**GILSTON STATE SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER**

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Principal: Bruce Langes  Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

02/2012  1 February, 2012

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

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**PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT**

The environment in which we work and learn does have a bearing on our mindset and consequently our success. We are blessed to have some of the most motivated and skillful staff caring for our physical environment at Gilston. Our cleaners begin each morning well before the sun has contemplated rising and Grant attends to a multitude of tasks rain, hail or shine. It is credit to these people that in the face of the recent weather challenges our facilities remain of the highest quality. On your behalf I acknowledge Grant, Brendan, Lee and Gary.

In total 156 new students joined Gilston this year. This number includes 121 Prep students with the remainder spread across the other year levels. Based on the increase of students I decided to rearrange roll classes on Monday ahead of the official “day 8” census for staffing. The arrangements involved the formation of additional roll class and the redesign of classes in the year 2, 3 and 4 areas. I expect that there will be limited changes after “day 8” tomorrow.

In my visits to classrooms I have been very impressed with the engagement of the pupils. This is clearly an indication of our teachers’ skills in the design of appropriate activities for the needs of the children, however it is also a reflection of the attitudes to learning that have been instilled in them by you as parents. Your attitude towards learning and its importance is vital for your child’s success.

Those of you who have read our newsletters for a number of years will know of my “supermodel” theory. In short, every one of us is a supermodel for the young people who watch our every move. The old adage “do as I say not as I do” does not work! So it is that you must ensure you actions must be those you wish to perpetuate in your own children and other children who are watching. Simple examples include: using the crossing and obeying road rules, treating others with courtesy and using appropriate language. Whether you like it or not, you are a role model and our students are watching!

Health is always a high priority at Gilston. We have curriculum that covers this topic focusing on a wide range of health related topics throughout the year levels. More broadly we cooperate with Queensland Health in matters that relate to contagious diseases and forward advice when outbreaks occur. To ensure you are informed about any advice please read all related information and seek medical advice if you remain unclear. Since the beginning of the school year we have been advised that some of our community have been diagnosed with whooping cough and scabies.

Later in the newsletter I have included details regarding the dental services offered by Gold Coast Health. I would encourage you to make yourself aware of the offerings for future reference.

In closing this week I wish to acknowledge our volunteers throughout the school. Whether changing readers each morning, assisting with reading groups, collating the banking, helping in the tuckshop or supervising the crossing, all our volunteers in all the roles make a huge difference to the services we provide. If you are new to the school and wish to help out, either: see your teacher, contact Narelle (P & C President) or Alex (Gilston Club Chair) or advise the office and we will ensure your talents are tapped for the betterment of the students at Gilston.

Student cards containing details for internet banking have been printed and are available from the office. Please collect these from Pat or Roz. If you cannot collect personally, please send your child on your behalf.

Stay safe and keep smiling
Bruce

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S DEPOSITION**

Life Education Visit, 6 to 20 February 2012

On 6 February (next week), Life Education Australia will be in our school. The Life Education Primary School Program has been successfully supporting primary school drug and health education since 1979.

Life Education’s comprehensive programs have been specifically designed to assist schools achieve the outcomes of the National Curriculum. Activities are based on the Health and Physical Education outcomes. They are also designed to be integrated into additional curriculum areas, as deemed relevant by individual schools. In our case it will align with our social emotional well-being program. Primary schools play a vital role in preparing children for life and in shaping their journey through school. Research shows that the earlier we encourage children to develop positive self-image, self-esteem and a feeling of uniqueness, the better equipped they are to make positive healthy choices in life. Parents and Caregivers are invited to attend a special ‘Parents and Visitors Program’ on Wednesday 8 February at 2:00pm.

The cost of this program is met by the P & C Association and the Gilston Club.

Life Education assists student to:

- Acquire age appropriate knowledge to support informed health choices
- Develop and practice skills and strategies to act upon individual decisions
- Recognise the values and attitudes that may influence lifestyle choices and behaviours.

Something for Students:

“No-one wants advice, only corroboration.”

