FOR YOUR DIARY
| Wednesday | 12 February  | Gilston Club Meeting 9.00am Library |

PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT
Gilston, take a bow! 650 students, their parents (and extended family in many cases) and a dedicated staff were the key ingredients for an impressive start to our school year. It was a delight to meet and greet many of you yesterday and see your children heading home smiling in the afternoon after their first day.

I extend to parents and carers my thanks for your efforts in preparing for the year. Your dedication to the cause of ensuring your child had their uniform and classroom requirements ensured a seamless start to their learning. Please know that your commitment in this regard is appreciated by us all.

Aside from the Prep students there are many “new” students at Gilston this year. Already they have been welcomed by the students and will be confident in our space very soon. I ask that you extend an equally warm welcome to our “new” parents so they quickly become part of the Gilston community fabric.

In the lead up to our first day many of our staff members have gone beyond the call of duty to ensure the best start possible. I wish to publicly commend them for their dedication and commitment. Among those staff members returning we have new faces. To help match the faces with the names that I published last year please note the following: David Preston (Year 7), Anita Shefford (Year 3), Colleen Fletcher (Prep), Kathy Stone (Library), Chan Moodley (Special Education).

Another group of dedicated souls are our uniform shop volunteers who braved the oppressive heat last week to ensure the shop was open. If you want to join this team or express your interest in any of the volunteer teams, call Narelle or Lisa on the numbers listed under their entries in this newsletter.

If your child is in Prep – Year 2 you will be aware that we reshaped the classes today as we welcomed an additional teacher to alleviate the pressure of growing enrolment numbers. By the time you read this edition, we will have resettled students in the new configuration and will be getting on with the business of learning. We will finalise any further minor changes by the eighth day of school when our resource allocations are confirmed for the year.

To improve consistency of the language around lessons, students will become familiar with the acronym, WALT (we are learning to...). WILF (what I’m looking for...) and TIB (this is because) as teachers present and share the lesson’s learning intent (WALT), success criteria (WILF) and rationale (TIB). Expect your child to be able to articulate their learning in these terms.

At both breaks in the school day staff members are rostered to supervise students in the play areas. Responsibility for supervision before and after school however lies with parents and carers. Please exercise this responsibility to ensure the safety of your child. Any child arriving before 8:30 is expected to be seated in the covered play area near the administration building.

I was impressed with the apparent order and efficiency that was evident in the car park yesterday. It is not usually the case on the first day and is testament to your courtesy and patience as drivers and pedestrians. I remind everyone that two minutes is the maximum stopping time in the collection zone. If your child has not arrived in this time please “do a lap”. On the topic of car parking I must add that due to some illegal parking yesterday there was an accident in a car park that resulted in an injury to a parent. Ensure that you observe all road rules to maximise safety.

In 2014 we will focus our attention on a narrow explicit improvement agenda that will contain three items: 1. Spelling and Reading, 2. 21st Century Learning and 3. Behaviour Management. Our teachers have formed teams to drive this agenda throughout the year and you can expect to hear more as the year, and their plans, progress. An additional team has been formed to develop and refine protocols to enhance our efficiency throughout the school. You will certainly hear more about these protocols as some will affect you.

Attendance by students is vital for maximising the learning. Our first day attendance was very impressive allowing me to make some staffing decisions early thus minimising the impact on the school. Whilst I accept that illness necessitates absence, holidays in school time are not acceptable. Our teachers accept their accountability to teach your children however student attendance is pivotal to their success. Our aim is to exceed the state-wide 95% attendance target in 2014. Your help is required.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S DEPOSITION
Welcome back everyone; it was great to see the children again and how excited they were to start again. As with every year there’s always something big happening but this year is perhaps a one off with the transition to high school for both our year sevens and year sixes.

We’ve had a few staff changes this year, all a great bunch of people happy to be here working with our children and to meet parents.

Below is a link to a short video, distributed to schools as an EQ initiative designed to help students develop awareness about privacy issues and the security of their personal information.

After watching it you may like to sit with your child/children and watch it with them and discuss the ramifications of it. You may like to simply have a chat with them, after watching it yourself, about the content and how the behaviours portrayed could affect the lives of those who act inappropriately while using this medium to converse. The internet now affects every aspect of life, perhaps there’s never been a more important time to think about the risks to one’s privacy and the consequences of sharing your or others personal information online.

Welcome back, we trust everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday and your children are settling in to their new routines.

