PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
At Gilston we have long held the understanding that our students are ambassadors for the school and that their actions reflect directly on our reputation. Our expectation of positive behaviour of students is conveyed to every family on enrolment to ensure a high standard is maintained. I am proud that these are not just words written and exchanged but are borne out in the day-to-day actions of our students. Yet another example of this in action is the feedback we received pertaining to our students on camp and tour last week. From the stewards on the plane to those leading activities, our students were commended for their conduct. I congratulate the students and recognise the important role our staff plays in perpetuating these behaviours.

I thank you too for your ongoing support of our expectations.

I wrote earlier this year of the notion of mastery learning with regard to our approach with spelling. Utilising this method we have witnessed progress in our students’ development as measured by classroom testing. More pleasing though are teacher reports that the spelling skills are now also being reflected regularly in everyday writing - the ultimate goal of any spelling program.

Today, Gilston State School has hosted high-achieving LOTE students from local schools who participated in our Japanese Cultural Day of Excellence. The activities, which highlighted aspects of Japanese culture, were led by our LOTE teacher, Mrs Kylie Doonican, our Librarian, Mrs Stone, and a small group of Gilston parents who shared their Japanese cultural knowledge. Gilston students ably contributed to activities and assisted in the day’s success. We thank Mrs Doonican for turning our ideas about this day into a reality.

One of the measures of the Great Results Guarantee this year was that 92% of students in year 3 would meet the National Minimum Standard for reading. I am pleased to report that this target was exceeded and I commend our teachers and paraprofessionals for this outcome.

At the end of 2013 we presented 100% attendance certificates to 6 students from throughout the school. At the midpoint of this year the list is long with a full A4 sheet of names on my desk. This is a very pleasing result and one I will celebrate with these students. The recent illnesses that have spread through the school will challenge the final figures however the trend is very encouraging.

Kate Jolly, our website manager has been kept busy updating the celebratory news on the website. This feature is one that...
has allowed the immediate transfer of URL addresses to relatives to share in celebrations. Last week I was “given the keys” to the twitter account and was pleased to share updates from the Canberra tour and the Ainsworth camp. It is our intention to gauge the following of this medium and review its worth at the year’s end. I invite you to follow these short hand updates of life at our school. The Nerang Alliance of Schools continues to support the local needs of our students. In the lead up to the Year 7 transition to high school we have been collaborating throughout the last two years. As part of the transition plan, teachers from Nerang State High School will be visiting Gilston this week to observe and confer with our teachers. Guy Hendriks and Bronwyn Braithwaite will be the auditors visiting us next Wednesday and Thursday to conduct the Teaching and Learning and Discipline audits. The feedback we will receive from these experienced and highly regarded principals will provide reason for celebration and focus for further improvement. As part of the audit process, Guy and Bronwyn will speak with students and parents to gain perspectives beyond those of the staff. If you receive a call from them please afford them the time to share your thoughts.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

How about that?

Keyshia Matenga is the latest sport star at Gilston. Keyshia has been selected in the Queensland touch football team and will compete in Victoria in term 4 this year. Congratulations Keyshia!

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Mrs Stone has already informed you about our upcoming Great Book Swap on 3 September, linked as a fundraiser for Indigenous Literacy Day (indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au). I have been checking through all my books to see which ones would appeal to students. I will be looking out for some new books on the day so I must remember to bring a gold coin donation so that I can swap my books. Now for some good curriculum links to sharpen our thinking. Maths is fun. Did you know that? (http://www.mathsisfun.com/) will show you why. Another interesting site, where you will be able to view the Earth and moon from satellites, can be found at http://www.fourmilab.ch/earthview/vplanet.html For the readers in our community, The Free Library (http://www2.thefreelibrary.com/) has free, full-text versions of classic literary works from hundreds of celebrated authors. You will be pleasantly surprised by the content. Have you discovered the ABC’s education website where you can search over one thousand videos and games, http://splash.abc.net.au/parents all mapped to the Australian Curriculum? Lots of learning for everyone.

