**NEW LETTER**

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>24 February – 28 February</th>
<th>Book Fair in the Library</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>Last day payment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>Swimming begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>Gilston Club Meeting</td>
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**PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT**

I have fielded several inquiries from parents and students regarding the fund-raising venture that is underway to assist our struggling farmers. It is apparent that many of our community wish to assist our farmers as they cope with the effects of drought. In response I have worked with our school captains to arrange a gold coin fundraiser next week with the proceeds being sent directly to the fund to assist the families on the land. As a “boy from the bush” I know that despite some recent rain it will be considerable time before our drought affected primary producers are back on their feet. The following paragraph has been prepared by our concerned school captains:

“Buy a Bale” is a fundraiser set up by the people of Australia who set out to support Australian farmers. We thought that Gilston should help the farmers by arranging a fundraiser for them. Our gold coin donation will go to the farmers to buy bales of hay to feed their animals and keep them going until the drought is over. We will collect the donation next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the rotunda at the front of the school. Harley, Brooke, Chloe and Cody

Late last week we were able to finalise the staffing numbers for our Special Education Program. The outcome was mixed news with an increase in teacher time and decrease in teacher aide hours. Consequently we welcome Pauline Lewis from Musgrave Hill State School to our team. Pauline is the seventh teacher to be transferred to Gilston this year including Steve Broxton our instrumental teacher. Please ensure you extend to all our new staff the traditional warm Gilston welcome.

I have attached the following table to outline the current attendance levels for each year level to keep our trajectory towards our target of more the 95% in our sights.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
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<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
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<td></td>
<td>96.39</td>
<td>96.53</td>
<td>96.38</td>
<td>94.66</td>
<td>93.57</td>
<td>95.68</td>
<td>96.65</td>
<td>94.72</td>
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Gilston has always focused on value-for-money in all areas of the school and minimising costs for parents is a priority. There are however costs associated with schooling and I am pleased to offer a new regular payment plan option for parents to cover these costs. The process will allow parents to make small regular internet payments in advance and can be set up simply by visiting the ladies in the office.

The annual planning documentation will be completed by the end of this week and will be submitted along with the planning and I am confident that the resulting consistencies that will be achieved will lead to further improvement in our students’ behaviour and learning.

You will notice that we have returned to the original template for the newsletter this week. Due to some assumptions on my part, I had inadvertently bypassed approval processes regarding the other format. Consequently I will be clarifying the status of the negotiations and following consultation with the P&C will provide another solution in the future. I do however thank you for the positive feedback regarding the attractive look of the edition.

In closing this week I wish to recognise the efforts of our talented teaching team. Their dedication to the task of establishing high-quality learning environments is praiseworthy. I commend each of them for their respective efforts and contributions to student progress. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT**

A tree that moves some to tears of joy is, in the eyes of others, only a green thing which stands in the way. As a man is, so he sees. We should tell all our children, all the time, that they all have a powerful gift in each of them. Enable them to see the good in each of their peers and not just see another ordinary body or person in their lives. It’s so easy to see the obvious attributes of someone but it takes tolerance and insight to see the subtle talents and attributes they possess. Because we live in a fast paced world, the actions of children at Gilston School are of that of intolerance or perhaps ignorance to the common courtesies they should be practising to make our school the calm and ordered place we all want it to be. The ideal would be a place of modelled mutual respect and a responsible and confident approach to being a great learner.

**PCYC Before and After School Supervision**

Remember the services of the Nerang PCYC on site in our school if you need to be somewhere early and need somewhere to drop the children, or will be late after school. Children are fully supervised and engaged at all times and having fun! PCYC School Age Care is located in the School Hall Monday through to Friday. They can help families with Before, After School and Vacation Care and are taking Enrolments now.

Contact Lisa Monteith 0418 277 403 - SAC Coordinator.
Congratulations to the following students who represented our school at the DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL. Yannik Zwolsman, Hudson Paech, Sommer Reeves, Chelsea Moore, Indianna Amor, Brayden Taylor, Amelia Hughes, Jye Pankhurst and Chelsea Holloway.

We are proud of your efforts.

CHOIR PERFORMANCE
The choir will be joining together for a performance at the school assembly next week on Thursday 6 March. This will include all choir members from Years 2 to 7. That’s approximately 130 voices!

GILSTON CLUB NEWS
A very big thank you to everyone who attended our first meeting of the year. It was great to see so many new faces and hear feedback and ideas from you all. We discussed possible fund raisers for each term and I will advise you of these once we have run them past the P & C to ensure they don’t clash with their fundraising.

The next meeting on 12 March will be our AGM and we would love to have a 4-person committee once again. All positions will become vacant and then nominations taken. Please don’t let this put you off coming to the next meeting, as there will be absolutely no pressure placed on anyone. If you are interested and would like further information, please give me a call.

