PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

The Christmas seal has been broken. Our choir performing Christmas Carols at the Wishing Tree Launch at Robina Kmart is the start of the season at Gilston. It was a joy to watch the public tap their feet and join in with the carols sung beautifully by our choir.

Finishing strong is a term used in many settings including sport. In terms of our school I know by the industry and energy around me that we are indeed finishing strong at Gilston. I recognise the wonderful work of our staff at this time as they not only finish this year, but plan carefully for a successful 2015. The care that has been taken to distil the critical concepts and skills into a scope and sequence to ensure all aspects are covered and progressions between year levels are clear.

The BYOD information session is on Tuesday next week at 3.30pm in the library. Our policy has been uploaded to the website for your information and any parent wishing to express interest in having their child in a BYOD class must complete the last two pages of the document and return them to the office prior to November 28.

I met with the Assistant Regional Director Monday to share progress attributed to the expenditure of the Great Results Guarantee funds for 2014. I was proud to celebrate the achievements of our programs and forecast with her that we would again be utilising our talented paraprofessionals to support similar programs in 2015. Already diagnostic testing has been utilised to identify those students who would most benefit.

In 2015 the programs for talented students will continue. Kathy Stone has taken the lead with the delivery of many programs this year to support the extension of these individuals. Kathy is planning to incorporate philosophy into library lessons to further stretch all students as they engage in higher order thinking. This approach is a proven strategy and I look forward to monitoring the progress with Kathy next year.

Our very own junior piano expert Gin has again had his talents recognised, this time by the Deputy Principals’ Association on the Gold Coast. The group has requested that Gin play for them at their final meeting for this year.
We are proud of his achievements and know he will bring credit to our school through his performance.

In closing this week I pay tribute to Narelle Reed our P&C president who will be leaving Gilston at the year’s end. Narelle has dedicated countless hours and applied her considerable business skills for the past five years to lead the association to what we see today. The professionalism with which weekly duties are undertaken within the uniform and tuckshops and the accountability practices in meeting the legal requirements of conducting a P&C are largely due to her vision and drive. Whilst Narelle is the first to recognise the team around her, few would argue that her leadership has been pivotal to the P&C success.

As principal I have valued Narelle’s clear intention to provide the best opportunities for our students and the families within the Gilston Community. Her sense of fun has been a bonus for me and for those with whom she has worked in her role.

If Narelle has a fault, it would be that she dedicates too much of herself to the role. So it is with deep sincerity that I extend gratitude on behalf of the Gilston State School community to her husband Hunter and their children Jamison, Hunter and Lincoln for sharing their wife and mother with us. I wish them all the very best as they embrace the next chapter of their lives.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Stranger Danger
There has been a report from the community about a person in a white van with a Victorian number plate engaging is suspicious activity in our community. Authorities have been notified. Please take the time to discuss with your child the importance of reporting any suspicious behaviour and also to take note of appearances, vehicle, registration number and any other information that may assist authorities curb this behaviour in our community.

Congratulations to the Gilston Choir
This week, students were provided with the opportunity to sing at the opening of the K-Mart Wishing Tree at Robina Town Centre. I would like to recognise their attitude and conduct during this performance. Congratulations to these Gilston Greats!

BYOD Information Session
Next Tuesday afternoon at 3:30pm we will be holding a parent information session in the Library to explain the school’s position in regards to iPad classes for next year. Any interested parents and caregivers are welcome to attend this session. This will assist the school in gauging interest and provide direction on how best to proceed next year.

Tip of the week
Help Kids feel good - BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM
Extract from www.community.nsw.gov.au

Healthy self-esteem is feeling good about yourself, feeling that you are a worthwhile person. Self-esteem builds a solid foundation to help children and parents cope with life.

What is self-esteem?
Self-esteem is about valuing and liking yourself. It is also about believing in what you can do. Children develop self-esteem when:

- they feel they have a place in the world where they belong
- they are a part of a family where they matter
- They are encouraged to do things and succeed.

