PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

“We have pursued happiness relentlessly as if it was something to be pursued.”

How many times have you heard this justification for showering children with all things material: “I just want my kids to be happy”?

What if happiness was NOT determined by what we wore, drove, lived in or owned but rather by who we are?

What if happiness was a personal decision? What if it was not dependent on any external circumstance but rather a decision to be happy right now?

What if the goal was to learn to live – sometimes with, sometimes without? To learn that life is hard at times and it brings both joy and sadness; hope and fear - to learn that not all things are understood immediately.

What if the goal was to grow children into adults who genuinely have the ability to live with good and bad; to not madly pursue happiness as if it was some goal to be obtained by owning this or having that experience?

What if we could impart to our children the capacity to find joy in the everyday good times? To be happy in who they are and how they can contribute to friendships, family and the community. To truly understand their uniqueness has nothing to do with what they own or what brand they wear.

Then in the bad times, when it seems that all hope is gone, when life really sucks and there is nothing left in their reserve, those children would learn to find the courage to endure, even if only to rediscover new hope.

To truly know that in living there are highs and lows and that there is benefit and richness in experiencing what both good and bad can bring.

The pursuit of happiness linked to external possessions and experience has led us to nauseating suicide rates and anti-depressants being the top-selling drugs in the world. Is it time to rethink what’s really important?

What would it be like if you actually decided to be happy – to know that the two basic criteria are simply warmth and breath? To be happy right here ... right now? Happiness involves decision and most people are only as happy as they have made up their own minds to be. Delaying it until you own or experience some special thing will be such a waste of your living years.” Bruce Sullivan

This excerpt is from a book, “Hannah’s Christmas Gift” written by Bruce Sullivan. I have included it this week to reinforce several common messages we share at Gilston. I trust it had you reflecting on your circumstance. If you would like to read some more, the book is available from www.hannahschristmasgift.com.au

I am pleased to report that with your cooperation (and some guidance from the police officers) the congestion experienced in the afternoon has diminished. Notwithstanding some confusion regarding road rules this last week; the current situation has improved safety for all members of the Gilston School community, local residents and road users. The following notification from Senior Sergeant Gordon from the Nerang Police provides further context to the actions taken to ensure safety around our school.

“A number of recent complaints concerning the manner of parking by motorists around the Gilston State School have been received by police, particularly relating to school finish times. These complaints have been made by concerned parents, local residents and by staff at Gilston State School concerned about the safety of the children attending the school. As a result of this, Principal Langes submitted an article in the school newsletter (dated 21/11/2012) advising that this location had come under the attention of Nerang Police. I subsequently tasked my staff to attend Gilston State School on Wednesday 21/11/2012 to provide warnings to drivers parking illegally to move on. My staff subsequently informed me that there were significant concerns to not only the children’s safety, but also to general road users who were required to travel onto the incorrect side of the road to continue along Worongary Road. As a result I sent further police to the school on Thursday and Friday afternoon to provide a visible police presence and to again warn drivers not to block the pick-up area or to queue along Worongary Road. I am pleased that more than sufficient warnings have been provided to drivers attending the Gilston State School and wish to advise that I have now instructed my staff that they are to issue Traffic Infringement Notices to drivers found breaching road user regulations. This instruction has been provided to my staff specifically to ensure the safety of children attending the Gilston State School and those motorists/residents that are endeavouring to travel along Worongary Road. I seek your assistance in providing a safe environment in the vicinity of the school so that these children will not be exposed to any type of road trauma.”

I am pleased to report that no traffic infringements occurred yesterday. The key to ensuring the continued efficiency of the collection is observance of the 2 minute maximum wait in the collection zone. Consequently I will be directing drivers to move on after this time. It follows that arrival before 3pm is therefore futile as children will not be there to collect. Please note that vehicles cannot queue within the car park waiting for space to occur in the collection zone. As usual I, or
another staff member, will be assisting the coordination of the collection zone until 3:30pm. I reiterate that delaying collection until after 3:15pm is a good option for those of you with older children. Traffic at this time is sparse and collection is immediate. The training of your children to be on time is an essential element to the success of the traffic management. This week I will reissue the guide that was given to you both on enrolment and again at the beginning of this year. Volunteers are an integral part of Gilston State School. Thousands of hours are cheerfully donated each year by our army of helpers and the beneficiaries are our students. I look forward to thanking many of you in person at the volunteers’ morning tea on 5 December.