GILSTON CLUB NEWS

Fathers’ Day Stall – previously we have had Prep-Year 3 and Year 4-7 attend the stall on separate days, however, due to excursions etc. we have had to swap some classes around. Notes will go home on Monday, so please keep an eye out in your child’s bag. Gifts will range from $1.00 - $7.00. Could all children could please bring a shopping bag to put their gift in. In the lead up to the event we will be looking for some new books. All that is required is a gold coin donation please. They will be recommending books for different age levels as well.

Congratulations Keyshia!

Other subsidiary items available include: Sweets & Ice cream

Trivia Night – 8 November - we would love to hear from any families who have goods/services they wish to donate towards either our Auction or raffles. More information to come regarding this fun night!

For all things Gilston Club, contact us at the above email address.

Thanks.

Lisa - Chairperson

YEAR 6 & 7 GALA DAY

On Monday 1 September our year 6 and 7 students will travel by bus to Firth Park to participate in a Gala Day with Nerang, Tallebudgera and Coolangatta schools. They will participate in a variety of sports from 10.00am to 2.00pm. The canteen will operate on the day for those wishing to buy food. See the menu below. To avoid lengthy delays, it is recommended that students pre-order their food by placing correct money in a paper bag with name, school and food required on the front. These will be handed to Mr Stavar upon arrival. We look forward to another great Gala Day.

Hot Food
$6.50 Large box of chips
$5.00 Fish & chips
$3.00 Bucket of chips, Pies, Sausage rolls

Drinks
$3.50 Gatorade
$3.00 Slushie
$2.50 Spring water, can of soft drink
$2.00 Orange popper, Chocolate milk

Other subsidiary items available include: Sweets & Ice cream

Scott Stavar / HPE Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to all the staff, parents and children who made such an effort to make the Book Parade a success on Friday.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge will end on Friday 5 September. If your child’s class was involved please remind them that they need to keep reading and recording the books they have read by next Friday. Well done to all the children who have been participating and reading lots of books.

The Great Book Swap – on Wednesday 3 September our school will be holding this event in our library to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation or ILF. If your child has a book they have grown out of and no longer read, they can bring it to our library and swap it for a different book. All that is required is a gold coin donation please. This is a great chance to clear out your bookcases of books your children have outgrown and they have a chance to get some new books for a cheap price! It is a worthy cause to support remote communities and our donation will help them support reading.

The Poetry Tree display is up in our library. Samples of our student’s poetry are on show and parents and students are welcome to come to the library and read some wonderful poems.

Book Reviews – some of our keen senior student readers have joined the “Gilston Avid Readers Club”. They will be reading and writing reviews for books they have enjoyed. These reviews will be displayed in our library for other students to look at. They will be recommending books for different age levels as well.

Kathy Stone/ Shelley Batson / Librarians

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au
CHAPPY’S SPACE

R U OK? Day is an annual day in September dedicated to remind people to ask family, friends and colleagues the question, “R U OK?”. In a meaningful way, because connecting regularly and meaningfully is one thing everyone can do to make a difference and even save lives. R U OK? is a not-for-profit suicide prevention organisation founded by Australians, Gavin Larkin and Janina Nearn in 2009. In a 12 month period, it is estimated that 65,000 Australians make a suicide attempt, with an average of 2,320 people suiciding every year. In fact, around 45 per cent of Australians will experience mental illness in their lifetime, while 20 per cent are affected every year. The Foundation works collaboratively with experts in suicide prevention and mental illness, as well as government departments, corporate leaders, teachers, universities, students and community groups. Its activities also align with the Australian Government’s LIFE Framework.

Gavin Larkin experienced the suicide of his father in 1995. A painful journey ensued and eventually saw Gavin create R U OK? with Janina Nearn. The R U OK? tagline was brought about from extensive research proving that checking in with someone can really make a difference to their mental state. On the R U OK? website Gavin has said that, “Getting connected and staying connected is the best thing anyone can do for themselves and for those who may be at risk.”

