PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
Reading, spelling, 21st century learning and positive behavior have constituted our explicit improvement agenda this year. I recognize and thank the teams that have been leading these agendas and for the significant progress achieved throughout the year. The foundations established this year will be the platform from which we launch 2015. Alongside these areas another team has been quietly documenting protocols to ensure that our practices remain consistent throughout the school. Their work will also underpin any induction and review processes in future years. Teaching isn’t just what happens in the classrooms, or for that matter in the teacher’s homes as they assess and prepare often late into the evenings. Each teacher is expected to contribute to the broader operation of the school to ensure structures and procedures are developed and followed for the best outcomes for students. At Gilston we have a dedicated and willing team.

In 2015 our explicit improvement agenda will revolve around reading and embedding explicit instruction practices. To support and deliver this agenda we have designed some support structures from within the expertise of our teachers. The selection process for these support positions was completed this week. I am excited about the anticipated impact of these measures in 2015 expecting that the teams will deliver and celebrate some impressive results.

Enrolments and enrolment inquiries for 2015 continue. As we are bound by our enrolment management plan (EMP), those outside the catchment are invited to complete an application. Those within the catchment are guaranteed a position and roll classes will be designed to accommodate these students. Next year I expect that we will be able to accommodate some students in prep from outside our catchment as our overall population drops (due to Year 7 moving to high school and the reduced number of prep enrolments for 2015). Parents will be invited to express interest in enrolling and to complete an application for later consideration. Confirmation of enrolment for those out of catchment will be expected later in the year.

Kids being teachers in Japanese was again a success this year. Yesterday I was witness to several sessions where students delivered for their younger counterparts, lessons revolving about Japanese culture and language. The engagement evident in the classes was testament to the organisation behind the project. I congratulate Kylie for her leadership of this project.

Madeline Brown, Olivia McClelland, Chelsea Holloway and
Ewan Milne have reason to celebrate after a very successful weekend. They are part of Jazz and Hip Hop teams and competed in the national competition, most for the first time. They secured second place in the Junior Jazz Novice division and third in the Hip Hop Youth division. The cheer leading team comprising Ruby McLaren, Chelsea and Ewan attained a credible fifth place.

Also on the National stage, Jazmin Zimmerman competed at the AASCIF championships in Group Stunt Cheerleading and her team was declared best in Australia making Jazmin and her team mates, national champions. Jazmin’s team backed up to compete in the Pom event and finished 4th.

Today we will listen to speeches by the students who have applied to the School Captains for 2015. Following the speeches the votes of the students from years 4-7 will be collated along with those from staff to make the selection. I met with all candidates recently and am confident that all will be leaders regardless of their elected roles in 2015. The successful students will be presented to the assembly tomorrow.

The smiles on the faces of the residents at Melody Park are always a highlight when our students visit to sing them Christmas carols. This morning, under Alison’s baton, the girls and boys will spread Christmas joy to the ladies and gentlemen who have enjoyed many more birthdays than most of us. This visit is another sign that Christmas is looming fast.

As we make predictions about the classes for 2015, teachers will be considering several factors in designing drafts for me. First and foremost is the educational considerations and our experts will be assessing the most supportive arrangements in this regard. An additional consideration is the expression of interest in the BYOD iPad concept. Where there is sufficient interest, expertise and resources, we will consider forming these classes. Our teachers will collaborate to consider which students will be best suited to these environments where they are available and provide me advice accordingly.

For the first time at Gilston we will be farewelling Year 6 and Year 7 students at the year’s end. This significant event will not be repeated and the teachers in these year levels are working feverishly, along with a small group of helpers, to ensure the presentation evening will be special. On Tuesday it will be the Year 6 students who will grace the stage as we mark their transition from primary to high school. On Wednesday, it will be our Year 7s. As usual special guests from throughout the education world and the community will be in attendance to witness and participate in the celebrations.

The Christmas concert will be held next Thursday morning in the hall. Parents are welcome to join us as the students entertain us with their talents. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

BYOD Classes for 2015

We would like to thank all of the parents who expressed an interest for the iPad classes in 2015. There has been sufficient interest in Year 1, 2 and Year 3 to create one iPad class in all three year levels. Teachers have taken student’s individual learning needs into consideration when creating these classes. Parents will be notified in the near future if their application has been successful.

Preparation for 2015 school year

Over the latter weeks of the school holidays, attention will be focused on the preparations for the 2015 school year.
When foods are used to reward kids and show affection, they may start using food to cope with stress or other emotions. Offer hugs, praise, and attention instead of food treats.

9. **Kids do as you do.** Be a role model and eat healthy yourself. When trying to teach good eating habits, try to set the best example possible. Choose nutritious snacks, eat at the table, and don't skip meals.

10. **Limit TV and computer time.** When you do, you'll avoid mindless snacking and encourage activity. Research has shown that kids who cut down on TV-watching also reduced their percentage of body fat. When TV and computer time are limited, they'll find more active things to do. And limiting "screen time" means you'll have more time to be active together.

Until next time,
Kelly Clark

**GILSTON CLUB NEWS**

**Book Packs** can be picked up **today and tomorrow between 2.30–3.30pm from the Library.** All Grade 3, 4 and 5 students are welcome to pick their book pack up if parents feel they can carry them. Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students will need a parent to pick their book pack up as they are bulky and heavy. If you feel your younger child is capable of picking theirs up, they will need to provide a signed note from you to say you want them to pick it up. The letter is to come with the child and to be handed to the ladies handing them out. You need to be aware that if you let them pick theirs up, they take full responsibility once it has been collected. A note confirming all this will be coming home in each child’s bag.

