



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Today is **Remembrance Day**, a time to commemorate all those who lost their lives in war. In accordance with proclamation declared by Governor-General William Deane in 1997 we observe a **minute's silence at 11.00am** on this day to remember the sacrifice of those who died or otherwise suffered in Australia's cause in wars and war-like conflicts. I encourage you to make this a topic of conversation in your households and to address any questions age-appropriately.

In the past two weeks you have read here about the opinions from students and parents. This week we have some **celebrations from the staff perspective:**

Area of significant growth since 2013	2013	2015
I receive useful feedback about my work	58%	90%
Staff are well supported	59%	91%
School takes staff opinions seriously	59%	93%
School is well maintained	75%	97%
The developing performance process improves my work	63%	84%
School is well organised	67%	95%
School keeps me well-informed	67%	93%
I'm encouraged to provide constructive feedback	56%	91%
School asks for my input	58%	86%
School encourages mentoring and coaching	58%	95%

Selection of areas that rated 100%	2015
School is a safe place to work	100%
Students are encouraged to do their best	100%
I feel well prepared for different aspects of my job	100%
Social, cultural and racial diversity are respected	100%
Students with disability are well supported	100%
School provides useful information online	100%
School encourages me to take responsibility for my work	100%

For the past six years our graduating students have run a **Kids Being Teachers Japanese Festival** to pass their knowledge of Japanese culture on to the younger grades. This year our grade 6 students have been working hard preparing their lessons and will be beginning their day with lessons for parents.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday	10 November	Book Fair
Friday	20 November	
Monday	16 November	P & C Meeting 7.00pm
Tuesday	17 November	Japan visit information meeting 3.15-4.00pm
Thursday	26 November	Last day Book Club
Friday	27 November	Expressions of interest close for 2016 Japan visit
Monday	30 November	Gala Day Year 5 & 6
Friday	4 December	Swimming Carnival Year 4-6. All Saints Merrimac
Friday	11 December	Last day school 2015
Wednesday	27 January	First day school 2016

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

P	1	2	3	4	5	6
94.19	94.18	94.05	93.36	92.94	93.68	93.04

More information is contained later in this newsletter.

Invitations have been distributed to our volunteers to the BBQ on November 20. If you are one of these people please **help us** with catering by **advising how many of your family** will be joining us for this celebration. If you are a volunteer and haven't received an invitation, let me know.

Your children may be sharing that they have been engaging in some **online "tests" at school**. The purpose of these **diagnostic assessments** is to gather **norm-referenced** data to **compare student achievement** and to **diagnose the areas of learning** that require additional attention. Embracing the online versions has saved time in the administration of the test and in the collation of the results. **Teachers have been collaborating to analyse the data and forecast focused instruction.**

Assessment has also been undertaken to confirm **student progress** in preparation for the production of the **written reports**. These reports will clearly **highlight your child's placement** against the **standards** and will include comments to **highlight strengths, challenges** and **future goals**. These will be distributed in the final week of the term.

I received a call from my supervisor this week pertaining to the **attendance targets** we have at Gilston and the current rate. 95% remains our target and as at last week we now have 3 year levels tracking above 94%. Time is running out to reach our goals and **every day counts for every child**. Ensure that your child is only absent when ill.

It has been brought to my attention that some students have brought **chocolates to school to sell** as fund raising exercise for activities outside the school. This practice is **not appropriate**. Please respect our firm stance on this matter by making your sales out-of-school.

Thank you for observing the direction to keep all dogs (other than assist dogs) **outside the school yard**. Your adherence to this safety strategy is appreciated.
Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT **Garden Extensions**

Kitchen and food gardens are a popular and effective way for us to promote environmental sustainability learning and to connect students with healthy food and lifestyles.

