The “Enrolling Families” project that we undertook last year is reaping benefits in our preparedness for teaching our Preps and our relationships with parents. The project consisted of several elements including: access to support professionals beyond the school, assessments, pre-prep classes and general information sessions. Jolie Angus will be leading the process in 2015 building on the wonderful work by Nicola Minehan. To ensure our communication with prospective parents it is essential that you let us know if you wish to enrol your child for 2016, even if you have another child at school already. Your contact details will be used to keep you abreast of all requirements, upcoming events and opportunities. Families outside catchment can apply for enrolment now and participate in many aspects of the project. Actual enrolments will be finalised late in the year in accordance with our Enrolment Management Plan.

Teachers will be hosting information sessions for parents and carers. The objective of the session is to share expectations for learning and procedures for your child’s classroom and answer your questions. I strongly encourage you to attend the session to ensure the best possible start for your child.

We all need help from time to time and when it comes to parenting this certainly applies. To assist us as parents we have compiled a collection of short hints and posted them for your access on our website. The articles are written by Michael Grose a leading Australian psychologist. I suggest you familiarise yourself with the contents so you are aware of the offerings and can share this information with your friends as the topics covered arise in conversations. You won’t be surprised to learn that a more frequently visited article is entitled “5 Ways to Get Your Child to Listen”

At Gilston we have four houses: Zimmerman, Duncan, Latimer and Hinze. Each year captains are elected to lead these houses at a variety of sporting events throughout the year. I look forward to presenting our 2015 captains to the assembly next week.

I thank those of you who have promptly paid the $70 voluntary contribution for your children. What equates to 35 cents per child per day makes a significant difference to what we can offer at Gilston. These payments can be made on Thursday and Friday at the office or online quoting “VC”, as a reference on the topic of finance, I am pleased to again offer the regular payment plans this year. Parents who have used this plan in
the past have been very satisfied, and occasionally surprised at how much has been accumulated towards their children’s excursions, swimming etc. If you would like to know more about the plans or wish to establish a plan, please contact the ladies in the office.

Prep book pack payments are currently being processed from credit card details nominated by many Prep parents last year. Check with the ladies in the office if you are unsure that you have processed the account.

On a housekeeping note, I need to remind you to check that any medication you have arranged for us to administer to your child at school is up-to-date. Check with the ladies for expiry dates and replace where necessary.

On Monday I was very pleased to receive a call from our Regional Education Office. The caller explained that she had received communication from a parent at Gilston who had expressed how impressed she was with the work that had been done by the Gilston team in preparing families for the enrolment of the Prep students. I am very proud of our team and this recognition is just reward for the dedicated work that is being undertaken by all members of staff.

Friday this week we will bid farewell to Heather Hamill as she begins the next chapter of her life. Heather has been an integral and highly-valued member of staff in two stints at Gilston, the latest from 2008. Heather is a quiet achiever who has applied her considerable intellect, skills and talents to improve the outcomes of all students. On behalf of a grateful school community I extend our best wishes to Heather for a rewarding retirement full of wonderful experiences.

Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) week is 9-15 February. I have been a grateful, early beneficiary of a RAK and am happy to promote the concept to everyone. Random Acts of Kindness can have a profound effect on people and as parents this RAK week is an opportunity to articulate with your child the power they have to bring about a positive feeling in another human being. If you want to know more about RAK visit https://www.randomactsofkindness.org

I close this week with a reminder to be the supermodel we expect at Gilston. This week I am looking for you to set the positive example with before and after school safety. I expect all adults and students to access the school through the pedestrian gates only and for everyone, young and, not-so-young, to use our crossings. Please save yourself the embarrassment of me reminding you in public by being a Gilston supermodel. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Parent information sessions with your child’s year level have commenced. These sessions are a great opportunity to meet the teacher and to gain valuable information specific to individual year levels. A note will come home detailing when these sessions are being held.

Preps are now into their second week of formal schooling. They are settling in very nicely and are quickly becoming familiar with school routines. I am enjoying getting to know our Preps. Their enthusiasm and motivation towards coming to school each day is fantastic to see.

Our Four School Expectations; Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be a Learner are embedded throughout the school. Students use this language and refer to these expectations both in the classroom and in the playground. This consistency in language across the school is reinforced when the ‘rule of the week’ is presented at assembly. Please support these expectations and continue to reinforce these at home. You may like to discuss examples of these expectations in a school setting and how they can also relate to a home environment.

Every day counts. Attendance at school is vital to maximise learning and to ensure optimal development of your child. Parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school on every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going school on a daily basis, staying up to date, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Visit the Department of Education and Training website for more information: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts

Gardiner Chess will be running a Chess Program for interested students throughout the year. The program will be held after school each Monday from 3:10pm – 4:10pm, commencing on Monday 16 February. Additional details will be presented on assembly next Thursday 12 February. Parents and interested students will also have the opportunity to see the program in action and participate in a chess match after school on Thursday 12 February in the school hall.

Until next time,

Kelly Clark

P & C NEWS

Your P & C plays a vital role in supporting the children and the school. As you are aware the P & C members are all volunteers - the team in the uniform shop or on the crossing are parents just like yourselves. Shortly a note will come home on how to volunteer at Gilston. With so many of our parents in full time work, it does make it more difficult to find that hour or so every other week to help out at the school. When the note arrives, if you find you have a little time to chip in, it would be greatly appreciated, and it really is a nice way to be involved.

Any questions or queries please feel welcome to give me a call. Christene Dukes P & C Vice President Tel: 0432275195.

