PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
After many, many months in planning the Fair is finally upon us. This Saturday, I imagine the oval will be packed with excited girls and boys (and mums and dads) enjoying the rides and partaking in the activities on offer. Again I commend the planning team without whose time and dedication this Fair would not be possible. The reward for them will certainly be in the smiles on the faces on the day. Tickets for the rides are now on sale at the tuckshop.

To ensure we meet our obligations to the council for approving parking on their land, we still require some more volunteers to supervise the allotted space. If you can help please contact Mrs Sharp, Mrs Hendrie or Trudy (0401 911 064).

How are you on the BBQ? If you have some time to help Graeme and the others rostered on to the BBQ, please let Mel (0416 085 689) know as soon as possible.

During the Fair some photos will be taken and posted for your enjoyment on the Gilston State School Community Fair Face Book page. These will include images of the Super Soaker and a variety of images from the activities. No photos will be tagged and any “tight” photos of faces will not be posted without parent permission.

Students are often not the most observant when it comes to changes in their environment. Last Monday morning however, most of the students I met before school commented on the state of the pathway leading into the school. Thanks to the motivation and efforts of Sean Harper (Lily and Nate’s Dad), our school entrance paths look new again. Sean generously donated his equipment, skills and time to pressure clean these areas over the weekend, yet another example of volunteers at work at Gilston. Sincere thanks Sean!

Last week we celebrated the contributions of Support Staff in our schools. Without these wonderful people in our school the business of teaching and learning would be seriously curtailed. They, the folk who attend to the daily administrative operations of the school, who care for our buildings and gardens and clean our spaces late into the night, the technicians that keep our computers operating and the paraprofessionals who assist more directly with the daily activities involved in learning, are all integral to the successes achieved and celebrated at Gilston. On behalf of the Gilston State School community I thank these people sincerely for their contributions.

Parent-teacher interviews provide an opportunity for the sharing of relevant information regarding your child’s learning.
In the conversations teachers not only share information about classroom, they gain feedback from you about the learning behaviours and habits that your child exhibits away from school. Please take the opportunity in the coming weeks to discuss your child’s education with their teacher.

It is apparent that the flu season is conspiring to dash our ambition to achieve 95% attendance for 2015. At Gilston though, we are persistent and, with your support for the remainder of the year, our goal is still attainable. Check the chart on the left of the front page to see how your child’s year level is tracking.

I am pleased to inform you that we have been successful in securing a $20,000 Languages and Innovation grant. This funding will be utilised to enhance the offerings within our school.

I acknowledge Kylie for her focus and commitment to the preparation of the application and her ongoing commitment to teaching Japanese at Gilston. There will be more about our plans in the near future.

Based on feedback from parents and discussions at recent P & C meetings, I expect that in 2016 we will replace the book pack with a one-off fee to cover all consumables for students. This would be similar to the Prep resource levy that has been successful since the inception of Prep. This convenient option will be extended to include the cost of minor excursions and incursions to avoid payments throughout the year. Parents wishing not to participate in the offer will be required to purchase items as per a booklist that will be made available and pay for excursions separately.

Social media are powerful tools. There isn’t a week that passes that doesn’t have references to this power in the media with examples from accessing help with those in emergent need, to suicide attributed to the negative attention an individual has received through a social medium – truly powerful. Upon enrolment at Gilston parents sign an agreement that includes the following responsibility, “ensure that personal use of social networking applications reflects positively on members of the school community”.

As at today we have 103 fully registered QParent App users. An additional 125 of you have nominated and have received the codes required for registration. The feedback I have received about the convenience of the features leads me to encourage you all to avail yourself of the app. I thank Mel for giving her time to help parents with the process as they arrived at school last week.

As part of continued focus on our explicit improvement agenda, many teachers will be attending a full day workshop with Dr Anita Archer, co-author of “Explicit Instruction – Effective and Efficient Teaching” next Tuesday and Thursday. This learning will help consolidate our understanding of the concepts and provide opportunity to direct questions to Anita as a preeminent leader in this field.