With this in mind we have been able to start on our garden extensions over the last couple of weeks to include a fruit orchid and a sensory garden at the entrance to the school. The fruit trees are already in, situated at the intersection at the take off to the hall and the path going down to the bottom oval. It's not finished as yet but watch that space. Also at the front of the undercover area we're putting in a memorial garden on the bottom level. This will be planted up with rosemary in the near future. A big thank you goes out to our present groundsman Glen for all his hard work.

Masters of Nerang have been extremely generous by providing us with a lemon tree, grapefruit tree, two orange trees, a lime tree and two Paw Paw trees. Thank you to Michelle and the staff at Masters for their help. If you would like to donate an orange or lemon tree to add to our school garden let me know. We have room for a few more!

Past Students return

Last week at Assembly we were very fortunate to have two past pupils, Taylor and Darcie Watts come to speak to us. They outlined their experiences in transitioning to high school and Taylor explained the initiatives Nerang High have in place to

support students entering into that system next year. Taylor will be one of those overseeing that process, so I know the newbies will be in good hands. Darcie spoke to students about positivity, and the benefits of having an upbeat, happy disposition, even in troubled times. She made many valid points about the flow-on effects that would be felt in an individual, and the successes that would come. Both of these young ladies are living proof of what Darcie spoke about.

Both girls received academic honour awards at the recent Nerang High Awards Night. They are leaders in their respective cohorts and are part of a large contingent of very successful past Gilston students.

Nerang High Awards Night

I was very fortunate to be invited to attend the presentation night. The accolades given to so many was really great to witness. Over forty past Gilston students were recognised for their achievements on the night and next year we will have seven more students entering into the NSHS Comets Program in 2016. We also have two of our past students as school captains for 2016. To all the above mentioned, you've done extremely well, we're very proud of you and look forward to witnessing your future achievements.

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

P & C NEWS

Our final P & C meeting for 2015 will be held on Monday 16 November at 7.00pm. All parents and carers are invited to attend.

Uniform Shop will open two days in January to assist all our parents and carers in making sure our students are looking smart for the start of school in 2016.

Opening hours will be:

Tuesday 19 January – 8.00 - 11.00am

Thursday 21 January – 2.00 – 4.00pm

This a very busy time of year for our lovely uniform shop volunteers. We encourage parents to pre-order the required uniforms before the end of the school year, we can then pack and you can collect on either of these two days in January. This not only makes your experience more enjoyable, but it assists us in providing great service to the school community. We would also appreciate any additional help in the Uniform Shop on these two days. If you able to assist please give Christene a call 0432 275 195

We would also like to advise that the **Uniform Shop** can now offer pre-orders for **girls' skorts**. We will have samples available for perusal in the Uniform Shop. The skorts are priced at \$20 each. Skort orders can be placed at the Tuckshop and Uniform Shop. A minimum order total will need to be reached before this order can be placed.

Uniform Shop opens only on Thursday 2.30 – 3.30pm. 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. If you require assistance outside of our Uniform Shop hours, the lovely ladies in the Tuckshop will be happy to assist as they are able.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL YEAR 4-6

This year's carnival will be held on Friday 4 December. The students will travel by bus to All Saints indoor swimming pool and compete in a variety of events.

To add to the fun, we are having a Christmas theme.

Food orders are to be handed to Mr Stavar in a bag/envelope.

A reminder that swim caps are compulsory and are available in house colours at the tuckshop for \$8.00
This year 9 year olds in Year 3 can compete at the carnival provided they are members of a swim club or are exceptional swimmers. This must be pre-arranged with me prior to Thursday 12 November when payment is due.
We look forward to another great event.

YEAR 5 & 6 BEACH GALA DAY

On Monday 30 November our Year 5 and 6 students will be participating in a Beach Gala day with Tallebudgera and Nerang State Schools. The students will participate in various sports, the aim of which is to have fun, improve skills, interact with other schools and develop team and school spirit.

The students will arrive at Kirra Beach and start their games at 10.00am. All parents, relatives and friends are welcome to attend and support, assist and cheer on the Gilston teams.

