



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Solemnity and reverence permeated the **commemoration of the ANZAC service personnel** last Friday during our assembly at school. Our guests from Canungra and the Nerang RSL were impressed with the content of the service and the conduct of all students. I **commend our seniors** who led the event under the committed guidance of **their teachers**.

As the sun rose on Saturday morning, **ANZAC Day**, many of our students were at dawn services and marches across the coast. I was **very proud** of the contingent of **39 students in full uniform** that marched with me at the Nerang service. They sat **respectfully** throughout the service apart for a few jumps during the volley of gun fire. I **thank all parents** for your participation and support and also recognise the myriad of other **Gilston students marching with other organisations**.

I watched replays of many **services** throughout the day and was particularly captivated by the service at Currumbin. Whilst the entire service was a fitting **tribute to all servicemen and women**, it was the **prayer recited by the President of the RSL** that caught my acute attention. Apart from some licence taken to slightly modify the gender bias by including "or daughter", the prayer was recited as it was written by General Douglas A MacArthur. It is as follows:

Build Me a Son

General Douglas A. MacArthur

Build me a son, O Lord,
who will be strong enough to know when he is weak,
and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid;
one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat,
and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishbone will not be
where his backbone should be
a son who will know Thee - and that
to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort,
but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge.
Here, let him learn to stand up in the storm;
here, let him team compassion for those who fall.

Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goals will be high;
a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men;
one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep;
one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday	30 April	Cross Country
Friday	1 May	Last day payment for Japanese cooking
Wednesday	6 May	Mother's Day stall Prep, Year 3 and 4
Thursday	7 May	Mother's Day stall Year 1, 2, 5 and 6
Friday	8 May	Last day payment for Year 3 excursion Numinbah
Monday	11 May	Final day for Book Club
Monday	18 May	P & C Meeting
Saturday	23 May	K's4kids Fundraising Walk / Fun Run
Monday to Friday	25 May to 29 May	Book Fair in the Library
Friday	5 June	Last day for recipes and drawings for cookbook
Saturday	12 September	Gilston School Community Fair 10.00am – 3.00pm

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
96.42	95.48	95.72	94.35	94.38	94.72	94.46

And after all these things are his,
add, I pray, enough of a sense of humour,
so that he may always be serious,
yet never take himself too seriously.

Give him humility, so that he may always remember
the simplicity of true greatness,
the open mind of true wisdom,
the meekness of true strength.

Then I, his father, will dare to whisper,
"I have not lived in vain."

The essence of the prayer resonated with me for the elements that overlap with that which we promote at Gilston. I trust that as parents you recognise that we at Gilston are working with you towards **instilling these values in your children**.

Another piece of [verse](#) by Rupert McCall written for the centenary of ANZAC day is worth sharing with your family. I invite all students and parents to **dress in blue this Friday** as we raise **awareness of autism**. Autism is a lifelong developmental condition that affects, among other things, the way an individual relates to his or her environment and their interaction with other people. At Gilston we have 22 students diagnosed with autism, almost 4% of our school population. These students' **individual needs differ markedly despite all sharing the diagnosis**. As we raise awareness of the condition, I wish to **recognise the families of the children and the staff at school who work tirelessly to ensure adjustments are made to ensure maximum access to the curriculum for these students**.

Your child may have arrived home last week explaining that they had undertaken **online assessments in maths and reading**. These **diagnostic tools** will assist our teachers by **informing their planning** to accommodate the learning needs in their classrooms. This is the first time we have utilised the Progressive Assessment Tests and have been pleased with the immediacy of the feedback and the ease with which the data can be sorted.

Our **Prep teachers** will soon participate in the **data collection** about our youngest students as part of the **Australian Early Development Census**. Notes will be arriving with Prep students soon to explain the process. For more information please visit <http://www.aedc.gov.au/parents/resources-for-parents>

Kristy Griffin stood alone this week in the **great book-covering exercise** in the library. She and **Irene**, our super-skilled teacher aide, worked tirelessly to complete the task. Kristy certainly deserved the special cake that **Nicole** had baked for the occasion.

This Sunday and Monday I will be **attending a Retreat** with the other Principals from the Nerang Alliance of schools. These planning days are **held at the Numinbah Environmental Education Centre** and focus on collaborating to extract best value for students in all our schools. We will also confirm plans that provide opportunities for our **staffs to interact to share best practice**.

