



## Welcome Back To Our School Community

Dear Parents/Caregivers

It is with great enthusiasm that I join the Gilston State School Community and am proud to be a school leader in such a great school. As an educator and Principal, I look forward to working with you to ensure every student achieves exceptional learning outcomes at our school.

Our game is student engagement. We want your children feeling they will miss out on something if for some reason they cannot attend our school. Our teachers are highly skilled in empowering students to learn and develop creativity and critical thinking. We expect every child, in every classroom learning every day.

At Gilston, we have high expectations for behaviour for all school community members. Students, parents and staff are expected to act as positive role models at all times as per our **School Code of Behaviour**. As a school community, we never drop our standards and are proud of our achievements.

### Some Information/Changes in School Operations:

#### Student Numbers

We currently have 601 students attending our school which should allow us to operate with the current 25 classes. Education Queensland implements the official count of students on *Day 8* of term and our school is funded and staffed according to a formula.

#### New Staff

We welcome Caroline Dew (Head of Special Education Services) and Brett Willis (Guidance Officer) every Thursday/Friday, to our school. Pat Leech has officially retired after a long career at Gilston State School as Administration Officer and we thank her for her dedication and enthusiasm she brought to the role. Tracylee Leonard has been doing the role for nearly two years and has been officially given the role at the end of last year. Tracylee brings a wealth of skills and expertise to the role and provides a high quality of customer service at the front desk. We are privileged to have her in the front office and part of our staff at Gilston SS.

#### Term Planner

You will receive a hard copy of our **Term Planner** this week, which is designed to be stuck on the fridge to inform you of up and coming school events. You will also be able to find it on our school website.

#### School Newsletter

This has changed names and is now called "**The Gilston Grapevine**" and comes out fortnightly on even weeks of term on a Wednesday. Each faculty within the school provides information to you.

#### Parades

These are now every Monday afternoon at 2:40pm and are organised to operate through a 3 week cycle of whole school, Prep to grade 2 and grades 3-6. Year levels are rostered to perform snapshots of **Quality Work** where learning is celebrated through brief presentations at parade. See your **Term Planner** to see when your child's year level is performing an item. Parades are run by our Student Leaders.





### **What is a Purple Patch?**

The **Purple Patch** is a term we now use at Gilston SS to identify when students and teachers are at their best! This is our first session of learning from 9:00-11:00am. During this time, all of our classrooms are interruption free zones where quality teaching and learning occurs every day. Thank you in anticipation of your support in ensuring learning is not interrupted during this learning block.

### **Student Attendance**

We have high expectations of student attendance at Gilston SS. It is not surprising to note that research informs us that attendance correlates directly to student learning outcomes and academic performance. We don't apologise for closely monitoring student attendance and/or students who are continually late to school.

### **Meet the Teacher Sessions**

These will be held as a whole school in week 3 of this term. Information as to when and where will be available to you shortly. As a parent, you are expected to attend these brief sessions to discuss teacher expectations of learning and routines.

### **Student Learning Portfolios**

This year, every student will be provided with a portfolio that will include student work samples throughout the year. At the end of the year, all students take their portfolio home. The purpose of the portfolio is to show genuine examples of academic growth. Portfolios also include student goals which every student works on achieving throughout the semester. A **personalised learning** approach occurs for every student in every classroom.

### **3 Way Conferences**

Over two afternoons in week 8 of this term our school will be running conferences as a whole school in the hall where the teacher, parent and student discuss academic and social progress at school. **Student Learning Portfolios** are used as a vehicle to support this process and the brief conference is an opportunity to celebrate student learning achievement. Parents will book timeslots on line prior to the conferences and are expected to participate.

### **Student Uniforms**

We need help from all parents to support the wearing of school hats to stay **Sun Safe**. This includes the wearing of hats to school and going home. The hat is to be seen as part of the school uniform, is listed as a safe behaviour in our behaviour matrix and needs to be worn whenever outside the classroom including in undercover areas or in shade. As it is the beginning the school year, we need to establish a routine where all students and staff are sun safe. I look forward to meeting every parent and getting to know you and your family during your child's education at Gilston State School.

**Craig Douglas**  
**Principal**  
**Gilston State School**

