PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT
Christmas is a wonderful time of year especially when one is surrounded by children. Our Christmas concert last week was a fitting final assembly for the year, made all the more special by the involvement of our talented staff. There will certainly be some photographs in albums that will bring a smile to faces in the future. I thank you for joining us for this event and commend all those who contributed to the celebration.

Elliana Slade, Joshua Lewis, Brtukan Emerson and Matthew Clements are the latest students to secure the prestigious positions of Captains and Vice-captains of Gilston State School. Although they will officially take up duty next year, last night they were busy in their new role, welcoming special guests to the Year 7 presentation, just as our 2012 captains Jake, Lora, Jamie and Harmony did last year. I am already impressed with the passion that is evident in our new leaders and look forward to their contributions next year.

The closure of a year brings with it farewells. Obviously, our Year 7 students make their way from Gilston to a wide range of high schools where we are confident they will apply the values and skills that have been honed in their time with us. I was proud to celebrate their presentation night yesterday and wish them all the best in the next chapter of their lives. For some families this is the final year at Gilston and to this group I extend my thanks for your respective contributions. Many of you have been active members of the school community and through your actions have enhanced the opportunities for the children.

At the final bell this Friday we bid farewell to three of our permanent teachers, Cath Cornish, Penny Evans and Gillian Johns. Cath has been with us this year three days a fortnight in a support teacher capacity. As is the lot of these personnel, Cath will be deployed to another location for part of the year. Penny joined us two years ago after returning from maternity leave and has been an asset to our team. Her move is based on catering for the needs of her family. Gill has been at Gilston since 2001, moving to us from an instrumental music background in high school. Gill has taught most year levels in her time here and has applied her extensive IT skills to many facets of the school including the website. We have shared some significant milestones with Gill; firstly her marriage to Luke and then the birth of her two children. With her eldest beginning school next year Gill is also moving to best accommodate the needs of her family. I will miss these ladies and on behalf of the Gilston School Community I wish them all the best for the years to come.

In addition Ashley Skyring (instrumental music), Catherine Finn (contract teacher), Linda Goodell (Guidance Officer) will be moving on next year. Each of these people has been with us for a short while, however they have contributed positively to the fabric of our school. I thank them for their input and extend our best wishes for the future.

Student enrolment numbers continue to change daily - both up and down. Consequently our staff have drafted a variety of options for the beginning of the year. On the first day (29 January), lists of student names will be posted in the covered area along with maps and teacher names. Please utilise the help of the Year 7 students who will be keen to guide you to your child’s room. If you will not be here on the first day, please advise the ladies in the office this week.

Student Progress Reports will be arriving home today. This report is a comprehensive snapshot of how your child is performing against the standard expected for their year level. A "C" rating indicates that your child can progress to the next level without additional assistance. Please speak with your child about the report and pay particular attention to the "effort" ratings.

Time is a precious commodity and those who have given it freely to help our school this year deserve to be on Santa’s “nice” list. Recently we recognised the volunteers who contribute in a variety of ways at our school. Today however I draw attention to the P & C as its members continued to refine the operations of the Tuckshop and Uniform shop to comply with legislation whilst continuing to contribute to the strategic direction of our school. I applaud Narelle and the P & C Executive for their ongoing commitment to their honorary roles and their attention to detail. By extension I also applaud Alex and Lisa and the wonderful Gilston Club team for their unwavering focus on finding money for those special extras for our students. We are indeed blessed to have parents who are willing to make these contributions. I look forward to new faces in these circles in 2013.

On a personal note I wish to inform you that I have accepted a secondment to the position of Teaching and Learning Auditor for the majority of 2013. I will be at Gilston for the first three weeks and will return from the role for part of the final term. This role involves visiting schools throughout the state to analyse the teaching and learning practices and to report findings of the audit to the principal of the school. I expect that I will learn much in the role that I will be able to apply to my practice as Principal on my return. David Cramb will be replacing me during my absence. David is currently the Principal of Woongoolba State School and is looking forward to leading the Gilston team. I am confident that under his leadership our team will continue to inspire our students to excel.

In closing I extend my thanks to those who have extended good wishes to me and my family this Christmas. If I am not able to thank you and reciprocate these wishes personally before the week’s end, please know that I appreciate your thoughts and wish for you and your family a very special time this break.

