PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Have your children spoken to you about “slides”? Not the slippery versions that we find in playgrounds, but the slide shows that are being used by our teachers to teach and transfer knowledge from short-term to long-term memory. This strategy is recognised as being very successful and is key to a component of our Explicit Improvement Agenda this year. I encourage you to ask your child to explain the process they engage in with slides and specifically what it is they learn through the process.

The working bee this Sunday will commence at 8.00am. We will be focused on spreading mulch, planting trees/shrubs and mending the fencing around the ball court. Please bring along any useful equipment to help with tasks e.g. utes, trailers, wheelbarrow, rakes, gloves etc. If you have a skill in hedging let Grant know as we are keen to fire up the hedger to tame some of the new growth. The working bee will conclude with a sausage sizzle and cold drinks. I look forward to the product of our collective energies.

On the topic of punctuality, all students are to be collected by 3:30pm each day. Recently I have missed meeting commitments off site in the afternoon because I had to remain at school to supervise a student until collection. If you believe there is a chance that you will be regularly collecting after 3:30pm, make arrangements with the afterschool providers available.

In the first six weeks of this term I have met a range of regional office staff, some of whom are “new” others returning in their roles. Our Regional Director, Sharyn Donald has been clear that she wishes to ensure that schools are supported in their business of teaching and learning and consequently I will be harnessing the potential of these personnel to further our agenda. Do not be surprised to see some “unfamiliar” faces throughout our school this year.

The distribution of our newsletter has become more efficient through the adoption of our current process. Again I remind you that its success is built on you ensuring all your details with us are current. Please ensure that any time you
change any relevant details including address, phone number, email address and emergency contacts, that you update our records at school.

Maintenance of schools is a never-ending task. Jan, as our Business Services Officer, coordinates a maintenance program in collaboration with agencies that support our school. Currently a solution is being explored for the walkway roof that leads to the upper school. Another project that will take considerable planning is the upgrade of the drainage beside Damon Harris Way (the road alongside the hall). Jan’s work in this area has led to a wide range of maintenance activities, many of which are not readily visible including major plumbing upgrades and underground tank restoration.

As the term draws to a close, our teachers will be meeting with parents to share their findings regarding student learning. This is a valuable opportunity to spend time with your child’s teacher, an education expert, to learn about current progress and future plans and how it is you can support your child’s learning. Next term you will receive a written report. This report will be in a simplified format that will outline your child’s strengths, their learning challenges, how you can support and a general comment that is personalised for your child. The usual ratings for academic attainment, effort and behaviour will also be included.

Our first “Enrolling Families” information session will occur next Tuesday at 9:15am. I look forward to meeting the new families who have made application to enrol their children at Gilston for 2016. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Year 6 Leadership Program

At Gilston, we believe it is important to equip our school leaders with skills to lead effectively. Yesterday, our Year 6 students attended a Leadership Program at Tallebudgera Beach School. The focus of this program is to develop students’ ability to communicate effectively in small groups. They were encouraged to share ideas, develop plans, use problem solving strategies and evaluate the effectiveness of the groups’ goals and efforts while engaging in different scenarios.

Charlotte Richards described the day as “a great day because we all learnt valuable skills and had lots of fun.” Montana McKenzie said “we improved our leadership qualities and learnt how to work together as a team.”

Year 4 Bike Safety Program

This week our Year 4 students attended Ashmore Bike Safety Centre to enhance their knowledge of bike safety in a practical and fun way. Safety isn’t confined to the school grounds but extends into everyday activities. Students who participated in this valuable program have gained an understanding of bike safety, including knowledge of road rules. All students had a great time and learnt a lot about how to remain safe when riding a bike.

Everyone has the right to feel safe

At Gilston, everyone has the right to feel safe. Inappropriate behaviour, including bullying must be reported to a teacher to ensure the behaviour is dealt with, following the correct processes and procedures of the school. Under no circumstances should a parent approach another student regarding an incident that may have occurred at school.

What is bullying?

Bullying involves deliberately and repeatedly attempting to hurt, scare or exclude someone. It can include hitting, pushing, name calling, or taking someone’s belongings.

Bullying can also be more indirect, for example, deliberately leaving someone out of games, spreading rumours about them, or sending them nasty messages.

Cyber-bullying involves using mobile phones and the internet to bully others. The main purpose of the bullying is to have power over someone else.

When children have been bullied they may:

- not want to go to school
- be unusually quiet or secretive
- not have friends
- seem over-sensitive or weepy
- have angry outbursts.

