PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT
I am delighted to write this today as my first newsletter comment. I would like to thank the Gilston community for the wonderful welcome I have received since starting here as your Principal.
This week I have visited all classrooms to meet the students and ask them about the school. I have been impressed with the students’ behaviour, attitude and general manner when speaking with me and telling me about the school. I have heard great things about Gilston from people far and wide and this reputation has been evidenced to me this week. I am honoured to be leading such a quality educational centre.

While I’m here, my focus will be on students and their learning. I passionately believe in the concept of personalised learning: that is, identifying the needs of every child and targeting the learning to meet that need.

Students are all different; they have different learning styles, behaviour patterns, ability levels etc. As educators, we must recognise these needs and develop teaching and learning to develop a personal learning profile for each child’s educational development: getting the best out of every child, every day.

Another area that I will speak a great deal about is the concept of leadership. We can all be leaders even if it is only leadership of ourselves. I encourage students to be leaders: to think, to make good choices, to set direction and to take responsibility for actions. Being a great leader of one’s own learning journey encourages a student to take ownership for their learning development.

Thank you for welcoming me into your school and I am excited to be able to assist your students to be leaders. I will look forward to sharing this journey with you.

David Cramb
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S DEPOSITION
Working Bee
Thank you to all those who came last Saturday to work in the school grounds. The result is pleasing to the eye and I believe, in the end, contributes to a much better learning environment for our children.

Because of the support, we were able to revamp the year two garden area, around the year three and uniform shop area, as well as near year four buildings on the bank of the tennis court.

I particularly look forward to the after work party where we can sit and indulge in light refreshments, wonderful dialogue and each other’s company. This is what makes Gilston the place it is.

Theodore Roosevelt once said ‘Do what you can with what you have, where you are.’ I say, we did great ‘ey, thank you so much.

Festival of Literature
In March, Somerset College will hold its annual Celebration of Literature. Now in its 20th Year, the college will host some of Australia’s most recognised authors and illustrators who will entertain and educate students and adults at interactive workshops and seminars.

The Kay Family of Somerset College have very kindly offered to sponsor a group of Gilston State School students to attend this exciting event this year. The students, accompanied by myself and Mrs Derrington, will have the opportunity to gain an insight into the minds of some of the country’s most talented writers. Notes have gone home to those invited to attend the day. Those people, please fill in and return the permission notes so as we can finalise our preparations.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Kay family for their generous support of our children in education. I urge readers of this note to take the time to email the school at www.somerset.qld.edu.au/celebration to thank them for the opportunity and show our appreciation.

Money and school banking
Regarding the discussion surrounding the use of foreign currency and my desire to clear up any confusion surrounding it, I sourced this information from the School Banking Co-ordinator for the Commonwealth Bank. It was taken from their internal website –

The Bank does not deal in foreign coin and therefore foreign coin cannot be exchanged for customers. If parents do have foreign coin they wish to donate, they can present them to the bank and the bank will donate it to UNICEF.

With regard to notes, these have to be exchanged by an individual at a branch (a fee will be incurred); the customer is offered the current exchange rate at that moment in time. The exchange rate changes all the time.

Any foreign notes or coins paid in by an organisation will not be accepted by the bank. If you would like further information please contact Ann Pinnock, School Banking Specialist at the Commonwealth Bank Retail Banking
Queensland Teachers Mutual Bank Schools Improvement Bounty

The QTMB has launched the $1 million “Schools Improvement Bounty.” What does this mean to Gilston? The concept is simple: for anyone in our school community, from teachers and school staff, to parents and neighbours, who takes out or switches their home loan to QTMB, the bank will donate $1000 to our school.

If you are contemplating such a venture, this is a great way our community can help raise much needed funds for the school.

Grants & Funding for Youth; 2013 John Franklin Memorial Fellowship - Applications Now Open

The John Franklin Memorial Fellowship Trust was established in memory of Councillor John Franklin who passed away in April 1993. The Trust commemorates John’s love of life and his untiring involvement in the local community.

