



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Teaching is "rocket science". It requires high levels of skill to attend to a myriad of elements to deliver instruction to provide the best opportunities for all students. That is why at Gilston we use the data we collect about students and their learning to best design programs and deploy resources. We research internationally what works best and we source the resources to support these techniques. Vivality, building the capacity of our staff is a priority and from time-to-time we will release teachers from their class duties to focus on the analysis of student data and to refine their skills to ensure best practice in delivery. Part of our learning at Gilston involves teachers watching each other and receiving feedback about their practice. I am very proud of the learning that occurs at Gilston for the students and our talented staff.

During your upcoming parent – teacher interviews, you can expect to learning some more about your child's progress and the goals upon which they are focused. This meeting also provides us as teachers with a chance to learn some more about your child from your perspective outside the school. The partnerships you maintain with your child's teacher have a positive influence on their learning.

Brian Ragh (Assistant Regional Director) will be visiting tomorrow to gain a more clear insight into our practices regarding the teaching of reading and to provide some feedback to us on the topic. Brian will be spending some time in classrooms with students so perhaps your child will come home with a story about Mr Ragh's visit. At Gilston we welcome feedback about our practice and a chance to showcase the talent of our staff and students.

We are closing in on the target of 200 QParent App users by the end of the term. Currently we have 184 registered users. On the topic of this app I welcomed some feedback from a parent recently who was concerned that it may be, due to its functionality, threatening the jobs of the ladies in our office. I welcomed this concern but am able to assure you that I have no plans of reducing the support in our administration office. Avail yourself of the convenience of the app with no fear for the ladies' jobs.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	4 March	Last day for payment Swimming Lessons Years 1,2 & 4
Tuesday	8 March	Enrolling Families Information Session for 2017 Prep enrolments
Wednesday	9 March	Last day for Book Club Issue 2 orders
Friday	11 March	Last day payment Gala Sports Day YearS & 6
Sunday	13 March	Working Bee
Monday to Friday	14 March- 18 March	Swimming Lessons Years 1,2 & 4
Saturday	19 March	Local Government Election
Monday	21 March	Yr 5 & 6 Gala Sports Day P & CAGM & General Meeting 7.00pm

#### 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
97.04	97.18	96.82	96.7	94.57	95.13	95.76

Our counterparts at William Duncan were the target of what turned out to be a **hoax bomb threat** last week. Their Principal, **Landon Dare was very proud** of the manner in which the **staff and students** followed their evacuation procedures and with the **support and actions of the local police** service. Landon has kindly shared his learning from the event with our alliance of schools to allow us to be better prepared should we be a future target. One **significant part of the learning** was that **communicating with parents** during the evacuation **was challenging** and that it is **vital that parents have a confidence that the first priority is the safety of the students and staff on site**. This same priority exists at Gilston and communication will occur with parents only at a time when the evacuation has been successfully undertaken and the strategic investigation in collaboration with the police has been concluded to a level that does not require my full attention. The police have shared with schools that **parents arriving at school after hearing of the threats have impeded their actions and those of school staff**. The clear message in this for me is that parents should not come to school unless invited to do so.

With this information I reiterate that your child's safety will be our priority and we will communicate when we are able to do so without compromising the necessary actions in managing any threat. I **thank you in anticipation for your trust in our team** and the emergency services that will be assisting.

There are over 80 student names registered on our expression of interest list for prep for 2017. I will see many of these families at the **Enrolling Families information session next Tuesday morning** in library. It is always exciting to welcome new families to our school.

I look forward to working alongside you at the **working bee on March 13**. I am especially grateful that Damon will have his machinery on site to do the heavy lifting. **Let the ladies in the office know if you are coming** so we can plan our morning accordingly.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Gilston Chess

The Inter-School Chess Tournament- Gold Coast South Primary-Round 1 will be held at William Duncan State School, Alexander Drive, Highland Park in the school hall  
The date: Wednesday 9th March, 2016  
Times: 8.45am at the venue- finishing at 2.30pm

#### Details:

Parents are responsible for transporting children to/from the tournament.