Remember to bring a fold up chair.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Scott Stavar – PE Teacher

KIDS BEING TEACHERS – JAPANESE FESTIVAL

Our annual KBT Festival is being held on Tuesday 24 November (Wk 8). Parents are invited to come along for a 30 minute lesson at 9:10am. Year 6 representatives will escort parents to the lessons from the undercover area at 9.00am. Please choose from the lessons below:-

- Prep – Kimono (clothing)
- Year 1 – Kazu (Counting)
- Year 2 – Origami (Paper folding)
- Year 3 – Arts and crafts
- Year 4 – Shodo (Calligraphy)
- Year 5 – Omocho (Toys)
- Taiko (Drums)
- Kendo (Sword practice)

JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN MARCH

We have a wonderful opportunity to host Japanese exchange students in March next year! The students are aged 14-15 and have specifically requested to be hosted by a primary school to build a younger sibling-like relationship. We are looking for 20 Gilston families to host a student in their home from **9-15 March (Wednesday-Tuesday) 2016**. If you are interested in hosting a Japanese student next year please send an email or note to Mrs Doonican and she will forward more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair is on now! It will finish on Friday 20 November. Please support the school and make a purchase.

Book Club Issue 8 has been handed out this week. Final date for orders will be 26 November.

CHAPPY'S SPACE

Used Crayon Recycling Drive - One of our mums who would like to give back to the community has very kindly offered to remould crayons and give them back to the school. If you have any broken crayon bits you would like to be recycled and donated back to the school classes you can bring them in and place them in the container at tuckshop.

Breakfast Club: Thursdays 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 breaky club up and running. If you can spare any time between 8.00-9.15am 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 or 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. Thank you so much to Hayley, Karen, Tammy, Rachel and Cath. Without you there would be no breaky club. Thank you to Nerang Bakery in Nerang Mall who supply our bread and Ozharvest who supplies us fruit when it's available.

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 5578 9322, Mosaic Family Baptist Church 07 5525 2477.

Saturday Night Kids Club- 'Kids Roc' 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month put on by United City Church held in William Duncan School Hall. Enquiries -Sue 0421664466 www.kidsroc.com.au.

You can access the Chaplaincy service at Gilston via Mr Weatherburn or by contacting Chappy Sami at samanthab@chappy.org.au. All referrals however, need to go through our admin SNaC committee as per Mr Weatherburn. You can start this process through your class teacher.

CYC Camp Burleigh has opened for registration over the school holidays. For more info www.cycburleigh.com.au
Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800, Beyond Blue 1300 224 636, Lifeline 131 114, Cancer Council support line 131 120, Commonwealth Carelink Centre 1800 0520222, Juice 107.3 Careline 55 283 555

TUCKSHOP REPORT

Thursday 12 November – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Karen Crabb

Friday 13 November – Kristy Griffin / Tammy S

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 16 November – Beth

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Tuesday 17 November - Dorothy

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 18 November – Dorothy / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 19 November – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Joanne

Friday 20 November – Teresa Evans / Sally McRobert

Ice Blocks – Help needed

We are wondering if there are 2 volunteers willing to come in on Wednesday afternoons between 2.00-3.00 to help us bag up items, such as nuggets, chicken popcorn, chicken chips and party pies.

If this sounds like you, please come and see Nicole in the tuckshop.

Remember to RSVP to the office for the Volunteers' BBQ on Friday 20 November if you haven't already done so.

Have a great week. Nicole Meesen – Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICE

TRIPLE P PARENTING SEMINARS are available free of charge at Nerang. Please see attachments to this newsletter. Book your free place now at www.triplep-parenting.net.

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING for students entering Year 7 in 2016 will be held on Wednesday 11 November at 5.30pm in the library.

PRIMARY SCHOOL TUTOR – 1 on 1 tutoring. Mum of 2 and fully qualified primary school teacher. 50 min tutoring session \$45. Phone Amy on 0403 747 260.