How true, but it also reminds me of a well-known proverb, “The way of a fool seems right to him but a wise man listens to
Help with security screens - I am hopeful that among our readers we have someone who can help us with a small screening job in our hall office. If you can help please contact Jan or Bruce through the office.

P & C NEWS
What a start to school, the weather has certainly made it a challenge for all parents, students and teachers. Of paramount importance is road safety, we attach the “how to” guide for drop off and pick up. By following these simple guidelines the safety of all children is increased. As an additional reminder please do not park in the drop off or bus zone. Also use the crossings and not run between cars in either the car park or across Worongary Road, as this is not a safe choice. We all have time constraints and are keen to get in and get out, but for the sake of a few minutes please consider the children’s safety. Parking on Worongary Road near the foot bridge causes unnecessary traffic build up, and makes it difficult for children to pass.

Tuckshop & Uniform Shop
We are now online for the tuckshop and uniform shop so you can order from home with Flexi Schools. Online ordering is an easy option in addition to our regular ways to purchase, it's your choice. Our thanks to tuckshop manager Suzelle for organising this. Uniform shop hours: Tuesday 2.30-3.30pm and Friday 8.30-9.30am.

Volunteer Support:
Thank you for the offers of help, crisis averted and we welcome Tracey, Christine & Alex to our volunteer rosters.

Notice Board Advertising
Advertise your business on the school notice board. Whether you’re an electrician, plumber or sell Tupperware, at just $30 a page per term, it is good value considering the hundreds of parents who walk past every day. Contact Trent on 0430448684 for more details.

Have a great week, and feel welcome to give me a call I am always happy to help. Regards,
Narelle Reed P & C President Tel: 0403046920

GILSTON CLUB
Wow! How awesome to see so many new and familiar faces after our Christmas Break! Our first meeting of the year will be held on Thursday 9 February at 9.00am in the science room at the Library. To give you all a heads up, our first fundraiser for the year will be our annual Trivia Night. We would love any donations for our raffle and auction on the night, so if you have a business, or know someone who has, and would like some promotion and advertising within the school community, please consider supporting this event.

For any new families to Gilston, we are a group of parents who fundraise specifically for items that are not in a Government Budget. If you feel you are unable to commit to any meetings, there will always be a way in which you can help, be it volunteering to serve the kids at Mothers’ or Fathers’ Day Stalls, handing out ice blocks after the cross-country or being able to contribute raffle or auction items to our fundraising events.

New faces are always welcome. Bring along the younger children, come for a cuppa and learn more about your school.
Alex Wilson-McCarthy

CHOR NEWS
The junior (years 3 and 4) and senior (years 5-7) choirs will start next week. Juniors will meet on Tuesday in the music room at 1st break. The senior choir will meet on Mondays at 1st break. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your lunch.
Year 2 students will have the opportunity to join the choir in term 4 this year.
Eisteddfod choir (our competition choir) auditions will be held soon. This choir will rehearse on Wednesdays at 1st break.

Performing Arts Competition
This will be held in term 2 this year. Any interested students should start planning and practising their acts now. More details to follow soon.
Alison Miller / Music Teacher

LIBRARY REPORT
Library Borrowing
Students in years 1-7 are very welcome to borrow books from the library other than class times. Library hours are before school, first break and after school.
Prep students will borrow next week after an initial introduction to the library this week. Please keep library books in your library bag, safe from food and drink.

If you need to contact the library the phone no. is 5501 2 304.

Bookclub Issue 1
Please place your child's order with correct money in a labelled envelope and give to Mrs Norgate in the library. Make sure you remember to place your child’s name and year level on the order.
All cheques may be made payable to Scholastic Australia Orders will close Friday 10 February at 5.00am

Bookfair (27 February – 12 March)
Start saving now for great new publications and Easter gift ideas.

Fran Norgate / Teacher Librarian

The Gold Coast Health Service District provides a government funded ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM for eligible children and adolescents. Queensland children from four years of age through until they finish year ten at high school are eligible to receive government funded oral health services. A qualified team of dentists, oral health therapists, dental therapists, and dental assistants work together to provide a range of oral health care services to meet your child's specific oral health needs.

