Last week each child was given a copy of the Gilston State School “Enrolment Agreement” with an accompanying letter. As readers of the newsletter I recognise that you value the contents of the agreement and your responsibility to stay abreast of the school activities.

On the topic of newsletters, I am very pleased to provide a teaser this week about a new, colourful format that will be a feature from next term (if not before). The design is courtesy of Beth Yates-Slater who was able to harness our functionality requirements within the template. Beth gave freely of her time, creativity and expertise. On behalf of the Gilston State School community, thank you Beth.

24 May is locked in for the keen group of runners and walkers that have been training after school. The Ks4Kids event in which we are entered will start at Palm Beach and finish at Coolangatta, a total distance of 10km. I have been impressed with the improvements in the physical fitness of the participants already and based on the persistence exhibited in training I am confident all will finish strongly.

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.

Please note that payments can only be taken at the school on Thursdays and Fridays.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>96.07</td>
<td>95.86</td>
<td>96.12</td>
<td>94.95</td>
<td>94.78</td>
<td>94.93</td>
<td>93.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In closing I remind all readers and friends of readers that registering your interest in enrolling for Prep (and other year levels) for 2015 is critical. At this point in time we have in excess of 80 Prep names on the list.

Stay safe and keep smiling

Bruce
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

Gilston Achievers

Our girls are off at the District Music Camp at Mt Tamborine this week. The unofficial (but more humorous), press photo has been archived for perhaps later use. I’m sure they’ll learn heaps and bring back their newly acquired skills to represent our school and community. Great work ladies you’re a credit to us all.

NAPLAN Online – watch this space

In May of every year, students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). NAPLAN was first introduced in 2008 and has become a routine part of the school calendar in Australia. NAPLAN, which is part of the National Assessment Program (NAP), is how governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether young Australians are reaching important educational goals.

It is anticipated that from 2016, students undertaking NAPLAN will no longer complete tests using pen and paper. All students will complete NAPLAN tests using a computer or another electronic device, such as a tablet.

Moving NAPLAN into a computer-based, or ‘online’, environment brings many new opportunities for students and teachers that are often limited or not possible with paper-based tests.

The benefits of online assessments

Some of the main benefits of students taking part in NAPLAN online include:

- Assessments will use a tailored test design. Students will answer an initial set of questions and then be directed to subsequent sets of questions based on the accuracy of their responses. Students with a high number of questions correct will be directed to more challenging questions. Students who have a lower level of accuracy in the initial set of questions will be directed to questions that are less challenging.
- Tailored testing will provide teachers and schools with more targeted and detailed information about their students’ performance on the tests.
- Use of a computer-based environment provides the opportunity to broaden the scope of the assessments.
- Delivery of assessments online will significantly reduce the time it takes to provide feedback to schools, students and parents.
- ACARA research into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with computer-based tests. As technology develops, ACARA aims to further refine the delivery platform to best use the available technology to provide increasingly sophisticated assessments.

For more information please follow the link below: http://www.nap.edu.au/

It’s never too late to be what you might have been.

In these times that we live in, it’s easy to give up on your goals, stop implementing your plans, throw your hands in the air and change course. I’ve also heard it’s also darkest before the dawn. Therefore, I believe we need to instil in our children the ideology that the task in front of them is never greater than the strength inside, and that things (life), doesn’t get easier, we just have to get stronger, better at dealing with the trouble and strife, we call life. Have a pleasant and rewarding week everyone.

P & C NEWS

It has been wonderful over recent weeks to feel a new breath of enthusiasm towards parent/carer participation in volunteer projects. Through the collective actions of all our volunteers, much can and is being achieved for the benefit of all our children. As always your feedback, input and suggestions are most welcome.

Senior Shirts – Year 7, all replacements and second round orders have been delivered. Year 6, printing is pending with anticipated delivery by the end of next week. We are keen to get these to the children as soon as possible. Thank you to the parents who have shared their support in what has been a challenge this year. Despite all the dramas, to see the children wear their senior uniforms with such pride makes it all worthwhile.

Size 8 Dresses are still in production and promised for the end of term. (Fingers crossed on that one. We are pressing very hard, though I could have started up my old singer machine and had them finished sooner – of course I actually can’t sew). Have a super week. Please feel welcome to call with questions or queries.

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

GILSTON CLUB NEWS

Hi Everyone,

Don’t forget all Fun-Run Sponsorship forms are due in this Friday. If you miss this deadline, they will be accepted next week but please be aware that should any come in next term, the money will be accepted as a donation, but no prizes can be ordered. I will be placing all prize orders at the end of next week.

