PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This week we celebrate the contributions of Support Staff in our schools culminating with Teacher Aide day on Friday. Without these wonderful people in our school the business of teaching and learning would be seriously curtailed. They, the folk who care for our buildings and gardens and clean our spaces late into the night, the technicians that keep our computers operating and the paraprofessionals who assist more directly with the daily activities involved in learning, are all integral to the successes achieved and celebrated at Gilston. On behalf of the Gilston State School community I thank these people sincerely for their contributions.

Gala day was again a successful event bringing together students from other schools to compete in a range of sports. I am again proud to share that our students conducted themselves in a manner expected of them on and off the field bringing credit to our school. I thank the staff for their ongoing support of this interschool concept, especially Scott for his part in coordinating the days.

Today we welcomed Guy and Bronwyn to our school to conduct the Teaching and Learning and the Discipline audits. Staff, students and parents will all be part of the data gathering in this process. The feedback provided at the culmination of the audits will be welcomed as part of data we use to shape the school planning for the next four years.

After closer analysis of the attendance data, the list of "pure" 100% attendees is shortening. To meet the criteria there can be no late arrivals or early departures or, of course, half or full days away. I will be presenting certificates to those in the 100% attendance club on assembly in the near future.

The Japan Tour is drawing closer and the excitement is rising. Following on from the LOTE Cultural Day of Excellence last Wednesday, the students touring will be afforded a wonderful opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture first hand. Having been fortunate enough to participate in a tour I can attest to the value of this experience. I thank and commend Kylie for her leadership in this project aware of the huge commitment involved in coordinating an international excursion with the precision required for success. I do hope you have brought your books along to the Great Book Swap that has been coordinated by Kathy and Shelley in the library. It runs for today and tomorrow and promises to breathe new life into some of the old favourites that have not been off your shelves for some time.
School photos will be taken next Wednesday and Thursday. This is the time where the "best" uniform is saved for the occasion and, unless you are me, a little extra time is spent brushing hair.
In closing I’d like to extend best wishes to all the fathers for your day on Sunday.
Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dreams are the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable, procures success for the weak, and esteem to all who care to indulge.
It’s easy when you dream or create a eureka or great idea, to have your spirit and enthusiasm quickly dampened by others you share it with. Don’t let this happen to you because others don’t have the courage or level of enthusiasm as you have to make your dreams come true. (A/Prof Douglas Gentile)

A study of over 1,300 families indicated some powerful benefits for children when parents set healthy limits on entertainment screen time (TV and video games), and limits of the type of content viewed. Some effects are seen more immediately and others over time. Please keep in mind that ‘limiting’ does not mean banning all technology or taking everything away — it indicates a healthy balance and an inclusion of many other activities, such as sport, drama, kicking a ball, going shopping, chatting over dinner.

“When parents are involved it has a powerful protective effect across a wide range of different areas that they probably never would have expected to see,” (A/Prof Douglas Gentile)

An immediate effect of placing limits on media is those children spent less time on TV and video games. However, it is the long-term effects that surprised the researchers the most. Children whose parents set more limits on the amount of time spent with media seven months before were now getting more sleep and were getting better grades in school. Researchers also found it had an indirectly positive change in Body Mass (because children were simply moving around more).

Additionally, parents limiting children’s content exposure (to violent media) 7 months before resulted in increased pro-social behaviour — exhibiting more helpful and cooperative pro-social behaviour’s at school and were less aggressive behaviour toward their peers. We need to remain aware that the effect is not immediate and that makes it difficult for parents to recognise. We don’t notice children growing taller in a day, or see Maths grades improve after a week of extra maths lessons, but after a year? Well that is when we suddenly notice that our son has grown too tall for his trousers. Thus, this principle applies to media exposure, i.e., our children are not going to become violent street brawlers after a few days of playing violent video games, or get an F in English after staying up for the World Cup but over time the distributed effects on their lives are real.

A note on aggression: Parents assume that we mean that children will display violent behaviours or become involved in school punch-ups after playing days and days of GTA and when that doesn’t happen, they say, "You see, there is no effect on my child! The study is nonsense." However, learned aggression is not related to direct copying behaviours, but ways of thinking. Thinking about how others see you, their intentions toward you and their value as a human being etc.

Please be encouraged.
"When you tell your child that they’ve reached their limit of screen time for the day or that they aren’t allowed to play a particular game because of its content, you aren’t going to see their grades improve immediately or better behaviour tomorrow (in fact, you might see a lot of complaining today). But this study demonstrates that the effects of setting and enforcing limits have powerful benefits for children’s health, school, and social outcomes. That’s remarkable when you realize that these are all very different types of outcomes, and setting media limits has a measurable impact on all of them for the future!” (A/Prof Douglas Gentile)

FROM OUR POLICE LIASON OFFICER

Hello Gilston Primary School Students and parents, thank you for your warm welcome last Thursday on assembly. I trust all had a great long weekend. I am very much looking forward to getting to know each of you and helping you at school where I can. Don’t be afraid to come up and ask me any questions you might have as I am here for you and will help you as best I can. Just wanted to use this opportunity as a reminder to parents and children that kids and cars do not mix. It happens all too often that drivers become complacent around children and sadly that is when the worst outcomes occur. It was most unfortunate last Friday that I attended a job where a 7 year old boy was run over by his grandfather and remains in a critical condition. I would really like to address the seriousness of this issue and remind ALL drivers to always check mirrors, over your shoulder and reverse cameras where possible when leaving any place where children are or have been. I wish you all a brilliant and safe week.
Officer D

