FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday to Monday</th>
<th>6 February to 20 February</th>
<th>Life Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>17 February</td>
<td>Last day payment</td>
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<td>Year 7 Tallebudgerra Leadership Day</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>20 February</td>
<td>P &amp; C AGM</td>
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<td>Monday to Monday</td>
<td>27 February 12 March</td>
<td>Bookfair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>29 February 9.00-11.00am</td>
<td>Ready Reader Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>Last day payment for Trivia Night</td>
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PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

Attendance at school is vital to ensure best outcomes for learners. Understandably there times when a child is not fit for school and therefore is considered to have a reasonable excuse, however, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 clearly outlines that it is the obligation of the parent to ensure that a child of school age must be enrolled and must attend on every school day. As a parent, please meet your obligation to give your child the best chance of success. It was a pleasure to present the 2012 House Captains on assembly last week. I congratulate all who participated in the election in the knowledge they will all play a leadership role this year. The 2012 House Captains are: Zimmerman – Claudia McClelland, James Redding, Duncan – Cecile, Alex Ryder, Hinze – Tenae Cohen, Mitchell Jamieson, Latimer – Mackenzi Thornton, Dean Katsiris. Scott will be harnessing the energy of these people to enhance all sporting ventures this year.

Would you like to know more about how to help your child with their reading? The Ready Reader Program will be offered to all interested parents and friends on 29 February in the staffroom from 9.00-11.00am. The Parent Ready Reader Program explores: the range of literacy experiences that happen daily and how these can provide opportunities for learning in natural and exciting ways; the knowledge that effective readers use; and ways to engage your child in reading. The session will be informal and there are no tests! I will be co-presenting this session with Nicola Minehan and look forward to seeing many of you there. Please call the office to book your place (5501 2333) or email admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au.

It was with much sadness that we learnt of the sudden death of Jarrah Young in a bus crash in Africa this week. Jarrah attended Gilston for her primary school years. I extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to her parents Peter and Andrea. Peter and Andrea were very active members of the Gilston School community while their four children attended in the 1990s. On your behalf I wish Peter, Andrea and their children Joel, Tarli and Kirra, all the very best as they come to terms with their loss.

Sixteen people attended the first Gilston Club meeting last week. This is a very healthy sign for things to come this year. I know the extra contributions from our newest members will be appreciated as will their contacts and ideas. If you too want to make a contribution with this group, come along and share the cake next time.

After many years of preparing and serving food for the students and staff of Gilston State School Denise Tengdahl has hung up her apron. Denise has witnessed the growth of many children to adulthood in her time, none the least of which have been her own children who completed their primary schooling here. Building upon the foundations established by Denise, our tuckshop now embraces technology in continuing to efficiently cater for the growing population of students. On behalf of the Gilston State School community I sincerely thank Denise for her positive contributions and wish her well in the next chapter of her life.

Staff absences are a part of every workplace. Unplanned absences are managed by replacing teachers with relief teachers familiar with our school. This has been the case with Kylie Glew and Glenn Dodds recently, both of whom will return to work soon.

Opinions are based on information that is analysed and contextualised against our life experiences. It is possible to learn much from others’ opinions due to their experience, the depth of their knowledge and the analysis they undertook in forming that opinion. Conversely, it is possible that another’s opinion may be based on little information and limited analysis. Adopting such an opinion as your own is a high-risk activity. I often coach children and adults to qualify opinions by saying, “That’s interesting. How did you come to that conclusion?” It is not offensive or judgemental. It is however usually apparent from the response to this inquiry the depth of analysis upon which the opinion is formed and consequently whether or not it is worth considering in your own opinion-forming. In a world filled with people eager to offer opinions it is important to model for our children the practice of critically analysing situations. Some of the best learning will occur when you admit to your child that you do not know something and that together you find out some more.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S DEPOSITION

Year 6 and 7 students hosted Numinbah Valley Environmental Education staff at our school. All of our students gained so much from a wide range of activities through a hands-on learning approach at our creek at the bottom of the big oval.

