



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes
Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

Edition: 35/2015

Date: 4 November, 2015

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au

PHONE : 5501 2333
ABSENCE LINE : 5501 2360
FAX : 5501 2300

admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It's **Tuckshop Volunteers Day this Friday**, a chance to express our thanks to the industrious folk who provide the tasty food each day. I have been in schools for many years and I can categorically state that the offerings at Gilston under Nicole's leadership are the best I have encountered. It appears that Kurt, one of our students agrees with me as he said, "Nicole does a great job in the tuckshop, the food is delicious, Nicole's the best we've ever had in the tuckshop". On behalf of the entire Gilston School Community **I thank the tuckshop team for their work each and every school day.**

Last week I highlighted the results from our student opinion survey. This week it's the turn of the parents:

Area of significant growth since 2012	2012	2015
Teachers provide my child with useful feedback about their work	82%	97%
The school provides me with useful feedback about my child's progress	91%	100%

Selection of areas that rated 100%	2015
My child feels safe at school	100%
Teachers expect my child to do their best	100%
My child's English skills are being developed	100%
My child's mathematics skills are being developed	100%
Staff at this school are approachable	100%
I receive useful feedback about my child's progress	100%

Again, I **commend our staff** for these results confident that we continue to improve each year.

The Language that we study at Gilston is Japanese. Our program continues to be enhanced through the industrious efforts of **Kylie Doonican** our Japanese teacher. Recently, **Kylie and Alison** (music) collaborated and were successful in securing a \$20 000 Languages Innovation Grant that will further enhance the offerings at Gilston. In addition to the opportunities currently offered, Kylie and Alison plan:

- **Mapping the curriculum** to ensure the topics covered in a range of key learning areas are utilised to teach the required language and cultural Japanese concepts.
- Incorporating Japanese cultural aspects and musical **skills in music lessons** in the lower school
- Establishing **Taiko Drumming** skills

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday	10 November	Book Fair
Friday	20 November	
Tuesday	17 November	Japan visit information meeting 3.15-4.00pm
Friday	27 November	Expressions of interest close for 2016 Japan visit
Monday	30 November	Gala Day Year 5 & 6
Friday	4 December	Swimming Carnival Year 4-6. All Saints Merrimac
Friday	11 December	Last day school 2015
Wednesday	27 January	First day school 2016

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
94.17	94.17	94.06	93.36	92.95	93.7	93.03

- Forming a **Taiko Drumming group**
- Establishing a **Kendama Club**
- Incorporating a **homestay visit** from an additional Japanese school.

The ladies have been busy behind the scenes developing programs and sourcing resources for these initiatives. More information about each aspect will be shared in this and subsequent newsletters.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of the families of the children **starting Prep in 2016** during enrolment interviews to date. After speaking with them, I am confident that the **“Enrolling Families”** project has further enhanced school readiness for the children and parents alike. The eagerness to start school is certainly evident in these young ones with many not understanding why they can't start now!

It's official; the **first day of school for students in 2016 will be Wednesday 27 January**. Please mark your diary accordingly to avoid any confusion. While your diary is open you might like to add the following term dates as well:

Term	Dates	Length
Term 1	Wednesday 27 January - Thursday 24 March	9 weeks
Term 2	Monday 11 April - Friday 24 June	11 weeks
Term 3	Monday 11 July - Friday 16 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Tuesday 4 October - Friday 9 December	10 weeks

Finally this week I remind all parents and visitors to the school that for safety reasons **dogs are not permitted** within the school grounds unless they are “assist dogs”. I thank you in anticipation for your adherence to this safety rule.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Gold Coast Individual Age Chess Championships

The results of the 2015 age championships have been played out at Emmanuel College. Our Chess contingent has done a really great job, gaining the following places in their respective age categories.

2004 – 65 students competed in this age division

Phoenix Cooper – 14th

Jessica Swadling – 61st

2005 – 89 students competed in this age division

Ben Sleep – 13th

Deklan Carlton – 67th

2007 – 98 students competed in this age division

Thomas Darke – 4th

Elias Carlton – 27th

This is a top result for all and I commend you for having a go and doing so well. Great effort everyone.

Year Six Presentation Proceedings and Dress Requirements

The time is fast approaching when we start to turn our minds to the culmination of Primary Schooling. This time sees our children in a heightened state and perhaps acting out in ways that we haven't seen before. I'd like to use this forum to say that I hope all students leaving us this year are able to, and will be, in attendance for all of the events and activities planned for the last half of the term.

Parents of students in Year 6 will have already received a letter from their child's teachers about the requirements for the Year 6 Presentation Evening. It will be held at the school in the hall, students will need to be here at 5.30pm, ready for a 6.00pm start. A supper will be provided on the night and will be funded by the school P & C Association and in keeping with a long running tradition parents from our Year 5 cohort will be assisting.

Each student will be automatically given two seats for family members. In exceptional circumstances we may be able to grant requests for additional seating due to space constraints in the hall. Please inform your child's class teacher early so we can organise catering and seating numbers.

The dress standard for the evening is smart casual. Australia's national dictionary, Macquarie Dictionary defines smart casual as "well-dressed in a casual style".

Boys – smart casual wear, long pants and a collared shirt.

Girls – smart casual wear, depicted as, comfortable, traditional fashion style showing the wholesome and sensible “girl next door”. This style is characterized as practical, polite and always age appropriate.

Please do not overdress your child in formal attire as it is not appropriate for this event.