Prep enrolments for 2013 number 80 at this time. This situation has me puzzled given that this time last year we had 120+. Given we were fearful of another increase in numbers for next year, I welcome a reduction however such a significant difference will mean some changes to our organisation. Again I ask you to check that your friends have completed enrolment forms for their children to ensure our predictions are accurate.

Although the Christmas themes have been evident in the shopping centres for months, I know Christmas is looming when I hear the children rehearsing their carols for the annual Christmas Concert. This event is a spectacle enjoyed by hundreds of children and adults. Students from Prep-Year 4 will take to the stage for our entertainment and I invite you along to share in this special event on Friday 7 December beginning at 9.15am.

The Year 7 presentation evening is a milestone event for our oldest students. It will be held on Tuesday 11 December and will begin at 6.00pm. Students are required at 5:30pm to prepare. This evening for Year 7 students and their parents will include the presentation of awards. The Safety House initiative is gaining momentum as more of you lend your support. This week the committee are seeking feedback from you to ensure they best meet the needs of our community. A survey is attached to this newsletter.

Stay safe and keep smiling

Bruce

P & C NEWS
Spell-a-thon
Congratulations Gilston! Your efforts with the spell-a-thon have raised $7800. Prizes will be distributed this week to students and classes.

Uniform Shop
Prep parents, please remember your children will require a homework satchel for Year 1. You can order this and all your other uniform needs online through flexischools. The uniform shop will be open on Tuesday 22 January 2.00–4.00pm and Thursday 24 January, 2013 10.00am–12.00pm. If you can purchase now during our normal uniform shop hours of Tuesday 2.15–3.15pm or Friday 8.30–9.30am.

Senior Shirt
Orders are required now for the senior shirt for year 7 next year. The cost is $27.00 each. Flexischools is the preferred option, or complete the attached form and return to either the office or the uniform shop when open.

Have a great week. Kind Regards,
Narelle Reed P&C President Tel: 0403046920.

SCHOOL BANKING
Be in the Draw to Win an iPad Mini (valued at $369)
Make a deposit into your CommBank Youthsaver account with School Banking between now and 14 December 2012, and you are in the draw to win!

For more information and terms and conditions visit www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

WHAT’S COMING UP FOR OUR CHOIRS…
- Junior choir to sing at the Christmas concert on Friday 7 December at 9.15am
- Senior choir (plus the select Year 3 students who have not yet been to Melody Park) to sing at the retirement village on Monday 10 December.

Thank you very much to all parents and family members who have assisted with transport recently. Your help is always appreciated.

Allison Miller

Assessment and Treatment of Fears and Phobias in Children and Adolescents Griffith University
Parents, is your child fearful of certain animals or situations such as being in the dark, having a needle or seeing blood? At Griffith University, we are conducting a large-scale study that includes a thorough assessment and a novel, single session of treatment for children and adolescents (7 to 17 years of age) with fears and phobias. We are providing this service at no cost to families. To find out more about this project, please contact our team on 07 55 528 317.

LIBRARY REPORT
Art from Home – Student Art Exhibition
Please collect your art from the library as soon as possible.

Bookfair (19 November - 3 December)
Bookfair is on now in the library. Lots of great new publications and gift ideas. 40% in commission comes to the school in book form after we attain $4000 in sales. Times: Before and after school and all breaks.

$25 Bookfair Voucher will be drawn at this week’s assembly. If you have purchased anything from the bookfair you have a great chance of winning!!!!

Bookfair closes at 9.00am Monday 3 December.

