FOR YOUR DIARY

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>14 February</td>
<td>Commonwealth Bank at school for new accounts Last day payment Yr 6 &amp; 7 Environment Centre</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>17 February</td>
<td>Last day Book Club orders</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

It is apparent from your attendance at the parent-information sessions that you have a keen interest in establishing and extending educational partnerships with the teachers. The information shared during these sessions will assist you in gaining the most from the partnership. Your interest also sends a clear message to your children that education is important. Thank you for your continued support.

Reading / Spelling is one of the three items on our Explicit Improvement Agenda. The team leading this agenda is providing guidance and support to all teachers to ensure consistent practices throughout the school and best possible outcomes for students. Students have undergone initial assessment to ascertain their current spelling level. Teachers will base their instruction on these findings to ensure mastery of the spelling elements at each level before proceeding. In reading, the focus is clearly on reading behaviours, that is, the skills used to decode and comprehend. Consequently teachers will continue to develop the skills through explicit teaching at levels appropriate for this learning. Reading levels will be captured to monitor progress and in some cases these will be revised down based on the analyses we undertake in the reading behaviours exhibited by children.

The “Enrolling Families” initiative last year was very successful. Parents and students have joined us this year more informed and confident in the expectations of the school and we know more about the children prior to start than in past years. Consequently, we intend to repeat many of the activities from last year to help next year’s group. If you are enrolling, or thinking of enrolling your child in Prep at Gilston in 2015 please ensure you contact us immediately. It is vital that we have contact details so we can inform you of the upcoming “Enrolling Families” events in the year.

Gilston is very grateful for the additional support we enjoy from families. Based on this support we are able to offer a range of programs and services and facilities that would otherwise not be considered. The P&C endorsed Voluntary Contribution scheme is an important part of this additional support and your prompt payment of the $70 per child or $140 per family is appreciated. Attached to this edition is a payment page to assist in processing your payment. If you have already paid the contribution please accept my sincere thanks for your support.

I will continue to remind you of the expectation of attendance on time every day. The “magic” our teachers weave each day at school is lost on your child if they are not here. I remind you that it is a legal obligation for parents to enrol students and ensure that attend the school unless there is a reasonable explanation. Reasonable explanations include the child’s illness and inability to transport to school due to natural disaster. Family holidays and birthday celebrations are not reasonable explanations.

The You Can Do It! Program has been taught to students at Gilston to develop personal skills and traits to help students succeed. Each week teachers recognise students for demonstrating the five keys to success from within the program: Confidence, Persistence, Resilience, Organisation, Getting Along. Last week I wrote about being a supermodel for our students. How are you modelling these important keys for your children?

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY’S COMMENT FROM MR WEATHERBURN AND MR AESOP

A man can only do what he can do. But if he does that each day, he can sleep at night and do it again the next day. In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and moiling in that way?"

"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the ant, "and recommend you to do the same."

"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; we have got plenty of food at present. But the ant went on its way and continued its toil.

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It's important to respect what you do and equally important to love what you do. When the winter came the Grasshopper found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing, every day, corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer.

There's no greater gift than the love of learning and the choices that will bring.

Then the Grasshopper knew...

It is best to prepare for the days of necessity

Before and After School Protocols and Solutions

A few weeks ago Mr Langes spoke about the responsibility for supervision before and after school lies with parents and carers and how we would like parents and carers to exercise this responsibility to ensure the safety of children. Any child arriving before 8:30am is expected to be seated in the
covered play area near the administration building. There is no play and all children are expected to sit quietly and wait. This can become boring for children and problematic for parents and the school. To circumvent any issues we have the services of the Nerang PCYC on site in our school. This could be a great recourse for parents who need to be somewhere early, or after school. Children are fully supervised and engaged at all times and having fun! Below is some contact information.

PCYC School Age Care is located in the School Hall Monday – Friday. We can help families with Before, After School and Vacation Care. Taking Enrolments now.