I am pleased to report that the **roof on the covered walkway** outside the music room was **repaired** during the break. I **commend Jan for her tenacity** in attaining this outcome.

Do you know someone in the **tree lopping business**? If yes, please let them know that we are in **need of wood chip for our gardens**. We will happily take all grades of chip and access will be arranged to accommodate any deliveries.

The **applications for Prep for 2016** are increasing daily. If you haven't already advised the ladies in the office that

you wish to apply, I recommend you do so as soon as possible. The **second "Enrolling Families" information session will occur on 2 June** invitations to which will be distributed to addresses captured from applications lodged with the office staff.

Would you arrive at the airport 10 minutes after the gates had closed and expect to board the plane? Perhaps you would. Would the gates open just for you? No, because the other passengers met their obligations to be on time as did the staff, including the pilots and the efficiency of the organisation would be adversely affected by the action. **Teachers and students at school deserve the same respect.**

I have been advised that there will be a **controlled burn of the bushland bordering our NE boundary** this weekend. The burn will be supervised by the fire brigade and will begin behind houses in **Kookaburra Drive**, the residents of which have all been advised.

Expect to see media releases this week associated with **education about safety on roads around schools**. Week two of the initiative by the **Crime Prevention Unit** is education. I remind everyone to **observe the rules** that govern the movement of vehicles around the school and remember to **extend the courtesy** to other road users that leads to a **calm and respectful car park**.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ANZAC Commemoration -

Last week we held our ANZAC Assembly. The assembly was a great example of how our students treat the reverence of the occasion. How they share with the rest of the community their family's involvement and their knowledge of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women while engaged in conflicts around the world and over time. The Nerang RSL has asked us to provide a video of the proceedings for them to put in a time capsule to be used at the two hundredth anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. Gilston is working with the RSL in the community and this work is on display at Preece House in Nerang, so call in and have a look. It's well worth the trip and children will get a lot from it.

Student dress code - There has been a marked increase lately in different hairstyles being worn by students. Can we all be mindful and comply with the Gilston State School uniform policy using the link below? Student dress codes reflect school community standards and balance the rights of individual students with the best interests of the whole school community. They are consistent with health and safety considerations and anti-discrimination legislation. Student dress codes offer gender neutral uniform options for all students.

Student dress codes clearly explain and document standards of acceptable or reasonable dress in relation to clothing worn by students, including headwear and footwear and other aspects of personal presentation of students.

<https://gilstonss.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Documents/Dress%20Code%202015.pdf>

P & C NEWS

Our Cross Country Fun Run will be held on Thursday 30 April. Let's cross our fingers that the weather holds for the event. Just a friendly reminder **all Fun Run monies** and sponsorship forms are due by Thursday 30 April and can be placed in the collection box at the Office. Prizes will be drawn the following week at assembly. Thank you for your support.

The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 18 May 2015 at 7.00pm in the Teachers' Staff Room located in the School Administration Building. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

NAPLAN BREAKFAST - Each year the P&C provide breakfast for the children participating in the NAPLAN testing. We are looking for some volunteers to assist with the preparation and serving of the breakfast on 12, 13 and 14 May. If you are able to assist please contact Jemma on 0407 091 826

Uniform Shop - The P & C are looking to trial EFTPOS facilities in the Tuckshop for 4 weeks from the 11 May. This will impact our in-store Uniform Shop EFTPOS facility on Friday mornings for the trial duration. I recommend ordering through FlexiSchools or popping down to see the lovely ladies on Tuesday afternoon for uninterrupted EFTPOS facilities. If Fridays are your only option then we will endeavour to provide the best possible service given the circumstances. The P & C thank you for your patience. The normal opening hours for the shop remain Tuesday 2.15–3.15pm and Friday 8.30–9.30am.

We are currently looking for some volunteers to assist in the Uniform Shop. If you have an interest in helping on either day, please give Christene a call on 0432 275 195.

We also have a range of adult sizes available in the House Shirts that are free to interested parents and carers. These are available only while stocks last.

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.

Any questions or queries please feel welcome to give me a call, Christene Dukes P & C Vice President Tel: 0432275195.

