Illness that affected some of my colleagues aside, the Principals conference last week in Brisbane was successful in the sharing of key messages from a range of speakers from throughout the world. As delegates we were challenged to ensure that we worked collaboratively with schools nearby to harness their talents and share ours. On a personal level, the life-work balance topic was raised with strategies to ensure that our families at home and our “school families” get the best from us (I took some notes in this regard). The event has been held three times (2011, 2013 and 2015) and drew together all state school principals from throughout Queensland and specific staff from Regional Offices. I thank Kelly for taking the lead at Gilston in my absence.

On the topic of professional learning, you will have noticed that at times our teachers have been relieved of their teaching duties to undertake learning of their own. The development is specifically around Guided Reading and Explicit Instruction – Consolidating learning from short to long-term memory, our focus areas for 2015. Having teachers away from class is not something that we choose to do lightly and the expectation is that the skills developed in the time off class will deliver dividends in the enhanced consistent instruction in the future. This learning is in addition to that which is undertaken outside school hours, before and after school. To minimise disruption to instruction, we continue to source replacement teachers familiar to the students and our teaching expectations at Gilston.

Expectations and protocols serve to guide actions by all members of the Gilston State School community. These elements, drawn in some cases from legislation and others through collaboration as a community, have guided us well for many years. Each of us has the responsibility to ensure we adhere to these expectations to maintain the high standard of efficacy that we enjoy at Gilston.

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**Goal setting** is something we see in our classrooms to focus student learning on the next piece of learning. We don’t have to go past our tuckshop for a great example of goal setting in action. The ladies are very focused on improvement of the offerings for the community and on the consequential expansion of sales. Each week goals are set and in most cases are met or exceeded. Long-term goals regarding the refinement of the menu and being regarded as one of the best tuckshops on the coast with a clear strategy in place to achieve them. I applaud the work of this enterprise and invite you to **support them in any way you can**.

Forty-one!! That’s the number of **invalid email addresses** we have within our database. Effectively this meant that 41 individuals did not receive their newsletter last week. **I need your help**, as someone who is reading this edition, to ask your friends whether they received their copy. If they did not please ask them to **see the ladies in the office to update the details** so we can ensure all parents meet their responsibility to stay abreast of school news by reading the newsletter. I thank those who promptly updated addresses after the note home last week.

The **working bee will be held Sunday March 15**. I look forward to the outcome that the energy of many hands generates. If you want to know more or have a specific project in mind, please contact me.

Our **year six students have certainly risen to the leadership challenge this year**. There have been numerous examples of their leadership on show in a range of settings this year. Their special “seniors” shirt makes them readily identifiable throughout the school. I **commend** our year six **teachers** for their vigilant focus on instilling the expectations of leadership in this cohort. Our year five students will consequently have **excellent role models** as they “grow into” this space.

On Friday we will welcome **James Forrest, Principal Supervisor**, to our school. James’ purpose will be to ascertain our trajectory for sustained school improvement and to challenge our thinking around our selected strategies. If you see James in our school, please **extend a regular Gilston welcome**.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**Enrolling Families project**

The first Enrolling Families information session for parents who have expressed an interest in enrolling their child in Prep in 2016 is scheduled for 17 March. It is recommended that prospective families attend one of the Prep information sessions prior to commencing Prep in 2016. Many important topics are discussed during these sessions to assist your child in making a smooth transition into the Gilston school community. Please register your interest at the office.

**Car park safety**

Adherence to safe driving practices is paramount to ensure the safety of students during drop-off and collection. **Please keep our students safe by abiding by the following:**

- Parking in the bus zone is prohibited
- Parking in the pick-up zone is for a short time only to allow prompt collection of your child
- Give way to pedestrians in the car park area
- Keep driving speeds to a minimum in the car park area
- Give way to buses exiting the bus zone
- Keep the driveway into the school hall clear
- Parking on the service road to the hall is prohibited unless granted permission from

Thank you for your co-operation.

**Travelling to and from school on Surfside bus service.** Students travelling to and from school on the bus are to abide by the **Code of Conduct for School Students Travelling on Buses**. Students continually breaching the Code are likely to face suspension from the bus service for a period of time.

The Rights and Responsibilities of students and parents/carers are listed below. Your child travels by bus to and from school, please ensure to discuss their Rights and Responsibilities outlined in the Code.

