invention of the printing press, to binge-watching Netflix, our culture has always revolved around stories. It is through stories that we define our world and discover our place in it. Stories help us understand the world we live in, teach us about where we came from, and help us see possible futures. Stories are our education and our escape. They lull us to sleep and inspire us to action! Indeed, it is through the stories we tell each other that we literally create the world as a reflection of who we are.

What we have to do is encourage each child to **appreciate storytelling through the written word at least as much as they appreciate storytelling through visual mediums**. Movies and television are wonderful but it is difficult, if not impossible, to reach **one's full** potential without being able **to read well**. To be literate is to be on the pathway to becoming a lifelong learner, and literacy is essential if we're to have educated individuals and a truly free society. Attaining broad scale literacy has been a long-term challenge but today low levels of literacy are more limiting for those affected than in the past. **The demands on literacy today are greater than when jobs were available to those with minimal literacy skills. Not so today and into the future, as unskilled jobs are becoming rare.**

(Philip Pullman CBE, FRSL is a British writer. He is the author of several best-selling books, the Times named Pullman one of the "50 greatest British writers since 1945).

Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.

Groucho Marx

State of Origin - 1 June 22 June

On these dates we want to encourage all students to dust off their favourite team colours and wear them to school as part of the State of Origin annual series of games. No matter that you may not be into rugby league, your favourite sporting team colours can be worn. We also ask for children to bring a gold coin for the privilege, all monies raised will be going to providing much needed medical equipment for one of our Gilston students. Might also be room for a teacher/parent v student's touch football game, who knows?

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club Issue 3 – the last date for orders will be Friday 29 April.

Please remember to order on-line using the LOOP payment option.

Book Fair will be held this term. It will run from Monday 16 May to Monday 23 May.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER – Michelle Davies

Wisdom 3: A Stitch in Time can Save Nine

This is another old favourite of mine.

Isn't it just so true? So often, a small amount of work completed when most needed, can save us from having to do a lot of extra work later on.

I regularly revisit this wisdom and I have always found it to be very beneficial. My dearest mother used to regularly remind me of this important idiom and I am so glad she did.

After all, if we all get on and complete the smaller jobs or chores when they are needed to be completed, we can often save ourselves from having to engage in much bigger and far more arduous (perhaps even more expensive) jobs at some time in the future.

So why do so many of us fall back into a rigid pattern of procrastination rather than just getting on with what needs to be done in the first place.

"Because we're just so busy or all so tired at the end of a hard day's work" I might hear you all chorus!

Well indeed in today's busy world we can feel as though there is never enough time. But isn't this even more reason to get those smaller jobs accomplished early, before they become too big or too onerous for us to handle.

None of us can really afford to allow our small chores to become enormous projects. The stress this can put on us in the long run can be very bad for both our budget and our own mental wellbeing.

Likewise, our children also need to learn the importance of this wonderful little piece of ancient wisdom. If we can just teach them to time manage and to organize themselves well. If we can help them to understand the importance of completing just small amounts of work regularly (be it school work or home chores) we can thereby develop in them some of the most important attributes necessary to becoming successful adults. They can go on to becoming well organized and truly responsible time managers and more effective young adults. If they learn that "a stitch in time saves nine" they learn to become "doers" rather than just procrastinators.

KidsMatter: Fostering Great Mental Health for our Community, Families and Children.

Let's take a moment to look at the real issues.

We absolutely need to **look after each other**. We also need to **learn to forgive and foster connectedness**.

If we can really cherish and grow our own personal relationships with those around us, if we can really look

after all of the people in our close family, our workplace and our community; if we can love and cherish our children and our loved ones, then we can truly start to foster the general wellbeing and mental health of our own personal community.

We all know that life can throw us a challenge from time to time. Challenges are usually not easy to handle. We need to learn about "grit" and also about the ability to "bounce back".

Thankfully, much of our life is also taken up with absolutely wonderful experiences - connecting with friends, family links, work satisfaction, exciting holidays, new experiences, achieving personal goals, setting challenges and developing personal interests.

When life is positive for us, we can totally fail to see the personal challenges in the lives of others, even the challenges in lives of those closest to us.

I truly believe that we all need to **stop for just a moment**, and to **take a little time to consider the challenges** of those close to us. We need to look at what they may be facing in their own life. Let's all **take some time to look after all of those around us**. Sometimes things aren't going so well. Always remember, we can all help each other.

Good mental health in our community can protect all of us through periods of diversity. It gives us the ability to "bounce back" and weather a "winter in our life". Poor mental health and the inability to "bounce" can make it difficult to "weather that winter". We all need to develop more protective factors and more empathetic and real connections in our life.

Mental Health: Are there Risk and Protective factors?

One way to understand mental health in childhood is through risk and protective factors. The relationship between risk and protective factors is complex; however, it is known that reducing risk factors and building protective factors in children has a positive effect on their mental health and wellbeing.

Risk factors for children's mental health increase the chance of mental health difficulties developing. These may be events that challenge children's social and emotional wellbeing, such as family conflict or separation, parents or carers experiencing mental health difficulties, being affected by natural disasters, experiencing stressful events, experiencing trauma or abuse, or lacking friends or supportive relationships with adults.