Parking Arrivals – Day 1
Whilst it was evident how much our lower school has grown, thank you to all parents who showed care and consideration on such a busy day. As a community if we all work together, follow the best examples of road rules and the do’s and don'ts for Gilston we can all have an easy start to our day. Attached is how to use the school drop off and pick up zones as a refresher for existing families as well as our new families.

Volunteering at Gilston
Shortly a note will come home on how to volunteer at Gilston. The P & C run many projects on a daily and weekly basis, all with volunteers. With so many of our parents in full time work - including myself - it does make it more difficult to find that hour or so every other week to help out at the school. When the note arrives, if you find you have a little time to chip in it would be greatly appreciated, and it really is a nice way to be involved.

Any questions or queries please feel welcome to give me a call, Narelle Reed P & C President Tel: 0403046920.

PAYMENTS can be made at the office on Thursday and Friday only from 8.00-11.00am.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSHUA DEY on being selected in the Gold Coast South District Cricket Team. He will play in the Regional Carnival in week 3. Good luck Joshua.

GILSTON CLUB
Hi Everyone,
Welcome to another year of fundraising! Why be involved in the Gilston Club? The beauty of it is the ability to volunteer at your convenience – if a regular commitment isn’t your thing, this could be for you! We don’t need a weekly/fortnightly commitment – it is only when we have a fundraiser, we might ask for some help. The monthly meetings are a great opportunity to put fundraising ideas forward and also just to have a chat about other school/P&C topics. All money raised goes directly to benefit the kids – resources that without fundraising, simply wouldn’t exist (e.g. air conditioners, whiteboards, iPads etc.). If you want to find out more about what we do and see if it interests you, please come to our first meeting and over a coffee and cake we can answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to bring your younger children and you can stay for the whole meeting, or as long as you want.

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 12 February at 9.00am in the back room of the library.

On another note, I want to send out a BIG THANK YOU to the ladies who helped out with the Bookpacks in the final week last year. I was overwhelmed by the support offered and was truly appreciative of it.

Should you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact me on 0414912217 or at t_lcockram@bigpond.com Thank, Lisa – Gilston Club Chairperson

COMMUNITY NOTICES
CRICKET AUSTRALIA are holding a free MILO T20 Blast Come & Try evening for girls and boys between ages 8-12 years old at Kerrydale Oval, Priddeys Road Robina on Monday 10 February 4.30pm – 6.00pm. Enquiries contact Gareth Roberts 0420 766 414.

ART CLASSES with Sharon Hindle Tuesday & Thursday 3.30-5.30pm – Cost $20 – Worongary – 0407 179 379.
Your first few days of your child's school days are as unknown for both parents and carers as they are for the children. At Gilston State School we have worked together to see an easy drop off and pick up process for all our families.

Parents with children in prep are initially asked to deliver and collect from your class daily. [Other arrangements are coordinated with your child's teacher].

Safety of the children is paramount and at the core of planning. Our process is in line with local and state traffic laws, and we ask you to take some time to familiarise yourself with the how to for Gilston.

For Parking we ask:

- Please park reverse angle to the curb as far back as possible.
- There is additional parking across Worongary Road, when this car park is full there is another car park behind the cricket ground. As you enter the car park turn left then continue thru boom gate.
  - Please note that is illegal and dangerous to park along Worongary Road where there is yellow line marking.
- **Do not park or stop in the bus zone.**
- Pedestrians please only cross the road at the pedestrian crossings.
- Please do not walk thru the intersection across the road to get to the pedestrian crossing, use the footpath behind the garden bed.
- Only enter the school grounds by the main gate or the small gate. Please do not enter thru the staff car parks’ gates.
- Pedestrians please give way to cars exiting the additional car park when they have a green light.

For drop off and pick up zone:

- The drop off & pick up zone is a 2 minute loading zone allowing for quick pick up & drop off of children during congested peak school times.
- Children assemble in this area after the 3pm bell and are supervised at pick up time.
- For the mornings, vehicles move slowly along the loading zone towards the front of the queue, drop your children in this area, then they walk thru the main gates to class. Do not escort them to class or the gate, if you need to do this then you must park in the alternate areas
- Do not stop for more than 2 minutes.
- **Do not park in the pickup / drop off zone & walk away from your car.**
- Plan your afternoon arrival time. Does it have to be before students are released from class? Do you have older children? Could you ask them to be ready and waiting at pick up zone?
- If your child is not waiting please drive away and return to the queue or park legally and walk to collect them.
- **Never double park to pick up children.**