Lastly, Mel & I have been very impressed with the number of people putting their name on our Text-for-Help list. We really appreciate the offers of help.

For all Gilston Club queries, call or text me on 0414912217.

Thanks.

Lisa – Chairperson

Our BOOK FAIR is on now!
We are open this week every day in our Library from 8.00-9.00am and 3.00-3.30pm.

Parents please feel welcome to come in and have a look at our wonderful variety of books. Our book Fair closes at 3.30pm on Friday and this will be your last chance to purchase.

With every book purchased your child’s name goes into a raffle and $60 worth of books will be drawn as prizes on Thursday at assembly and the lucky winners will be announced then.

RUN CLUB
In preparation for the Cross Country, 4-7 students may run laps of the oval on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30 to 8:55am. This will begin on Monday 3 March. Laps will be recorded and prizes awarded to the boy and girl in each year level who run the most laps. If it is raining, Run Club will be cancelled for that morning.

SOMERSET FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG PERFORMERS
23 & 24 AUGUST 2014
The Somerset Festival aims at encouraging young performers in singing, instrumental and speech and drama. It is run in the style of an eisteddfod, with the emphasis being placed on the achievement of performing, not the placing.

See Mrs Miller in the music room for a copy of the syllabus and an entry form if you are interested or go to www.somerset.qld.edu.au/festival-for-young-performers/contact/

CHAPPY’S SPACE
Helping children learn about cyber safety from issue 8

Kidsmatter Health and Community Enews:
http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/

Children’s sense of safety underpins their positive mental health and wellbeing. It’s no wonder then that children’s cyber safety is an important issue for parents, schools and professionals alike. In this issue, we give you the latest data on kids’ online habits and speak to a US expert who believes the internet can be a positive influence in their lives.

Kids online: The statistics

What do we know about the online habits of Australian children? For starters, research shows 95 per cent of kids aged 8 to 11 years have access to the internet. We get the full picture from the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Read full article: http://australianpsychologicalsociety.cmail3.com/tr-l-pdyjucejdilruue-x/

A cyber safety program that works

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation’s eSmart initiative has helped 2,000 Victorian schools reduce cyber bullying and unsafe online behaviours, and shares KidsMatter’s interest in supporting schools to promote children’s wellbeing. With a new in-home module available to families later this year, eSmart is on its way to creating a more positive online culture for children.

Read full article: http://australianpsychologicalsociety.cmail3.com/tr-l-pdyjucejdilruue-b/

Breakfast club is held every WEDNESDAY down by the hall from 8.10-8.50am. We usually serve toast and fruit cordial, on occasion pancakes and more regularly baked beans or cereal. Any parent/grandparent/carer is welcome to come in and help (volunteers are urgently needed to keep the program running). We are normally packed up by 9.15am.

Thank you to all of our regular volunteers. A special reminder for our Student Council leaders that you are also valuable breakfast club helpers, see you Wednesday.

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 5578 9322, Mosaic Family Baptist Church 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 0421 66 4466


There is a 3 day camp over Easter holidays.

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 committee as per Mr Weatherburn.

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800
Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
Lifeline 131 114
Cancer Council support line 131 200
Commonwealth Carelink Centre 1800 0520222
**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**
Thursday 27 February – Help needed  
Ice Blocks – Karen  
Friday 28 February – Alex Wilson-McCarthy/Jenny Cooper  
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann  
Monday 3 March – Help needed  
Ice Blocks – Student  
Tuesday 4 March - Help needed  
Ice Blocks – Student  
Wednesday 5 March - Help needed  
Ice Blocks – Grant Patching  
Thursday 6 March - Help needed  
Ice Blocks – Karen  
Friday 7 March - Alex Wilson-McCarthy/Jenny Cooper  
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann

Ordering online is easy.  
Please note our price changes from last year. If you need an updated menu come and see us at the tuckshop.  
Also no more small cookies, but we do have a new fresh fruit cup for $2.00.  
Anyone who has a spare hour or so once a month and can help out in the tuckshop please put your name down as your time would be very much appreciated.  
Have a great week.  
Mandy & Nicole

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**‘BE A PARENT NOT A PAL’ PARENT SKILLING EVENINGS** will give you the skills and confidence needed to effectively parent your teenager in today’s complex media influenced world. St Michael’s College Chapel, 17/19/26 March – 7.00-8.00pm. Register with Jodi David on 5530 2722 or email jdavid@stmichaels.qld.edu.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](http://www.gctenniscoaching.com.au)
Gilston State School Voluntary Contribution Scheme
$70 per child

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: ________________________________