Students to wear full school uniform.

A canteen will be in operation but children may bring their own food and drinks

To register and pay for this event, please go to [www.gardinerchess.com.au](http://www.gardinerchess.com.au) and click on the icon for 'Chess Players'. Scroll to 'Gold Coast South Primary Competition (Individual)' and click on 'view details'. If you have used the web site before and set up an account please login here using your Username and Password. If this is your first time on the web site please click on 'create an account'. On the next screen click on 'Register for This Event'. Scroll down to 'Add Child for Event Registration' and enter their details. Once done untick the box 'Register Yourself and click on the box next to 'Register Your

Children'. You can then click on the box next to your child's name. Click on 'next' and in the 'Extra Information' box add your child's school. Go to payment and proceed to checkout.

Gardiner Chess PO Box 1423, Mudgeeraba Q 4213  
Phone: 5522 7221; Fax: 5522 7760  
Email: [info@gardinerchess.com.au](mailto:info@gardinerchess.com.au)  
Webpage: [www.gardinerchess.com.au](http://www.gardinerchess.com.au)  
ABN 30 607 341524

## P&CNEWS

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Gilston State School P & C would like to give notice of our AGM to be held on **Monday 21 March** at 7.00pm in the staff room. This will be immediately followed by a regular meeting.

All executive positions will be vacated at this time. Nominations for executive positions (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary) can be dropped in at the office, or will be accepted on the night.

Please come along and join the P & C and help us help support your children and your school.

### Gilston Club

Meeting next Wednesday 9 March at 9:15am in the back of the library.

## GIRLS CRICKET

Mudgeeraba Nerang Cricket Club is hosting a cricket development session for girls 10-15 years on Wednesday 9 March 4.00pm-6.00pm. There is no cost involved and cricket experience is not essential.

Any interested girls need to see Mr Stavar and fill-in a registration form by this Friday.

Scott Stavar

## LIBRARYNEWS

**Book Club** Issue 2 of Book Club was sent home last week. The last day for orders/payments on-line is Wednesday 9 March.

### Somerset Writer's Workshop

Last Wednesday Somerset College visited our school and conducted a writer's workshop for students in years 3-6. The students really enjoyed this experience and wrote some wonderful stories. We certainly have some budding authors at our school.



Kathy Stone/ Librarian

## **JAPANESE NEWS**

This week Year 3 students will be learning about **Hinamatsuri**. Also called **Dolls' Day** or **Girls' Day**, it's a special day in Japan. Hinamatsuri is celebrated each year on 3 March. Platforms covered with a red carpet are used to display a set of ornamental dolls (hina-ningyo) representing the Emperor, Empress, attendants, and musicians in traditional court dress of olden Japan. Young girls dress in traditional kimono and attend local street festivals and parties.

We have also begun learning the Japanese alphabet called hiragana. In the next few weeks I will send home a link for an online quiz which all students from Year 3-6 can use to practice their hiragana recognition.

## **UNIFORM SHOP,**

**Open Thursday afternoon 2.00pm – 3.00pm or you can order your uniform on flexi school.**

House T Shirts have arrived. We are **still** waiting on Senior Polos.

## **TUCKSHOP REPORT**

Thursday 3 March - Tracey Zimmerman / Lydia Moss

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Friday 4 March - Kristy Griffin / Tammy S

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Monday 7 March - Paula Black

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Tuesday 8 March - Mel Harrison

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Wednesday 9 March - Beth Sonter / Loretta Wood

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Thursday 10 March - Tracey Zimmerman / Lydia Moss

Ice Blocks - Monica Whetter

Friday 11 March - **HELP NEEDED PLEASE**

Ice Blocks - Help needed

### **Break times reminder**

First Break: 11.00am - 11.40am

Second Break: 1.40pm - 2.10pm

Have a great week....

Nicole Meesen - Tuckshop Convenor