The John Franklin Memorial Fellowship is offered annually to enable young people to:

- Undertake study or research, obtain relevant experience; or
- progress a project in an academic, cultural, vocational or sporting field.

Applications are open to young people 21 years or younger who reside, or attend school or an educational institution, in Mudgeeraba and the surrounding area.

The successful candidate will receive minimum funding of $1000 (to be used for their nominated purpose) and a medallion to be presented at the Mudgeeraba ANZAC Day ceremony in April 2013.

If you would like to nominate your child for this please see me and I will forward you the nomination form.

Bully Busters

Bully busters is currently seeking interested parents and students to take part in the program this year. The program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3.30pm. The cost is $15 per week. If you’re interested please contact Pollet’s Martial Arts Centre on 5532 4438.

FLYING START (YEAR 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL)

In 2015 Year 7 will become the first year of high school in all Queensland secondary schools. It is a significant reform designed to benefit students at all Queensland schools. This reform has significant impact on Primary Schools. I am very pleased to report that I recently met with all of the Nerang Alliance Principals and commenced designing our response to the Flying Start Initiative. If our students are to transit successfully into junior secondary we need to commit to ensure student success. It is the intention of the Nerang Alliance to build on the great practices that have occurred in primary schools and build stronger alliances and collaboration with our secondary colleagues. Each Principal is focused on building upon the pedagogical practices and establishing a wellbeing focus for each student as they make their journey through this new initiative.

The successful implementation of Junior Secondary and the transition of Year 7 into high school is a key priority for our Nerang Alliance and the South East Region. As such, a Regional Support Team has been tasked with assisting school with this implementation. Through consultation and mentoring, the Regional Team will support us by working with school leaders and teachers to assist in aligning Pedagogical Frameworks and practices with the needs of our students. In the next few months our Nerang Alliance will be designing a transition plan to ensure all schools are implementing a consistent approach to this initiative. Once this has been designed, all schools will be seeking feedback from each of their P and C Associations.

USING ICTs IN LEARNING

There are many ways in which the teachers at Gilston are differentiating the curriculum and tailoring activities to suit the individual needs of the students. ICT provides the opportunity for students’ individual needs to be met as well as being an engaging form of learning for the students. Students working in small groups with Mrs Derrington access resources on an edStudio, often on iPads, to enhance and assist their learning in class. They are then able to develop autonomy and take control of their own learning by accessing this same edStudio at home to consolidate their in-class work. The site is ever changing, as students cover activities within the classroom, the activities are added to the site.

Many of the older students have been excitedly engaging with this form of learning and now request the addition of activities targeting specific areas of their learning. Access to this edStudio has now been extended to all students at Gilston. To access the site at home your child will need to logon to The Learning Place (using their school username and password) and enter the access key in the box on the top right of the screen: $434101775. The activities are currently aimed at Year 3-7 students

P & C NEWS

On behalf of the parent body, we welcome our new Principal David Cramb, we trust he will enjoy his time with us at Gilston, and we are looking forward to working with him and sharing his experience.

Working Bee – the rain didn’t deter our working bee team last Saturday. It was a fantastic effort, and the gardens around the grade 3 and 4 areas are looking fabulous. Thank you.

Friday Lollipop Volunteer – an opportunity exists to be our Friday lollipop person. It’s an easy role to fill, takes about 20 minutes, makes crossing the road safer and the traffic run smoothly. You will get your own whistle and wear a snazzy fluoro vest. Please telephone me on 0403046920 if you are able to fill this role as it would be a shame to have the crossing unattended.

Kind regards, Narelle Reed P&C President

EISTEDDFOD CHOIR AUDITIONS

Calling all students in Year 3-7 who are interested in trying out for the eisteddfod (competition) choir. Auditions will begin next week on Monday 25 February. See Mrs Miller for an audition time.

GILSTON PERFORMING ARTS COMPETITION

This is Gilston’s annual talent show. The competition will take place on Friday 14 June in our school hall. Auditions will be held on 27-31 May (Term 2, week 8). Start planning your act now! All Gilston students from Prep to Year 7 can take part.

