



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes
Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

Edition: 40/2015

Date: 9 December, 2015

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au

PHONE : 5501 2333

ABSENCE LINE : 5501 2360

FAX : 5501 2300

admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past ... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our attitudes."

Charles Swindoll wrote these words many years ago. Since I was young, these words have resonated with me, underlining the importance of taking control of my thoughts. I have included the quote again this year for your reflection.

*There will be some **significant staff changes** at Gilston in 2016, most notably some new teachers. We will be welcoming: **Natasha Watts, Rebecca Barker, Andrea Barr-Hamilton, Cherrie McKenna and Lydia McNeill** as teachers and **Denise Cox-McPherson** as Head of Special Education Services. These people will be joining the Gilston team from as far south as Victoria and north as Cairns.*

*2016 will also mean some exciting changes for three of our teachers who will be leaving Gilston. **Glenn Dodds** will be taking some leave before embarking on adventures throughout our great country, **Nutana Donaldson** will be moving to Tallebudgera to be nearer her family and **Shannon Curtis** will be accepting a permanent position at Townview in Mt Isa. On behalf of the Gilston State School community I wish all three the very best in their new endeavours and thank them for their respective contributions to our school.*

*After requiring medical attention last week that resulted in a hospital stay, **Siân is recovering** at home this week. While she will not be back at school formally this week, she plans to be fully fit for the commencement of the school year in 2016. Siân has been most **appreciative of the well wishes** that the Gilston State School has extended to her during this illness and looks forward to **being back** with the students and staff.*

*Our incoming **School Captains** had their first chance to*

FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday	10 December	School Assembly 11.45am
Friday	11 December	Last day school 2015
Tuesday	19 January	Uniform shop open 8.00 - 11.00am
Thursday	21 January	Uniform shop open 2.00 - 4.00pm
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
94.35	94.11	94.06	93.46	92.8	93.34	92.61

represent Gilston in their new roles last night as they welcomed and escorted our special guests at the Presentation Night. **Indiana Kilday, Andrew Stoner, Ruby Burgess and Cameron Lewis** were presented their badges last week and performed their duties with aplomb last night. I congratulate them for their election and look forward to many positive contributions in 2016.

A final assembly will be held Thursday at 11:45am where we will **announce the house captains** for 2016 and present certificates to the students who have attained 100% attendance for 2015.

In 2015 we have a 95% attendance target. As you can see from the table on the first page we didn't quite hit the mark despite the amazing efforts of the following students who attended 100% for 2015: Mia Kalan, Zali Thomson, Blake Allan, Angus Blazley, Harry Crabb, Charli Van Deelen, Ruby Lott and Oz Blazley. In recognising these students I also recognise the exemplary commitment by their parents.

For your interest I have included the attendance statistic from this time last year so you can make a comparison.

P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
93.71	93.00	93.85	93.23	92.5	92.56	90.66	91.09

Last week we learnt that our students, under the expert tutelage of Kylie Doonican, had **won the film competition**, "What is a global citizen?" This is a fantastic achievement and one that came with rewards for the school and the individuals involved. For the school, Five MacBook Airs and the students an iPad mini each. In the letter I received, Betty Baram, Director of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, shared that "**judges noted the students' confidence in speaking in Japanese and would like to strongly encourage all to continue their language learning and to participate in any future Languages competitions.**" I congratulate all students and recognise Kylie's efforts in achieving this result.

I am enormously proud of our school, the team of staff, the eager students and the supportive parents at Gilston. 2015 has been a great year. Our **staff has expended enormous effort** to ensure success for our students reaping rewards in the shape of very **impressive academic, sporting and cultural results** and the development and refinement of citizenship skills based on our consistent approach. The unrelenting focus and dedication has richly rewarded. Our final bell this Friday will mark the start of a well-deserved break.

In closing this year I wish to **thank those who have extended good wishes to me and my family** via cards and messages. I expect that I may be unable to thank you all in person so please accept this message of thanks and my wish that your time with your families this Christmas be filled with moments upon which you will reflect fondly.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Tomorrow's Assembly time has changed

Assembly for tomorrow is on at **11.45 am**, parents and friends are welcome as always to come along. We will be announcing the Sports House Captains for next year, so a lot of excited, nervous children no doubt. As the 2015 year six class demonstrated at their awards presentation last night, we have a cohort of really great children at this school and so we are very confident that next year's year six classes will also do very well. Good luck to all the nominees. We will be giving out the Captains badges at the start of next year at a Thursday Assembly.

Year Six Awards Presentation Night

Thank you to all parents and families who came to be a part of a lifetime memory for our children. Thank you also to the teachers who spent so many hours planning a great night, to the Tuckshop ladies, the P & C ladies and helpers who worked behind the scenes and to anyone else who played a part. All of you made the night what it was, a great time with a few surprises, lots of smiles and really good company.

Report Cards

Report cards will be going home on Thursday now due to technical difficulties we are having with OneSchool. Things are progressing well, just not as expediently as I had hoped for though. I do have a list of those families who require two reports but if you're not sure if you've told us, please just get a note to your teacher and we will accommodate those requests.

