



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

**Volunteers** add value in all facets of our society - whether it's those patrolling our beaches to ensure swimmer safety, those manning the canteen at the soccer each weekend or those selling tickets for not-for-profit organisations. Each contribution enhances the lives of others in some way. At Gilston we continue to be the beneficiaries of the generosity of volunteers. Every day in a multitude of ways people are giving freely of their time and expertise for the betterment of the members of the Gilston State School community. To recognise these contributions, invitations have been distributed to volunteers to join us for a **BBQ this Friday at 5:30pm**. I invite you to bring along a cold beverage of your choice to enjoy with your snags. Soft drinks will be provided courtesy of the P & C. Graeme will be chained to the BBQ to ensure all in attendance are fed.

On the topic of volunteers, I was proud to be a part of the process that celebrated **Damon Harris' "Cool to be Kind"** award that he won as part of the **World Kindness Day**. As I explained in the radio interview, Damon has been part of the Gilston School community since his children started in 2003 and continues to help in a range of ways despite his children leaving for high school in 2013. Damon's humility will mean that there will be many at Gilston unaware of his identity, yet very grateful for his input. By way of example, it was Damon who built the road to the oval, provided the machinery to help at working bees, cleared our drains to mitigate flooding during storms, provided his purpose built trailer fridge, BBQ and assorted party provisions for the Fair and installed a number of concrete ramps throughout the school to assist those with prams and wheelchairs. Once I gain access to a copy of the radio interview, I will share it with you so you can hear what Damon said about why he does what he does. It was **an inspiration for generations of all ages**. Damon will not be able to make this Friday's event as it clashes with his son's Year 12 graduation, however we will raise a glass in his honour.

**Over 18% of the students are now part of the school choir.** This is testament to Alison's dedication to the program and the quality of the offerings she has designed. With 110 students now involved, Alison has, for the first time, had to split the **choir for performances at the Melody Park**. This will mean that the residents of Melody Park will be treated to **Christmas carols** on two separate days. I congratulate Alison for this outcome and

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday	10 November	Book Fair
Friday	20 November	
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
Wednesday	2 December	Green choir to Melody Park
Thursday	3 December	Prep-4 Christmas Concert
Friday	4 December	Swimming Carnival Year 4-6. All Saints Merrimac
Monday	7 December	Red choir to Melody Park
Friday	11 December	Last day school 2015
Tuesday	19 January	Uniform shop open 8.00 - 11.00am
Thursday	21 January	Uniform shop open 2.00 - 4.00pm
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
94.23	94.19	94.01	93.36	92.93	93.64	93.01

look forward to bringing some Christmas joy to the folk who reside at Melody Park.

Details regarding the **Student Resource Scheme** will be sent home this week. I require your immediate commitment to either being part of the scheme or to providing all items outlined on the form and costs associated with incidental items, excursions and incursions for the year.

**“Our achievers are here every lesson, every day”**. This is the message that has been posted on the school sign at Nerang State High School for the majority of this year. It captures succinctly the message I continue to promote about attendance at Gilston. These are not empty words, the fact remains that **students who attend school more, learn more**.

At Gilston high expectations underpin everything we do. These **expectations will not diminish** as the weeks count down to the summer break. Please remind your children of this fact so that there is no confusion.

Stay safe and keep smiling.  
Bruce

### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT Student Resource Scheme

In 2016, Gilston State School will have a Student Resource Scheme. It will replace the booklist concept leading to convenience for parents, greater efficiency for teachers and value-for-money.

The change emanated from parent suggestions at the P & C meeting earlier this year. Parents were keen to reduce waste that had been a feature of the booklist system and cited examples of local schools, including William Duncan, where the Student Resource Scheme had been successfully implemented for many years. They identified that there are many incidental costs throughout the year that they would be happy not to have to meet or having the inconvenience of sourcing.

Following subsequent investigation and discussion at consecutive meetings, the decision was ratified by the P & C.

In response to the desire to enhance convenience for parents, an additional element to cover incursions and excursions has been included. This was included to avoid money collections for minor events up to \$15-\$20 each year.

Gilston has always been conscious of delivering value-for-money and the bulk-buying power that we enjoy will lead to savings across the year levels while ensuring high-quality items for use by students.

We remain committed to responding to parents experiencing financial hardship and individual arrangements will be available on a case-by-case basis. If you wish to make an arrangement, please contact the office where your case will be treated respectfully.

In a previous newsletter (14 October), Bruce announced the plan to introduce the scheme and the predicted cost of \$160 per student per year. Since this time we have attended to refining the details of the scheme and they are outlined below. The questions we have received since have been compiled into a “frequently asked questions” sheet that was presented at the last P & C meeting and will be available to all parents.

This week a note will be sent home to gather your commitment, **either** to participate in the scheme, or to provide all the items from the list outlined on the form and the costs of all excursions and incursions. For parents committing to the participation in the scheme, invoices will be generated and forwarded as per usual process. Part payments up until the due date are welcome and easily managed through the QParents App.

Given 2016 will be our inaugural year for this scheme; we will monitor closely all aspects. If we can identify further efficiencies, any cost savings will be applied to reduce cost to participating

parents.

We thank you in anticipation for your commitment to this scheme and I look forward to advantages this will bring to you and to our teachers.

### Robina State High School Awards Presentation Night

On Monday night I attended the awards presentation night at Robina SHS. As always it's wonderful to see young people achieving at such high levels and the pride and enjoyment that goes along with it. Again, Gilston has a number of students amongst this prestigious group. What was very sobering and indeed humbling to hear, were the stories from a past student of Robina, and another who has just graduated as Dux of the school. It wouldn't be appropriate for me to recount them in this forum without their knowledge and consent, but I can say that the levels of continual, extreme difficulty that they both overcame were truly awe inspiring. I take my hat off to them and wish them a very fulfilled and rewarding life.