Alison Miller / Music Teacher

RUN CLUB

In preparation for the School Cross Country (26/03/13) all students are invited to run laps of the oval before school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 8:30am – 9:00am. This will only go ahead in fine weather. The boy and girl in each year level who run the most laps overall will win a prize.

Scott Slavar / HPE Teacher

LIBRARY REPORT

Bookclub issue 1 orders have arrived back at school and may be collected from the library.

Bookfair

Start saving now for our first bookfair!!

This will take place from the 25 February until 11 March. Thirty five per cent of sales will come to the library in book form. Lots of great new publications and Easter gift ideas.
Special Parent Preview will be at 2.30pm on Monday 25 February.

Easter Colouring Competition entries have been dispersed to classrooms. Entries are also available from the library. Competition closes on Friday 1 March at 3.00pm. Prizes for all year levels. These will be awarded at the following Assembly. Please place student names on the BACK of the entry.

Fran Norgate / Teacher Librarian

SCHOOL BANKING
Congratulations to all the new bankers who had accounts opened for them on Friday at school.
Don't forget to get your banking in every Friday - make sure you fill in the details on the deposit slip and send the bank books in with your students. If your student has siblings who are also banking, send their bank books in with your student. They are then returned to the classroom.
School Banking is a great way to teach children about saving, and it is also a fundraiser for the school as CommBank gives the school 5% of all deposits as well as $5 for every new banker.
Any questions please call Mia on 0411 822 121 or email mia@onthenet.com.au

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 21 February – Tammy Bowden
   Ice Blocks – Simone Beck
   Friday 22 February – Trish Fairhall, Mandy
   Ice Blocks – Tracey Smith.
   Monday 25 February - Mandy
   Ice Blocks – HELP NEEDED
   Tuesday 26 February – Mandy
   Ice Blocks – Vicki Johnston
   Wednesday 27 February - Mandy
   Ice Blocks – Mandy
   Thursday 28 February – Irene Nicholson
   Ice Blocks – Natalie Wood
   Friday 1 March – Mandy, Alex Wilson-McCarthy
   Ice Blocks – Renae Kogler

Flexischools – ordering tuckshop and uniforms on-line is our preferred method and with over 325 students registered and using Flexischools it goes to show how popular the system is. Go to www.flexischools.com.au and click on “register now” or come to the tuckshop and we will be happy to help you with the process. Once you are registered and your account is set up it is quick and easy to place orders. Gone will be the days of you trying to find the right change and paper bags.

Swimming Caps - good quality Lycra swimming caps are available every day at the tuckshop for $7.00. Also available are hats, caps, library & homework bags as well as some stationary supplies

Hot food is now available at second break.

Menu Items - Tasty Cheese & Crackers $2.00, Spaghetti Bolognaise $4.00, Spaghetti Bolognaise & Meatballs $4.50, Teriyaki Chicken & Rice $4.00, Satay Chicken & Rice $4.00.

Have a great week! Suzelle & Mandy

COMMUNITY NOTICES
ASHMORE BMX CLUB Come and Try Day, Saturday 23 February, 1.00-3.00pm, Angelo Lauro 0410 536 697.

GUINEA PIGS FOR SALE: We are seeking a loving new home for 2 guinea pigs. Everything they require is included: Off ground wooden hutch, guinea pig seed, hay, bedding, feed bowl, water bottles and transport hutch. Please call Sue on 0416 663 809.

NERANG BMX CLUB is having a "Come and Try" day this Saturday, 23 February 10.00am-2.00pm. There will be a Free Sausage Sizzle and also coaches on hand to assist with improving riding skills. Contact Deb Lockwood for more details 0438 253 247.
Success at school is strongly related to families that work well. Below is a list of tips that may assist with strengthening family bonds.

Just as a loving, caring family can help a child develop self-esteem, so an unhappy, fearful family can lead to low self-esteem and a range of problems for a child. Sometimes unhelpful ways of doing things, habits and patterns, form in our families without us realising that this has happened. We often just know that life seems harder and not enjoyable anymore as a parent. You may find it useful to think about how your family works.