Why is self-esteem important?
- Self-esteem helps people feel they can develop their own skills and contribute to their community.
- When people have low self-esteem they don’t feel confident about doing things for themselves, or using their talents and abilities in the best way.
- Low self-esteem is also linked to stress, coronary heart disease and anti-social behaviours.

What parents can do
- Tell your child that you love them as they are.
- Show your child that you love spending time with them doing the things they like to do.
- Show respect by talking in a way that you would like to be spoken to.
- Listen in a way that shows you take your child seriously.
- Encourage friendships. Make their friends welcome in your home and get to know them.
- Help your child to explore any hobbies that they are interested in.
- When you play games with your child make sure they have opportunities to win.
- Celebrate your child’s achievements and successes.
- Show your child that you have faith in them. Don’t solve all their problems. Help them learn problem solving skills so they can manage things for themselves.

Reminders
- Children are not born with self-esteem.
- Young children learn self-esteem through what they can do and what their parents think of them.
- ‘Put down’ messages damage self-esteem.
- Giving time, hugs and smiles are very important to building self-esteem.
- Laugh with your children - not at them.
- Keep giving sincere messages that build self-esteem in your teenagers, even if they say they don’t believe you. These messages matter.
- Self-esteem is learned and can be changed.
- Take care of your own self-esteem.

Until next time,
Kelly Clark

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P & C NEWS
Monday night saw the last of our meetings for 2014, and as my family move from Gilston it was also my last P&C meeting. It has been a great pleasure to serve the Gilston community as your P&C President over the past 5 years and I believe my time has been well spent and hopefully benefited many. It goes without saying the contributions made by the P&C during this period could not have been achieved without the dedicated team of people who provide their many talents and time for the sheer pleasure of giving back to the community.

It is true I have always been impressed with the vast array of quality skills and commitment our teaching and teaching aide staff provide here at Gilston and feel they encapsulate the vision of learning and growth we as parents seek for our children.

Extending from this is the “intangible something” of Gilston State School which prepares children to be the best they can be and become the best well rounded adults they can. It is this area where your P&C comes to the fore, when pared back the Parents and Citizens Association are everyday Mums, Dads and community focused people who provide support and energy to build something more here at Gilston. It’s Dads and Mums at working bees for the gardens or through reading in class, it’s the banking team who teach and encourage future economic independence, it’s the delicious and warm environment of our Tuckshop and the pride of a quality uniform taken hours to source and deliver. Then again it may be those extra resources or facilities that make the day a little easier to learn or play. I have enjoyed being a part of the Gilston P&C, giving back, building something and contributing with the countless others who in one way or another make up the Gilston community. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity.

Mine and my family’s experience at Gilston has been one of happiness and at times challenges, though all creating fabulous memories and lifelong friends. I wish staff, students and the Gilston Community at large a wonderful and prosperous future.

Warm Regards, Narelle

Gilston Christmas Wishing Tree for Foster Children
Our own Nutana Donaldson supports a wonderful charity providing resources to Foster Children. This year the P&C is asking our Gilston Community to also support this charity and these children by providing a Christmas gift for distribution. A donation box will be in place outside of the office and if you can see your way to being a part of something special it would mean a lot, to children who often don’t feel like they are worth a lot. Donations must be new and unwrapped.

Uniform Shop
Earlier this year the P&C updated the uniform to an improved supplemented fabric, to move on the “original” fabric polos the price has been reduced to $15 a piece. These polos are still the approved uniform just a different fabric. If your children, through enthusiastic play go through polo’s then these are a bargain. The other consideration is to use one as a signature shirt for those year 6 & 7 students leaving at the end of this year. Just a thought. There are still stocks of Gilston branded socks available at $5 a pair.

Back to School Uniform Shop Hours – 2015
Dates to note in your diary
Tuesday 20th January, 2015 (10am – 12 noon)
Thursday 22nd January, 2015 (2pm – 4pm).

Uniform Prices will be rising in 2015 so you may wish to make your purchases before the end of the year.

Presentation Evenings 2014
Grade 5 parents are sought to assist with the catering for the Year 6 & 7 presentation evenings, as a thank you for your assistance you will be given front row seating when your child graduates next year. Please leave your name with Nicole in the Tuckshop.

