Principal’s Report

I expect that by now you have mused about the new newsletter format and drawn your own conclusion about the appearance. I am very confident that you are, as I am, impressed with the aesthetic appeal. Again, I extend thanks to Beth for her skill and creativity in designing a format that is functional and contemporary.

I congratulate all the students for their participation in the Cross Country yesterday. In very warm conditions it was inspiring to see the performances and the exhibitions of sportsmanship that were on display. Impressive also was the turn out by parents and grandparents to celebrate and applaud this physical test. Thank you for your continued support.

It would appear that parents are more prepared than ever for enrolling their children into Prep. The word has been disseminated about the success of the “Enrolling Families” project including the pre-Prep classes and it has been pleasing to see registrations of the interest earlier this year. Whilst this is a great start I encourage anyone who is yet to register to do so soon to avoid disappointment. Registrations are open now for expression of interest for 2016. Call the ladies in the office to provide your child’s details.

Quality not quantity certainly applies to the number of books students read. Focusing on a single book repeatedly gives the child confidence to improve fluency and comprehension as the focus shifts from decoding strategies to understanding. Our teachers are well aware of this fact and focus on developing the essential reading behaviours to improve student learning. Every year I hear about parents wanting to “hurry” their child through books. If you are tempted, resist this urge and instead, spend time examining the meaning of the story or text and focusing on the fluency and vocabulary. Take time to explore the vocabulary and discuss meanings and other contexts for the words. This mastery approach will reap dividends for your child.

This week, after speaking with Nicola Minehan (our Support Teacher: Literacy and Numeracy), I would like to recognise the following students from years 1 and 2 who have benefited from this explicit, direct instruction model. Well done Alex, Tom, Macey, Max, Ethan, Harry, Reed, Kirra, Gloria, Torah, Maddison, Tydus, Bella, Curtis, Angel, Alisha, Molly, Ethan, Joe, Jack, Riley, Kobi, Preston, Bailey, Ronnie and Kye. These students’ progress has been significant and worthy of recognition.

There will be no INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC this Friday.
At the end of this semester, our student progress reports will undergo some changes. These changes are based on research and on feedback from parents both within our school and across Queensland. Our intention is to provide a progress report that clearly outlines the students’ strengths and challenges, incorporating suggestions on how families can assist in the attainment of learning goals. Our teachers will continue to rate the academic achievements and effort for subjects and include an overall behaviour rating. In accordance with the Australian Curriculum, teachers will make judgement for these ratings based on “Australian Standards” utilising common Guides to Making Judgements. A “C” standard indicates that a child can progress to the next stage of learning without additional support. Students adjudged to have exhibited learning behaviours beyond this standard will be assigned an “A” or “B”. As with any standard rating however, there may be instances where no child in a year level attains an “A” rating despite the best efforts of the student and the teachers.

The Easter Parade at Gilston is an event enjoyed by the children and adults alike. On Thursday morning I will be soaking up the atmosphere created by our school community while enjoying the performances on stage. If past years are an accurate predictor, I expect to see a large crowd in attendance.

Payment plans to ensure all expenses at school are covered are becoming more popular. Those participating in the regular deposits speak highly of the convenience and the confidence it brings in meeting all costs for the year. If you wish to establish a payment plan for school expenses, please make arrangements with the ladies in the office. While on the topic of payments, all Canberra deposits are due this Friday.

There are some people who have legitimate reason for driving or parking within the school grounds. These include employees, those with disabled permits and others for whom access has been granted by me for specific purposes. Entry to the grounds by unauthorised drivers is not permitted. Consequently a permit system will be introduced next term to support us in providing a safe and orderly environment. If you have a legitimate reason for entry to the school, please contact the office for your permit. Action will be taken against unauthorised entry.