In the near future all classes will be able to take advantage of these types of activities in the different key learning areas in their location and on the nature trail across from it. At this time students from Griffith University have completed a lot of clearing to make this a reality. On behalf of our school community I’d like to thank those people profoundly for their efforts. We are currently talking with the local council about supplying us with a number of trees that can be planted along the trail so we might be asking if we could get some student and parent volunteers for some help there. I’ll keep you posted.
Would anyone be interested in becoming a WEP host family this year? I've had this information come to me and I'd like to pass it on to everyone. It is a great opportunity to open your door to an international exchange student and expand your and your families’ knowledge of other countries, cultures, languages and cuisines! If you would like to become a volunteer host family for international students arriving in July 2012 you can contact Chantel Woods, the Inbound Exchange Administrator on the numbers below. Students from Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family soon.

Chantel Woods
Inbound Exchange Administrator
Phone: 1300 884 733
Email: wep@wep.org.au
Online: www.wep.org.au

Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family.

Here’s a thought to put to, and ponder with your children:

Life isn’t measured by the number of breaths we take,
But by the moments that take our breaths away.

What did you do today that made you feel proud?

P & C NEWS
This Monday evening at 7.00pm in the staff room we are holding the AGM for the P & C. Becoming a member is your opportunity to have a say and be directly involved in a variety of elements within the school. We look forward to seeing many new and return faces.

Tuckshop
The recent resignation of our tuckshop convenor Denise comes after many years of service and contribution to our school community. On behalf of the parents and students, we extend our thanks and appreciation to Denise for her efforts and wish her well for the future.

Uniform Shop
A reminder our uniform shop opens Tuesday 2.30–3.30pm and Friday 8.30–9.30am, or order online at www.flexischools.com.au

Year 7 – senior shirts
The order has been placed and we are waiting on delivery, expected to be this week.

Road Safety
A gentle reminder not to park in either the bus zone or the drop off zone. We are all keen to get on our way during drop off, but for the safety of our children please ensure we all follow the same rules and use the drop off zone correctly. Sometimes we may need to wait a couple of minutes at peak times, but for the safety of all the children it is well worth it. We also remind all parents to use the crossing, scooting through the middle of the traffic is not a safe choice. Parents please do not to park north on Worongary Road, near the walkway, it reduces vision. Park just around the corner and take the small walk across the bridge.

Regards, Narelle Reed P & C President Tel: 0403046920

GILSTON CLUB
Trivia Night is fast approaching. Friday 24 March is only 6 weeks away. Apologies first to Glenda from “Glenda’s Spray Tanning”, her correct phone number is 0422 317 850. Thanks also to ex Gilston mum Natasha Anderson and her e-business “tasha2shoes” for a raffle prize donation for the night. Can anyone help us with organising the raffle and auction prizes for the night?

This is my favourite school event for the year (that’s not child based) and a great chance to get to know other parents. Get a table together, maximum of 10 per table, at a cost of $10.00 per person. Next choose a ‘theme’ for your table (choice of "theme" is very important as bonus points are given during the night) and then dress and decorate accordingly. I would also like to hear from any of our parent/carers who hold a current Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate who may like to assist with the running of the Tuckshop – sorry I mean Gilston Bar! PLEASE remember there is NO BYO ALCOHOL ON THE NIGHT as per our liquor permit, but BYO nibbles for your table as there will be no food for sale.

PAYMENTS for Trivia Night must be received by FRIDAY 4 MARCH. Please write the captain’s name and contact number along with the table theme on the front your envelope with $10 per person inside and place in the brown wooden box in the office. EFTPOS will be available for AUCTION ITEMS only. There will be no cash-out facilities and a 50% non-refundable deposit will be required for our auction items. Can’t wait to see the THEMES!

Alex 0404 429 534 – Mia-mia@onthenet.com.au
Alex Wilson-McCarthy

EISTEDDFOD CHOIR FOR YEARS 3-7 STUDENTS
Auditions for this year’s eisteddfod choir started today. If there are any children who are interested in being involved in this competition choir they should see Mrs Miller as soon as possible to be allocated an audition time. To audition, the children need to sing a known song in a small group. They do not have to sing on their own.

Alison Miller / Music Teacher

PARENT READY READER PROGRAM
INVITATION to
Parents and Carers of students in Prep to Year 3
As your child's first teacher you have a key role in the literacy and numeracy development of your child.

The Parent Ready Reader Program explores:
• the wide range of literacy experiences that happen daily and how these can provide opportunities for learning in natural and exciting ways
• the knowledge that effective readers use and ways to engage your child with reading.

Would you like to know more? Come along and learn how to support your child to become a confident reader.