GILSTON CLUB NEWS

Mothers' Day Stall timetable:

Wednesday 6 May – Prep, Year 3 and 4

Thursday 7 May – Year 1, 2, 5 and 6

Presents from \$1.00 to \$6.00 plus cards and gift bags.

Helper needed. Please call Mel on 0416 085 689.

HELLO FROM THE FAIR COMMITTEE...

We are excited to announce that there will be a Gilston State School Cookbook on sale at our Fair! Each student is being asked to share their favourite recipe (or 2!) for the foods you love to eat. Our emphasis will be on 'family friendly' recipes so we are looking for lots of yummy, healthy foods - and meals with hidden vegetables are always a hit with our parents! It will take time to create this cookbook, so we are asking that all recipes be emailed to gilstonschoolcommunityfair@gmail.com no later than the 5 June. Please include the students name and class with your recipe. **NOTE** Please ensure recipes are ones shared between families, not out of a cookbook as we must respect copyright laws.

Each student that submits a recipe is entitled to enter our Cover Art Competition! Imagine your picture on the cover of our school cookbook! Drawings must be on an A4 page, portrait orientation and in black and white only (pen not pencil). Please allow space at the top and bottom of your drawing for text to be added later, and write your name and class on the back at the top. All artwork needs to be handed in to Nicole at the Tuckshop by 5 June, no later. Get those creative minds thinking of some great cooking themed artwork and get drawing!

CHOIR NEWS

Term 2 choir rehearsals are as follows:

Monday 1st break – Senior choir (Years 4-7)

Tuesday 1st break – Junior choir (Years 2 & 3)

Wednesday 1st break – Eisteddfod choir

YEAR 2 students have now been invited to join the JUNIOR CHOIR and many have already signed on. Any other interest students need to see Mrs Miller.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER affects 1 out of 100 children and many more families. Here are some positive stories about life on the spectrum:

These Twins Boys Have Autism, And Their Sister Tells Grover What It's Like! Read more at <http://blog.theautismsite.com/sesamestreetautism/#zKy8RQogwQvliCoL.99>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2iNFSSTuqk

Jake Barnett Math and Science Prodigy on 60 Minutes. A genius boy with a diagnosis of Aspergers whose IQ is higher than Albert Einstein is on his way to possibly winning a Nobel Prize.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdcdfrcw4ms

Dress in BLUE to support Autism Awareness Month on Friday 1 May



CROSS COUNTRY

This year's event will be held on **Thursday 30 April**.

Races begin at 9.15am and will proceed from youngest grades to oldest. All competitors will receive a house point and an ice block when participating.

Any 10-12 year olds who place in the top 4 will represent Gilston State School at the District Cross Country on Thursday 28 May, 2015.

We look forward to a fun and successful carnival.

Cross Country Program

Prep	9.15am
Year 1	9.30am
Year 2	9.50am
Year 3	10.10am
Girls & Boys 9 Years (Only Year 4)	10.30am
Girls & Boys (10 years)	11.50am
Girls & Boys (11 years)	12.20pm
Girls & Boys (12 years)	12.50pm

Scott Stavar / PE Teacher

FREE - SATURDAY 23 MAY

Enjoy walks along the seaside? Enjoy a bit of competition? Does your family enjoy a carnival atmosphere?

Calling all families who said yes to all of the above:

There at least 46 schools on the coast competing in the Ks4kids fundraising walk/run this year and Clover Hill SS IS generally the winner every year! Can we knock them off their perch?

Yes we can!!!

Register online. You can collect donations online with your very own fundraising page – it's automatically setup when you register, or use the collection receipt book. If everyone raises \$50 each- that's \$10 from 5 people- we can easily reach our goal.

convenor on 5501 2333

Have a good week, Nicole Meesen-Tuckshop Convenor

LIBRARY NEWS

This week **Book Club Issue 3** has been sent home. Book orders should be done on-line or by phone. No cash comes to school please. The completed order form with the receipt number comes to the library and is placed in the Book Club orders box on the front desk. Final day for orders for Issue 3 will be Monday 11 May. Thank you for your support.