Oral health care is provided to children and adolescents at dental clinics located within the Gold Coast District or at Mobile Dental Clinics. Parents/Guardians may be required to transport children to and from dental appointments. All schools are offered oral health care services on a rotational basis. The frequency of care may vary and is directly related to many variables such as consent rates and the burden of oral disease.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to contact the Oral Health Call Centre. The Child and Adolescent Oral Health Service will provide general oral health care and some limited specialist services including:

- Dental examination
- X-rays
- Preventive oral healthcare and advice
- Fillings
- Extractions

ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

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- X-rays
- Preventive oral healthcare and advice
- Fillings
- Extractions
Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend the first appointment with their child. Subject to parental consent, your child will receive a full oral examination. If any treatment is recommended, additional consent from the Parents/Guardians will be required.

An emergency service operates between school visits. Emergencies are generally assessed over the telephone and appointments are prioritised based on severity.

In the case of an emergency, telephone 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 Oral Health Call Centre operator.

WELCOME TO SCHOOL BANKING FOR 2012

Parent packs will be issued to all prep students next week.

Please note that a new account can be opened at a Commonwealth Bank branch, online through Netbank or by filling out a form which can be downloaded at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking.

Updated news, for new and existing bankers - the rewards program has some new items for redemption. More details will be provided next week.

The Banking Team

TUCCSHOP ROSTER

Thursday 2 February Julie – Anne Campbell
Ice Blocks – Angela Prendergast
Friday 3 February - Mandy Barbitta
Ice Blocks – Electra Rorie

Monday 6 February – Mandy Barbitta
Ice Blocks – Simone Beck
Tuesday 7 February – Mel Heu
Ice Blocks - Vicki Johnston

Wednesday 8 February – No help required – thank you
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann
Thursday 9 February – Kirsty Feld
Ice blocks – Bruce Hart
Friday 10 February – No help required – thank you
Ice Blocks – Leanne Kirk

Well we can now boast that Gilston Tuckshop & Uniform shop have joined the 21st century as we are now able of offer “On-Line” ordering.

By ordering your child’s lunches or uniforms online you don’t need to search for money, you can order hours, days, weeks in advance at a time convenient to you from home or work.

Go to www.flexischools.com.au and click on the “Register now” in the login box and follow the instructions. You will need to know your child’s class name. As purchases are made, the funds are taken from your pre-paid account. Each order is then sent automatically to the tuckshop for processing. At lunch time, the online orders are provided to the students in the same way as the usual lunch orders and the Uniform orders are delivered to your child in the class room.

It’s Quick, Convenient & Easy!! See the attached flyer for more information.

Have a great week,
Suzelle

What’s on in our hall

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<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

MINIHOOPS BASKETBALL PROGRAM - 7-12 year olds - 8.00am - 9.30am, Carrara Stadium - Saturdays: Feb 4, 11, 18, 25; March 3, 10, 17, 24 $95 for new members, includes registration fee, reversible singlet and #6 basketball - $50.00 for returning members.

MR WALK (MR stands for ‘Men Respect’) is the main event in a campaign to raise the profile of the importance of the transition of boys to men and the current social perception of men in the community. Sunday 5 February, 8.15, next to Skilled Park, 2.2km walk. Register now at www.titans.com.au

CARRARA SAINTS JUNIOR AFL CLUB - SIGN ON - Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th February 10am-2pm (free sausage sizzle for the kids) - at Neilsen’s Rd, Carrara - 5-16 year old Boys AND Girls (girls only comp - U15 and U18 teams). Alternatively come to the Family Fun Day at Metricon Stadium and see all the Gold Coast SUNS players. (Saturday 3rd March – 10am-12pm). For further information please call Rod Conder (Secretary) on 0409 759 115.

Beginners welcome!

PHYSICAL CULTURE DANCING - Ashmore State School - Lessons MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY afternoons - 0413 555 139 www.surfersparadisephysie.com

SUPER SPORTS SIGN ON DAY - find out more about your local sporting clubs – Sunday 12 February 10.00am-1.00pm, Broadwater Parklands.

