PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Farewell Gilston

This week will be my last as Principal at Gilston State School. After almost one year visiting schools around the state, Mr Langes is returning from Monday next week. It has been a wonderful experience to be the Principal of Gilston this year. Those in the school community should be proud of being associated with such a special place of learning. The students at this school are some of the best behaved and enthusiastic I have seen.

In 2013, we have worked together to set a new direction for Gilston. We have shared a pathway towards personalised learning with a 21st century approach. We have focused on processes to support students with academic, social and emotional development as well as challenging learners in higher order and creative thinking.

We have identified each student’s learning pathway and created learning profiles for each student which maps their personal, current ability in key targets. We have developed processes to match teaching strategies to these profiles in order to truly individualise the learning process for each child.

However, there is still much to be done and I know that the Gilston learning community will continue to develop to ensure Gilston State School moves further down the pathway towards a modern, vibrant educational organisation meeting the needs of today’s student and preparing them for the future.

I wish to thank all parents and friends of Gilston for their support in 2013.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Narelle Reed and the P&C Association this year. Your P&C members work tirelessly volunteering to help keep Gilston great and I appreciate their efforts and their welcoming support in 2013.

I must also mention the staff of Gilston who have a passion for this school and who all come to work each day determined to make a difference to the lives of every child in the Gilston school community. I thank them for their work. I should also mention my administration staff who have all worked tirelessly with me this year in the leadership and management of this great school.

Finally, I must mention the students. These are the people who make it all worth it. To the students of Gilston: you have shown me how you can be truly Gilston Greats this year. I encourage you all to work hard, strive to meet your goals and always be leaders of your life’s journey. Remember always to ‘step up the stairs, don’t stare up the steps’ in life. Good luck to you all.

Thank you again, Gilston. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year and the very best to you all for your future.

David Cramb
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S DEPOSITION

Book Fair

The Book Fair is back at Gilston! We would like to invite you all to a special morning tea and tour of the resources we'll have on display on Monday 18 November. The morning kicks off shortly after 10.00am, so come down and check things out and meet up with some friends and neighbours for a cuppa.

Something as a reminder.

Here are some tips we could use with our children and is meant to remind us all not to be complacent and how we can inform children about how and who they should engage with.

Who is a stranger?

A stranger is anyone that you don’t know. They’re not scary looking people; in fact they usually look like nice people. But if you don’t know them, that makes them a stranger. Strangers might even use a child’s name to trick them into thinking they know them but if your child doesn’t actually know the person, then they are still a stranger. Explain to your child that most strangers are good, but there are some bad strangers who might try to hurt you.

Again, most strangers aren’t like this, but it’s important to know what to do if you are approached by a stranger so that you can stay safe. Good strangers will usually approach a child only when a parent is around. Bad strangers, on the other hand, usually approach children when they are alone or without their parent. Teach your child NOT to go anywhere with strangers.

Bad strangers might try to get children to go into their car or go to a private location. Tell your children that bad strangers will make up lies to try to trick children into going with them.
Role-play with them about these scenarios and let them know that you would never send a stranger to get them in the event of an emergency. Another good tip is telling your kids that adults wouldn’t ask a child for help, they would ask another adult. So, if an adult is asking a child for help then that should be a signal to the child that they need to get away! Teach your children who to look for and where to go if they are not with you and are approached by a stranger or get lost.

Get as far away from the stranger as quickly as possible and find a safe adult to get help. They can ask for help from another adult that they know, a shop assistant, policeman, teacher, neighbour, or another mum or dad with small children. Teach them your phone number so that they can always know how to reach you if they are separated from you.

A thought for this time of year perhaps

They say that Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another. Change is with us all and it’s interesting when you’re a child/student to see this happening in front of your eyes. The interesting thing though, is that because of the emotional involvement that consumes us during this time, we often are not conscious of what is really happening. As we go into this part of the year, please remember to consider firstly your actions and then the impact they will have on those around you. Care, Courtesy, Consideration and Co-operation should be the words at the forefront of your thinking for the remainder of the school year.

YEAR 1 CHILD’S REFLECTION OF REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day is about supporting the people who died in war. The Great War stopped in 1918. A poppy is the colour of blood. Poppies grow in between the crosses. I learnt that a soldier in a hospital in France wrote a poem called In Flanders Field.

Did you know if you buy a poppy the money goes to the soldiers? Remembrance Day is a sad day. Every time there is a war at least 50 or more people die. Not many people survived the wars. World War 1 was a horrible war where a lot of people got shot and died. I look at the old soldiers as heroes.

P&C NEWS

Replacement air conditioners – Your donation is needed.

To facilitate the early replacement of an additional 4 air conditioning units the P&C require $25.00 from all families. Air conditioners are not a standard capital item, rather over many years now the P&C has provided, repaired and replaced these units. A note has gone home seeking your financial support, kindly credit your funds to:

Account: 1003 4465 [Note the P&C Bank account is a different account to the school account]. Acknowledging this is a tight financial time for everyone, and has been throughout the year as reflected in only 33% of families making their voluntary contribution to the school and a significant reduction in fund raising monies collected, without this donation there is no money for the air conditioners until March, 2014. So if all families can provide the $25.00 that would be appreciated by all or if you can make a few weekly part payments that also would be graciously accepted and greatly appreciated by all our children. As the funds arrive the units will be replaced on first out first in basis.

Book Packs Stationery 2014 - A reminder your book pack orders need to be in by Friday 15 November, 2013. The collection box is in the administration office. Ordering the school book pack is the convenient way to ensure your child has everything needed for next year.

Disco – 22 November, 2013 - The last disco for 2013 is coming up fast. This is not a fund raising initiative, rather an opportunity for your children to celebrate and enjoy time together outside school hours. The tickets remain at $5.00 which covers the entry costs, glow stick, food and a drink. Great value. Parent help on the evening is the only way this is possible, so please pop your head into the canteen on the night and see where you can help out. Keeping an eye on those children who like to trek out into the garden is always a priority as is quick service for food and drinks. Purchase the entry wrist bands via flexi schools.

Enjoy the week. Regards, Narelle Reed P&C President
Tel: 0403046920.

YEAR 6 & 7 BEACH GALA DAY

On Monday 25 November our Year 6 and 7 students will be participating in a Beach Gala day at Tallebudgera, Nerang and Coolangatta State Schools. The students will participate in various sports, the aim of which is to have fun, improve skills, interact with other schools and develop team and school spirit.

The students will arrive at Kirra Beach and start their games at 10.00am. All parents, relatives and friends are welcome to attend and support, assist and cheer on the Gilston teams. Remember to bring a fold up chair.

Looking forward to seeing you there.
Scott Stavar – PE Teacher

SWIMMING CARNIVAL YEAR 4 – 7

This year’s carnival will be held on Friday 29 November. The students will travel by bus to All Saints indoor swimming pool and compete in a variety of events.

To add to the fun, we are having a Hawaiian Shirt theme. A pre-ordered food menu will be available soon.

A reminder that swim caps are compulsory and are available in house colours at the tuckshop for $7.00.

We look forward to another great event.
Scott Stavar – PE Teacher

BOOK CLUB

Book Club orders are due back by Monday 18 November. Please remember to pay online. All orders are to go into the box in the Library.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Thursday 14 November – Help needed
Ice blocks – Karen
Friday 15 November – Alex McCarthy, Kellie Gibson, Selena Duff.
Ice blocks – Kamila Bestmann
Monday 18 November – Dannie Faulkner
Ice blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 19 November – Help needed
Ice blocks – Vicki Johnston
Wednesday 20 November – Help needed
Ice blocks – Donna Clark
Thursday 21 November – Help needed
Ice blocks - Karen
Friday 22 November – Trish Fairhall, Selena Duff
Ice blocks – Kamila Bestmann


Tuckshop will now open at 8.40am Monday to Thursday, 8.30am Fridays and will be closing at 2.00pm second break every day.

Have a fantastic week. Mandy & Nicole

Last week we held a SAUSAGE SIZZLE to support WWF. We raised $111.70. Thank you to everyone for your support buying a sausage.

Next Thursday 21 November, some Year 6 students will be fundraising for WWF or better known as the World Wildlife Fund by holding a cake stall at second break from 1.40-2.00pm. Cakes will be $1.00.
12 November, 2013

Air Conditioner Replacements
Money – Money – Money

Dear Parents,

The P & C is facing the earlier than planned replacement of 4 additional air conditioning units due to wear and tear. Having already replaced 4 units this year and provision for a further 4 units next year, the funds for these additional units are required now.

Most schools in the region/state do not have air conditioners as this is not a standard school capital item. However through fund raising support your P & C has both provided and maintained the current units over many years now. This is a costly exercise at approximately $3,000.00 per unit for replacement.

To enable the current unit replacements a donation of $25.00 from every family is requested. Your financial support would be appreciated, by both the P & C and of course the students who are currently working without air conditioners.

Kindly credit your donation to:

Gilston State School P and C Association
BSB: 064 451   Account: 1003 4465
[Note the P&C Bank account is a different account to the school account]

Whilst your child or children may not be directly affected today, it may be their class next year which requires a replacement unit with the backlog filled as funds are available.

Thank you in anticipation of your financial support. As a community we can again pull together and see a great outcome for all our children.

Yours sincerely

Narelle Reed
President - Gilston State School P & C Association