On the topic of presentations, I am looking forward to the assembly next week (1 December) and from the staff. The presentation of badges will occur on 7 presentation night.

Most recently the “Gilston kids” at All Saints graduated with significant recognition. Some of you will remember these names: Patrick Chesters (School Captain), Isaac Chesters (McIntosh Award – high achievement and significant contribution to the life of the school), Kate Holland (Performing Arts and academic honours), Harrison Brooke, Sam Mischewski and Jasmine Tennant. It is always a delight to celebrate the achievements of our past students, knowing they will always remind people that they are “Gilston kids”.

The tables will be turned this week as the LOTE (Languages Other Than English) students become the teachers in a festival organised by Kylie Doonican our LOTE teacher. The concept embeds learning through the application of the concepts in the subject and draws on a wide range of skills that are applicable to “community” activities. I applaud Kylie for this endeavour and look forward to learning from the students on Friday.

Pavlov had dogs that salivated at the sound of bells due to his practice of ringing the bell each time they were fed. He termed this “Classical Conditioning”. So it is with me as children sing Christmas carols. Every year when I hear them it triggers an excitement in me as I know that the concert is just around the corner. I’m confident that I will see many of you there on the last Monday of the school year. In the meantime I will be humming, whistling and singing a range of carols as I make my way around the school.

PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT
In 2012 students will have a full two week break at Easter. This decision was based on the survey results collected recently across Queensland. As a primary school we welcome this extension to the first break of the year to provide a well-deserved rest to our students, particularly our youngest - the Prep children. To facilitate this change, student free days at the beginning of terms will be removed from the calendar. Only one student free day remains to facilitate moderation of student results and this will occur at the beginning of week 3 Term 4 (22 October). The full term dates can be found at a link in our new website at https://gilstonss.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/Termdates/Page s/Termdates.aspx

That’s right, the new school website. I am very pleased to have the new site up and running. Gill Johns deserves much of the credit for the design and population of the site and I extend our collective gratitude to her. The functionality of the site extends the potential for us in communication and due to the structure; users will find it more user friendly. If you haven’t already taken a look please do so at www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au

Ten students delivered speeches to their peers in the hope that, along with their day-to-day conduct, they have impressed sufficiently to gain their vote for School Captain in 2012. I was impressed with the presentation from the short-listed group: Lora Calderone, Summer Williams, Jade Beutel, Harmony Kiripatea, Mackenzi Thornton, Kirra Moir, Jake Treanor, Jamie Brown, Dean Katsiris, Steven Seccombe. Votes will be collected from the students in Year 5, 6 and 7 and from the staff. The presentation of badges will occur on the assembly next week (1 December).
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S DEPOSITION
At this time of the year it would be timely to have all students reflect on the year that was, acknowledge and have conversations with parents and carers about how far they’ve progressed academically and socially. Have they met the goals they set, what will they strive for next year?

Yesterday we witnessed a group of students stand in front of their peers and verbalise their aspirations for the New Year, in their bid to become School Captains. It was a privilege to be in the crowd to see the wonderful talent we have at this school. I’m sure they will all be great role models for others and it will be great working with them when the time comes.

With the implementation of the Australian Curriculum and the higher academic expectations that brings, coupled with the desire of all the teachers here to challenge and extend their charges, the coming year will be an exciting time for students to be living in, if they do have a goal or expectation for themselves.

For some though, maybe they won’t set goals and are happy to accept what comes along. This strategy could become problematic, in that one could end up settling for mediocrity or worse. I encourage parents and caregivers to have these conversations with your children so as they can be achieving and thriving in the schooling environment and being the best they can be.

Other examples of students at Gilston achieving are Nathan Haling, Chloe Rayner and Samuel Rayner who achieved recognition for their efforts in their chosen sport. They were promoted to Brown Tip in Tae Kwon Do after grading last Monday. Congratulations people, you’re on the path to success.