Based on the success of their trip last year, the students of Yerarbon State School will be back at Gilston next week (Tuesday to Friday). This year they have brought some students and staff from Lundavra State School to enjoy the salubrious camping arrangements in the Science/Tech room and the Book Garden. Most of their daily activities will be away from our school however if you happen to see them before and after hours, please extend a warm Gilston welcome.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

The End of Term Three 2015

As we approach the end of yet another term, the school is as always, a very busy place. I see a lot of parents and friends of the school involved in many aspects of our children’s daily school lives. Thank you so much. I believe my appreciation for this work by you is only matched by the joy you all get for being a part in our students success. The ‘big ticket’ item at the moment and for days to come will be the Fair on Saturday and it will be lovely to see you and your families outside of regular hours. The buzz going around at the moment is that the best stall going on Saturday is Graeme’s Greasy Grill, so don’t miss that one!

Inter-School Chess Tournament - Gold Coast Primary Teams Round 3

Last week members of the Gilston State School Chess Club competed at Carrara Stadium with schools from the Gold Coast and Queensland. Thomas, Ellis, Deklan, Phoenix and Ben all won Gold Medals for their efforts. Gilston State School team won the ‘C’ Grade competition and Phoenix tied for first in his division with six wins and a draw. Well done everyone, definitely all Gilston Greats!

The New Gilston Junior Band

The first jam session for our junior band was a roaring success! All played exceptionally well according to Mr Broxton. He was particularly impressed with how everyone was well prepared, on time and super enthusiastic and played right through their first piece! Truly wonderful achievements on a number of levels, fantastic work everyboy. The other nice thing that happened was three Senior Band members (Jade B, Jayde W and Eloise B), also turned up to help out.

So now we would love to put them on Assembly early next term if possible, talk about pressure!

In both of the above stories we see success as nothing more than a few simple disciplines, practiced every day. Successful children who wake up every day finding they have two choices. They can either be positive or negative; an optimist or a pessimist. Their exploits show they choose to be an optimist. It’s all a matter of perspective.

Gilston PCYC Vacation Care

Attached with the newsletter is a booking form for the PCYC vacation care program. Places usually fill very quickly so if you would like to be involved see Lisa or any of the staff in the hall mornings and afternoons. Conversely to contact them on 0418 277 403 or gilstonsac@pcyc.org.au

P & C NEWS

Well there are only three more sleeps until the School Fair!! Such an exciting and busy time for everyone involved. I would like to acknowledge our amazing Fair Committee who has been working tirelessly to put this event together. Remember it’s all about the fair, about the fair (thank you Mrs Faulkner) – and we look forward to seeing you there.

The next P & C Meeting will be held Monday 14 September at 7.00pm. We invite all parents and carers to attend. The P & C has put a motion on notice for the next P & C meeting where the decision will be made with regards to the uniform cap discussion. If a sun smart option is successful, this motion will constitute an amendment of the current uniform policy to include broad brim hats. We encourage you to come along and have your say.

Uniform Shop - We have received a small number of size 8 and size 10 polo shirts. This will hopefully tide us over until our new order arrives next term. Uniform Shop opens only on Thursday afternoons from 2.30–3.30pm. We continue to encourage you to use “FlexiSchools” for online ordering. It is easy, convenient and the uniforms are delivered to your children to take home. If you require assistance outside of our Uniform Shop hours, the lovely ladies in the Tuckshop will be happy to assist as they are able.
THE FAIR IS ON THIS SATURDAY!!!!
It is going to be amazing, we are so excited! Have you read our Fair Newsletter yet? Look for it attached to this newsletter or outside your child’s classroom, it’s full of information about the big day.

Please, We Need Your Help! For car parking to be available up near the oval across the road, we need a minimum of three people per hour shift. So far only 2 parents have signed up to help with this. If you can help, please email us at gilstonschoolcommunityfair@gmail.com or speak to Mrs Hendrie (3N) or Mrs Sharp (3S) urgently.

We also need lots of help setting up early on Saturday morning, anytime from 6.30am onwards, and will require help packing it all down in the afternoon. This is where our awesome parents get to shine, come on down and help us make this day amazing for our kids!

Don’t forget to bring in your plants to the Prep rooms on Thursday and Friday, and baked goods to the Tuckshop on Friday, packaged ready for sale.

Ride all day passes & Cookbooks are no longer available on Flexi Schools. You can purchase them from Nicole at the Tuckshop or at the Fair.