Until next year, stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S DEPOSITION

Last night I was again witness to a special event at Gilston State School. I saw a group of children who for the last week, months, years have constantly had hurdles thrown in their path keep on going full steam ahead, looking inside themselves for the courage to leap over them and never look back. They showed they are strong and special people who can do anything they set their minds to. Last night was a time for them to accept and celebrate the fruits of that labour. To you all I say may you always believe in yourself.

Over the latter weeks of the break I’m sure parents/carers attentions will be focused on the return to school for 2013. Could I please ask that you make yourselves aware of the school handbook, in particular the requirements regarding the school uniform. Gilston State School is a uniform school. We place emphasis on students impressing with who they are and what they can do, rather than with what they can adorn their bodies. We expect all children to wear the school uniform at school and when attending school excursions, trips and sporting events in accordance with the Education Act (2006).

Colours: Green and Gold.

Boys
- Green/gold shirt with crest
- Green shorts
- White socks
- Black joggers/leather shoes
- School hat

Girls
- Green/gold shirt with crest
- Green shorts
- Green/gold checked dress
- White socks
- Black leather joggers/shoes
- School hat

An optional school bag is available.

In Winter pupils wear green cargo/bootleg pants and polo jumper or jacket with school logo. Please mark all items of clothing clearly with student’s name for easy identification. All children are required to wear school hats while in the playground. Suitable caps may be purchased from the Uniform Store or Tuckshop. Application of sunscreen is a recommended practice. Children are not to wear jewellery to school. The exceptions are watches and sleepers or studs for pierced ears. Piercing is to be limited to ear lobes with a maximum of two piercings in each. No make-up, fake nails or nail polish are to be worn at school, to avoid students being ridiculed or victimised or otherwise distracted from their studies. In particular the following are not acceptable: head shaving, partial head shaving, severe undercutting, streaking other than natural colours, hair dying of unnatural, bright or fluorescent colours.

To end the year I’d like to take the opportunity to thank all who contribute and participate at Gilston. I wish you and your families all the very best for the remainder of this year and those many to come hereafter. May your God be with you.

How about that?
Rosie Rodger, Olivia Patman and Rose Gallagher were awarded honours in dance grading last week. Congratulations girls!

P & C NEWS

As this year draws to a close, we wish for all our Gilston families a safe and happy holiday season. This has been another wonderful year for Gilston, with the sense of community and family values as strong as ever, along with the academic and sporting achievements of our students reaching new heights. The continuing support of your P & C has again been greatly appreciated.

It is with reluctance that for a large portion of 2013 we have to share our Principal, Bruce Langes, with schools across the state, though, it is with a sense of pride knowing the way things are done here are Gilston will be shared on the wider stage. Bruce through his leadership and direction over his many years at Gilston set the platform for how to be, and has seen our children flourish. Thank you doesn’t seem enough, we hope you enjoy your new posting, and we are looking forward to your return.

Have a wonderful holiday everyone.

Kind Regards, Narelle Reed P & C President
Tel: 0403046920.

GILSTON CLUB

Hi Everyone,

Well we’ve reached the final week of the school year – and boy are we ready for holidays!! Last bit of official business - this Friday morning in the Uniform Shop will be the last time to pick up your child’s bookpack. Please do what you can to get this done, otherwise you will have to wait until next year.

Finally, on behalf of the Gilston Club committee members for 2012 I would like to thank all volunteers this year who have helped us out with our fundraising efforts. A special mention must go to Jemma, Mel, Selena and Nicole who, although not official committee members, helped out with every event and attended nearly all meetings. We could not have achieved the results we did without your constant support.

Speaking of results, please find attached to this newsletter our breakdown of money spent. It has been a great year and we have purchased some vital resources for our kids.

So to all at Gilston, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a safe and healthy 2013.

Lisa – Gilston Club Chairperson

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

SAFETY HOUSE UPDATE

Below are six addresses with safety house plates on the front of properties for recognition purposes.

Please know we have 14 more that are yet to be approved, I am waiting for more people to become Committee members.

