



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

**Welcome back** ladies and gentlemen. In ten weeks we will bid farewell to the 2015 school year. Between now and then however there is much to be achieved and I am confident that **our team will deliver positive outcomes** in accordance to standards to which we have become accustomed.

It was a delight to welcome back the students yesterday morning as I did a round of the school. They were all **focused on the core business of learning** and were happy to be back among their friends. Judging by their demonstrated abilities, I know they will be **well-prepared for their transition to the next year**.

It is difficult to avoid the media references to the sporting achievements this week following football grand finals and World Cup action. It is readily apparent that the facets of the **You Can Do It! program** we promote were required for these athletes to attain these lofty heights. We will continue to build on your work to ensure that our students are **organised, persistent, resilient, and confident** and are able to **get along** with others so that they can excel in their chosen fields.

The two agenda items on our **explicit improvement agenda** this year are listed in the left column of the newsletter each week to ensure you are aware of our commitment. I am **very proud of the progress** that has been attained in both areas this year and **recognise the accountability and dedication shown by our teaching and support staff**. As we conclude this year we will again be **measuring progress**, in particular the impact our **instructional methods** have had on the students' outcomes. I forecast that there will be **much to celebrate** in this regard.

**Orientation Day is next Tuesday**, a chance for the children for next year's prep to experience the classroom while mums and dads can learn more about our school and have their questions answered. **This is an important time** for both groups as perpetuating the culture that we enjoy at Gilston requires some fundamental understanding and shared beliefs. **I look forward to seeing all families on the day**.

**Book Character Parade** is a highlight on our Gilston calendar and will occur **next Friday**. I invite you to share the fun by coming along to witness the spectacle of 600 individual costumes depicting characters from favourite books. On the **following Friday** we will all marvel at our students' **artistic talents** as we browse the collections during the **Family Arts night**.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday	13 October	Prep Orientation Day
Friday	16 October	Book Character Parade
<b>Monday</b>	<b>19 October</b>	<b>Pupil Free Day</b> P & C Meeting 7.00pm
Friday	23 October	Family Arts Night

#### 2015 Explicit Improvement Agenda

- Guided Reading
- Explicit Instruction – Short to long-term memory

#### Gilston Expectations

- Be a Learner
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

#### Current Attendance Levels

P	1	2	3	4	5	6
93.99	93.82	93.92	93.15	93.00	93.59	93.17

After an internal selection process, the **Gilston representatives for the Speaking Out Competition** have been selected. **Zahlia Jeffery (4), James Bruce (5) and Taj Hoff (6)** will be presenting their speeches next week at Nerang State High School in the competition against students from schools in our **Nerang Alliance**. I know they will represent Gilston well and wish them well in their respective divisions.

In closing this week I send an interesting request to you all... Do you have some **school shorts** that are no longer required for your children? Our emergency supplies in the office have depleted and we would be **grateful for any donations**.

Stay safe and keep smiling as we make the most of the final 10 weeks of the year.

Bruce

**THERE WILL BE NO BREAKFAST CLUB THIS THURSDAY** due to Chappy being unwell. All will be back to normal next week.

#### **PREP ORIENTATION DAY**

Next Tuesday 13 October we will be holding our **Prep Orientation Day**. This is for parents and children enrolling in Prep 2016. The session will run from 9.00-11.00am.

If you have not already done so, please RSVP as soon as possible to [jangu19@eq.edu.au](mailto:jangu19@eq.edu.au).

**SPORT NEWS** – Year 1 pupil Angel Smith competed at the Queensland Karate titles on Sunday and received 1<sup>st</sup> place in traditional sparring. She will now compete at the Australian open and in the Australian titles. Congratulations Angel.

Year 6 pupil Amelia Hughes has been selected to represent South Coast in Discus at the State Athletics Carnival. Good luck Amelia.

Swimming lessons begin tomorrow for Prep, Year 3 and Year 5. We look forward to another successful swim season.

#### **GILSTON ART SHOW NEWS**

Has your child been creative during the holidays? For all those planning to bring in artwork from home please collect the labels and waiver forms from the library. Make sure that the art work is framed/mounted ready for display and that the name label and waiver form is securely attached. Then deliver your art to the library during the first week of term 4. Gilston Family Arts Night is **Friday 23 October**. Art show winners will be announced on the evening at 6pm.

#### **MATHS OLYMPIAD NEWS**

During the last week of Term 3 our Maths Olympiad Team finished the final exam in the 2015 Maths Olympiad Competition. Congratulations to the year 6 students in our team for improving their problem solving skills and maths scores as the competition progressed.

Certificates and awards will be handed out to the Team at a school assembly later this term.

#### **LIBRARY NEWS**

The library has lots of new books for students to borrow. Please return the books borrowed over the holidays this week.

Our Book Fair will be held from Monday 9 November to Monday 23 November. Please support our school library by purchasing a book.

