



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes  
Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

Edition: 02/2016

Date: 3 February 2016

[www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au](http://www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au)

PHONE : 5501 2333  
ABSENCE LINE : 5501 2360  
FAX : 5501 2300

[admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au)

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The girls and boys looked resplendent last week proudly modelling their Gilston uniforms. **More importantly though, it was the students' behaviour that was most impressive** as they embraced the school expectations, impressing all around with their **learning, respect, responsibility and safety**. Thank you to all parents for the attention to detail in this regard. I am grateful for the pride you take in portraying our public image through ensuring your children are in uniform and behaving in a manner that brings **positive attention to our school and your respective families**. The new hats are functional and looked smart and I'll write some more about them soon.

It is with **sadness** that I inform you of the **passing of Marg Edgelow's partner Roy**. Those new to our school or without children in the choir may not know of Marg and her long association with Gilston State School. Marg was working in the office from before I joined the school in 1996. She has accompanied the choir on piano with Alison for more than 20 years making the commute from Kingscliff for the daily rehearsals. Her partner Roy has always been there to support Marg and our students and is the loudest in the theatre when it comes to applause for their performances. I have extended Gilston community's best wishes, thoughts and prayers to Marg at this challenging time.

**Yesterday's delays** due to the closure of the M1 were managed by our staff very well. All students were supervised and all callers were reassured that the supervision would remain until arrangements for collection were made. May I thank those of you affected for your expressions of gratitude to the staff who accommodated the emergent needs of your family.

**The QParents App** has been designed to make accessing important information about your child more convenient. It has many benefits, not-the-least of which is the **inbuilt payment tool** that supports self-managed payment plans up until the due date. Other features include access to your **child's results and reports, monitoring of positive behaviour** and the ability to **lodge explanations for student absences**. If you are not already utilising this time-saving app, I encourage you to speak with someone who is and take the necessary steps to join the growing number of satisfied users. To get started see the ladies in the office.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

|                  |                     |  |
|------------------|---------------------|--|
| Thursday         | 4 February          | Meet and Greet 8.00am in the Undercover area |
| Monday to Friday | 14 March - 18 March | Swimming Lessons Years 1, 2 & 4              |
| Monday           | 21 March            | Gala Sports Day Year 5 & 6                   |

#### 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     |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 100 | 98.72 | 98.39 | 99.02 | 97.76 | 98.33 | 98.77 |

**In the mornings and afternoons your children are your responsibility.** Our staff members have been directed to concentrate on preparing for instruction and reviewing programs at these times. The exceptions to this are the duties in the collection zone and the escort of the bus students to buses. Rather than ban the access to the school playgrounds at this time, I have agreed to grant access under the condition that you supervise your children closely. Please ensure you meet this condition so access can be sustained. I recommend that students do not arrive prior to 8:30am. Any students arriving prior to this time are restricted to the covered play area. Many parents with early commitments have availed themselves of the service offered by the before school care providers including Kidsworld and the PCYC.

It is apparent that the **vast majority of parents have outfitted their child in the new broad-brimmed hat in accordance with the policy change last year.** These parents were aware of the change and the process leading to it by reading the newsletters, (which importantly is **the first of the "Parent Responsibilities"** listed on the **enrolment agreement** that parents sign when they enrol their child). Some parents took advantage of the invitation to come and have their say at the P & C meetings that were advertised ensuring a range of points of view were posed and appropriate information sought before making the final decision. I applaud parents for being part of this decision-making process and in particular **thank the members of the P & C** for undertaking investigations to access the most appropriate solution for our school. The **broad-brimmed hat is the only accepted hat this year at Gilston** as I stated in the newsletter on 16 September last year when I included the following, "At the P & C meeting on Monday night the motion to **amend the uniform policy to include broad brimmed hats only**, was carried. **From the start of 2016, all students will be required to have a broad-brimmed hat.**" Again I thank those of you who had adhered to the policy change and in so doing limiting your child's risk of skin damage due to sun exposure.

This year all those **applying for enrolment in Prep** were granted access as numbers did not exceed the target of 100 students. **Preparation for 2017 is in full swing** with more than 60 people already expressing an interest in enrolling their children. If you are one of these people you are invited to submit an [enrolment application](#) now to ensure you give yourself the best chance of being included in the intake. Hard copies are available from the office.