1/38 Sandalwood Terrace Nerang
111 Hinkler Drive Nerang
58 The Domain Nerang
Highland Park Butcher shop opp. William Duncan School
1/8 Chantil Aire, Nerang/Gilston
25 Branston Court, Nerang

If you require further information please contact me Catherine Bayliss 0402802364

LIBRARY REPORT

We wish you a happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

Fran Norgate / Teacher Librarian

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Thursday 13 December – Irene Nicholson
Ice Blocks – Tammy Bowden
Friday 14 December – Tanya Lind, Mandy
Ice Blocks – Renae Kogler, Mandy

COMMUNITY NOTICES

FUN N FITNESS CARE HOLIDAY PROGRAM CHRISTMAS/New YEAR HOLIDAYS 2012/13 - 17-21 December and 2-22 January.
7.30am-5.30pm. Mudgeeraba Creek State School – 0404 084 195
www.funnfitnessvacationcare.com
We would like to thank all the parents who have helped our Fundraising Efforts this year. Whether you have purchased raffle tickets, sent money for Mothers/Father’s Day Stalls, bought cookie dough or artwork, attended Trivia Night or donated goods/services for us to raffle or auction off - it has been truly appreciated and we thought we’d let you know where this money has gone.

**Total Raised $14,873.46**

- **$303** RESQ Roos Certificates
- **$1,400** Air Conditioners
- **$5,000** Computers
- **$1,300** New BBQ
- **$5,000** Classroom Readers
- **$70.00** Icypoles after cross country
- **$3,000** New Desks & Chairs
- **$650** New Trestle Tables
- **$1,746** Mats & ipads for Goldmine
- **$5,000** Computers

We had over $8,000 left from last year which accounts for why we spent more than we raised! Currently, at year end we have just over $5,000 in our account and have already allocated $1800 towards each child having access to the Reading Eggs computer program next year and $1,650 to be spent in the Goldmine. A big "Thank You" to all who made this happen!!
Mochi with Red Bean Paste Filling (Daifuku)

Makes 12

Note: Make the filling first!

**Filling Ingredients:**
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- Cooked, slightly mashed Adzuki beans (Asian Food Shop)
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- Pinch of salt

**Mochi Ingredients:**
- 1 1/2 cups glutinous rice flour (Asian Food Shop)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2/3 cups water
- 2 drops red or green food colouring
- 1/2 cup cornflour or potato starch

**Filling:**
1. In a small saucepan, heat water and sugar over high heat until boiling and sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat. Pour into small heat-proof bowl; set aside.
2. Open the can of Adzuki beans and drain. Pour into the saucepan and mash with a fork. Add 1/3 cup of the sugar syrup and the oil. Return saucepan to medium heat and stir beans until thick and glossy. More of the sugar syrup can be added for extra sweetness.

**Mochi:**
3. Combine the glutinous rice flour, sugar, water, and food colouring in a medium size microwave safe bowl. Using a rubber spatula, stir the mixture well until no lumps remain. Scrape away any excess liquid mochi mixture that may have been sloshed high on the sides of the bowl while stirring.
4. Lightly cover bowl with plastic wrap and microwave for 2 minutes. Remove from the microwave and stir well. Dough will very thick! Stir as best you can with a sturdy spatula. Re-cover and return to microwave; heat for 1 minute.
5. When dough begins to inflate while cooking, and then deflates with the microwave door is opened – it’s ready! If dough doesn’t inflate during the previous one minute of cooking time, microwave for 1 additional minute.
6. Remove the bowl from the microwave. Sprinkle a cutting board with half the cornflour; scrape the hot dough onto the cornflour and then pat the surface with cornflour-coated hands. Stretch dough gently and use your hands to flatten it. Cut into 10-12 pieces. Place 1-2 tsp. of filling on a mochi piece and gently pinch the edges together to seal.

*Note: I think these are best eaten the same day, but they can be kept fresh with plastic wrap and refrigeration.*
Zaru Soba

Makes: 4 servings

Ingredients:

- 225g dried soba noodles

For dipping sauce:
- 1 1/2 cup kombu and dashi
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup mirin

For toppings:
- wasabi paste
- finely chopped green onion
- finely grated daikon radish

Preparation:

1. Put mirin in a sauce pan and heat.

2. Add soy sauce and dashi soup stock in the pan and bring to a boil. Stop the heat. Cool the sauce.

3. Boil lots of water in a large pot. Add dried soba noodles in the boiling water, gently stirring noodles with chopsticks. Turn down the heat to medium. Boil soba noodles, following the package instructions. It usually takes a couple minutes to boil soba. If it's necessary, add a little bit of cold water in the pot to prevent overflowing.

4. Drain and cool the noodles in cold water. Gently wash noodles with hands and drain well.

5. Divide soba among four serving plates or zaru. Divide dipping sauce among four small cups. Put toppings on small plates and serve them on the side of soba.