There is a case of Chicken Pox in the school. Please refer to the attached information sheet or Queensland Health for details about symptoms and management. In closing for this term I applaud the dedication of our staff who, like you and your children, will enjoy a well-deserved break from school for the next two weeks. The energy that has been expended in the teaching and learning process and supporting the teaching and learning process this term has been noteworthy and I extend thanks to the team on behalf of the students at Gilston. I wish you all a break filled with quality family time and look forward to seeing you back revitalised and committed to another term of learning.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

A great day at the Cross Country Event

Well done to all students who made our Cross Country Day such a great success. I was so happy to see everyone participating and having a go, you all did yourselves proud. I was very pleased with being able to talk with so many of the student body and watch you go around yesterday.

Thanks also to Mr Stavar and his crew for the work you all did setting up, organising and packing up on the day. Mr Langes and I had a chat about the ‘feeling’ the day had, with the parents being at the event also making it something special, thank you to you all as well.

More exceptional talent at Gilston

Samuel, in Year 2, had his Mum send me a note requesting that I share a YouTube link with the Gilston community. Have a look at the link (see below) to see Sam’s drumming. He started lessons in June last year and has progressed a lot in 9 months.

For the courage of greatness is adventurous and knows not withdrawing, but grasps the nettle danger with resolute hands, and ever gains security from the sting of pain.

I spoke to Samuel about how he’s progressed, where he started and how he felt when he did first start, to how he feels now. He told me that at first it was very hard and he didn’t like it but he persisted and carried on. He has grown considerably in his field of endeavour to such an extent he is a great role model for us all. Well done Samuel

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hwbmym_Eeo
Hope you enjoy it too!!

P&C NEWS

Hard to fathom term 1 is all but over. Please pencil in the 28 April as the next P & C meeting which we encourage you to attend. This is a great forum to have a say on what and how things are done. Diversity of opinion is a good thing and helps achieve the best possible outcome for all the students.

Uniform Shop - Arrival of size 8 dresses is Friday and will see orders delivered to class. Year 6 senior shirts will be delivered to the students first day of term. Any ongoing concerns or questions regarding either the 6 or 7 senior shirts, please call or text me so I can try to resolve any queries you may have.

Community Notice Board - Supporting the school community and keeping it local are good things. The P & C provides the community notice board for community events, no cost, and advertising space at a small cost per term. If you have a community event you wish shared or would like to place an advertisement, please contact Trent Firmin on trivermel@bigpond.com. When walking past, check out some of the advertisers from businesses within our community: Gourmet coffee lovers, free samples contact Natasha 0420824101; Mermaid pool fencing, 55752772; Rent4Keeps 0401712976 (with a special iPad offer for Gilston Families).

Enjoy the holidays. See you next term. Cheers, Narelle Reed – P & C President Tel: 0403040920.
Hi Everyone – a big thank you to the mums who helped with handing out the ice blocks at the Cross Country – I know all kids appreciated them!

Entertainment Books – those who have ordered them will have them on Friday. I will be in contact with you to organise delivery. If you place an order through the holidays, they can be picked up from my house in Gilston. Just email me and we can sort it out.

Fun Run Forms MUST be in by this Friday. As mentioned previously, any forms and money that come in next term will be accepted as a donation and no prizes will be issued.

For all things Gilston Club, email me at gilstonclub@gilstonss.eq.edu.au or text me at 0414912217.

Have a great holiday. Lisa

CROSS COUNTRY AGE CHAMPION RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 years</td>
<td>Jordon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>Indiana Amor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 years</td>
<td>Brayden Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Kobe Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Nash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final House Points

1st  Latimer
2nd  Zimmerman
3rd  Duncan
4th  Hinze

PURPLE DAY

Thank you to the Gilston Community for your support on Purple Day.

The amount of students and parents talking about Purple Day and epilepsy awareness was astounding and the sea of purple on the day was OVERWHELMING!

We are proud to announce that $700 was raised and donated to Epilepsy Australia.

Thank you all.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Thursday 3 April – Help Needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 4 April – Alex, Brenda
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann
Monday 21 April – PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday 22 April – Help Needed
Ice Blocks – Students Year 6 and 7
Wednesday 23 April – Grant Patching
Ice Blocks – Donna Clarke
Thursday 24 April – Help Needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 25 April – PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Check out our new menu items.

Have a safe and happy holiday. Mandy & Nicole