Nerang Celebrates Christmas - 15 December Bischof Park Library Resources
All library books need to be returned to the library by Friday 30 November ready for stocktake. If you have any problems please contact Mrs Norgate on 5501 2304.
**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**

- **Thursday 29 November** – Irene Nicholson
  Ice Blocks – Angela

- **Friday 30 November** – Mandy
  Ice Blocks – Mandy

- **Monday 3 December** – Mandy
  Ice Blocks – Mandy

- **Tuesday 4 December** – Mel Heu
  Ice Blocks – Vicky Johnston

- **Wednesday 5 December** – Mandy
  Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann

- **Thursday 6 December** – Mandy
  Ice Blocks – Tammy Bowden

- **Friday 7 December** – Mandy
  Ice Blocks – Elektra Rorie

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Volunteers needed – please, if you can help 1 or 2 hours a month come and see us.

All menu items are available to order at both breaks.

Flexischools online is our preferred method of ordering.

Lions Christmas cakes are available to purchase at the tuckshop for $15.00 each.

Have a good week.  

Suzelle & Mandy

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**WHAT’S ON IN OUR HALL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3.00-4.15pm</td>
<td>Bully Busters &amp; Fun Games</td>
<td>Brett 0408 785 982</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Ben 0403 009 555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3.45-7.00pm</td>
<td>Cheer &amp; Dance Academy</td>
<td>Holly 0409 044 831</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</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.

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**WHAT’S ON THE OVAL**

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3.15-4.15pm</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Justyn McKay 0451 162 346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3.15-4.15pm</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Justyn McKay 0451 162 346</td>
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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

CURRUMBIN COMMUNITY FARM SCHOOL  RSPCA XMAS FAIR

Sunday 2 December, 9.30am – 2.00pm - Live Music, Rock Climbing, Farmyard Feeding, Jumping Castle, Market Stalls, Food & More!  
STALL HOLDERS WANTED – From $10 - 1226 Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Valley - Phone: 5533 0312, Email: alock16@eq.edu.au
## Tuesday Sushi Order Form

To be handed in at the Tuckshop by Monday 9.30am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUSHI ROLLS $3.00</th>
<th>QTY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Teriyaki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef Teriyaki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Tandoori</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Lettuce Mayo</td>
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<td>Chicken Sweet Chilli</td>
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<td>Chicken Honey Soy</td>
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<td>Chicken Avocado</td>
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<td>Salmon Avocado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salmon Cream Cheese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prawn Lettuce Mayo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuna Avocado</td>
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<td>Tuna Sweet Chilli</td>
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<td>Tuna Mayo</td>
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<td>Egg Salad</td>
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<td>Vegetarian carrot</td>
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<td>Vegetarian green</td>
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<td>Vegetarian special</td>
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<td>Avocado</td>
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<td>California</td>
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<td>Inari</td>
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<tr>
<th>VIETNAMESE ROLLS $3.00</th>
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<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Tandoori</td>
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<td>Chicken Honey Soy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef Teriyaki</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBQ Pork</td>
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<td>Salmon Avocado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetarian Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetarian Carrot</td>
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### Totals

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Student Name: ___________________________________________ Class: ____________

While every care is taken to provide your child with the sushi pre-ordered, occasionally the supplier may be out of stock. In these instances similar ingredient sushi will be substituted.
Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is with great pleasure that we announce that we have launched the Safety House program for our area. 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, and geographic locations, all economic groups and all backgrounds. They can occur on the streets and parks, and are caused by strangers, friends or even family members.

An important part of helping our children and the Community to avoid or minimize 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 and businesses 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 retain a Blue Card, at no cost to them.

To enable us to start the program, we are asking you, as an interested and concerned parent or member of the Community, to assist us. As a show of support and interest, please complete the following form and return it to the school, or if over the holiday period please email to promissa@bigpond.net.au.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact me directly on Mobile 0402 802 364.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Bayliss – Secretary Nerang and Districts Safety House Committee

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**Survey Sheet**

Please tick the appropriate answers and complete the details below if you feel this program will assist our Community.

1. Would you instruct your child to use or would you use a Safety House should he/she/you be approached
   - Yes
   - No

2. Are you generally at home when the Community is active?
   - Yes
   - No

3. Would you like more information on how a Safety House program operates?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Would you be willing to help the local Committee and agree to apply for a Blue card through the Children’s Commission?
   - Yes
   - No

5. Would you like to receive safety house updates via email?
   - Yes
   - No

Name: ................................. Tel:................................. Email:.................................

This survey is conducted only as a means of gauging the support for this worthwhile safety program for our Community.