P & C NEWS
We wrapped up our P & C meetings for 2012 on Monday night. Thank you to all those who have attended throughout the year. As you know the P & C run both the uniform shop and the tuckshop. Profits from these and other activities throughout the year like the fete etc. fund projects of improvement and or resources throughout the school. We are pleased to share with you how some $30,000.00 were allocated in 2012.

$1,800.00 community notice board
$260.00 Insignia on lectern
$200.00 Year 7 Incident expenses – Canberra Trip
$1,800.00 Pram Path from front of school
$6,500.00 Balance of year 2 Playground monies
$4,400.00 Walkway to Hall
$200.00 Chicken Coup contribution
$3,600.00 Life education
$5,000.00 Air conditioners x 2
$6,000.00 excursions and incursions contribution

These monies are in addition to the fantastic fundraising efforts from our own Gilston Club, who will be sharing separately the many areas funded.

I speak on behalf of the parents and staff who make up the P & C, when I say we are very proud to be part of such a strong school community. It is with your continued support that we will fulfill many other projects in the pipeline like additional white boards, and more shade, just to name a few.

Back to the USA. For many years now we have been fortunate to have the parent support of the Morris family. We are very appreciative that Earl has served on the P & C as vice president for the past 3 years. His time, efforts and contributions have benefited the whole school community. A lot of hours behind the scenes go into running a P & C and it is only with the support of such high calibre people like Earl that we are able to achieve all that we have. Both Earl and Geraldine would always volunteer when things needed to be done. We wish them, Caoimhe & Cinque a wonderful new adventure as they return to their American home, and hope their memories of Gilston will always be as fond as those we hold for them.

Tuckshop – Relief Convenor, 2012
We are seeking from the school community applications for the position of Casual/Relief Tuckshop Convenor, 2012. The position is casual, with no set minimum hours, our requirements may vary from a 5 day week [8.15am to 2.45pm], or just the odd day throughout the term. The successful applicant will hold certifications to a minimum of “Food Safety Supervisor”, with experience in catering, food handling and/or running a tuckshop an advantage. A current blue card, is also required. This is a paid position at the award casual rate. Those interested kindly email your resume to: pandc@gilstonss.eq.edu.au. Applications close Monday 3 December, 2011.

Notice Board Advertising - Advertising opportunities exist for your business on the school notice board. All advertising placed now will be valid for the full first term of 2012. Keeping it in the community. Contact Trent on 0430 449 684 for details.

Uniform Shop Reminders - Stocks of Large school bags have arrived and are selling fast. Year 1 for 2012 will need to have a homework satchel - $13.00 each. Year 7 for 2012 special senior’s uniform order forms have been sent home. Please dig it out of your bag and return with payment by Monday 3 December, 2011. Sample size shirts are available to try on for sizing. Uniform Shop is open Tuesday 2.30-3.30pm and Friday 8.30-9.30am or complete an order form and hand in to the tuckshop for delivery to your child’s class. Our 2012 return to school opening dates are: Thursday 19 January, 2012 (am) and Friday 20 January, 2012 (pm).

Online Ordering Tuckshop and Uniform Shop - We are getting closer to having online ordering available. We anticipate this service being up and running ready for 2012. Thanks again for your support throughout the year.

Narelle Reed P & C President Tel: 0403 046 920

GILSTON CLUB
Thanks to the families who came on Friday night and Saturday to support our Laura Jean Photography day. All the money raised will go directly to the school. Please remember Thursday 8 December is the day the photographer will return to the school with the packs.

Book packs will be available for collection on Wednesday 30 November 2.30-3.30pm, and Thursday and Friday 1 & 2 December 8.30-9.30am and 2.30-3.30pm from the Science lab.

Alex Wilson McCarthy – 0404 429 534

Students in Years 2, 3 and 4 have been provided with an offer of ORAL HEALTH CARE PACK to take home.

The pack includes:
- Child & Adolescent Oral Health Service Brochure
- Examination Card

Please familiarise yourself with the process by reading the information provided.