**Perhaps a message for all to take from their exploits would be to know that our schoolwork is going to fill a large part of our life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what we believe is great work. We all know what we need to do and that usually conflicts with what we like to do. Don't settle; see the peaks and not the valleys.**

### 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 and meet in the undercover area. 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 – Omocha (Toys)
- Taiko (Drums)
- Kendo (Sword practice)

### SUGOI CLUBS 2016

Sugoi ('Soo-goy') = awesome! In 2016 the **Sugoi Taiko** ('Tye-ko'-Japanese drumming) club will be starting. Taiko is an exciting and energetic style of drumming. If you have never witnessed it, check out these YouTube links and you will see how truly amazing it can be <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsKqBy2uJ34> and a clip from Australia's Got Talent <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvkdKN-Wljo>. It not only teaches beat and rhythm, but also motor skills, team work and is an excellent form of physical activity. Some of our Year 6 students this year have already had the chance to experience Taiko and it has been a big hit!

Students who are currently in Years 3, 4 and 5 are invited to apply to join the 2016 lunchtime club. **Application forms will be available from Mrs Miller in week 8** (from 23/11/15). There will be a fee when joining this group which will supply each member with their own bachi (Taiko drum sticks) and tuition.



## FINAL CHOIR PERFORMANCES FOR 2015

The 'Green' and 'Red' choirs will be singing Christmas songs at Melody Park Retirement Village in the last 2 weeks of term. The Green choir will sing at 10.30am on Wednesday 2 December and the Red choir will perform at 10.30am on Monday 7 December. All choir members have received an information / permission note. Notes need to be returned to the music room by Tuesday 24 November.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Tomorrow (Thursday 19/11/15) will be the final junior band rehearsal for 2015.

## LIBRARY NEWS

This is the final week for **Book Fair**. Please come and visit before Friday 20 November as this will be the last day of the Book Fair.

**Book Club Issue 8** has been sent home. This is the last issue for 2015. The final date for orders will be 26 November.

Please remember to order online using the LOOP system on the scholastic website [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)  
Thank you for your support. Kathy Stone / Librarian

## TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO BE BUCKET FILLERS.

It's important to teach our children to be "bucket fillers" rather than "bucket dippers".

But what exactly is a "bucket filler" you may ask?

A "bucket filler" is someone who is thoughtful of others.

They are kind, considerate and generous of spirit.

A "bucket dipper" is of course the opposite. They are someone who thinks more about themselves and they can often be rude, mean, inconsiderate and disrespectful.

By becoming "bucket fillers", our children can start to foster happiness for both themselves and others. By talking with our children about this concept and by modelling our own "bucket filling" behaviour as we go through each day we are teaching our children an invaluable tool that can help them to be more happy in their own life.

Donald O. Clifton (1924 – 2003) was the American Psychologist who conceptualized this idea. He is warmly regarded as the Father of the Strengths Based Psychology movement and the Grandfather of Positive Psychology. He first introduced the "bucket filling" concept back in the 1960s.

Carol McLeod and David Messing have now drawn on his ideas and created the beautiful children's picture book entitled, "Have you filled a bucket today? A guide to daily happiness for kids." The premise behind this picture book is that we all carry our own invisible bucket around as we travel through each and every day. If our bucket is filled by the kind words and deeds of others we tend to feel happier. But when our bucket is empty or "dipped into" by others we can tend to feel sad and even perhaps angry. The "bucket filler" is someone who uplifts others thereby "filling many buckets." Interestingly, another wonderful outcome of all this is that they often tend to feel better about themselves as well and even "fill their own bucket" while they are busy offering consideration and kindness to everyone around them. It's rather like a win-win recipe I think.

You might like to go and check out this lovely picture book for yourself. Actually there are several similar but different titles now and they are suitable for a range of different age groups. You might like to ask your local library if they have a copy of any of these books.

Perhaps we should all start to spend some more time filling other people's buckets? Why don't we give it a try? After all we're told we are likely to feel happier in ourselves

whenever we engage in this process.

## TUCKSHOP REPORT

Thursday 19 November – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 20 November – Teresa Evans / Sally McRobert

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 23 November – Beth / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Anne-Marie

Tuesday 24 November – Dorothy Garden

Ice Blocks – Sue H

Wednesday 25 November – Dorothy Garden

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 26 November – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 27 November – Kristy Griffin / Tammy s

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Year 5 parents are sought to assist with the catering for the Year 6 presentation night. As a thank you for your assistance you will be given front row seating at your child's presentation night next year.

We will need assistance from 5.00-8.30pm on Tuesday 8 December. Please leave your name with Nicole in the Tuckshop.

As of next week, we will be running a vote to name our "Tuckshop". We will have 4 containers with potential names on them; each student will place a vote in one of the boxes. This will run for 1 week only. Any questions please come and see me.

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](http://www.triplep-parenting.net).

**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.

**BUNNINGS NERANG CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT** Thursday 10/12/15 6.00-8.00pm. Bring the family along for a great night of fun. Booking recommended at [www.bunnings.com.au](http://www.bunnings.com.au)

**NERANG CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS** – Saturday 19/12/15 at Bischof Park. 3.00pm \$2 rides, drinks, fairy floss and sausage sizzle. Variety of food stalls. 4.00pm meet Santa in the Park, 6.00pm Traditional Carols and Santa, 8.30pm Fireworks.