Entertainment Books – orders are now being taken. Follow this link to go direct to the order page: https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/1446u93 I am not able to collect the books until next Wednesday but will ensure that all orders are filled by next Friday (in time for the holidays!). A flyer will be going home this week, should the online option not be suitable for you. Simply fill in the form, attach payment details and pop in the box in the office. I will be taking some books home with me over the holidays so if you decide you wish to purchase one, send me an email and you can come and pick one up. The digital membership is a great idea too, if you don’t like carrying the book everywhere!

Have a great week, and remember, for all things Gilston Club call or text me on 0414912217 or via email at giltonclub@giltonss.eq.edu.au. Lisa - Chairperson

SPORTS NEWS

Too many students are presenting to PE lessons without a hat. Please ensure hats are brought to school daily.

On a positive note, last week we congratulated Kobe Wood on his selection in the Gold Coast South Rugby League Team. Well, he’s done it again having also been selected in the Gold Coast South Basketball team. What a fantastic achievement. Well done Kobe.”

Scott Stavar - HPE Teacher
CROSS COUNTRY
This year’s event will be held on Tuesday 1 April. Races begin at 9.15am and will proceed from youngest grades to oldest. All competitors will receive a house point when participating.
Any 10-13 year olds who place in the top 4 will represent Gilston State School at the District Cross country on Wednesday 21 May.
We look forward to a fun and successful carnival

Cross Country Program
Prep 9.15am
Year 1 9.30am
Year 2 9.50am
Year 3 10.10am
Girls & Boys 9 Years (Only Year 4) 10.30am
Girls & Boys (10 years) 11.50am
Girls & Boys (11 years) 12.20pm
Girls & Boys (12 & 13 years) 12.50pm

Scott Stavar / PE Teacher

Preferred method of ordering is online at www.flexischools.com.au.

Keep a look out for our New Menu Items – Tuna Pasta $4.50, Corn on Cob $1.00, Ham Potato Bake $4.50, Mini Rice Bites $1.50, Pikelets 20 cents, Fresh Fruit Cup $2.00.
No more small cookies or carrot, celery & Philly cheese.
Quench is our new Aronias.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week. Mandy & Nicole

COMMUNITY NOTICES
BLING YOUR BIKE COMPETITION Mudgeeraba Street party
Sunday 13 April 2014. Entry forms available from the school office.

THE GILSTON STATE SCHOOL END OF TERM VACATION CARE PROGRAMME is on the Nerang PCYC Website. There will be a paper version of programme, booking sheet etc., by mid next week down at the hall. We are growing in numbers but have plenty of room for more children. Contact Lisa on the numbers on the Website.

BOTANIC QUEST FOR KIDS – come to the Botanic Gardens to enjoy fun-filled activities, Friday 11 April – 9.00am and 10.00am. $5 per child. Bookings essential phone 0449 561 674

NERANG STATE HIGH SCHOOL 2015 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING - Wednesday 14 May & Tuesday 16 September - 5:30-6:30pm - School Hall. All children welcome

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING Tuesday 20 May – school library. Year 7 in 2015 at 5.30pm, Year 8 in 2015 at 6.30pm. For more information phone 5595 8666.

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@qctenniscoaching.com.au or www.qctenniscoaching.com.au

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 27 March – Help Needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 28 March – Alex, Brenda, Ann
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann
Monday 31 March – Dannie Faulkner
Ice Blocks – Students Year 6 and 7
Tuesday 1 April – Help Needed
Ice Blocks – Students Year 6 and 7
Wednesday 2 April – Help Needed
Ice Blocks – Students Year 6 and 7
Thursday 3 April – Help Needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 4 April – Alex, Jemma
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann
PURPLE DAY

RAISING EPILEPSY AWARENESS

THIS THURSDAY 27TH MARCH THE STUDENTS CAN WEAR PURPLE TO HELP RAISE FUNDS (VIA A GOLD COIN DONATION) AND RAISE AWARENESS FOR THIS GREAT CAUSE.

THERE WILL ALSO BE PURPLE RIBBONS FOR SALE ON THE DAY.

YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS EPILEPSY IS THE MOST COMMON SERIOUS BRAIN DISORDER IN THE WORLD AND HAS NO CURE.
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: [Hiden to maintain privacy]

(Please ensure that all sixteen numbers are entered)

EXPIRY DATE: ___/___

SIGNATURE ON CARD: ________________________________