Contact Lisa Monteith 0418 277 403
SAC Coordinator.

MUSIC NEWS
The Gilston Performing Arts Competition (GPAC) will take place in term 2 this year. Auditions for this competition will be held in May.

Alison Miller / Music Teacher

BOOK CLUB
Last week Book Club magazines were sent home. Next Monday, 17 February, will be the last day for returning Book Club orders to the Library. No order can be processed after this date.

Parents please note that all payments for books are to be made either on-line at www.scholastic.com.au/payment or by phone on FREECALL 1800 557 908. You then need to return your student order form with the payment receipt number to our Book Club box on the library counter.

Many thanks.

Kathy Stone & Shelley Batson (Librarians)

SCHOOL BANKING
Ann from the Commonwealth Bank will be at school on Friday from 8.00am at the rotunda to open new accounts. Anyone interested should bring their child’s birth certificate and their own ID.

SCHOOL AGE CARE
Ann from the Commonwealth Bank will be at school on Friday from 8.00am at the rotunda to open new accounts. Anyone interested should bring their child’s birth certificate and their own ID.

SAC Coordinator.

CHAPPY’S SPACE
Helping your child to settle in:
Many children experience some anxiety during the transition to school but in most cases it dissipates in the first few weeks of term. Here, clinical psychologist Dr Celeste Merrigan looks at how parents and carers can help their child adjust to the school day routine and shows you who to talk to for extra support.

Making a positive start to school is important for children. There is good evidence that a child’s readiness for school and a positive transition has a very positive flow-on effect to positive adjustment in the school setting and positives in their academic and social development.

Educators are very skilled at supporting young children and their parents at this time. So if a parent has any concerns, I recommend talking about it with your child’s teacher – they will reassure, guide or direct you to an appropriate source of help.

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting children starting school. Children constantly look to their parents as their guide in regard to any new experience. So it is important that parents exhibit a calm, positive and matter-of-fact response when a child is starting school. Children are sensitive to their parents’ anxieties, so even though it is normal for a parent to be a little anxious, try to keep this in check, otherwise it can create unnecessary anxiety for a child.

Many parents worry that their child will not be able to cope in a larger playground or eat lunch without prompting. Others are concerned the jump to school and long days will be tiring and that they are handing their children into the care of others.

Remember that going to school is an important life experience filled with opportunities for growth, skill development and fun. Like any new experience there are challenges for both the child and the parents. Schools support children to cope with the playground, ensuring they are safe and they enjoy their snack and lunch. Many schools have modified timetables and practices to assist children to gain confidence and independence in the social aspects of school.

Parents and carers often have competing emotions at this time – joy that their child has reached the milestone of school entry, but maybe also a little sadness or anxiety as they have less time with their child. These feelings pass quickly for most people as they see their child adjusting and they experience time together after school, on weekends and during holidays.

It can be helpful to share these feelings with others and you may then realise they are very normal. If negative feelings persist, speak with a trusted friend and perhaps your GP and they can help you decide if it would be helpful to speak with a mental health professional.

Here are my top tips for parents and carers to help children enjoy the first weeks of school:

- Embrace the change as it’s an exciting and very positive step for your child and the whole family.
- Be matter-of-fact, calm and reassuring. Try not to talk about school too much as it can create anticipatory anxiety. If the subject comes up incidentally, be positive about it.
- Relax – there is nothing that can’t be managed.
- It’s okay if a problem occurs. In fact, it’s an opportunity to practice problem solving techniques.

For more great resources from Kids Matter please visit https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families.

Breakfast Club is held every Tuesday down by the hall from 8.10-8.40am. We usually serve toast and fruit cordial and on occasion pancakes and more regularly baked beans or/cereal. Any parent/ grandparent/carer is welcome to come in and help. We are normally packed up by 9.00am. Thank you to all of our regular volunteers.