Make time for talking and listening.
- Families where a wide range of feelings are expressed seem to be healthier; feelings such as joy, excitement, anger and fear.
- Often parents forget that talking with children can be difficult and that they think in different ways from grown-ups. Try to remember how it was for you. The people you liked were probably those who listened to what you had to say.
- Listening means not only hearing the words but working out what your child is feeling behind the words.
- Listen without jumping in with answers or lecturing or criticising. Remember what it feels like when you want to talk and have someone just listen.
- Check that you're hearing your child correctly by repeating what you have heard but in different words. Show you are interested with brief fill-ins like “Mmm, go on” or “Really!”
- ‘Put down’ messages, threatening and blaming are likely to make your child feel bad or hopeless.

Show affection, encouragement and appreciation
- Children and adults feel good when they are encouraged and appreciated. Let your child know what you love and like about them.

Show affection, give hugs, be thoughtful and kind
- Teenagers who remember being praised, kissed or hugged during the previous week are likely to do better at school than those who don’t have this experience.
- Take time to ask what each family member has done each day and show interest in each other’s lives.
- Most people find it easier to criticise than praise, so make an effort to think about the positives and tell your child what you have noticed.
- No one should be left out or made to feel the odd one out in the family.
- Allow each person to be excited about her personal interests and show respect and tolerance.

Share the chores and the power
- Help children to take on responsibilities so that as they get older you allow them to have more say over their own lives.
- The younger the child the more you should be in control, but begin early, giving them chances to do things for themselves with careful watching.
- Use adult power wisely. Keep control through humour and encouragement, not with punishment or threats. In less healthy families there is a never-ending fight for control which is unhelpful to children.
- When children have a real say in what happens and where everyone feels their views are listened to, a very special relationship with trust and intimacy helps build a healthy family.

Keep in touch with friends and relatives
- The more a family is isolated from others the more chance there is of having problems.
- Knowing that there are people outside to turn to when things get tough or in a crisis will make a difference to your child’s happiness and chances of having friends.
- Apart from family and neighbours, share day to day problems with the parents of your child’s friends, (but don’t do it in front of children).

Make family time
- Plan so there is time to discuss things that affect the whole family.
- Create a sense of belonging – sharing ideas, values and beliefs.
- Find some way to spend time together as a family group. Make fun times together.
- Shared mealtimes (without television or phone calls) allow everyone to share information, and to know what is happening to each other.
- Do things together – play cards or games, take holidays, go on outings or walks, go camping, play sport, share hobbies.

Commitment
- Put the well-being of your family as a first priority.
- Show loyalty to your family. Stick up for each other so that each person feels confident in the family’s support.
- Pull together to form a united front and to find solutions.

Family rituals and traditions
- The little special things (daily rituals) that you do every day and on special occasions held build a sense of belonging, inner security and contentedness. Daily rituals can be how you say goodbye, what you do at mealtimes and bedtime. Families benefit from coming together to celebrate special occasions (e.g. birthdays, Christmas and Name Days) and of having traditions about what happens at these times.

Spiritual values and beliefs
Many families have spiritual beliefs which give a sense of meaning and direction to the ordinary events of the day. They can also add strength and hope in times of crisis and difficulty.

Resilience
Strong families are able to withstand setbacks and crises with a positive attitude and shared values and beliefs that help them cope with challenges.

Source: www.cyh.com extract Parent Easy Guide #36 with Parenting South Australia
# Gilston State School
## Tuesday Sushi Order Form

To be handed in at the Tuckshop by Monday 9.30am

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<th>SUSHI ROLLS $3.00</th>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>TOTAL $</th>
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<td>Chicken Teriyaki</td>
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<td>Beef Teriyaki</td>
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<td>Salmon Cream Cheese</td>
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<td>Prawn Lettuce Mayo</td>
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<td>Egg Salad</td>
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<th>VIETNAMESE ROLLS $3.00</th>
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<td>Chicken Honey Soy</td>
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<td>Beef Teriyaki</td>
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<th>Totals</th>
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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.