As always if I can be any assistance or you have any questions or queries please give me a call. Kind regards, Narelle Reed – P&C President. Tel: 0403046920

CHOIR NEWS
The junior and senior choirs will be singing at Melody Park Retirement Village on Wednesday 3 December at 10.30am. The choir students have received a permission note containing all the details for this performance. Please return these notes by Monday 24 November. The students need to wear their school uniform and can also wear Santa hats, reindeer antlers, tinsel etc. to make the occasion festive.

Eisteddfod Choir
The choir is often looking for black school shoes that can be polished, for eisteddfod competitions. If you have a pair that are still in reasonably good condition but are too small, perhaps you’d like to donate them to the eisteddfod choir. Just drop them off to Mrs Miller in the music room.

LIBRARY NEWS
The Book Fair is now on! It ends on 24 November. Parents can come to the library at 8.30-9.00am or 3.00-3.30pm to have a look and make a purchase.

Overdue books – thank you to the families who have returned overdue books. If your child has a book that is lost please contact the librarians. Accounts have been issued for unreturned books. If you cannot return your child’s book, please see the librarians about paying your account.

Issue 8 of Book Club has been sent home this week. This is the last Book Club for 2014. Please have completed orders to the librarians by Friday 21 November.

Premier’s Reading Challenge Presentation
Congratulations to all our students who received a Certificate of Achievement at assembly last week. Students in the junior years read 20 books and in the upper school 15 books between May and September. Well done to all students who achieved this goal! Thank you for support

Librarian - Kathy Stone and Shelley Batson

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Leadership
Last week some Year 5 students received their leadership badge. Some of those students are now on the next stage of their journey and are striving to get a position as either Gilston School Captain or Gilston School Vice-Captain.
Those students vying for the captaincy positions have already passed a stringent application process, and their next step to give their speeches and have the other Gilston students vote for them. These speeches and voting will occur on Wednesday 3 December at 12.00pm.
A leader is one who guides and inspires others. Leadership is more than meeting class and school expectations of good behavior, it is: helping your classmates, leading in a group and inspiring others, being involved in the school community.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 20 November - Help needed
Ice Blocks -- Karen
Friday 21 November – Brenda Fleming, Kristy Griffin, Jade B, Teresa Evans
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Monday 24 November – Alex McCarthy
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 25 November – Ame’ Seagrove, June Stewart
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Wednesday 26 November – Help Needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Thursday 27 November – Bec Moore
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 28 November - Jade Bowden, Theresa Evans
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Presentation Evenings 2014
As this year we have two presentation nights, we require 4 parents to volunteer on each night, Tuesday 9 December and Wednesday 10 December from 5 pm. Please come and see Nicole in the tuckshop to put your name down.
Have a great week - Nicole

PYJAMA ANGELS TOY DRIVE
I have recently become a volunteer Pyjama Angel for the Pyjama Foundation, who tries to inspire a Love of Learning through a reading program they take out into the community to foster children. On the Gold Coast alone 62 foster families have children being read to by Pyjama Angels and this number is growing. This is a local Gold Coast Agency who have now gone national and this year they are celebrating their 10th birthday. For Christmas they are holding a Toy Drive to collect toys for the foster children. If you think you could help simply drop any gifts into the donation box outside of the office and I will send them along to the agency for distribution. Many thanks in advance for your support.
Nutana Donaldson

COMMUNITY NOTICES
NERANG STATE HIGH SCHOOL’S BYOD PROGRAM means students will be able to bring their own laptop to school and use it as a significant part of their learning. Having provided details of the program at our highly supported parent information evenings, we are now seeking feedback on the options parents will be choosing in 2015. Nerang SHS’s website provides parents and students with the latest information regarding the BYOD program. As we have said, we have a limited number of laptops available for hire. We need to ascertain how many students we can support to take up Option 3 in hiring a second-hand laptop from us. To keep you informed of any requirement to commit and pay early to secure a laptop, we need know if we will have a shortfall in the number of hire-devices.

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