Thank you.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

#### **FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER – Michelle Davies**

Hi to everyone here at the Gilston State School. I'd like to introduce myself for those of you who don't yet know me. My name is Michelle Davies and I'm the new Guidance Officer here at the school this year.

I've been meeting lots of lovely people since commencing at

Gilston at the beginning of the 2015 school year. I've been busy forming new connections with many wonderful children and their families here at the school and also getting to know some of the hard working and dedicated staff at Gilston.

As I reflect on my early days here at the school, it helps me to understand what it might actually be like for many of our newer children when they too have to change schools and start to build brand new connections....when they too have to leave what they know, what they find familiar..... and start afresh.

After we have lived or worked in one place for a long time we can tend to forget how difficult it can be for our newer children and also for our newer families. It can be hard to leave a familiar community where everyone was closely connected and start anew. Most people who move usually miss the friendly faces and the security of previous social relationships.

Perhaps we could all try to remember the importance of extending that warm hand of friendship to our new arrivals and remember to become proactive in helping these newer children and their families to feel comfortable and welcome in their new school environment as well.

#### **Feeling Connected**

We know that when our kids feel like they are really connected in their school communities, and when they are well cared for within a loving and supportive family, it is much easier for them to make positive progress both academically and also socially/emotionally.

Connected children are less likely to experience bullying. They are more able to bounce back if things happen to go wrong.

Connected children will usually be more willing to take on new responsibilities and will often show greater initiative. They are more likely to have a positive 'let's have a go' attitude.

#### **Let's help our children to connect**

We might have to actually listen to, and coach our kids in how to form new supportive connections.....we might need to model pro-social behaviours ourselves, as well as ask the right questions, engage them in positive social experiences, read them the right stories and engage them in the right media so that they are able to develop their own proactive social skills.

Some protective elements and ideas that can help our kids to form good social skills and develop warm connections with others include:

- **Pro-actively learning how to be kind and friendly ...** learning to smile at others, chat, talk in a friendly way, share their play things and their interests as they build new relationships
- **Learning to look for and celebrate life's positives....**trying to think about what went right in their day rather than what went wrong; children who constantly focus on negatives often start to believe their glass is half empty rather than half full-ask them "What were the good things that happened today?" and share their happiness in the things that went well for them
- **Learning to have empathy for others they play and relate with....**learning to genuinely care about the happiness of those around them and developing an understanding of how they themselves can create a positive and compassionate connection with others
- **Feeling cared for by their own family.....**knowing they can ask for help when they need it
- **Learning what to talk about and how to join in conversations;** learning how to ask questions to find out about other children and their interests

- **Scheduling play dates.....**one family meeting another family down at the park after school to get to know them all better
- **Learning how to talk to someone new...** encouraging our children to open up and try to get to know another child even if they don't know them very well yet...this can be difficult for both children and adults as we all like to stay within our personal comfort zone
- **Helping them to explore connections based on similar interests.....**Getting together with families and children who might share similar interests to their own i.e. fishing, tennis, golf, or joining clubs such as the surf lifesaving nippers activities etc
- **Engaging our kids in weekend activities with other children from the school** i.e. park/beach dates, sporting team participation, dance classes, gymnastics, footy etc
- **Encouraging our kids to build warm and supportive relationships with their teachers** – teaching children how to be helpful and considerate of their teachers as they go about their busy days working with so many different children with different learning needs
- **Attending school concerts, parent meetings, and the many other school related social events** that are regularly held by the school's parents and teaching community.

#### **TUCKSHOP REPORT**

Thursday 8 October - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 9 October – Teresa Evans / Sally McRobert

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 12 October – Karen B / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 13 October – Dorothy

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 14 October – Dorothy / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Kath Sleep

Thursday 15 October - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Karen Crabb

Friday 16 October – Kirsty Griffin / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Have a great week. Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor

#### **COMMUNITY NOTICE**

##### **WESTERN WARRIORS BASKETBALL CLUB SIGN ON 7/10/15.**

If you require any further information, visit their website

<http://westernwarriors.com.au>, contact Adam on 0477 076 665 or

pop them an email at [warriors@seahawksqc.com.au](mailto:warriors@seahawksqc.com.au).

##### **GOLD COAST DOLPHINS – MILO T20 BLAST PROGRAM –**

Kerrydale Oval, Priddeys Road, Robina. Free for the first 32 girls!!! \$99 – 8 week program. Friday 23/15/15 4.30-5.30pm. [playcricket.com.au](http://playcricket.com.au).

##### **VILLAGE CRAFT FAIR MUDGEERABA UNITING CHURCH,**

**FRANKLIN DRIVE** – Friday 23/10/15 9.00am-4.00pm & Saturday 24/10/15 8.00am-2.00pm. For bookings and enquiries phone 0417 608 705.

**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.

