PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Jasmine, one of our youngest students, is doing it tough at the moment. She is currently in hospital where she is undergoing treatment for a serious illness. This is a stressful time for Jasmine and her family and they have been very appreciative of the offer of support from our community. For now they have indicated that they are comforted knowing that the people of Gilston are sending positive thoughts and prayers for Jasmine. I have communicated that our offer of assistance remains should there be a need with which we can help.

Throughout this week we have welcomed some additional students to Gilston. These Japanese students ranging in age from 10 to 15 have been enjoying being part of some of our Gilston families as they take part in this special tour. This coming September break some of our students will be part of the tour that has been planned to enjoy living in Japan for a short while. These experiences are highly beneficial for both those visiting and those hosting. Future opportunities to apply to host will be advertised.

The imminent arrival of the same day absence reporting hones our focus on ensuring all the records of phone numbers are accurate. The mobile phone numbers that have been nominated by you will be used for this function. I therefore ask that you ensure any changes are shared with the office staff immediately.

At first glance at the NAPLAN summary for our school I can share that our average scores for all areas in Year 3 and 5 are either at or above the national averages. We will drill deeper into this data in the coming weeks to identify and address any areas of concern.

The bush dance this Friday has been designed by our wonderful volunteers as a family event. It deliberately coincides with the visit by our Japanese visitors and promises to be lots of fun. Students must be accompanied by adults. And, whilst it is not compulsory for the “big people” to join in, it is a sure recipe to ensuring the event is memorable for the children.

2016 Explicit Improvement Agenda
• Mastery of maths concepts – efficiency through CMC program
• Embedding scripted guided reading and monitoring of reading behaviours
• Embedding consolidation instruction through slides

Gilston Expectations
• Be a Learner
• Be Responsible
• Be Respectful
• Be Safe

Current Attendance Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>1</th>
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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<th>6</th>
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<td></td>
<td>94.93</td>
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<td>94.54</td>
<td>94.73</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>94.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Congratulations to drivers who use the collection zone. Last Wednesday at 3.00pm this photo was taken of this space – not one car! This had a positive effect on the flow of traffic within and outside the car park. Thank you for timing your collection to assist in this regard.

On the last two days of this month we will be capturing the beautiful smiles of all students in the school. More details about how you can order school photos will be distributed soon.

**Moderating**

Moderating the work of our students against others in the same level within the school is important for consistency of judgement. In the Nerang Alliance of Schools we recognise the importance of conducting this exercise beyond the school to ensure we are all rating students consistently against the Australian Curriculum. To this end we have designed a moderation model in which representatives from each of our schools will be trained in the coming weeks. These teachers will then share their learning to ensure that our planning, assessments and guides to making judgements are aligned for our moderation in term four.

The last two weeks of the term I will be taking long service leave and am looking forward to travelling throughout our wonderful country. During my absence, Graeme will be Principal.

If you share my fascination with sport you are likely to be buoyed by the talents on display at the Olympics in Rio. As I wrote last week, the stories behind each of these athletes is inspiring and something we can share with young people to illustrate the personal traits required to attain goals, sporting or otherwise.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

The challenge of addressing attitudinal change at school in students

On a daily basis students are reminded of the rules and ways of operating responsibly while they are at school. On a daily basis we see students ignoring these rules and ways of proper social interaction. When things go wrong there are always two versions of events as they took place. One story is about how one was aggrieved and felt, the other is about what were the series of events that actually happened.

Children's minds are being overly dictated to by the region of the brain (Amygdala), which regulates emotions, emotional behaviour and motivation. This in turn can play a very important role in storing memories and connecting them to emotions, the function of the Hippocampus. From this process habits are formed.

Students are constantly being reminded of what the expectation is and they are able to verbalise back very capably those expectations, respective to the situation which has arisen. A problem arises for someone when they get into the habit of drawing on emotions (knee jerk reactions), to problem solve and make poor decisions based on that perspective.

Students seemingly have difficulty with this concept of ‘the what’, and regularly fall into the more subjective realm of ‘the how’, what can be described as Chronic Truth Aversion Disorder (CTAD).

The trouble with the truth is that it’s quite subjective. One person’s perception of ‘truth’ can differ to another’s. There are a number of factors which can determine these differences. It’s not about who is telling the most truth, moreover one of who has the more accurate, rational account of a series of events over emotional thoughts and responses.

So here is the challenge for all students, to overcome floored, egocentric, emotional response driven thinking, to objective, rational ways of thinking and doing.

**Leisure Reading**

Leisure reading can also be known as recreational reading, pleasure reading, free voluntary reading and independent reading. It is independent, self-selected reading of a continuous text for a wide range of personal and social purposes. Young people who view reading as enjoyable and read outside of class or school on a daily basis are much more likely to experience success at school. Many young people are not experiencing this success.

A recent study of ten year olds reported that although 74% of students described themselves as motivated readers, on average only 28% actually liked to read.

In the past educational psychology moved away from behaviourist learning theory towards a consideration of the mediating role of mind and brain in determining human action. Central to this cognitive revolution was a focus on language and the biological basis for its learnability in humans.