Uniform Shop

Our new school shirt has certainly been a hit; we have seen all our stocks depleted with record sales. I am pleased to say that a new order is pending. Keep in touch with our wonderful Uniform Shop volunteers or watch this space for arrival dates. I would like to thank everyone for their patience with our stock situation. Big thank you to my impromptu helper Nicole, for stepping up and assisting me in the Uniform Shop last Friday morning. FlexiSchools online ordering is easy, convenient and the uniforms are delivered to your children to take home. Please visit www.flexischools.com.au for on-line ordering. Uniform Shop opening hours are Tuesday 2.15–3.15pm and Friday 8.30–9.30am.

Rhee Taekwondo class is offering a free uniform with any new members through the month of February. Classes are run at the school on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. For more information please contact David Elton Tel: 0406 443 658, Skype: 0406 443 658

GILSTON CLUB

Hi Everyone,

Second week back and I hope your kids are settled and happy (and the parents too!) Our first Gilston Club meeting for the year will be held next Wednesday 11 February at 9.15am in the back room of the Library. This will also be our AGM. Due to the Fete this year, we won’t be having as much fundraising as previous years but will still do the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Stalls as
Welcome back to school everyone and welcome to 2015. I hope you are all looking forward to a great year! It always helps if you don't watch the news though. I was very touched by the terrible sudden death of Kane Bennett who was struck by lightning when walking with his family in the park a few days ago. The former soldier and devoted family man, Kane Bennett, was killed during a freak lightning storm on the Gold Coast. Kane leaves behind his wife Mary and their two young children, Max and Bella. Kane also worked hard in some local charities. It is times like these that remind us we may only be here for a short time to do what we can to make a difference every day and every moment counts in our lives. It reminds us of how important it is to say "I'm sorry", "I love you", "You're forgiven", and "You're important to me". Or how important it is to say to ourselves "I forgive me", "Today matters", "Get up get out there and make a difference", "Just do it" or the old saying "Why put off till tomorrow what can be done today". That old saying applies to every aspect of our lives. When it's our time to go, it's our time to go and no-one can argue with that but we can let the memory of those who have lost their lives 'unfairly' or 'too early' live on by making positive changes in our own lives and that of others. A good example is the parents of Daniel Morcombe. I thought I would put the link to the fundraiser to help the family Kane has left behind in case you are in a position to help this family. https://www.mycause.com.au/page/87580/inmemoryofkanebennett

A reminder to bring permission notes back for 'Kid's with Courage', 'Friends for Life' and 'Bella girls' this week if you have received one thanks.

Breakfast Club: Tuesdays 8:15-8:45am All Are Welcome. There is room for new volunteers to come help out at breakfast club. Your help is so invaluable to keeping the brekky club up and running. If you can spare any time between 8.00am till 8.15am you are most welcome to join us. If you can't help but you are able to supply spreads, cordial (artificial colour and flavour free), margarine or other goodies such as plastic cups, napkins every little bit helps. If you work for a business who could donate supplies to our breakfast club please contact me. samanthab@chappy.org.au

Prayer For Our Families: If there are any families in our community who wish to send prayer requests for any situation to our School Chaplain, no need to go into detail, you can access this community service via chappy's email samanthab@chappy.org.au

Food Parcels For Emergency Food Relief: Newlife Uniting Church Robina 55789322, Mosaic Family Baptist Church 07 5525 2477 You can access the Chaplaincy service at Gilston via Ms Clarke or by contacting Chappy Sami at samanthab@chappy.org.au. All referrals however, need to go through our admin SNAc committee. You can start this process through your class teacher. Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800, Beyond Blue 1300 224 636, Lifeline 131 114, Cancer Council Support Line 131 120, Commonwealth Carelink Centre 1800 052022, Juice 107.3 Careline 55 283 555.

QUOTE: A smile is the quickest way to change your looks.

TUCKSHOP REPORT
Thursday 5 February – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 6 February – Kristy Griffin/Jade Williams/Erynne
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Monday 9 February – Alex
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Tuesday 10 February – Ame Seagrove
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Wednesday 11 February – Jess
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Just a reminder to all our new prep families, if you need help setting up a flexischool account, please come and see me in the tuckshop. We are only too happy to help you and get you started.

Also we are slowly introducing a selection of homemade snacks which are available over the counter at break times. These items have been mini fruit muffins, ham & cheese scrolls, Vegemite & cheese scrolls and mini fruit popsicle sticks. These snacks are all under 50 cents each and they have been a real hit.

If anyone has any suggestions or would like to become a volunteer, please come and see me.

Nicole Meesen – Tuckshop Convener

COMMUNITY NOTICES

LOST – Gold Bracelet with heart locket. Catch is broken. Fell off wrist. If found please hand into the office. Thank you.

GOLD COAST BASKETBALL AUSSIE HOOPS PROGRAM commences 7/2/15 Carrara Indoor Sports Stadium, ages 5-10.
www.goldcoast.basketball.net.au or phone Rodney 0412180790.

ART CLASSES with Sharon Hindle, 11 Fallon Court, Worongary, $20 per lesson Thursday 3.30-5.30pm, Saturday 2.00-4.00pm.
Ages 7+, 0407 179 379, clubpicasso@hotmail.com

NERANG JOEY SCOUTS Bring a Friend night Monday 9/2/15 5.45-6.45pm. nerangscouts1@bigpond.com

SOCCER X after school soccer program forms are available in the classrooms or at the school office.

JUNIOR AUSSIE RULES SIGN ON DAYS – 5-17 years – 14/2/15 Metricon Stadium 9.00am-1.00pm, 15/2/15 Alan Neilson Oval, Neilsen Road, Carrara 10.00am-2.00pm.
carrarasaints@bigpond.com.au or 0438 132 311.

Families on the gold Coast can now enrol in the free state-funded HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES – PEACH ‘Parent, Eating and Activity for Child Health’. Registrations are now open for term 2. If you would like more information contact 1800 263 519 or www.peachqld.com.au.

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au