If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above and did not receive a pack and you 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.
The SWIMMING CARNIVAL this year will be held on Tuesday 29 November at All Saints Anglican School beginning at 9.30am. Below is a summary of the order of events.

(N.B. Please don’t ring the office asking when your child is swimming. Exact times cannot be given.)

It requires many officials to run a successful carnival. Parent volunteers are required to assist with judging and life guarding. Please see Mr Stavar if you are interested in helping. Also, please note that only 1st place swimmers will be timed. We do not have the personnel to time every lane. Parents wishing to time their own child/ren on the day are welcome to do so. We look forward to a fun and successful carnival.

Scott Stavar / PE Teacher

ORDER OF EVENTS (all events are youngest to oldest)

25m Events
- Freestyle
- Breaststroke
- Backstroke
- Butterfly

50m Events
- Freestyle
- Breaststroke
- Backstroke

Relays (time permitting)

NB: 9 year olds swim 25m only

JAPANESE FESTIVAL

To celebrate Asia Literacy Week from 28 November– 2 December we are holding a Japanese Festival at Gilston on Thursday 24 November. Year 7 students have been busily preparing activities for students in Prep to Year 6 and they will be teaching each of the classes a cultural lesson sometime during the day of the festival. Each child will also receive Inari-zushi at their classroom at first or second break and to continue the Japanese theme, Mrs Miller is assisting us in providing a Karaoke Disco for students in the hall at first break. Inari-zushi is made from fried, sweet soya bean curd pockets filled with sushi rice (vinegar and sugar-sweetened steamed rice). If your child has allergies and you are concerned about them eating this food, please send a short note to the classroom teacher before the festival. Well done to all the Year 3 and 4 students who showcased their Japanese language skills at the arts night last week!

LIBRARY REPORT

Bookclub Issue 7 orders have arrived back at school and may be collected from the library. All library books need to be returned to the library by this Friday 25 November ready for stocktake. Teacher borrowing only from this point in time.

Student Art

Students please collect your art work from the library as soon as possible.

2012 National Year of Reading

GCCC Libraries are running summer reading sessions in the holidays. Check out your local library for what’s on. Get in early for a great year of reading in 2012!!!

Fran Norgate / Teacher Librarian

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Thursday 24 November – Julie-Anne
- Ice Blocks – Simone Beck
- Ice Blocks – Angela Posselt.
Monday 28 November – Tammy Gierse
- Ice Blocks – Vicky Johnston
Tuesday 29 November – Swimming Carnival – no help required.
- Wednesday 30 November – Volunteer morning tea.
- Ice Blocks – Tracey Zimmerman
Thursday 1 December – Kirsty Feld
- Ice Blocks – Alex Wilson-McCarthy
Friday 2 December – Mandy Barbitta
- Ice Blocks – Tanya Lind

For every drink purchased with paper bag order your child will have a free entry to win a huge Christmas Teddy Bear. Winner will be drawn last assembly of the year. Good luck!!

An assortment of winter clothes from Lost Property will be placed on the stage each morning until 9.00am. If not claimed by Friday 2 December the clothing will be donated to the uniform shop.

WHAT’S ON IN OUR HALL

Day Time Who Contact
Monday

Tuesday 3.00 – 4.15pm Bully Busters & Brett 0408 765 982
Fun Games
Ben 0403 009 555

Wednesday 3.45 – 5.15pm Cheer & Dance Holly 0409 044 831
Academy

Thursday

Friday

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TITANS SCHOOL HOLIDAY COACHING CLINIC – Wednesday 18 January 2012, 10.00am-2.00pm, Miami State School, Oceanic Drive, Mermaid Waters. Boys and girls 5-12 years. $25 per child. Bookings essential. Register now - 0450 106 090, titansbooking@live.com

SWIMMING & TENNIS HOLIDAY CAMPS, Mermaid Waters - 12-16 December – 19-22 December. Phone 5572 3422