May is National Family Reading Month and the theme this year is "Read More in May". Children's author Aaron Blakey is this year's ambassador. Please take time to read to your child each day, or listen to them read to you. Ideas that may help you to engage more with your children and their reading are:

- At the dinner table, discuss what book you are all reading at the moment. Did you like it? Why? Who was your favourite character? How did the book end?
- Let your children see you reading books and talk to them about what you are reading.
- Talk to your children about your favourite books from your own childhood.
- Make time to visit the local library or our school library with your child. You are always welcome.

Our school library will be holding a **Book Fair** from Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May. Information will be sent home next week.

Thank you.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

COMMUNITY NOTICES

FAMILY FUN DAY – Country Paradise Parklands, Beaudesert Nerang Rd, Nerang Saturday 16 May 2015. For more information visit www.countryparadiseparklands.com.au

TRIVIA NIGHT NERANG STATE HIGH SCHOOL Friday 29/5/15. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets \$10 or \$12 on the night. Tables of 8 can be booked by calling Tracey Spiers 0412 267 263 or tspie16@eq.edu.au.

Mudgeeraba Uniting Church, 89 Franklin Drive, will be holding their **VILLAGE CRAFT FAIR** on **1 & 2 May 2015** 8.00am-2.00pm. Original artworks, handmade crafts and quilts, plant stalls, gardening demonstrations, book stall, pre-loved art, coffee shop and BBQ. For bookings and enquiries phone 0417 608 705.

AUSKICK Sign on & 1st Session: – Thursday 7 May, 3.10pm - 4.10pm, Gilston SS, sports Oval, \$70

For more information contact 5594 5722 or visit www.aflauskick.com.au. Register & Pay online by 10 May to receive your free tickets to a GC Suns Game. Register online & pay online at www.aflauskick.com.au. Please print your receipt and bring to the first session.

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.

There is also an opportunity to win a penny skateboard if you can raise \$200 before 23 May. There is one for each school to give away.

You can register or donate online

<https://suqld.goregister.com.au/ks4kids2015/fundraise>

When Saturday, 23 May, 2015 – anyone can walk 3.5km!
Cost of Registration for Primary and High School Students \$10. All other participants \$20

YOU MUST REGISTER EARLY TO GET A FREE T-SHIRT

Purpose: 'Ks4Kids' is proudly supporting SU Qld State School chaplains – YOUTH WORKERS that are working in our school communities. Funds raised go toward social/life skills/leadership programs, sponsoring kids to go on holiday camps, family support, community support, breakfast club, Christmas hampers, special guests/shows and resources etc

Why not donate to someone walking/running for this great cause online.

Or better still...walk yourself and raise valuable funds to ensure these invaluable Chaplaincy services are maintained and expanded in our school communities. All funds raised will go directly to your school to support your school's chaplaincy work.

Fun Run / Walk Options:

30kms and 20kms –see website

10 kms from Palm Beach Parklands, cnr GC Highway & Thrower Dve. (10.30am start)

3.5kms from Bilinga SLSC, 257 Golden Four Dve, Bilinga. (12.00pm start).

Please arrive 20 min before scheduled start time.

The four walks will culminate by finishing at Queen Elizabeth Park, Coolangatta where walkers will be greeted with a carnival like atmosphere including entertainment and activities for the family. The end zone will be open from 11:30am–2.00pm. An awards presentation for walkers will be from 1.40pm. Free return bus ride back to your starting point.

For a course map and more detail about the route and to register for early bird price please visit

<https://suqld.goregister.com.au/ks4kids2015/fundraise/>

TUCKSHOP REPORT

Thursday 30 April – Help needed

Ice Blocks – Karen Crabb

Friday 1 May – Kristy Griffin / Help needed

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Monday 4 May – Karen Bowden

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 5 May – Amé Seagrove

Ice Blocks – Karen Bowden

Wednesday 6 May - Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 7 May - Help needed

Ice Blocks – Karen Crabb

Cross Country is on tomorrow (Thursday 30 April), we will be selling tea, coffee, hot chocolate, cold drinks and a selection of cakes and snacks.

If there are any parents/grandparents wishing to place a lunch order, please have your order in at the tuckshop before 9.00am.

We have a **new menu** and some prices have increased. If you would like a copy of the menu please come and see the tuckshop.

If you would like to join our **team of volunteers**, meet some great people and help our school, your time would be greatly appreciated. Whether it's for an hour, or a couple of hours, weekly, fortnightly or monthly, we'd be delighted to meet you. Please contact Nicole our tuckshop

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