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY IS 10-11 SEPTEMBER 2014

Have your child’s school memories captured forever
Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes and remember these helpful points:
• Don’t seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope; however each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day. Please indicate on the child’s envelope that contains all sibling payments the names of the children you are paying for.
• Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request
• Please enclose correct money as no change is given. Cash, cheques, money orders or credit cards are accepted.
For any enquiries, please feel free to contact us admin.gcnr@msp.com.au, p 07 5520 2999 f 07 5520 2900
School Photo Day is 10 & 11 September 2014

P & C NEWS

Road Safety around the school.
The P & C would like to thank and congratulate the vast majority of families who follow the simple and sensible Gilston road safety rules and who don’t park in the drop off zone of a morning, or don’t drop off in the bus zone, and to all those who park safely and use the crossing, you are fabulous. Now we would like to encourage those few parents who choose to scarper across the road and avoid the crossing, please for the safety of your child, consider the alternative, and to the few, who park in the drop off zone, please think again. Like you we all have other places to be and it just makes it easier for everyone if we all follow the same rules.

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Tuckshop
The home baking in the tuckshop is proving a hit with the kids. Did you know our tuckshop convenor Nicole is also a qualified chef, and brings to Gilston Tuckshop a whole new level of home cooking? We continue to aim for a greener tuckshop. In food choices Green is the healthiest, amber is fine (having a sugar and fat content considered suitable in moderation), whereas red foods are only available for limited and approved events. The aim continues to be to get the balance right and supply healthy and fun menu items and treats.

Crossing supervisors
Still looking for an elusive extra crossing supervisor, could this be you. It’s 20 minutes holding a lollipop and you get to chat to the kids and families, but more importantly you provide an enhanced safety environment for all the children departing the school at the end of the day.

What’s on after school
It is great to see the ever increasing afterschool activities available at Gilston. If you are interested in your child having a go at a martial art, then David Elton of RHEE TAEKWONDO AUSTRALIA provides a martial arts and self defence program at the school. The classes will be running every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3.30 to 4.30 in the undercover area near the canteen. Contact David direct for detail 0406 443 658.

Have a fabulous week, warm regards, Narelle Reed P & C President Tel: 0403046920

GILSTON CLUB NEWS
Father’s Day Stall – this started today with the remainder of the school visiting tomorrow. All leftover stock will be available for purchase on Friday morning up at the rotunda.

Fundraising Catalogues - flyers will be coming home from Edex (Education Experience) which tell you how you can purchase some great gifts for your children, with the school receiving $0.20 from each $1.00 spent. This money will then go towards valuable resources for our classrooms. I have not been given enough flyers for every child, so I will start with the Prep classrooms and work upwards as most of the gifts are aimed at this age group. There are also catalogues available to browse through, but again I do not have enough for these to go home. I will place a couple in each classroom but they are to be shared. If you wish to purchase something, you simply order online and they will deliver direct to you.

For all things Gilston Club, please email us at gilstonclub@gilstons.eq.edu.au or text me on 0414912217. Thanks, Lisa - Chairperson

GILSTON ARTS SHOW FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER
Now that Book Character Parade is over, Gilston’s next exciting family event is the Arts night. Our wonderful teacher aides led by Jenny Brown are doing a great job and many pieces of art work have already been displayed in the library.

Please remember that any work from home needs to be handed in to the library by Friday 10 October. Work from home must also have a completed waiver form and name label. These can be collected from the box in the library.

DISCO – Friday 12 September – 5.30-8.30pm
Tickets on sale now through flexischools. Cost is $5.00 online or $6.00 on the night.
Entry includes drink and hot food and AWESOME MUSIC! Other food and drinks available on the night.
Help on the night is always appreciated so if you want to pitch in give Mel a call on 0416 085 689.

LIBRARY NEWS
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 Friday. Well done to all the children who have been participating and reading lots of books.

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

DENTAL VAN NEWS
Students in Years 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 & 1 have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card to take home.

If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above or is new to the school and did not receive an examination card and would like to arrange for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre 1300 300 850. Monday to Friday 8.00am–4.30pm excluding Public Holidays.

If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 4 September – Tanya
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 5 September – Theresa Evans / Bev
Ice Blocks – Kamila
Monday 8 September – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 9 September – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Wednesday 10 September – Erina
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Thursday 11 September - Tanya
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 12 September – Brenda/Kristy/Bev
Ice Blocks – Kamila

As the weather is warming up, this week will be our last week selling hot chocolate.
The Strawberry and Banana Devondale Smoothies have been going really well this week at just $1.50. They taste great and kids love them.

Also, at breaks times, we now have available little homemade treats that the children can purchase for 20-30 cents each, little muffins & cupcakes, pikelets and honey joys, just to name a few.

If you can help out for 1 or 2 hours on any day, please come and see me. In the morning we require help making sandwiches and wraps, and then in the afternoon we need help selling over the counter items. It is a great way for you to meet other Mums and Dads within our school community.

Happy Father’s day to all the Dads for Sunday.

Regards, Nicole Meesen- Tuckshop Convenor

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