Alison Miller / Music Teacher

MINI KOKODA CHALLENGE – HELP NEEDED
Year 7 will soon be receiving a note about the Mini Kokoda Challenge. Three of our 6 teaching team members who worked with the children on the Kokoda Challenge last year have been transferred or injured. We need parent help to train after school on Monday or Wednesday from 3.30 to 4.30pm from 27 February until Easter. After Easter we will be training on Tuesday and Thursday from 3.30 to 4.30pm. We will also need parents to participate on the Mini Kokoda Challenge day, which is Sunday 24 June.

Dimity Faulkner
YEAR 5 are studying “THE FORESTS OF SILENCE” which is part of the Deltora series written by Emily Rodda. The school does not have sufficient copies. If you have a copy that we could borrow or you could donate to the library, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Lyn Morley

LIBRARY REPORT

Bookclub Issue 1 orders have been sent and students will be notified as soon as they arrive back at school. (Orders come from Sydney and will take about one week.)

Bookfair (27 February – 12 March)

Only two weeks to go!! Start saving now for great new publications and Easter gift ideas.

National Year of Reading 2012

2012 will see a whole heap of amazing, fun, reading activities taking place around Australia and on line. Be part of it!!

Library Queries – Phone: 55 012 304

Fran Norgate / Teacher Librarian

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Thursday 16 February – Suzy Thomas
Ice Blocks – Mel Wright

Friday 17 February – Mandy Barbitta
Ice Blocks – Sam Valentine

Monday 20 February – No help required thank you
Ice Blocks – Simone Beck
Tuesday 21 February – Mel Heu
Ice Blocks - Vicki Johnston

Wednesday 22 February – Donna Clarke
Ice Blocks – Tracey Zimmerman
Thursday 23 February – Angela Prendergast
Ice blocks – Kristie Boyton
Friday 24 February – Mandy Barbitta, Alex Wilson McCarthy
Ice Blocks – Electra Roria

Flexischools is off and running!! It is quick, convenient and easy. No more looking for money first thing in the morning. Go to www.flexischools.com.au and click on Register Now. You will need to know your child’s class. This service is just an extra way of ordering your child’s lunch or uniform.

Preps and Tuckshop – working with the teachers we have decided to allow Prep students to place orders for lunch. At this stage only paper bag orders, no slushies or ice blocks.

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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3.00-</td>
<td>Bully Busters &amp; Fun Games</td>
<td>Brett 0408 765 982</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.15pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ben 0403 009 555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3.45 –</td>
<td>Cheer &amp; Dance Academy</td>
<td>Holly 0409 044 831</td>
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<td>5.15pm</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

THE INCREDIBLE YEARS PROGRAM FOR PARENTS (FREE) - an extensively researched program that EMPOWERS you to manage behaviour and further build a positive life long relationship with your child. (see www.incredibleyears.com). Sessions will run Monday evenings, 6.30-9pm for 14 weeks (not over school holidays). Coffee, Tea and a light snack provided. COURSE STARTS Monday 20 February 2012 (Near Arundel State School). Contact Nicola for more information/a place. E-mail: nwest84@eq.edu.au, Cell: 0457526844

CURRUMBIN COMMUNITY FARM SCHOOL OPEN DAY - Sunday 4 March, 9.30am – 2.00pm - Live Music, Rock Climbing, Farmyard Feeding, Jumping Castle, Market Stalls, Food & More! FREE ENTRY STALL HOLDERS WANTED – From $10 - 1226 Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Valley, Ph 5533 0312 Email: alock16@eq.edu.au

ELITE RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS CLUB – all ages welcome. Rope, Hoop, Ball, Clubs, Ribbon, Acrobatics and Dance. All Saints Anglican School – Beginners Class Friday 3.30-4.30pm, Saturday 10.00-11.00am – phone Tatiana on 0403 034 914 or 5593 8197.


FREE PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS – Parenting Made Easier – 17/2/12-23/3/12 – 22/2/12/28/2/12, 1,2,3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Parenting Course – 13/2/12-27/2/13, 5/3/12-19/3/12, 29/2/12-9/3/12, Relationship Rescue 21/2/12-27/3/12, Building Your Confident Self 16/2/12-22/3/12, Babysitting Training Program – 22/2/12-28/3/12. Oxenford & Coomera Community Youth Centre, 25 Tamborine-Oxenford Road – phone 5529 8087