SOUTHPORT CARRARA NETBALL ASSOCIATION 2012 Player Development Program - four weeks – 12-14 year olds – 166 Benowa Road, Ashmore – 8.00-9.30am, $50 – info@scna.org.au
The “how to” guide to parking at our school & pick up and drop off zone

Your first few days of your child/s school days are as unknown for both parents and carers as they are for the children. At Gilston State School we have worked together to see an easy drop off and pick up process for all our families.

Parents with children in prep are initially asked to deliver and collect from your class daily. [Other arrangements are coordinated with your child/s teacher].

Safety of the children is paramount and at the core of planning. Our process is in line with local and state traffic laws, and we ask you to take some time to familiarise yourself with the how to for Gilston.

For Parking we ask:

- Please park reverse angle to the curb as far back as possible.
- There is additional parking across Worongary road, when this car park is full there is another car park behind the cricket ground. As you enter the car park turn left then continue thru boom gate.
- Please note that is illegal and dangerous to park along Worongary road where there is yellow line marking.
- **Do not park or stop in the bus zone.**
  - Pedestrians please only cross the road at the pedestrian crossings.
  - Please do not walk thru the intersection across the road to get to the pedestrian crossing, use the footpath behind the garden bed.
  - Only enter the school grounds by the main gate or the small gate. Please do not enter thru the staff car parks’ gates.
  - Pedestrians please give way to cars exiting the additional car park when they have a green light.

For drop off and pick up zone:

- The drop off & pick up zone is a 2 minute loading zone allowing for quick pick up & drop off of children during congested peak school times.
- Children assemble in this area after the 3pm bell and are supervised at pick up time.
- For the mornings, vehicles move slowly along the loading zone towards the front of the queue, drop your children in this area, then they walk thru the main gates to class. Do not escort them to class or the gate, if you need to do this then you must park in the alternate areas
- Do not stop for more than 2 minutes.
- **Do not park in the pick up / drop off zone & walk away from your car.**
  - Plan your afternoon arrival time. Does it have to be before students are released from class? Do you have older children? Could you ask them to be ready and waiting at pick up zone?
  - If your child is not waiting please drive away and return to the queue or park legally and walk to collect them.
- **Never double park to pick up children.**
  - If queuing please queue to the left so that travelling vehicles can pass thru the carpark.
SAVE TIME, ORDER ONLINE!

We now have a great new online system to make the ordering of lunches easier and more convenient.

- Order at a time convenient to you
  in the morning, night before, or weeks in advance!
- No searching for cash required
  It’s already paid online!
- Teach students healthy eating in a fun way
- Order from home or work

It’s so easy!

1) Go to www.flexischools.com.au
2) Click “Register Now” to create account
3) Top-up your balance
4) Start ordering immediately

To view a demonstration

Go to the www.flexischools.com.au website and in the “Find Your School” box, enter a few letters from our school name and click the name when it appears below.

What Does it Cost?

The online menu is the same price as the usual menu. There is a 25c fee for lunch orders to cover the cost of the online system. So why not order your next lunch online!

How Does It Work?

Go to www.flexischools.com.au and click “Register Now” in the Login Box. Then enter your student’s name, school and class, and add funds (say $50) into a pre-paid account. You can log into the website at any time to place orders, up until 9:30am on the day of the order. As purchases are made, the funds are taken from your pre-paid account. The account can be topped up again in the same way, or set to automatically top-up via credit card when the balance falls below a pre-set minimum. Each order is sent automatically to the kitchen, where an easy-to-read label is produced with the student’s name, class and order details. At lunch time, the online orders are provided to the students in the same way as the usual lunch orders.

What payment methods can I use?

FlexiSchools accepts payment via Visa, MasterCard, Payclick and Bank Transfer. To perform a bank transfer to your FlexiSchools account, click ‘Topup Account’ when logged into the FlexiSchools website and select ‘Bank Transfer’; you will be given your unique EFT code. You can then make a transfer via your bank’s internet facility or at your branch.