GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

**NEWSLETTER**

PHONE: 5501 2333      ABSENCE LINE: 5501 2360      FAX: 5501 2300
E-Mail: admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au  Website: www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au/wcms/
Principal: Bruce Langes    Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

37/2011  9 November, 2011

FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>10 November</th>
<th>Gilston Club Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>Last day Book Pack</td>
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<td>Last day payment</td>
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<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>and Wet N Wild</td>
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<td>Monday to Wednesday</td>
<td>14 to 16 November</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp Lake Ainsworth</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>18 November</td>
<td>Photography Day</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>19 November</td>
<td>Photography Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>29 November</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Years 4-7</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>6 December</td>
<td>Year 7 Presentation</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8 December</td>
<td>Year 7 Wet N Wild</td>
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PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

Over 90 young people joined us yesterday for the prep orientation. It remains to be seen how many more will appear on our books by the end of the year. It was a pleasure to spend some time with the parents of these children as they finalise their preparation for their child's first year at school. If you were not able to attend yesterday and intend enrolling your child for 2012, please visit the office to do so immediately. The finalisation of numbers will be critical to our planning as the year draws to a close. Remember to bring your child's birth certificate with you.

The artistic talents of our students were the focus of the hundreds of visitors to the school for the Family Arts Night last Friday. The feedback I received from those in attendance was glowing. I was very proud to be part of the celebration that unearthed some potential artists of the future. I commend our teaching and support staff for their contribution for guiding and nurturing the artistic gifts in our students.

After many years of consideration, 2012 Easter break will be a full two weeks for students. The changes to the school calendar will also see the Monday student-free days at the beginning of terms two and three disappear and the Queen's birthday holiday moved to October. In 2012 only, the June public holiday will remain and the October date will fall in the school holidays. Teachers will be required to make up the additional student free days and each school will be given flexibility on how best to utilise this time. Please adjust your 2012 calendars accordingly.

Payments for 2012 close this Friday. Please ensure you have finalised your payments to ensure we meet our fiscal management processes.

As you wander past the hall in the next few days you may notice some work being undertaken. By Friday I expect that the air circulation units will be installed and ready for use. As the weather continues to warm, this feature will be welcomed as we congregate for the many events we have planned before the year's end.

Absences from school impact on a student's development and erode teacher time as they manage the child's learning on their return. I have explained previously that the information about student absences is recorded and stored electronically making it available to monitoring agencies within Education Queensland. A recent scan of our school has revealed a significant number of absences that are unexplained. Consequently I have delegated the task of contacting parents of students with excessive absences to Graeme to ensure students are at school on time every day.

If you receive a letter, please make the necessary adjustments immediately to comply with your responsibility to have your child at school on time every day. Failure to meet requirements may result in fines.

I will be conducting interviews in the coming weeks with all parents and their children enrolling in 2012. Consequently I will not be as readily available for phone calls and meetings. Please direct your inquiries to Graeme during this time or leave a message and I will make every effort to return your call.

Some of you may have heard of the Safety House Program that operates in Queensland. There is no active program on the Gold Coast at this time. Principals from the Nerang Alliance of Schools met last week with the State Secretary of Safety House Queensland with a view to ascertaining the interest in the concept in our area. As a result we committed to distributing and collecting a survey to gauge parent interest in our schools which is attached to this Newsletter. Please complete and return the survey by Monday next week.

I look forward to regaling some of my experiences from the Year 6 Camp in next week’s newsletter. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S DEPOSITION

Award-winning injury prevention program, the Spinal Education Awareness Team (SEAT), will be coming to our school on 7 December. The aim is to inspire students to play safe and stay safe when out playing in all aspects of their lives. Run by the Spinal Injuries Association and accredited by Education Queensland, SEAT has a proud 24 year history.

At the heart of the program are the 18 volunteer presenters based throughout Queensland, who all have a spinal cord injury and use a wheelchair. Because there’s no cure for a spinal cord injury, they’re committed to educating young people on how to stay safe.

The SEAT team reinforce messages like always wearing your seatbelt, wearing a helmet when on a bike or a skateboard, the importance of playing sports fairly and walking into any body of water to check its depth. These simple tips could save young people from sustaining a permanent disability.

Thanks to the generous major sponsorship by BHP Billiton Cannington Mine, the program is free until 30 June 2013. The Mine’s assistance, along with the support of other sponsors – the Queensland Government, the Motor Accident Insurance Commission and the RBSM Foundation – means the SEAT presenters are on track to speak to more than 100,000 children throughout the state this year.
P & C NEWS
Our thanks are extended to the many volunteers who assisted our new Prep parents on orientation day. The Gilston Club ladies and their yummy morning tea and the team in the uniform shop all helped to make it an easy introduction to Gilston. We are all so grateful for the many areas in which our volunteer community assist here at Gilston. We remind you that our uniform shop is run totally on a volunteer basis which is why our prices are considerably lower than other schools. Also, our crossing supervisors volunteer their time every afternoon for the safety of our children. In addition, we have the banking team each Friday, the parents who help out in the tuckshop, the fete team and the disco team as well as the parents who change the readers and help out in class. Should you like to help out in any of these areas next year, it could be just an hour or so a month. Feel welcome to contact me and I will put you in touch with how to do it.

