FOR YOUR DIARY

| Thursday | 21 November | Parent meeting re Yrs 6/7 2014 – 6.00pm in the Hall Last day Swimming |
| Monday   | 11 November 25 November | Gilston Book Fair |
| Friday   | 22 November | Disco |
| Monday   | 25 November | Gala Sports Day Year 6/7 P & C Meeting 7.00pm |
| Wednesday | 27 November | Volunteers Morning Tea |
| Friday   | 29 November | Swimming Carnival Year 4-7 |
| Wednesday | 4 December | Choirs sing at Melody Park Year 6 Surf Awareness |
| Friday   | 6 December | P-4 Christmas Concert 9.15am Year 4N & 3/4 Dreamworld |
| Thursday | 6-12 December | CSIRO Lab on Legs P-5 |
| Thursday | 12 December | Year 7 Wet N Wild |
| Friday   | 13 December | Last day Term 4 |
| Tuesday  | 28 January | First day Term 1 |

PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT
It’s great to be back at Gilston – it was a privilege to be greeted by the beaming smiles and greetings of the children and I have been humbled by the warm welcome I received from our staff and parents. I look forward to finishing 2013 strongly and plotting our course for 2014 armed with my new-found understandings gained from visiting 70 schools this year. Suffice to say I am a changed principal. In the few short hours I have been back I have deduced that a significant amount of progress has been made toward building the framework that captures the way we teach at Gilston. The Pedagogical Framework, as we in the trade know it, has been refined and throughout the year, teachers have been engaged in aligning their practices with the embedded expectations. A narrow improvement agenda on reading and spelling has sharpened the strategies regarding these elements and significant attention has been paid to the integration of ICT devices into the teaching and learning process. The “Enrolling Families” project has been successful with preparation for Prep the best we have had since its inception. These features have been the major agenda items in 2013 and I thank David for his promotion of this agenda and his leadership of our school during this year. I am confident that his time at Gilston will have been both professionally and personally rewarding.

It will be up the Graeme and our wonderful staff to induct me back into the fold to ensure our progress is not stalled and that we finish the year with celebrations of jobs well done and clarity about where we are heading in 2014. The Parents and Citizens Association provides an opportunity for all parents and carers to contribute to the strategic direction of our school. It provides a chance to get to know other parents and to assist in a range of activities ranging from cooking a BBQ at a disco to overseeing the major building projects within the school. This year I wish to recognise our P & C for the dedication and vision in providing the extension to the tuckshop. Jemma and Mia, on behalf of the P & C led the project from inception, fund raising through grant applications and planning, to the build completion, and they achieved the desired outcome with minimal disruption to the operation of the school. Congratulations on a job well done.

These highlights will not come without some challenges. There may not be an “I” in team but I am glad there is a “U” in volunteers. To recognise the considerable contributions of our volunteers we will be hosting a morning tea for those volunteers able to attend on 27 November at 9:15am. Invitations will be distributed, however despite our best plans there may be an oversight in the process and if this is the case with you please advise the office staff as soon as possible so we can rectify the situation.

At school, on time, every day. It applies to your child then you have given them the best chance of meeting their learning potential. Our attendance target this year is 95% overall. How are we tracking toward the target? Term 1: 94.4%, 2: 92.5%, 3: 90.9%, 4: 92.3%. (that’s 92.4% overall) Let’s finish with a flurry – on time every day!

I have allowed myself this week to gather information about our current status so that the decisions I make will be informed. There is much for me to learn and I will apply myself to the task with diligence.

I look forward to reacquainting myself with you and your families in the closing weeks of the year and spending time in rooms to celebrate the achievements of the students. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S DEPOSITION
Ramsey Musallam is a teacher who had some health problems. During the course of his treatment he had a bit of a think and came up with three rules to make the most of the lessons he plans for his students. If you Google him you’ll find a more informative and articulate version of events than mine but for me it’s not about him, it’s about how he conducts himself as a teacher of children.

I want to frame this in a context of ‘all adults as teachers of children’ and as such, share his three rules to create better outcomes in all aspects of children’s lives. I’ve added a footnote* to the three rules, a recent and true story.

Rule #1: Curiosity comes first; a sense of curiosity is nature’s original school of education. Get to know them, engage them, excite them.

Rule #2: Embrace the mess; teaching and learning is ugly. Perhaps we require a radically different structure for learning, one in which traditional concepts of classes, courses, timetables and grades are replaced by more flexible, creative and student directed forms of learning?
Rule #3: Practice reflection: We need to think not only about what we’re going to do but also how well we did it. It is the children who are depending on our capabilities to supplement their learning and get them to their maximum learning potential.

“The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man’s foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher.”

It's now drawing close to that time of year where all students should reflect on their year and think about the next rung in the ladder, tomorrow, next year and beyond. Conversations with a couple of year seven boys caused me great consternation and a degree of sadness. During the conversation they verbalised that they have no aspirations for the future, see no value in education and they don’t want to be at school. Boys and girls, on a ladder there is only one other way to go. Carpe Diem - please!

Stranger Danger
There have been reports from the community about persons approaching children and offering lifts home. Please have a word to your children about the dangers of accepting things from persons unknown to them and also to take note of appearances, vehicles, registration plates or any other information that could help authorities curb this type of activity in our community.

We’ve also had reports of tradesman of dubious intent making offers to landholders to do work at ‘too good to be true’ rates. If it sounds that way, it most likely is. I’d not like to see the luck of the Irish kick in at the expense of others.

Book Fair and Book Club
Book Fair finishes this Friday, the event has been well patronised by the students and parents. Book Club orders need to be in on Friday as well.

P & C NEWS
Thank you to the families who have already responded to the $25.00 air conditioning donation request. A special thanks also to Impact Ministries, our neighbours who generously started it off with a much appreciated $400 donation. As advised air conditioners are not a standard capital item and are replaced and maintained by the P & C. We have 4 units in need of replacement right now and request a contribution of $25 per family to assist in this cost. We are almost half way to covering 1 unit, with 3-½ to go. Kindly credit your donation to: Gilston State School P and C Association, BSB: 064 451, Account 1003 4465. [Please note the P & C Bank account is a different account to the school account].

Disco – 22 November, 2013 – This Friday.
The last disco for 2013 is this Friday. Order tickets online via flexischools or purchase upon entry. The tickets are great value just $5.00 which covers the entry cost, glow stick, food and a drink. Parent help on the evening would be super, please pop your head into the canteen and see where you can help out.

The last P & C meeting for 2013 will be this coming Monday 25 November, 2013. As always you are most welcome to attend. Have a great week.

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

CHAPPY’S SPACE
KidsMatter now has an eNewsletter for families! This month, we look at ways parents and carers can help build children’s friendship and social skills, and encourage them to bounce back from rejection. We also connect them with KidsMatter information sheets full of practical advice they can use at home. Read full article.

WHATS HAPPENING IN TERM 4
Grief And Loss Group - A mixture of 6 girls from Year 4-7 meeting Wednesdays.

Kids with Courage - A group of 4 meeting Wednesdays also. A program on resilience, social skill, self-esteem and loss.

SHEDMEN- A mixture of Year 6 and 7 boys doing wonderful works around our school while learning some important life lessons.

T.A.G. UR IT- A one hour seminar/show by Az Hamilton (afternoon DJ at 107.3 Juice FM) who will come to speak to our children about how they can make a difference in their world, community, school and home. This will be held for our Year 6 and 7's on 25 November.

Breakfast Club Thank you so much to Jackie from Impact Church who helps out almost every week at our breakfast club. You have such a lovely manner that is warmly welcomed by the children. Thank you to Andre, Lily and Diane who came to help us this week and last week, awesome helpers. Thank you to the Zimmerman family who do our pancake mornings which the children really love. Thank you to Jemma and Mia who do all the preparation work behind the scenes, checking we have everything we need to run our club. If any parents/ carers in our school community are interested in helping, even if it is once a month you would be very much appreciated. It is pancake week next week then we will be bringing cereals back the following week. Look forward to seeing you there.

Prayer For Our Families - If there are any families in our community who wish to send prayer requests to our School Chaplain, no need to go into detail, you can access this community service via Chappy’s email samanthab@chappy.org.au

Food Parcels For Emergency Food Relief - Newlife Uniting Church Robina 55789322, Gold Coast Christian Family Church 1300 883 503

Saturday Night Kids Club- ‘Kids Roc’ 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month put on by Harvest City Church held in William Duncan School Hall. Enquiries Sue 0421664466 www.kidsroc.com.au

CYC Holidays Camps At Burleigh - children wishing to go to a holiday camp these holidays are encouraged to register now as registration has now opened and they fill up fast. For information on upcoming school holiday camps visit http://www.cycburleigh.com.au/ or http://www.sugld.org.au/camps

Anyone wishing to access the Chaplaincy service at Gilston can contact School Chaplain, Samantha Bond, Wednesday or Friday at the school or via email at samanthab@chappy.org.au

Classes are being set up at NERANG STATE HIGH SCHOOL and they need all Enrolment packs for 2014 in as soon as possible.

Thursday 5 December from 9.00am-2.00pm is the Transition Day at Nerang High and they ask that parents bring their students to the hall.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 21 November – Help needed
Ice blocks - Karen
Friday 22 November – Selena Duff
Ice blocks – Kamila Bestmann
Monday 25 November – Dannie Faulkner
Ice blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 26 November – Help needed
Ice blocks – Irene Nicholson
Wednesday 27 November – Stacey
Ice blocks – Help needed
Thursday 28 November – Help needed
Ice blocks – Karen
Friday 29 November – Selena Duff/Kellie Gibson/Alex
Ice blocks – Kamila Bestmann
YEAR 6 SOLAR BOAT CHALLENGE
Last week Year 6 participated in the Numinbah Environmental Centre Solar Boat Challenge. The purpose of this program was to promote teamwork and problem solving skills while utilising their prior knowledge of circuits, buoyancy and floating and sinking. They also explored the outcome of solar panels versus electrical motor. This program happened over two days and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves whilst learning new information that they then put into practise.

Quotes from Year 6 students:
"I had fun testing angles." Brock
"I learnt how every part of the boat affects how the boat runs." Ruben
"I learnt how to have less drag on a boat." Rhys
"I worked with friends to learn new skills." Alyssa
"Learning how the boat floats." Georgia.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
CURRUMBIN COMMUNITY FARM SCHOOL VALLEY XMAS FAIR
Sunday 1 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 031, Email: alock16@eq.edu.au
GOLD COAST BMX CLUB SIGN ON DAY Sunday 24/11/13 from 11.00am – Currumburra Road, Ashmore.
NERANG STATE HIGH SCHOOL P & C is again holding an Arts and Crafts Market in our school hall on Saturday 30 November from 8.00am to 12 noon. We would like to showcase the talents of the local community, so if you sew, paint, arrange, hammer, paste, knit, crochet, bake, mix or scrap anything we would love to hear from you!
TENNIS COACHING: Classes conducted on Thursday mornings from 8.00am. Cost is $16 per lesson, discounts for 3 or more children. All enquiries to Rowan Hollonds, Gold Coast Tennis Coaching, 0411 867 971, rowan@gctenniscoaching.com.au or www.gctenniscoaching.com.au
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
Xmas Vacation Care...

Our action packed Vacation care programme is out. Book & pay this month for the **Early Bird special** of $47/day (less CCB) before the end of November. $52/day from 1 December to 13th & $55/day after this date. Book the kids in for a few activities for a break over the 6 week period. It is great to be able to provide this service at the school.

Pick up PCYC enrolment forms & booking forms for the Xmas programme from the hall or email Miss Lisa your details.

We are growing in numbers...

We are excited to announce that we have a small group of **Foundation Pupils** for the Gilston State School PCYC Service. We have plenty of room for more children so let your child hang out with us. Before or After school for a trial. Contact Miss Lisa

Our Community...

We are looking for donations of materials for our **Reverse Garbage** activity during the first week of Vacation Care. This activity allows the children to turn your junk into their treasure. Contact Miss Lisa if you can help out.

Kids Corner...

A poem written by Hannah M at ASC

PCYC is the best
Better than, All the Rest
You're guaranteed
To get all the laughs & fun
You need
Goooo PCYC...

Laughter is the best medicine...

What do you call an alligator with a vest on? An Investigator (Jemma 6y)
Where do sheep shop? Woolworths (Gabriella 9y)
Why did the one handed man cross the road? To get to the second hand shop

Many Thanks Lisa Monteith