Presale Prices: 1 Pass is $30, 2 Passes are $55 & 3 Passes are $80

Passes on the day will be $30. There will be no discounts for multiple passes on the day, so save money and get them early! Individual rides on the day will be $5 each.

Receipts for passes purchased through Flexi Schools will be delivered in an envelope to the name of the child’s account through which they were purchased in the week before the Fair. Cash purchasers of passes must pick up their receipt from the Tuckshop before the Fair. This receipt MUST be presented to the Ticket Box on the oval before an Unlimited Ride Stamp will be given. Lost receipts are not the responsibility of the school.

2016 PREP ENROLMENTS
Our Pre-Prep classes and screeners are well under way and we have had some wonderful feedback from both parents and students. The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know some of the processes, environments and staff they will encounter when they begin school next year.

On Tuesday 13 October we will be holding our Prep Orientation Day. This is for parents and children enrolling in Prep 2016. The information at this session will be different from that presented at the information sessions held earlier in the year so it is important that everyone attend.

If you have a child beginning Prep in 2016, and have not already completed an application please contact the office to do so immediately.

GILSTON ART SHOW NEWS
Wow week 9 already!! The artwork from the classes is looking great and the Gilston Art Team, along with our fabulous parent helpers, are working hard to mount and display the work. Special thanks to Jenny Brown for her help, we couldn’t do this without her energy and direction!!

For all those planning to bring in artwork from home please collect the labels and waiver forms from the library and deliver your art to the library during week 1 Term 4. The Art Show is Term 4 - Friday 23 October 2015.

The Gilston Art Show Team

CHOIR AND BAND PERFORMANCE
The junior and senior choirs will be performing at the Gilston Fair this Saturday. Our performance time is 12.50pm. Choir members need to listen out for the school band at 12.20pm as we will be on stage directly after. The choir and band students can wear free dress for this performance.

TUCKSHOP REPORT
Thursday 10 September – Tracey Zimmerman / Rebecca Moore
Ice Blocks – Karen Crabb
Friday 11 September - Teresa Evans / Sally McRobert
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Monday 14 September - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 15 September - Dorothy
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Wednesday 16 September – Dorothy
Ice Blocks – Kath Sleep
Thursday 17 September – Tracey Zimmerman
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Friday 18 September – Kristy Griffin / Tammy S
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Just letting everyone know that Slush Puppie have a competition running. Buy a Slushie at the tuckshop for your chance to win backpacks, drink bottles, toys and lots more.

Congratulations to our first winner Alicia Swayney, from 1S. Alicia won a Slush Puppie Missile toy.

As the end of term is nearing, I would like to thank all my wonderful and hardworking volunteers. Thanks to you all for your time, effort and support. Also thank you to Mel Wright and Karen Bowden for all your support and effort, because without all of you I couldn’t do what we all love doing, feeding the kids.

Have a great week. Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICE
JUMP? SWIM SCHOOL NERANG – Opening soon – 19a/74 Beaudesert-Nerang Road, Nerang. nerang@jumpswallschools.com.au – 0413 079 359. 3 months to 8+ years.

SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP – 7-17 years, 3 days 9.00-3.00pm. www.southportyachtclub.com.au or 5537 7030.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINIC – Rookies2Reds – 4 hr coaching session - $40 (valued at over $300) – family pass to 2015 National Rugby Championship or 2016 St George Queensland Reds home game. Register online rookies2reds.com.au or phone 1300 753 733.

TITANS SCHOOL HOLIDAY BEACH CLINIC – Wednesday 30 September 9.00am-1.00pm, North Kirra Beach, end of Lang Street, $40 per child 5-13 years. events@titans.com.au or 5656 5650.

TWEED HEADS & COOLANGATTA SLSC - GREENMOUNT BEACH
NIPPIERS SIGN-ON DAY - for new (bring birth certificate) & renewing members - Saturday 12 September 9.00-11.00am Oasis Pools, Banora Point. Must be 5 years of age as at 30 September 2015. Please remember to bring togs and goggles. Entry of $3.50 applies for swimmers only at the pool.

YOGA CLASSES: Monday evening: 6.00pm - Frank Chaston Oval (across the road from school) - Hall at the rear. All levels welcome. Any questions contact Trudy 0401 911 064.

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au