Protective factors for children's mental health decrease the likelihood of experiencing mental health difficulties. They help to balance out the risk of developing mental health difficulties and build resilience - the ability to cope with life's difficulties. Examples of children's mental health protective factors include:

- a stable and warm home environment
- having supportive parents or carers and early childhood services
- achieving developmental milestones
- having an ambition to overcome challenges
- routines and consistency in life
- having support from a wide circle of family, friends and community members.

KidsMatter works to strengthen children's protective factors in the early years and to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Addressing risk and protective factors in very early childhood, or even in the later primary years can improve children's wellbeing and also reduce their risk of developing mental health difficulties as they grow towards their teen and early adult years.

SUGOI HQ has been working towards our goal to have more interactions with Japanese students and the ability to engage our students in the culture and language they study. We plan to organise a visit from a group of Japanese students to Gilston later in the year. We are looking for families who would be willing to host a student at their house for a week. Activities will be organised within the school for the group during school hours. If you are interested in more information on hosting a Japanese student please complete and return the form sent home.

GILSTON GOURMET REPORT

Thursday 28 April – Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 29 April – Kristy Griffin / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 2 May – Public Holiday

Tuesday 3 May – Mel Harrison / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 4 May – Rachael Wood / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Kim Anderson

Thursday 5 May - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Tracey Zimmerman

Friday 6 May – Help needed please

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Flexischool's have increased their fees as below:

“Account Holders using accepted Credit Cards, namely VISA and Mastercard, or PayPal to increase the balance of an account or immediately pay for goods and services will incur a Credit Card/PayPal Surcharge of 15c + 1%. Previously this fee was 29c for Credit Cards and 35c for PayPal. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to increase the balance of an account will continue to be fee-free. The above changes are a fairer approach to surcharge recovery and the free EFT option remains in place for Account Holders.”

Unfortunately due to chocolate being unavailable last week I was unable to start selling Hot Chocolate - sorry for any inconvenience. We have now sourced some chocolate and are ready to start selling. Price is \$2.50 per hot chocolate. Have a great week;

Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor

UNIFORM SHOP

To keep costs down this year we will be placing orders for **jumpers and jackets**. Orders will be placed Friday 6 May 2016. To make life a little easier you will be able to make a layby. 50% of your total will need to be paid before Friday 6 May 2016 if you wish to have a jumper or jacket. They will be ready for collection Thursday 26 May 2016.

This **Thursday**, we will be holding a \$1 day between 2.00-3.15pm in the Uniform Shop. There will be green jumpers, jackets and pants that have been donated but were not purchased from the school. This is CASH ONLY.

From now until 26 May 2016 we will be selling all **cargo pants and girls boot leg pants** for \$10.00

Medium hats have been ordered.

If you are able to **volunteer** your time one Thursday afternoon a month please phone Tracey on 0408 184 403 or let Nicole know in the tuck shop.

Thank you.

THE BIG FAMILY FUNANZA Sunday 26 June 10.00am-2.00pm, Nerang Country Paradise Parklands.

MUDGEERABA STREET PARTY Sunday 1 May, 10.00am-3.00pm, Swan Lane and Railway Street.

Come and join us for this annual event to celebrate the History and Heritage of Mudgeeraba and the Hinterland. 95 Community and Business Displays, loads of interactive activities, kids' activities, entertainment on the stage all day featuring the Blue Stomp Holding Co, annual street parade. This is a free community event. www.cityofgoldcoast.com.au/heritageevents

NERANG STATE HIGH SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT – Friday 20 May. Doors open 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Tickets \$10 each or \$12 on the night. Tables of 8 can be booked now by calling Tracey Spiers on 0412 267 263 or tspie16@eq.edu.au. BYO food. **Strictly NO BYO alcohol.**

AFL AUSKICK Sign on & 1st Session – Thursday 5 May, 3:10-4:10pm, Gilston SS oval, **Cost: \$75. For more information contact:** Tim on 5594 5722. Girls can do Auskick as well, come along & have fun girls. Or visit www.aflauskick.com.au. Participants receive benefits which includes, Hat, Football, lunch bag and much more. **To register:** Register online & pay online at www.aflauskick.com.au. Please print your receipt and bring to the first session.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING MERRIMAC STATE HIGH for students entering Year 7 in 2017 will be held Tuesday, 17 May at 6.30pm in the Hall. 5595 8666 or office@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au

AFL QUEENSLAND HAS DEVELOPED A NEW PROGRAM JUST FOR GIRLS, because we recognise that signing up to junior club competitions can be a little bit daunting. Our RAMP (Regional AFL Match Program) bridges the gap between Auskick and Club Football. We'll help you and your daughter become 'club ready', develop her confidence, and build her knowledge of the game. Wednesday 27 April (8 weeks) 4.30-5.30pm, Robina AFC, Scotttsdale Drive, Robina, \$90 includes registration & Term 3 competition Fee. Register gcsouthgirlsramp.sportingpulse.net