At Gilston, we are blessed with **parents that are committed to our school** and our ethos and values pertaining to respecting others and collaborating to contribute to the community. Each of us that find a way to add value to our space, directly or indirectly, improves the opportunities for our students. Some recent examples of finding a way to contribute are Sean's high pressure water cleaning of the tennis courts and Cliff's installation of the exhaust fan in the tuckshop. On behalf of our community I thank these gentlemen for their generosity with their time, tools and expertise.

The Parents and Citizens Association and its sub committees provide vital support to all within our school from contributing to strategic direction and policy to raising additional funds for programs and resources. This week they remind you that there is a conveyancing allowance to which some of you are entitled. Details are available at [https://www.support.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/formsdat.nsf/forms/Q\\_F3647/\\$file/F3647\\_CFD.pdf](https://www.support.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/formsdat.nsf/forms/Q_F3647/$file/F3647_CFD.pdf)

In closing this week I can share that with the enrolment census this Friday (Day 8) I still have enrolment vacancies in all year levels except year 1. If you know of someone who is moving to the area, ensure they contact me before Friday.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

## **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

### **Sun Safety at School**

A lot is being discussed within our school community about last year's decision to adopt a new style of hat. While we can become focused on the change itself, it is perhaps sobering to look at other factors which led to the change. This link below gives that other perspective, it's from the Cancer Council Australia's Skin Cancer Committee. It has developed a number of position statements addressing common myths and misunderstandings and providing clear information and advice aimed at helping Australians reduce their skin cancer risk. Many of the statements have been developed with input from other expert health organizations, particularly the Australasian College of Dermatologists.

<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/about/skin-cancer-facts-stats>

As always, our children's health and well-being are paramount, making changes to the school uniform by insisting on a functional and practical hat is one way we can see this is the case. As an aside, and if I could humbly give my personal opinion on the matter, I believe they also all look very smart (attractively neat and stylish), with the new attire.

### **Very early morning Meet and Greet**

This Thursday (4 February) from 8.00am come along for a cup of tea/coffee and a casual start to the day. We'll be holding it in the undercover area outside the tuckshop so bring a friend or relative and meet other parents and carers to kick off the New Year. All welcome and we'd love to see you – even if it's for a short while.

### **Yesterday and after school pick ups**

My condolences to all who experienced delays yesterday afternoon and a sincere thank you for letting me look after our children while you were trying to get here. All went well, with the children behaving wonderfully as we enjoyed each other's company. To put a positive spin on things – it was a good opportunity for us to think about how resilient the children were and how they were able to take it all in their stride.

## **P & C NEWS**

The P & C welcome you all back to school for 2016. I hope that you all had a very safe and relaxing break with your children.

I would like to say a big thank you to Amanda and Cliff Otto for the work that was completed in the tuck shop over the break and also to our fabulous volunteers who helped out in the uniform shop the week before school, getting our kids organised for the new year. Our Gilston State School Volunteers are very much valued; they are amazing people that allocate their time to making our school a better place. Without these volunteers our school would not be the community that it is today.

As the president of the P & C I invite you all to come and help make decisions for your kids at our school. If you can't make the meetings send us an email and we will discuss any positives or negatives and make the necessary changes.

As you know one of the decisions made last year was our new school policy in regards to our wide brim hats. This decision was made at our P & C meeting after some parents brought it to the table. We had discussions over 3 months with regular updates in our newsletter. After considering input from parents and considering the research, these decisions were made in the best interests of your children. Ears and necks are unprotected in a cap

and the bucket hats were being worn with the fronts flipped back. In our climate this hat is in the best interest of your child.

If you want to have some input into the decisions that we as volunteers make, please read the newsletters and contact us or attend a meeting; the door is always open.

Social media, although it has its place in society, is not always the most accurate place to get information. The office and the P & C are available to you 5 days a week and will be able to answer any of your questions or queries.

Have a fabulous week and remember many hands make light work, so if you can help out by volunteering your time we would appreciate it.