The “B” word

We are seeing students misinterpreting what is happening to them regarding adverse situations. In a majority of cases they are fixating on getting **what they want out of a situation** without thinking of **how they can best handle it to achieve a just, viable, positive outcome**. They have all been, and continue to be, taught how to respond to adversity and can recite what they should have done after the situation has escalated to more than it should have. The use of the bullying word has become a catch-cry for so many. According to the Queensland Government Safe, Supportive and Disciplined Schools documents, bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. This interpretation is consistent with all other State Education Departments, independent and private schools and all other bodies involved with children's welfare.

Behaviour's that do not constitute bullying include:

- mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance)
- not liking someone or a single act of social rejection
- one-off acts of meanness or spite
- isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

Example is Leadership

Last Wednesday all the teachers from our area came to Gilston for a meeting to discuss their practice. Thank you to Amy, Blake and Tyrone for their help in the catering department. They showed great leadership qualities, working in the background and helping others.



BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS MATRIX

You may have noticed these colourful documents displayed around the school, or maybe you have seen it on our fabulous Gilston Website? The Positive Behaviour Team has worked very hard to formulate this matrix and there has been one displayed in every classroom this year. What is it? The matrix gives examples of what positive behaviour looks like in different areas around our school. It provides consistency in the language used by students and staff. Why not ask your child about what it looks like when they follow the school rules at Gilston?

HIGH FIVE

At Gilston, to empower our students to deal with situations of conflict, we teach them the High Five. These are five steps that the students can/should use to help themselves deal with difficult social situations. These steps are: Ignore, talk friendly, talk firmly, walk away, report. These are skills that will stand them in good stead not just during their schooling but throughout life. You will see the High Five visual displayed around the school.



ART SHOW

Well it's all over for another year. Congratulations to all our winners. A special mention to sisters Jasmine and Kasia Smythe who won the Peoples' Choice award for the upper and lower school respectively. Entries have been taken down and the library looks less colourful than before. We have displayed the place winners, so it's not too late if you would like to enjoy the winning art work. All other art work from home should now be collected as soon as possible. Thank you.



LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair starts on Tuesday 10 November and runs until Friday 20 November. Please visit our library and look at all the great books on offer. We will be open from 8.15-9.00am and 3.00-3.30pm, as well as break times for students.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

GUIDANCE OFFICER – MICHELLE DAVIES

I first heard this poem some 36 years ago.

At that time I must say it stopped me in my tracks. I was a young beginning teacher who was about to embark upon a career that would require me to educate and guide so many young minds. I have to admit that I have returned to reflect on it at several points during my career.

I am sure it will be familiar to many of you already but I feel it is always good to go back and revisit because the words continue to hold enormous wisdom and food for thoughtful reflection. You might like to read it once again here, and then discuss it with your friends and family. I believe it is a wonderful poem and so very profound.

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

By Dorothy Law Nolte

If a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility,
he learns to fight.

If a child lives with fear,
he learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with pity,
he learns to feel sorry for himself.

If a child lives with ridicule,
he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with jealousy,
he learns what envy is.

If a child lives with shame,
he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with encouragement,
he learns to be confident.

If a child lives with tolerance,
he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise,
he learns to be appreciative.

If a child lives with acceptance,
he learns to love.

If a child lives with approval,
he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with recognition,
he learns that it is good to have a goal.

If a child lives with sharing,
he learns about generosity.

If a child lives with honesty and fairness,
he learns what truth and justice are.

If a child lives with security,
he learns to have faith in himself and in those about him.

If a child lives with friendliness,
he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.

If you live with serenity,
your child will live with peace of mind.

With what is your child living?

Born in 1924, Dorothy Law Nolte was evidently a parent educator and family counsellor. She passed away just 10 years ago in 2005 at the age of 81 years. I am eternally grateful to her for this inspirational poem which was first published in 1954.

LOTE NEWS

In an awesome curriculum partnership between Music and Languages, "Sugoi" clubs are beginning at Gilston in 2016. The first of these is Sugoi Kendama using the Japanese kendama – a traditional toy which has gained great popularity over the last few years. Whilst we will have a small set of kendama for students to begin with, students will enjoy practicing their skills at home and may wish to purchase a Sugoi kendama of their very own. We will have a limited supply of kendama for purchase before the Christmas holidays. Kendama are a great coordination and gross motor skill activity for kids of all ages (even big ones!). If you are interested in buying a kendama for \$10 please pre-order and pay at the office.



TUCKSHOP REPORT

Thursday 5 November – Help needed

Ice Blocks – Karen Crabb

Friday 6 November – Teresa Evans / Sally McRobert

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 9 November – Help needed

Ice Blocks - Joanne

Tuesday 10 November - Dorothy

Ice Blocks – Maryanne

Wednesday 11 November – Dorothy

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 12 November – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 13 November – Kristy Griffin / Tammy S

Ice Blocks – Help needed

This Friday is "World Tuckshop Day", so I would like to thank all the tuckshop volunteers for their effort and support throughout the year. The tuckshop couldn't operate without you. I really appreciate you all. If you are around on Friday after 1st break (11.40am), please come in and have a piece of cake (homemade) and cuppa with us. Have a great week.

Nicole Meesen- Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICE

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING for students entering Year 7 in 2016 will be held on Wednesday 11 November at 5.30pm in the library.

PRIMARY SCHOOL TUTOR – 1 on 1 tutoring. Mum of 2 and fully qualified primary school teacher. 50 min tutoring session \$45. Phone Amy on 0403 747 260

YOGA CLASSES: Monday evening: 6.00pm - Frank Chaston Oval (across the road from school) - Hall at the rear. All levels welcome. Any questions contact Trudy 0401 911 064.