Responding to bullying

It is very important to let children know that bullying is not okay and that they should report it when it does occur. Schools set standards for appropriate behavior and safety. They also have guidelines for reporting and responding to bullying when it occurs. The consequences for bullying should address what has happened and help to ensure it will not happen again.

It is very important for the bully to understand how his or her behaviour has affected the other person and to be clear not to repeat that behaviour. To help prevent bullying, children can be taught how to be respectful and caring towards others. Children who bully may appear confident but often lack skills for building positive friendships.

Learning to be more assertive can help those who are bullied to stand up for themselves. Learning the skills of assertiveness can also help those who bully find ways to communicate their wants, needs and opinions without becoming aggressive. Both those who are bullied, and those who do the bullying, will benefit from learning effective social and emotional skills.

How parents and carers can help

If your child is being bullied:

- listen and provide support to your child
- try to understand what has been happening, how often and how long
- encourage social skills, like being assertive, telling the bully to stop and seeking help
- support your child to think through different ways they could deal with the problem
- report it by talking with your child’s teacher
- keep talking with the school until your child feels safe

If your child tells you about bullying he has seen or heard at school:

- encourage your child to report what he/she has seen or heard to school staff
- make sure your child knows the bullying behaviour is inappropriate and why
- try to understand the reasons why your child has behaved in this way and look for ways to address problems
- encourage perspective taking (eg “how would you feel if…”)
- help your child think of alternative paths of action.

To help prevent cyber-bullying:

- supervise children’s use of electronic devices
- teach children about ways of keeping safe when using the internet and mobile phones.

Information extracted from http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Additional information for parents can be located on the Kids Matter website.

Until next time,

Kelly Clark
P & C REPORT
Our March P & C meeting will be Monday 16 March at 7.00pm. This will also be the AGM. All parents and carers are both invited and most welcome to attend. All executive positions become vacant and we would like to call for nominations. If you have an interest you can forward your nomination to the office in writing, stating the position/s you are interested in, signed and addressed to our Secretary Mel Andrews. Please find attached to this newsletter a brief role description for each Executive Position. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.
Also attached is a flyer about how to volunteer at Gilston. There are a range of ways you can contribute your time to assist. I would like to extend the P & C’s gratitude to all who volunteer, as without your help, we would not have the ability to provide the range of services and funds we currently do for the benefit of our children and school community.
Uniform Shop - Our School shirts are finally in stock in the Uniform Shop and available again through Flexischools. I thank you for your patience in this matter. We are expecting a shipment of homework satchels to arrive soon. Please watch this space. I would also like to welcome the newest addition to our Uniform Shop Volunteer Team - Jo Taylor.

LIBRARY NEWS
Issue 2 of Book Club has gone home this week. Please make sure your orders are completed either online or by phone. Completed order forms, with the receipt number, come to the library please. Last day for orders for Issue 2 is Monday 23 March.
Borrowing – we have some great new books in our library. Please encourage your child to borrow one. Children may borrow and return books on any day, not only on their class borrowing day. Please encourage your child to read every day.
Our Year 6 Maths Olympiad team has been chosen and is already hard at work. They will be working on lots of problem solving skills and strategies. The first Olympiad Competition will be held in May and the final one is in September. Kathy Stone / Maths Olympiad Tutor
Our library monitors are now helping in the library and this is much appreciated. Thank you to these students.
Kathy Stone / Librarian

TUCKSHOP REPORT
Thursday 12 March – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen Cribb.
Friday 13 March – Teresa Evans/Jade Bowden
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Monday 16 March – Alex Wilson McCarthy/Karen Bowden
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 17 March – Karen Bowden/Danielle Wibaux
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Wednesday 18 March – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Thursday 19 March – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen Cribb

Our monthly sushi day is next Tuesday 17 March. If you would like to order sushi please do this before 9.00am Monday 16 March. Order forms are in the tuckshop. We are looking for volunteers to help us out in the tuckshop, if you can spare an hour or 2, we would greatly appreciate this.
Have a good week.
Nicole Tuckshop Convenor

CONGRATULATIONS to Brayden Taylor on his selection in the Oceanic District U12 AFL team. I’m sure we will see him playing for the Suns very soon.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAY – ROBINA SHS – Friday 27 March 9.30am-2.30pm. For more information contact Ben Weeks bweek12@eq.edu.au
MERRIMAC SHS is pleased to offer SCHOLARSHIPS in academic performance, sports, instrumental music and dance for students in Year 7 – 2016. Applications are available from Merrimac SHS Admin or online www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au. Applications close 24/4/2015.
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.

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au