Bookpacks for 2012
This Friday is the cut off day for getting your book pack order in. Ordering this way saves you in dollars and time running around and sourcing what they will need.

Noticeboard Advertising
Advertising opportunities exist for your business on the school notice board. Keeping it in the community. Contact Trent on 0430 448 684 for details.

Uniform Shop Reminders
Our current Preppies heading to Year 1 in 2012 will need a homework satchel at $13.00 each. These can be purchased now from the uniform shop. We will be open on Thursday 19 January, 2012 [am] and Friday 20 January, 2012 [pm]. Now is a good time to start topping up uniforms for 2012 to avoid the January queues. As always, feel welcome to contact me should you have any questions or queries.

Narelle Reed   P & C President    Tel: 0403 046 920

LIBRARY REPORT
Bookclub Issue 7 orders have been sent and students will be notified as soon as they return to school.

Family Arts Night
Once again the artistic talents of our students were successfully featured on Friday night. Parents and visitors to the school expressed amazement at the standard of art presented. Congratulations to all our winners and all who participated in the Exhibition. Our overall winner was Kiana Janetski in the Upper 2D Section. Our Upper 3D winner was Kelsey Gomersall. Prizes will be awarded at this week’s Assembly. Art results are attached to this newsletter. Highly Commended winners will have their certificate returned to the class with their art work.

Library Report

Nerang Celebrates Christmas Art Competition
Entry forms have been dispersed to classrooms. Students’ completed entries may be handed in at the library. A voucher will be given to all completed entries entitling the student to a free drink, ride or fairy floss. Entries will be picked up from school on Friday 11/11/11. Please encourage your children to participate in this local event.

Fran Norgate / Teacher Librarian

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 10 November – Kirsty Feld
Ice Blocks – Simone Beck
Friday 11 November – Mandy, Helen Anderson
Ice Blocks – Tracy Smith
Monday 14 November – Tammy Giersse
Ice Blocks – Melanie Wright
Tuesday 15 November – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Vicky Johnston
Wednesday 16 November – Tracey Zimmerman
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Thursday 17 November – Julie-Anne Campbell
Ice Blocks – Alex Wilson-McCarthy
Friday 18 November – Mandy, Helen Anderson
Ice Blocks – Electra Rorie

If you know how to make a Vegemite sandwich and can spare an hour or two once a fortnight, please volunteer in the Tuckshop. Your child will love seeing you there. Don’t be shy, come see me please. Suzelle

Due to the large amount of people placing orders at the window in the morning, it is getting more and more difficult to have the lunches ready by first break as the helpers are serving instead of cooking. Please prepare your orders at home and put in the slot at the Tuckshop. Any change required will be put back in the lunch bag.

New on the menu: Chicken Caesar Salad tub or wrap $4.50

WHAT’S ON IN OUR HALL

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3.00-4.15pm</td>
<td>Bully Busters &amp; Fun Games</td>
<td>Brett 0408 765 982, Ben 0403 009 555</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3.45-5.15pm</td>
<td>Cheer &amp; Dance Academy</td>
<td>Holly 0409 044 831</td>
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Should you be interested in any of these programs run in our hall kindly contact the companies direct. Bookings for hall space are made with Jan at the office on 5501 2333.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
FOR SALE - 2 IKEA Tromso single loft beds, with desk and shelf - $150 each, will sell separately (New these beds are $349). Pick up only at Tallai. Contact Ruth 5530 5000.

MERRIMAC IN ACTION DAY – Year 8 2012 Orientation Day – Thursday 1 December 2011, School Hall, 9.15am-2.45pm, Wear Primary School uniform and bring morning tea, water bottle, hat, suncream, swimmers, towel, pen and paper. BYO lunch if special dietary requirements.
Gilston Student Art Exhibition 2011 - Highly Commended

Upper 2D – Nikita Stewart, Rose Henderson, Liam O’Dwyer, Lachlan McNeilage, Gemma Bounds, Jasmine, Darke, Kandi McLennan, James MacEachern, Braydon Hall, Peter Wischusen, Sai Miller-Crispe, Bryce Stansfield, Casey-Anne Payne, Brtukan Emerson, Danah Clements, Caomhne Morris, Quin Yates-Sclater, Matthew Gaudens-McMullin, Jade Beutel, Klana Janetski, Caleb Foster, Britney Roberts, Sumner Krong Heke, Tia Miller-Crispe, Meganne West, Nikki Campbell, Nick Horne, Caitlyn Murphy, William Harding, Tenika Stafford