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 samantha@chappy.org.au

Food Parcels For Emergency Food Relief - Newlife Uniting Church Robina 55789322, Mosaic Family Baptist Church 07 5525 2477

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 samantha@chappy.org.au. All referrals however, need to go through our admin SNAC committee as per Mr Weatherburn.

Quotes
‘Every day is a new beginning. Treat it that way. Stay away from what might have been, and look at what can be’.

Marsha Petrie Sue

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800, Beyond Blue 1300 224 636, Lifeline 131 114, Cancer Council support line 131 120, Commonwealth Carelink Centre 1800 0520222
TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 13 February – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 14 February – Jenny Cooper
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann
Monday 17 February – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 18 February – Ann Tihi
Ice Blocks – Irene Nicholson
Wednesday 19 February – Donna Clarke
Ice Blocks – Grant Patching
Thursday 20 February – Jenny Cooper
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 21 February – Alex Wilson-McCarthy
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann

Hi everyone – Menu changes – the 20 cent cookies are no longer being produced by the supplier, but next week we are introducing a $2.00 cup of cut mixed fruit.
If anyone is interested in volunteering some of their time in the tuckshop, please come and see us. We would very much appreciate your time.
You can order uniforms and lunches easily on line at www.flexischools.com.au. Register now.
Have a great week. Mandy & Nicole

COMMUNITY NOTICES
ROBINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 7, 2015 ENROLMENT INFO NIGHT – Thursday 6 March 2014 – 5.30-7.00pm - Performing Arts Complex.
SOCcer X PTY LTD GIRLS ACADEMY will be starting during March 2014 at Broadbeach State School. FREE taster session 2/3/14 Broadbeach State School, 9.00-10.30am - girls aged 6-11 years old. For more information visit WWW.SOCcER-X.COM or call Justyn on 0451 162346.
KAY FLYNN DANCING ACADEMY – Mudgeeraba – from 3 years old - 0414 457 708 www.kayflynn.com.au
TENNIS COACHING: Classes conducted on Thursday mornings from 8.00am. Cost is $17 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
Gilston State School has a proud tradition of community involvement. Our tuckshop and uniform stores are run predominantly by volunteers and we have a dedicated subcommittee (Gilston Club) of the Parents and Citizens Association for fund raising and the P & C are active in the strategic direction of the school.

At Gilston parents have recognised that throughout their child’s schooling there are enhanced educational services that are incorporated to add value to the core offerings. To ensure these remained in our programs, the P & C Association endorsed the concept of seeking an annual financial contribution from each student per year to supplement the offerings from both the school and fund raising bodies.

The contribution per student, as ratified by the P & C in 2010, is $70 per child, with a maximum of $140 per family.

The first $20 of this contribution is directed to each classroom where teachers expend this budget for their respective classes to support specific activities in a range of key learning areas throughout the year. $10 of the total will be directed to offsetting costs associated with excursions while $5 will go towards subscriptions to educational software that will be accessible both at school and at home. Without this contribution the range of offerings to our students will have to be reduced.

The remaining funds are allocated to enhancing the offerings in all key learning areas and to provide specific programs and services relevant to circumstances of the school. Priorities for 2013 include literacy and numeracy and information communication technologies.

Whilst payment of this contribution is voluntary, parents happily contribute recognising the high quality of offerings at Gilston. These features are possibly the reason you are enrolling your child.

Payments are processed at the beginning of each year and payment plans are also welcome if financial hardships exist.

Regards

Bruce Langes
Principal

If you would like to pay the Voluntary Contribution by credit card please fill out this form and return to the school office.

STUDENT’S NAME: ___________________________________________ EQ ID: __________________________

AMOUNT PAID: $_________________ DATE: ________________ CODE: Voluntary Contribution

NAME ON CREDIT CARD: __________________________________________________________

CARD TYPE:  ☐ VISA ☐ BANKCARD ☐ MASTERCARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________

(Please ensure that all sixteen numbers are entered)

EXPIRY DATE: ___________ / ___________

SIGNATURE ON CARD: ________________________________