The last week of 2015

I could start with something along the lines of 'as we wind down' but that's not going to happen in my immediate future. "**Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!**" (**Dr. Seuss, 1957**). So to all and sundry, good tidings, best wishes and may your God go with you over the break. I will look forward to meeting with you next year.

P & C NEWS

Well the last week has arrived and what a busy year it has been. I want to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful team that I work with on the P & C for their tireless efforts to better our beautiful school and its fabulous community. Unfortunately the end of the year also brings the news that both of our Vice Presidents will be moving onto new adventures. To both Trent Firmin and Christine Dukes I want to say thank you so much for all of your hard work and dedication for your many years of service and we wish you and your families every luck with all your future endeavours.

Also I want to make a very special mention to our amazing tuckshop convenor. Nicole works hard for our students, teachers and parents and goes above and beyond. We appreciate everything that you and your team do. So thank you.

To all of our volunteers, you are the reason the Gilston Community exists because you are happy to help out whenever you can, it is true what they say that many hands make light work. Thank you.

So on behalf of the Gilston P & C we wish you a safe and wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. See you all in 2016.

Jemma Baldwin P & C President 0407091826

UNIFORM SHOP

Our new school broad brim hats have arrived and are now available for purchase from the Tuckshop and Uniform Shop for \$7.00 each. More stock in larger sizes will be available early next year.

For those who have ordered the girls skorts, please be advised there has been an unexpected delay in the ordering process. Skorts will now be available for collection on the two Uniform Shop Open Days in late January. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Pre-school Uniform Shop Opening hours will be:

Tuesday 19 January – 8.00 to 11.00am

Thursday 21 January – 2.00 to 4.00pm

This is a very busy time of year for our lovely uniform shop volunteers. We encourage parents to pre-order the required uniforms before the end of the school year, we can then pack and you can collect on either of these two days in January. This not only makes your experience more enjoyable, but it assists us in providing great service to the school community. We would also appreciate any additional help in the Uniform Shop on these two days. If you able to assist please give Christene a call on 0432 275 195

Unfortunately my family's time here at Gilston has come to

an end. Both my children will be moving to new schools and onto new adventures in the New Year. We have enjoyed our time here at Gilston and I would like to thank all that have made our time here so special and wish you all the best for the future. Christene



'More than just a bowls club!'

We would like to thank the Nerang Community Bowls Club and the PCYC for their support of our year 3/4 sporting program this year. Each Wednesday afternoon a group of students would travel by bus to the club and participate in games of lawn bowls. The students were able to learn a new sport and had much fun in the process.

Thanks also to our great tennis teacher Jono who coached our students every Wednesday afternoon. We look forward to more sporting fun in 2016.

Scott Stavar

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

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

1 st	Latimer (257)
2 nd	Zimmerman (143)
3 rd	Hinze (114)
4 th	Duncan (90)

The **Age Champions** are:

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
9 Years	Zac Riley	Kayley Moore
10 Years	Soren Zwolsman	Shayley Pankhurst
11 Years	Yannik Zwolsman	Hana McManus
12 Years	Brayden Taylor	Amelia Hughes

LIBRARY NEWS

I wish all Gilston staff, students and families a very happy Christmas and a restful holiday. Enjoy your summer break and remember to read a good book!

Kathy Stone / Librarian

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER

With the end of my first year here at Gilston State School now drawing near, and the Christmas vacation commencing at the end of this week, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fabulous Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Remember to stay safe and play safe. Spend many fun filled family hours together enjoying the holiday season.

Next year we will be starting an exciting new program here at the school. It's called **KidsMatter Primary** and you can find out a little more about it in my article below.

I know many of you have already begun talking about all of the beautifully coloured butterflies the children have been busy making over recent weeks. They are now adorning many of our school buildings and are even found hanging high up in some of our trees. They have been growing in number over the past couple of weeks. They just seem to keep multiplying and they do make our school look rather bright and cheerful.

The butterfly is the chosen symbol for this beautiful, new, transformative program that is about to commence at Gilston early in 2016. Find out more below.



KidsMatter is coming to Gilston State School in 2016

What is KidsMatter you may ask?

KidsMatter is actually a national initiative. It is funded through the Australian Government and the Beyondblue Organisation. It was developed several years ago in collaboration with Beyondblue, the Australian Psychological Society and the Principals Australia Institute.



KidsMatter Primary is best described as a whole-of-school approach dedicated to supporting children's mental health and wellbeing. It provides school communities with proven methods and tools that can enable them to better support and nurture the growth of happy well-balanced kids. It acts as a comprehensive framework that aims to foster:

1. Positive School Community
2. Quality Social and Emotional Learning for Students
3. Schools working closely with Parents and Carers
4. Support for Children with Mental Health Difficulties



We are currently in the process of forming and training a dedicated KidsMatter Action Team. They have started getting together to do some brainstorming and planning for KidsMatter's implementation next year. **MAKE SURE YOU CONTINUE TO WATCH THIS SPACE** - we will soon be introducing some interesting new KidsMatter initiatives into the school during 2016.



TUCKSHOP REPORT

Thursday 10 December – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Karen Crabb

Friday 11 December – Kristy Griffin / Tammy S

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor

