For Your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>5 December</th>
<th>School Captains announced at Assembly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6 December</td>
<td>P-4 Christmas Concert 9.15am Year 4N &amp; 3/4 Dreamworld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6-12 December</td>
<td>CSIRO Lab on Legs P-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9, 10, 11 December</td>
<td>Book Packs can be picked up from the Library 2.30-3.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10 December</td>
<td>Yr 7 Presentation Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12 December</td>
<td>Year 7 Wet N Wild</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>Last day Term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>21 January</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open 10.00am-12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>23 January</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open 2.00-4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>28 January</td>
<td>First day Term 1</td>
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Principal’s Comment

At a time when we are very busy putting the final touches to the 2013 and making plans for a smooth start to 2014, it is a delight to hear girls and boys singing Christmas carols and a chance to soak in the atmosphere that builds at this time. I look forward to sharing their performances at the Christmas Concert this week and invite you to be part of the celebration.

At the year’s end I will be presenting special certificates to students whose attendance has been in excess of 99%. These people, with the support of their families have given themselves the best chance of success by being here on time ready to learn. I commend and applaud these students and their families for this achievement and remind everyone that the expectation is at school, on time, every school day.

It is clear that many children form bonds with teachers as they progress through their school years. There are many benefits to these connections as the teacher assumes the role of a “significant other” in the child’s life. With the advent of the social media (Facebook, Twitter, My Space) children are logically inclined to seek such teachers out through the internet. Well-meaning as it may be, communication via this means is deemed unsuitable for employees of Education Queensland. Please be aware of this information in your guidance of your children in making contact with teachers and school staff. This applies until the child graduates from year 12.

Our assembly this week will be more special than usual with a range of presentations. Among these will be the school captains for 2014. Next year, due to year 6 and year 7 groups of students moving to high school at the end of the year, we will have two captains from year 6 and two from year seven. I will proudly present our new leaders confident that each will accept the privilege and make a difference through their respective actions.

When we close the doors on the last Friday we will be farewelling three of our permanent teachers as they transfer from our staff. Kerryn Walsh will be moving to Coomera Rivers, Bernadette Rogers will join the staff at Clover Hill and Sue Purton (Instrumental Music) will be taking up a leadership role in 2014. I know that it is with mixed emotions, that the ladies leave us and I extend to them our best wishes and sincere gratitude for their contributions to Gilston. In addition to these, David Doogan has secured a permanent principal position at Jimbour and will therefore officially be leaving Gilston. In their place and in the places of the permanent members of staff who left earlier this year, we will be welcoming five new teachers: Colleen Fletcher, Steve Broxton, Kathy Stone, David Preston and Chan Moodley. I know that they will be welcomed and supported by our community next year.

Gilston has always been keen to celebrate the positive achievement of our students both within and outside the school and this week I learnt that we have a recipient of a Gold Coast Academy of Sport Excellence Scholarship in our midst. Zane Lemming impressed the judges at the recent trials to be awarded the scholarship and in so doing brought credit to our school. Congratulations Zane.

Our year seven students are becoming particularly excited at the thought that they have only two weeks of primary school remaining. Some of them have shared that they feel a little trepidation at the thought of high school next year however they are mainly excited about their Presentation Night and the celebration day in the final week. The Presentation Night is a chance for us to bid a collective farewell to our oldest students and to recognise and celebrate their achievements from their time with us. It also marks the end of an association for some families as their youngest child leaves Gilston and on behalf of the Gilston State School Community I thank each of them for their contributions and wish them well in the next chapter of education.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

A Farewell Message from Mrs Walsh

For those of you who have not heard, I have been transferred from Gilston to Coomera Rivers. Whilst this was initially a shock to me, I am looking forward to new opportunities that behold me. I have taught great children at Gilston and met wonderful families. I would love any children or families that I have taught at Gilston to come and say goodbye. To the staff here, particularly the great people I have worked closely with over the last five years. I will miss you heaps and thank you for all that you have done to support me.

Thanks for all the memories I have had.
To touch young lives has made me glad.
The children, families and staff touched my heart,
But now I must venture and make a new start.
I am off to a new school with new lives to shape.
I will often reflect and contemplate,  
How my life is better because of my experiences here  
And the friendships made, I will hold dear!  
Kindest regards Kerryn Walsh (Mrs Walsh)

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S DEPOSITION
Nothing ever becomes real ‘till it is experienced
Tonight at six o’clock in the Library we’re hosting an open meeting to further explain the schools position regarding eLearning, show and talk about the reasons for embarking on such a journey and giving out at the end of the session, applications for BYO iPad Program 2014 Student Participation Agreement forms. These agreements will need to be delivered back to the school by 11.00 am on Friday 6 December (this Friday). They will also be available for download from the school website for those unable to make it to the meeting from Thursday morning. I would like to stress at this point:

- This initiative is still in a trial phase, we do not want anyone going out to buy devices at this point.
- Students will not be disadvantaged in any way pertaining to any area of learning whether they’re a part of any proposed initiative or not.

Our thinking at this point is being guided by the realisation that technologies allow us to bring experiences to classrooms that were never previously possible. They can foster deeper engagement with concepts and offer opportunities for creating, communicating and collaborating that were not easily possible even five years ago. Why? “Schools do their students disservice when they fail to teach literacy in the expressive new language that their students have already begun to use before they even arrive.” Prensky (2005).

Computers have changed the way we learn because it has changed the way we live. Students are faced with life in a digital-information based society and because of this we have to recognise that Information and Communication Technologies have redefined the way we should be teaching and children learning.

One of the challenges of the 20th Century was that we spent most of it trying to perfect 19th Century schools. In the 21st Century people need to effectively collaborate, communicate and critique at levels that will see them fit seamlessly and equally, we need to produce ingenious children who can design a better society.

Over the latter weeks of the break I’m sure parents’/carers’ attentions will be focused on the return to school for 2014. 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.

P & C NEWS
Air conditioning fund raising: Congratulations families we have are able to replace one unit already. This will be installed as soon as possible. If you have yet to but are able your family’s $25 donation will be greatly appreciated and go directly to the 2nd unit requiring replacement. Direct credit to: Gilston State School P and C Association: BSB: 064 451,
GILSTON CLUB NEWS

Book packs – we still need helpers to hand out the book packs. It is just for an hour between 2.30-3.30pm on Monday 9, Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 December. Thank you to those who have volunteered their time however I need 2 more helpers on Monday and 3 more on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you are able to help out on any of these days (or all three), please contact me on 0414912217 (text or phone) or email me at lcockram@bigpond.com. Your help would really be appreciated. You must remember that without this help, there will be a wait to pick yours up.

Thanks, Lisa

CHOIR THANKS

Well done to all of our Gilston choir members. Your carol singing at Melody Park this morning was superb. It was a great way to finish off the year. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to help with transport today. Your assistance is always appreciated.

Merry Christmas to you all and have a fun and safe holiday.
Alison Miller / Music Teacher

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The final house points for the swimming carnival are as follows:

- 1st Latimer (280)
- 2nd Duncan (189)
- 3rd Zimmerman (175)
- 4th Hinze (136)

The Age Champions are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 Years</td>
<td>Yannik Zwoolsman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Years</td>
<td>Brayden Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Years</td>
<td>Declan Paech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Years</td>
<td>Eden Tahi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Years</td>
<td>Harley Adams</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Liam Doonican</td>
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SCHOOL BANKING

Term 4 is nearly over, with only 2 weeks of school banking left for 2013 so make sure you have claimed your rewards for this year. The money boxes will not be available in 2014. A new system will be in place next year and only a maximum of 9 tokens will be rolled over per student for 2014. Remember you can also be in the running to win some great prizes in this term’s competition, simply by being a part of school banking.

It has been a busy and exciting year with the number of school bankers growing rapidly at the start of the year, along with having a major prize winner at GSS in one of the many competitions CommBank run throughout the year.

I’d like to thank all the volunteers who have made it possible every week!

Please also note that Mel Wright will be the new School Banking Coordinator in 2014.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Mia Pyyvaara  mob: 0411 822 121

CHAPPY’S CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAW will take place this Thursday at the Whole School Assembly. All winners will be notified over next few days and will be advised when they can collect their hampers next week.

Breakfast Club – Thank you so much to our parents and Impact church that help out every week. We really need a few more volunteers on board so if any parents/carers/grandparents are interested in joining our breaky club team, please contact happy Sami on samanthab@chappy.org.au.

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


You can access the Chaplaincy service at Gilston via Mr Weatherburn or by contacting Chappy Sami at samanthab@chappy.org.au. All referrals however, need to go through our admin SNAC as per Mr Weatherburn.

Quotes

“Courage is the discovery that you may not win, and trying when you know you can lose.” Tom Krause

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you; be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He will not leave you nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6)

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Merry Christmas from Mandy & Nicole

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS FOR 2014 – Have you got children (boys or girls) interested in tumbling, stunting and dance? Cheerleading is the answer. 14/12/13 – 11 years & under 3.00-4.00pm, 11 years & over 4.00-5.30pm – Mudgeeraba Foundation Centre, School Street, Mudgeeraba. Phone Debbie 0417164033.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT Sunday 15 December 9.00am Immanuel Church, Kookaburra Drive, Gilston. All welcome.

WALKIN’ ON WATER SURF SCHOOL is again very excited to be hosting the 2013 Girls Go Surfing Days at Greenmount Beach on 7 & 8 of December. To book and confirm a place, please call Walkin On Water on 0418 780 311.

NERANG JRLFC will be holding an early bird sign on for all new and existing players on Saturday 7 December 2013, 9.00am-2.00pm. A sausage sizzle will be available so come on down and meet the all new Committee and register to become a Rooster. For further information please email njrlfc@bigpond.net.au

CARRUMDIN 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