Judging by the growing number of applications, it is evident that there is much interest in enrolling at Gilston in 2016 and beyond. To ensure we are well-prepared we are inviting applications so that we gain most from our “Enrolling Families” project. If you have registered your application and interest you can expect to hear shortly about the first information session scheduled for March. If you haven’t already registered your interest I strongly encourage you to do so immediately.

Parent involvement at Gilston comes in a wide variety of forms. Each individual contribution adds that something extra that collectively gives us that unique “community feel”. To perpetuate this atmosphere we ask all parents on enrolment to find a way to be involved. This morning our Gilston Club met for their AGM and to plan the fund raising year ahead and will welcome new members to their group. On Monday, the P & C will hold the regular monthly meeting at 7.00pm. The P & C AGM will be on 16 March and new members will be welcomed to the committee at this time.

At the time of writing this piece I am looking forward to attending the Nerang State High School Investiture Assembly. I am always proud to represent Gilston and to congratulate the next crop of leaders at the school. I am confident that among them will be some ex-Gilston students. What have you learnt that you cannot forget? What information have you retained that requires no thinking to recall? These things are in your long-term memory and do not require working memory to bring them to the fore. For students, the consolidation activities in which they engage under the guidance of the teachers are designed to attain this long-term memory. You as parents assist with these processes when you hear sight words or number facts or when you help your children learn poems and nursery rhymes. All these elements will assist your child in their future learning.

Later in this edition you will read about the “Buddy Bench” concept and the intentions of the Positive Behaviour Team regarding this initiative. I am pleased at the reaction by the staff and community to the concept. Is your child attending school on time every day? If you answered yes, you are giving them the best learning chances possible and on their behalf I thank you. I will be keen to identify those with 100% attendance for special certificates throughout the year. If, on the other hand, students are frequently late or absent, expect to receive a letter from me seeking explanation.

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>12 February</th>
<th><strong>Last day payment Surf Awareness Year 5 Parent Information Session: Life Education 2.10pm</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19 February</td>
<td><strong>Last day payment Swimming Years 1, 2 &amp; 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20 February</td>
<td>Last day Book Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Life Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Annual General Meeting 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2015 Explicit Improvement Agenda**

- Guided Reading
- Explicit Instruction – Short to long-term memory

**Gilston Expectations**

- Be a Learner
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

**Current Attendance Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98.04</td>
<td>97.44</td>
<td>95.43</td>
<td>94.44</td>
<td>96.67</td>
<td>97.12</td>
<td>96.4</td>
</tr>
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</table>
I commend parents for the care and attention you place on ensuring your children are meeting the uniform expectations at Gilston. We are proudly a uniform school with a P & C endorsed code of dress. From time to time, children will try to convince parents that it is okay to wear different hats, colour or carved shapes into their hair, or wear pieces of jewellery. At these times please refer to the uniform expectations contained in the handbook and remind them of the standards.

In closing I thank drivers in our car park for your courtesy to one another and appreciate the resulting calm that comes with these attitudes. I must however remind all drivers to be watchful of students using the crossing after a near miss this week.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Reading is an integral part of education. Enhancing students’ reading ability and comprehension skills forms part of our Explicit Improvement Agenda for 2015. Throughout 2015, teachers and teacher aides will continue to enhance their reading pedagogy through professional development. Students will be explicitly taught and apply a range of effective strategies when accessing texts to ensure continual development of their reading skills required for a literate future.

As a parent, you can support the development of your child’s reading by instilling in them a love of reading. Mem Fox, a popular children’s author, identifies the ‘10 Read-aloud Commandments’ for parents.

The importance of reading

Mem Fox’s Ten read-aloud commandments

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud.

2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read.

3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don’t be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.

4. Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.

5. Read the stories that the kids love, over and over and over again and always read in the same “tune” for each book: i.e. with the same intonations on each page, each time.

6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; or sing any old song that you can remember; or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games.

7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.

8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letters that start the child’s name and yours, remembering that it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game.

9. Never ever teach reading, or get tense around books.

10. Read aloud every day because you just love being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do. This is as important for fathers as it is for mothers!

Happy reading!

Until next time,

Kelly Clark

P & C NEWS

Our first P & C meeting will be held on Monday 16 February 2015 at 7.00pm in the Staff Room located in the Administration Building. Come and see what goes on behind the scenes. All parents and carers are invited and most welcome to attend. We would love to see some new faces.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 16 March 2015 at 7.00pm. All executive positions become vacant, should you have an interest and not sure what is involved, please contact me to chat.

Senior shirts are currently being printed as we speak. There has been an unexpected delay and we are expecting them next week. Senior shirts are not currently available through Flexischools. Once we receive the stock we will include them on Flexischools for convenient online ordering. Our standard shirts are still about 3 weeks away. I am in close contact with the supplier and they are working with us to make quantities available as soon as possible so we have some stock available before the filling of our complete order. The P & C thank you for your patience.

Uniform Shop - We continue to encourage you to use “FlexiSchools” for online ordering. It is easy, convenient and the uniforms are delivered to your children to take home. The normal opening hours for the shop remain Tuesday 2.15–3.15pm and Friday 8.30–9.30am. Any questions or queries please feel welcome to give me a call, Christene Dukes P & C Vice President Tel: 0432275195

BUDDY BENCHES.

You may have heard Gold FM advertising buddy benches for schools. Parents and teachers have expressed enthusiasm that Gilston State School should apply. This initiative is to support students who are lonely or lack confidence to join in during outdoor play. The concept is that when students are sitting on the buddy bench, other students will know that they are looking for support.

The Positive Behaviour Team will discuss how best to promote appropriate use of the benches. Information and role play on assembly will occur before the benches are positioned in the outdoor areas for use.

Thank you to Mr Dodds for bringing such a great idea to our attention and also for completing the application forms!

Kirsti Hendrie, on behalf of the Positive Behaviour Team

LIBRARY NEWS

Borrowing for students starts this week. Students may borrow one book at a time. Please make sure your child brings their library bag and book on their class borrowing day.

Book Club Issue 1 was sent home last week. Please return all completed order forms to the Book Club Order box in the library. All orders need to be in by Friday 20 February.

Thank you.

Kathy Stone / Librarian
SCHOOL BANKING
Welcome back to school for another great year. School banking will remain on Friday as per previous years. For all newcomers, if your child already has a commonwealth Youthsaver account all you need to do is send their book into class each Friday morning. I am waiting on confirmation regarding doing a sign-on day for all those wishing to open an account, but feel free to look on-line at their easy options on how to do it prior to this date if you want. For any parents who would like to be a part of the volunteer committee at Gilston we are looking for more helpers each Friday morning from 9.00am for 1-2 hours. Give Mel a call on 0416 085 689 if you would like to assist. Thank you. The Banking Team

TUCKSHOP REPORT
Thursday 12 February – Bec Moore
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 13 February – Teresa/Jade/Eryne
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Monday 16 February – Alex
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Tuesday 17 February – Ame
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Wednesday 18 February – Jess
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Thursday 19 February – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen

Our Sushi day is Tuesday. If you would like to order Sushi please place your order by 10.00am Monday. Order forms are available at the tuckshop. 1 piece of Sushi $3.00 or 3 pieces $5.00

COMMUNITY NOTICES
NERANG BMX COME & TRY DAY Sunday 22/2/15 - 12.00-3.00pm. Cnr Mortensen Road & Cayuga Street. Contact Debbie 0438 253 247 or Rheanon 0401 810 780.
QUEENSLAND ACADEMIES OPEN DAY Saturday 28/2/15 10.00am-1.00pm. Learn more at www.q2ldacademies.com
MUDGEERABA SPARTANS AUSKICK SIGN ON & 1ST SESSION – 26/2/15, 3.30-4.30pm, Sands Oval Somerset College, $70. Contact Guy 0403 478 549, Tim Searl 0415 274 319 or visit www.aflauskick.com.au. Register & pay on-line by 22/2/15. Forms are available at the school office.
AFLGC SIGN ON DAY - Sign on & 1st Session: – 14/2/15, 9.00am to 1.00pm, Metricon Stadium, Carrara. Meet Suns Players, Rides & Activities, Watch the Suns Train. Entry Gate 6