Prep/Year 1 2D – Charlotte Lancaster, Olivia DaRos, Emily Steele, Wairere Hughes, River Firman, Mitsuki Todd, Shannon Pain, Chad Jones, Ella Pyyyaara, Carter Wilson, Jade Eastwood, Maddison Falconer, Dominic Grima, Iryie Hoffmanbeck, Zaliah Jeffrey, Emily Feld, Thomas McKenna, Jayden Warner, Jema Kay, Blake Gander, Bridhii Hannken, Finn Baldwin, Ronni Thomas, Indiana Kilday, Pearce Marsh-Fratus

Upper 3D – Emily Backus, Lachlan Mazza, Callum Milne, Jade Calderone, Ellie Taylor, Angela Mallard, Megan Reid, Joshua Hoare, Christopher Gordon, Edyn Talbot, Cristina Zanetti, Zara Campbell, Liam Shervin-Krell, Connor Steele, Gemma Bounds, Andre Jones-Door, Aydan Dwyer, Kelsey Gomersell

Lower – 3D – Jack Wicks, Elijah Mall, Liam Simpson, Molly Keen, Raquel Johnston, Asha Cooper, Madeline Brown, Josh Garden, Levi Jordison, Megan Duff, Jesse Lewis, Hope Kingsley, Willow Parsons, Niccecholas Grima, Thomas Harding, Beau Stafford, Jade Wilson, Tia Kacie

Prep/Year 1 3D – Liam Pyatt, Riley Apps, Zaliah Jeffrey, Charles Geurin, Wairere Hughes, Logan Roy, Zeke Dunn, Gracie Goddard, Maia Gardner, Jade Kinzet, Nick Matthews, Jacob Gaudens-McMullin, Phoenix Stein, Jessica Swaddling, Thomas McKenna, Finn Baldwin
Laura Jean Photography is supporting Gilston State School on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 November 2011 by providing each family with a Framed 10” x 13” Professional Portrait for your $15.00 Donation.

Vouchers have gone home however if you have misplaced it, you can fill in the voucher below, place it in an envelope with your $15.00 donation and leave it in the box at the Office. You will then be advised of your appointment time.

**SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER IS FULLY BOOKED!**

**THERE ARE STILL TIMES AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER**

*Limited offer to one voucher per person/family
*Parent/guardian should view own portrait or postage & handling shall apply

**Every family who participates goes into the draw to win a $169.00 Portrait Pack**

www.laurajean.com.au

Any queries, please contact Lisa (Gilston Club) on 0414912217

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**$15.00 Voucher**

Framed 10”x13” Family Portrait

Surname ____________________________
Child’s Name/Class ____________________
Contact # ___________________________
Email _______________________________

Preferred Day (please circle): Friday Evening or Saturday Afternoon
Dear Parents,

It is an unfortunate fact of life that in recent times our children and our community are not as safe as they have a right to be. The increase in all forms of child abuse is of great concern to all of us - as it should be. Dangers occur in all parts of our community, all geographic locations, all economic groups and all backgrounds. They can occur on the streets and in the home, and are caused by strangers, friends or family members.

An important part of helping our children and the community to avoid or minimise abuse, and the resulting life-long traumas, is to educate them on personal safety. The Safety House program provides our community with a basic education in personal safety skills and gives us, the parents, the chance to provide a network of Safety Houses in our community.

The program is based on having homes in the area clearly identified as ‘Safety Houses’. If a child/person runs into one of these houses, the Police will automatically be called. They will not be providing first aid, transportation, food, recreation or toilet facilities. All Safety Householders and Committee members are required to apply for and maintain a Blue card from the Children’s Commission prior to their approval.

To enable us to start the program, we are asking you - as an interested and concerned person - to assist us. As a show of support and interest, please complete the following form and return it to the school within seven days.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Bayliss

November 9, 2011 Phone Number: 0402802364 Catherine@nerangtonhw.org.au

Survey Sheet

Please tick the appropriate box and complete the details below:

1. Do you feel that this program would assist the children and the community in our area?  Yes [ ] No [ ]

2. Would you instruct your child to use or would you use a Safety House should he/she/you be approached?  Yes [ ] No [ ]

3. Are you generally at home when the community is active?  Yes [ ] No [ ]

4. Would you like more information on how a Safety House operates?  Yes [ ] No [ ]

5. Would you be willing to help the local committee and agree to a criminal history check through the Children’s Commission?  Yes [ ] No [ ]

Name ........................................................................................................ Phone: ..................

Address ........................................................................................................
........................................................................................................

Email address ..............................................................................................

School Name ...............................................................................................

This survey is conducted only as a means of gauging the interest and/or support for the establishment of a program in our community.