PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
I trust that your homes were spared any damage in last week’s storms. Our thoughts are with families in Central Queensland whose properties certainly bore the brunt of the cyclone. After considerable preparation and overcoming not-just-a-few-challenges, the newsletter this week is being distributed via a new method. The change will lead to greater efficiency in our management of the newsletter delivery and will provide an effective method of contacting parents with breaking news as was required in the weather events of last week. The distribution list is comprised of the email addresses you have listed with us at school on enrolment of your child. To ensure we have the most current addresses a note will come home this week inviting those who haven’t received the email to contact the ladies to update the information.

Teachers and paraprofessionals at Gilston are modelling the importance of being life-long learners. This team of people responsible for the delivery of instruction within our school is honing their craft in accordance with our refinement of high-yield strategies. I commend all these staff for the additional time and energy they have, and continue to expend to ensure our success.

Every two years, the Director General of Education coordinates a conference for Principals from throughout Queensland. The conference will be this Thursday and Friday and consequently I will be away from school. I look forward to the opportunity to learn with my colleagues.

The working bee will be held on Sunday 15 March. Along with the mulching and some planting I have had offers to assist with the repair of the fence surrounding the tennis court and for high pressure cleaning some of the areas affected by the wet weather. If you have a project that matches your skills and equipment, let me know so, if viable, it can be incorporated.

The first Enrolling Families information session will be in March this year. Parents who have expressed interest in enrolling their child for 2016 will receive details about this session via email. If you wish to apply for enrolment at Gilston and haven’t already done so, contact the office as soon as possible.

At Gilston feedback about your child’s progress is conveyed four times per year. In terms 1 and 3, parents are invited to attend a parent-teacher meeting. In terms 2 and 4 a formal written report on progress is prepared and distributed for all students. From time to time there may be need for additional meetings between teachers and parents and these will be

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FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>27 February</th>
<th>Last day payment Year 6 Leadership Program Swimming Year 1, 2 &amp; 4 commences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>Year 6 Leadership Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Working Bee 8.00-10.30am</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Annual General Meeting 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>Year 5 Surf Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>12 September</td>
<td>Gilston School Community Fair</td>
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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>
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<tr>
<th>P</th>
<th>1</th>
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<th>3</th>
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<td>95.09</td>
<td>93.43</td>
<td>95.14</td>
<td>94.56</td>
<td>95.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
convened at mutually convenient times. Celebrating student goal attainment is one of the delights of being a Principal. This week I have received visits in my office from students who have made significant progress. I would love to bottle the pride that is evident in these exchanges along with the smiles on the faces. It would be a best seller at our fair!

In closing this week I thank your composure in your management of the delivery and collection of your children last week during the weather event. Student and staff safety remain our highest priority at all times and all situations like that which we faced last week will be managed and communicated sensibly in accordance with the best information available.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Ks 4 Kids – Chappy Week
Chappy Week is an annual event run by SU Qld to raise awareness of the value of school chaplains and to raise funds to support school chaplains. This year, interested students from Year 6 will be participating in Ks 4 Kids to support our school chaplain.

Ks 4 Kids will be held on Saturday, 23 May at 10:30am. Students will run 10kms from Palm Beach Parklands, Miami to Queen Elizabeth Park, Coolangatta. The event will conclude with family entertainment and activities as well as an awards presentation.

In leading up to the event, students will train on Monday and Wednesday afternoons to ensure students are prepared for the 10km run.

If your child is in Year 6 and interested in participating in the event, it isn’t too late to sign up and support a good cause. See Scott Stavar for more details.

Every day counts. Attendance at school is vital to maximise learning and to ensure optimal development of your child. Parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Visit the Department of Education and Training website for more information: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts


Kids are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their homework — it shows kids that what they do is important.

Of course, helping with homework shouldn’t mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents can be supportive by demonstrating study and organization skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just encouraging kids to tackle, encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary - and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.

Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls.

Make sure kids do their own work. They won’t learn if they don’t think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it’s a kid’s job to do the learning.

Be a motivator and monitor. Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed work, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.

Set a good example. Do your kids ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Kids are more likely to follow their parents’ examples than their advice.

Praise their work and efforts. Display a successful test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.

If there are continuing problems with homework, get help. Talk about it with your child’s teacher. Until next time, Kelly Clark

LIBRARY NEWS
Borrowing for students opened last week. Please encourage your children to return their books every week and choose a new one to read. We have some great books in our library and by using this service; your child can read a book each week for free. Please remember to read with your child every day and share some valuable time with them.

Family History WW1 – Centenary of Anzac Day
I have been approached by the Nerang RSL to ask our families if they have any ancestors who fought in WW1 to contact me in the library. If you have any photos, family history about their service in the war we would be very interested to speak to you. If there are any relatives of the Viewers family in particular, could you please contact me. Thank you. Kathy Stone / Librarian

TUCKSHOP REPORT
Thursday 26 February – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 27 February – Teresa Evans/Kerryn/Jade Bowden
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Monday 2 March – Alex/Karen Bowden
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Tuesday 3 March – Ame Seagrove
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Wednesday 4 March – Jess Graham
Ice Blocks - Help needed

Our next Sushi Day is 17 March. If you would like to order please come and get an order form from the Tuckshop. Cost is $3.00 per Sushi. Thank you to all my current volunteers.

Have a good week. Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICES
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.