For this, and all things Gilston Club, please email us at gilstonclub@gilstonss.eq.edu.au

**Thanks… Lisa - Chairperson**

**INTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

Could all students please return their musical instruments to Mr Broxton after 10.30am this Friday 5 December.

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

The final house points for the swimming carnival are as follows:

- **1st** Latimer (460)
- **2nd** Zimmerman (311)
- **3rd** Hinze (273)
- **4th** Duncan (235)

The **Age Champions** are:

- **Boys**
  - 9 Years: Cruz Lemming
  - 10 Years: Yannik Zwofsman
  - 11 Years: Paros Tahi
  - 12 Years: Jye Pankhurst
  - 13 Years: Jai Regan

- **Girls**
  - 9 Years: Ella Pyyvaara
  - 10 Years: Indianna Amor
  - 11 Years: Amelia Hughes
  - 12 Years: Keyshia
  - 13 Years: Maddison Breadmore

**LIBRARY NEWS**

There is no more borrowing from the library now until next year.

Please keep returning any library books you still have out.

Thank you.

**Final Notices** have gone out this week for all overdue books. Please see the librarians about paying for any lost books this week and next week.

**Reading in the School Holidays** – over the long summer break, many children do not keep up with their reading. To avoid this “summer slide” encourage your children to read for fun for 10–20 minutes every day. Reading over the holidays will help your child maintain the reading level they have developed throughout the school year. I know a lot of parents purchased new books during our recent Book Fair and I hope these books will be enjoyed during the summer holidays.

I would also encourage parents to join their **local library** and take your children there to borrow new books during the summer break. As well as being free to join, the libraries offer a range of great activities for children in the holidays.

**Quote of the Week:** “There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favourite book”. Marcel Proust

**CHAPPY’S SPACE:**

Yet the end of another year! Wow it really does go faster the older you get! But it is a worry when even the kids are saying it too : ) Wishing you all a very safe, relaxing time with friends and family over the Christmas break and that you will all come back refreshed for the new year ahead!

**Did You Know?** The figure of Father Christmas (Santa Claus or Sinterklaas) is based on Saint Nicholas (270–310), the bishop of Myra who, clad in red and white bishop’s robes and riding on a donkey, bestowed gifts on children. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of children. During the Middle Ages, many churches were built in his honor throughout Europe. The anniversary of his death, 6 December, became the day to give gifts, especially to children.

**Breakfast Club:** Come down between 8:20 and 8:50am Thursday mornings to join us, brekky club is open to everyone. The cheese toasties are very popular! Thank you, thank you to those wonderful mums and grandad who have been helping out at breakfast club. Your help is so invaluable to keeping the brekky club up and running. Thanks to Alex, Kylie, Helena, Hayley, Christene, Mia and Graeme. A great big thank you also to Taylors Bakery Nerang Mall corner of New street who have been supplying our bread. Please support any businesses that support us.

**Prayer For Our Families:** If there are any families in our community who wish to send prayer requests for any situation to our School Chaplain, no need to go into detail, you can access this community service via chappy’s email samantha@chappy.org.au

**Food Parceals For Emergency Food Relief**

Newlife Uniting Church Robina 5579322
Mosaic Family Baptist Church 07 5525 2477

**Saturday Night Kids Club** ‘Kids Roc’ 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month put on by United City Church held in William Duncan School Hall. Enquiries - Sue 0421664466 www.kidsroc.com.au

**Food Hampers For Anyone** -Cost $15 with $50 or more value. Pick up is at New Street Nerang. For further information call Nathan 0402227575

**CYC Holiday Camps At Burleigh** - Summer 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 Mrs Clark or by contacting Chappy Sami at samantha@chappy.org.au All referrals however need to go through our admin SNAC committee as per Mrs Clark. 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 18000520222 Juice 107.3
Careline 55 283 555

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 4 December - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen

Friday 5 December – Kristy Griffin / Jade / Teresa Evans
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 8 December – Alex
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 9 December – Ame Seagrove / June Stewart
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 10 December - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 11 December - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen

Friday 12 December – Teresa Evans / Kristy Griffin / Brenda Fleming
Ice Blocks – Help needed

I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New year. Stay safe over the festive season. Thank you to all my current volunteers for your help and support throughout the year. If you would like to become a volunteer next year please come and see Nicole. It’s not hard work, you only need to volunteer for 1 hour a month to make a difference.

Reminder to all the Year 5 parents that are helping with presentation nights, you need to be at the hall at 5.00-5.30pm.

Have a great week.

Nicole – Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICES
WOULD $500 ASSIST YOU OR YOUR FRIENDS OR FAMILY WITH EDUCATION COSTS? The Benevolent Society is looking for people in Northern Gold Coast to join the Saver Plus program before close of recruitment on 31/12/2014. To find out more, call or SMS 1300 610 355 or email saverplus@bsl.org.au or sylvia.constantin@benevolent.org.au

MUDGEERABA AQUATIC CENTRE & ROTARY PARK
COMMUNITY DAY Saturday 6 December, 10.00-2.00pm, Railway Street. Celebrate the new facilities on offer and new playground at Rotary Park. For more information phone 5530 5288/

CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS - Xtreme Dance & Cheer are holding their Cheerleading Tryouts this Friday (5 December) at St Michaels College, Merrimac. Levels 1 to 3, all ages welcomed. Please contact Debbie on 0417164033 or email Xtreme.dac@gmail.com for an information pack.

QLD RUGBY LEAGUE MOD & SUMMER COACHING CAMPS – Runaway Bay Sports Centre – Mod 17019 December, Jnr Players 16-19 December. Apply online only QRL.com.au.

GOLD COAST JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE EARLY SIGN ON COMPETITION – For further information contact goldcoastjuniorrugbyleague.com.au