We will be celebrating R U OK? Day at Gilston SS this year by a short presentation and song at assembly on Thursday 11 September then on Friday 12 September the children are invited to wear yellow or orange accessories in their socks, laces, arm bands, ribbons, caps while still wearing their normal school shirt, shoes and shorts/dress. It will be a day to practice asking our classmates and work colleagues or other mums and dads “Are you ok?” For more information or ideas on what to ask/say please go to the website http://www.ruokday.com/

Breakfast Club: Thank you to Alex, Kylie, Helena and Hayley who have been helping out at breakfast club. Your help is so invaluable to keeping the breaky club up and running. Thank you to Hayley and family who donated 2 sandwich presses and also bring cheese sometimes for our toasties. A great big thank you to Mosaic Family Baptist Church for supplying our bread. Please support those businesses who help is so invaluable to keeping the breaky club up and running. Thank you to Hayley and family who donated 2 sandwich presses and also bring cheese sometimes for our toasties.

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILIES: If there are any families in our community who wish to send prayer requests to our School Chaplain, no need to go into detail, you can access the Chaplaincy service at Gilston via Mr Weatherburn or by contacting Chapppy Sami at samantha@chappy.org.au This service is for anyone of any faith/ non-faith.

FOOD PARCELS FOR EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF - Newlife Uniting Church Robina 55789322 Mosaic Family Baptist Church 07 5525 2477

FOOD HAMPERS FOR ANYONE - cost $15 with $50 or more value. Pick up is at New Street Nerang.

For further information or to order call Nathan 0402227575

CYC Holiday Camps At Burleigh - Spring camp registrations ARE OPEN. Get in quick to not miss out. For grades 4-7 only. For information on upcoming school holiday camps visit http://www.cycburleigh.com.au or http://www.sugld.org.au/camps

You can access the Chaplaincy service at Gilston via Mr Weatherburn or by contacting Chapppy Sami at samantha@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.

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 Parentline 1300 301 300

QUOTE: “You can’t live a perfect day without first doing something for someone who can never repay you” John Wooden

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Thursday 28 August - Tanya

Ice Blocks – Karen

Friday 29 August – Gold Coast Show Holiday

Monday 1 September – Mel Moore

Ice Blocks – Tanya K

Tuesday 2 September – Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 3 September – Erinna

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 4 September – Tanya

Ice Blocks – Karen

Friday 5 September – Theresa Evans / Bev

Ice Blocks – Kamila

As of today we welcome a new Green school approved drink - Devondale Smoothies. There is a delicious range of flavours, Banana & Honey, Strawberry & Banana, Tropical and Berry Mix. They are a 200ml popper and can be purchased in the mornings before school or at either of the breaks. We will be selling these at $1.50 each. Come and try one.

Also a reminder that Tuesdays are our Sushi Day. It is delivered to the school fresh every Tuesday. If you would like to order sushi, please come and see me before 9.30am Monday mornings. 1 piece is $3.00 or 2 pieces are $5.00.

Thank you to all my lovely volunteers, you do a great job.

Have a fabulous long weekend.

Regards, Nicole Meesen - Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CURRUMBIN VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL - Sunday 14 September, 9.30am–2.00pm. Live Music, Market Stalls, Rock Climbing, Farmyard Feeding, Jumping Castle, Games, Arts & Craft, Food, Deck Bar & More! Stall Holders Wanted – From $10. 1226 Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Valley. Ph: 55330312 info@currumbinfarmschool.eq.edu.au

ASHMORE LITTLE ATHLETICS SIGN ON – Boys & girls 5-16 years – 30/8/14 & 6/9/14, 12.00-3.00pm, Brian Johnston Athletics Track, Currumburra Road, Ashmore. More information at www.ashmorelittleas.com.au

TENNIS COACHING – classes conducted on Monday mornings from 8.00am. Cost is $17 per lesson, discounts for 3 or more children. All enquiries Rowan Hollands, Gold Coast Tennis Coaching 0411 867 971, rowan@gcctenniscoaching.com.au or www.gcctenniscoaching.com.au

In October, Soccer X will be running an 8 week SUMMER SOCCER LEAGUE at Carrarra Soccer Fields for U6’s – U11’s. For more information and online registrations please visit www.soccer-x.com. If you have any questions please call Justyn on 0451 162 346.

MIAMI OZTAG JUNIOR SIGN ON Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28, 4.00-6.00pm, Marymount College. Information or online sign on www.miamioztag.com or 0425333807 Andrew