Jem Baldwin 0407091826

### **MUSIC NEWS**

The **Junior and Senior choirs** will commence next week. Junior choir (Years 3 & 4) will start on Tuesday 9 February at 1<sup>st</sup> break. Senior choir (Years 5 & 6) will start on Thursday 11 February at 1<sup>st</sup> break. Year 2 students will be able to join the choir in Term 3 this year.

**Eisteddfod Choir** auditions (for Years 3-6) will begin in week 6 this term.

**Instrumental Music** students will have a meeting this Friday to find out information concerning instruments and lesson times. Mr Broxton will be teaching in the 'Science' room in the library and will call students to his room on Friday.

**Taiko** has commenced for the year. Rehearsals are on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2<sup>nd</sup> break.

**Year 5 and 6 students** will be learning the guitar in Music lessons this term. All students require their own plectrum (pick) for these lessons. These will be supplied for those participating in the Student Resource Scheme. Those not participating in the SRS can purchase a plectrum at music shops such as Guitar World at Nerang and Music Express at Robina.

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

**Borrowing** for all students will start next week. Your child will be able to borrow 1 book and will need to return their book before they can borrow another one. Loans are for two weeks.

The first issue of **Book Club** has gone home this week. Please make sure you place your Book Club order by Monday 15 February as this is the closing date for all school orders.

Thank you.

Kathy Stone/Librarian

**THE DENTAL VAN** is offering free dental check-ups to all children from **Prep to Year 6**.

To arrange an appointment for your child telephone:

The Oral Health Client Service Centre

☎1300 300 850

Monday – Friday 8.00 am – 4.30 pm

(Excluding Public Holidays)

Child Dental Benefit Schedule Vouchers are accepted but not mandatory.

### **UNIFORM SHOP**

The **Uniform Shop** will be open on **Thursdays from 2.00pm to 3.00pm**.

We have no 57cm and 59cm hats in stock at the moment. Once they arrive we will let you know in the newsletter. We apologise for the inconvenience.

### **TUCKSHOP REPORT**

Thursday 4 February – Tracey Zimmerman / Bec Moore

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 5 February – Kristy G / Help needed

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Monday 8 February – Beth S / Lydia Moss

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 9 February – Lydia Moss / Mel Harrison

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 10 February – Keira Parker / Retta Rose

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 11 February – Tracey Zimmerman / Lydia Moss

**Preping** - Karen Sharp

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 12 February – Teresa Evans / Keira Parker /

Amanda McGuinness

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Remember we have a **new** menu out.

Keep an eye out for our new Facebook page.

Thank you to all the ladies and gentleman who have put their names down to volunteer in the tuckshop this term.

Have a great week.

Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor

### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Do you have children interested in **CHEERLEADING** or **DANCE**. At X-treme we offer classes in both from age 3 to Seniors. Our **Cheerleading Tryout Day** is Monday 8 February at St Michaels College Merrimac and Dance at Mudgeeraba Memorial Hall, Mudgeeraba on Thursday 11 February. For more information check out our Facebook page X-treme Dance and Cheer or phone Debbie on 0417164033. First Class is Free

**TENNIS AUSTRALIA ENDORSED PROGRAM** for primary students which uses specially designed court sizes & equipment to help develop skills for life, making it A LOT OF FUN. Lessons have started before school and will run every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 7:00 - 8:45am at: Gilston Primary School Tennis Court. \$84 for 7 weeks (\$12 per lesson). Look forward to seeing you on the court. Details & bookings contact Jonathon 0488 696 939.

**MUDGEERABA J AFC NAB AFL AUSKICK CENTRE** - Sign on & 1<sup>st</sup> Session Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 4:30pm to 5:30pm, Salk Oval, Thrower Drive, Palm Beach, Cost: \$70. For more information contact: Eunice on 0438 172 716 or visit [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au). Register online & pay online at [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au). **Please print your receipt and bring to the first session.**

**NERANG BMX CLUB COME & TRY DAY Free** day for all ages Saturday 6/2/16, 10.00am-2.00pm. Cnr Mortensen Rd & Cayuga St, Nerang. Bring bike, helmet, gloves and long pants. Contact Rheanon 0401 810 780.