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<td>Be a safe and responsible passenger.</td>
<td>Actively support bus safety with their school aged children.</td>
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<table>
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<th>Students</th>
<th>Parents/carers</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Be responsible for their own behaviour.</td>
<td>• Ensure their children are capable of travelling independently.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Act safely and responsibly.</td>
<td>• Teach their children about bus safety rules, the Code and consequences for misconduct.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Follow driver instructions, bus rules and the Code.</td>
<td>• Demonstrate appropriate bus travel behaviours to children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Accept the consequences of bus misconduct.</td>
<td>• Communicate respectfully and cooperate with the driver, operator, school and transport staff in managing misconduct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Respect themselves and others including their own and others’ property.</td>
<td>• Ensure the safe travel of their children to and from the bus service.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Be available for discussions about the behaviour of their children.</td>
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www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au
The detailed Code can be found here.


Until next time,

Kelly Clark

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to the following students who represented our school at the District Swimming Carnival. Amelia Hughes, Cruz Lemming, Chelsea Moore, Shaylee Pankhurst, Shaun Regan, Andrew Stoner, Yannik Zwolsman, Brayden Templer, Isaac Williams and Jayde Winwood.

Yannik will now progress to the Regional carnival to swim 50m breaststroke.

Further congratulations to Amelia Hughes for being selected in the District Netball Team. These are just a few of our many talented sporting students at Gilston.

Scott Stavar / HPE Gilston SS

EISTEDDFOD CHOIR 2015

The auditions for the eisteddfod choir are now complete. A list of successful students can be viewed on the music room noticeboard. I wish to say thank you to all of the students who tried out. I had a record number of interested children this year and it was a pleasure to listen to their beautiful voices. In selecting the students I was listening specifically for an ability to match pitch and also the student’s pitch range. Unfortunately I couldn’t take them all, but I hope those who didn’t make it will try again next year.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR CHOIR

Rehearsals are well underway for the year, but we still have spaces for new members. No auditions are necessary for this choir, just come along. Monday – Junior Choir (Year 3 & 4) 1st break. Tuesday – Senior choir (Year 5 & 6) 1st break.

Enrolling Families

On Tuesday 17 March we will be holding our first Parent Information Session for families enrolling their child/children in Prep for 2016. The session will cover a number of topics including:

- Pre-Prep classes
- Screening assessments
- Interviews
- An explanation of the Enrolment Management Plan (EMP)
- Visits from the Community Health Nurse, Oral Health and Nerang Library
- Strategies for how to best to prepare for Prep

If you have a child beginning Prep in 2016, and have not already expressed an interest please contact the office to do so.

LIBRARY NEWS

Borrowing for students is open now. Please encourage your child to return their books every week and choose a new one to read. We have some great books in our library and by using this service; your child can read a book each week for free. Please remember to read with your child every day and share some valuable time with them.

Family History WW1 – Centenary of Anzac Day

I have been approached by the Nerang RSL to ask our families if they have any ancestors who fought in WW1 to contact me in the library. If you have any photos, family history about their service in the war we would be very interested to speak to you. If there are any relatives of the Veivers family in particular, could you please contact me. Thank you.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

TUCKSHOP REPORT

Thursday 5 March – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 6 March – Kirsty Griffin, Jade Bowden
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Monday 9 March – Alex McCarthy, Karen Bowden
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 10 March – Ame’ Seagrove
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Wednesday 11 March – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Would like to thank the committed tuckshop volunteers for this year: Ame’ Seagrove, Karen Bowden, Teresa Evans, Kristy Evans and Jade Bowden. Thank you ladies, without your help we wouldn’t have a great tuckshop for our school.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers, meet some great people and help our school, your time would be greatly appreciated. Whether it’s for an hour or a couple of hours, weekly, fortnightly or monthly, we’d be delighted to meet you. Please contact Nicole, our tuckshop convenor on Ph: 55012333 or email: gilstontuckshop@gmail.com

P&C Report

Disco is set for Friday 27 March 2015. This will be the only disco for the year as things will be so busy with the fair in the second half of the year.

For this to run successfully need people twilling to help co-ordinate the organizing and lead up to the night. If you think you can give a hand please call Mel mob: 0416 085 689

COMMUNITY NOTICES

HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAY – ROBINA SHS –Friday 27 March 9.30am-2.30pm. For more information contact Ben Weeks bweek15@eq.edu.au

YOGA CLASSES: Kids and Adults classes available Monday evening: 6.00pm Thursday morning: 9.30am Frank Chaston Oval (Yoga room at the rear) Worongary Road - across the road from the school. Also Kids Yoga Workshops during school holidays. Contact Trudy 0401911064.