From this, the field of psycholinguistics developed to examine the representation, processing and acquisition of language. A subgroup of psycholinguists worked on the topic of reading acquisition and pointed out that language, which humans have possessed for millions of years, unfolds as a natural biological progression. Reading, which has only been around for about 4000 years, is not a natural biological unfolding. The obvious point being reading is an ‘unnatural act’, it’s based on language but it must be taught and practiced.

In light of current research and evidence of best teaching practice, Gilston’s teachers’ approach to developing literacy acquisition in young people has shown considerable successes through pedagogy based in explicit instruction techniques. Across all year levels, teachers provide opportunities for language development through reading as well as other means. Young people have opportunities to borrow from the Library and engage in reading acquisition skills while there.

Another most important point to raise here is one of accountability of young people to become better readers. It does improve vocabulary, the ability to articulate clearly for meaning, understanding in a range of learning contexts spelling, as well as self-confidence and positive attitudes. Anecdotally, there is evidence of only one student at Gilston State School who would qualify as a recreational reader.

![Photo of a school space](image-url)
Lost Property
We are constantly going through the lost property box and returning any named items to the appropriate children but we are noticing that more and more of the items of clothing that are put in there have no name on them.
Can you please make sure that all of your children’s uniforms, especially the jumpers/jackets, are clearly named. Even if you did this earlier in the year please check as the names do fade with washing.
Also we have in the Gateway a sleeping bag that was left over from Year 5 camp. If this is yours please come and collect it.
Thanks

P & C NEWS
THE GILSTON FAMILY BUSH DANCE
This Friday 12 August – 5:30 8:30pm
REMEMBER ... ABSOLUTELY NO DROP OFFS
Come one come all and bring your family too!
Save And Win: Buy your tickets before the event and you could win a $50 Event Cinema voucher and save money too. Pre-purchase from flexi-schools or keep an eye out as tickets will be sold at the Rotunda closer to the time.
Pre-purchases close TONIGHT.
Ticket prices Adult and child) - Pre Purchase
with Sausage and bread - $5.00 ($8.00 on the night)
with Gilston Gourmet cheeseburger - $7.00 ($10.00 on the night)
Other items for sale on the night
Cash Bar (beer and wine), Drinks (soft drinks, poppers, water), Lamingtons, tea/coffee/hot choc, chips/chocolate, glow sticks.
Prizes to be won for Adults and kids

P & C Meeting Monday 15 August at 7.00pm in the staffroom. All welcome. Come and meet the P & C and help us help your school.

Last week Cruz Lemming represented South Coast in the U12 STATE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIPS. His team remained undefeated throughout the week and beat Sunshine Coast to win the state title. We are very proud of your efforts Cruz. Well done.
Scott Stavar / HPE

RECORD A SONG COMPETITION FINALISTS
The 3 finalists for the competition are Chad Jones, Megan Treacher and Lara Rutledge. Congratulations to these students! They have been invited to perform at the bush dance on Friday night where the winner will be announced.

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER: MICHELLE DAVIES

Pay It Forward - The KidsMatter Team at Gilston State School are starting some “Random Acts of Kindness” activities this Semester.
We would really appreciate it if you could all help us to spread the love by participating in a “Pay it Forward” activity with other families at our school.
If you do happen to receive one of these small “Pay it Forward” cards it means that you too are being asked to participate in a pay-it-forward activity by doing something kind or helpful for three other members of our own school community. You may like to include close friends but do also try to include new families to the school and others you may not know very well when choosing your own “Pay it Forward” recipients.

How Does It Work?
If you receive one of the “Pay it Forward” cards it means that someone has already decided they would like to do something extra nice for you. Just read your card and speak with the person that gave it to you. Don’t forget to thank them.
You are then asked to print and cut out three more cards of your own on cardboard. You can find the cards to print attached below. Remember to write your own name clearly on the back of each card.
Choose three people you would like to do something kind or helpful for. Something that might make their day a little brighter. Write your own chosen acts of kindness directly onto each recipient’s card and then give them your little surprise. The KidsMatter Action Team at the Gilston State School hope you will enjoy this little activity and that it helps us all to get to know each other just a little bit better.
Oh and you don’t have to wait until you receive a “Pay-it-Forward” card to start a few new random acts of kindness. You might prefer to get involved a little sooner and just cut out the cards and give them to others you’d like to do a kind deed for.

Where does the “Pay it Forward” idea come from?
It would appear that the concept itself is very old dating back Centuries.
More recently, the past two decades have produced a couple of books as well as a movie that explore the “Pay it Forward” theme.
Many children across America have previously become engaged in “Pay it Forward” activities with the aim of benefitting the lives of those who are less well off than themselves. There has even been some “Pay It Forward” momentum in Australia over recent years.
You might all like to see what else you can find out about the “Pay it Forward” concept if you have time. Don’t forget to share your findings with the rest of us if you locate some interesting facts.
Our **JAPANESE STUDENTS** from Sakai G had a beautiful start to their trip with a beach worthy Sunday! We’ve spent some time this morning searching for wild kangaroos with much excitement when we finally found them! The group has been thrilled to spend time with our Gilston students, integrating with Year 6 classes, the SEP students and Preps over the last two days.

If you are interested in hosting students on the future please contact Mrs Doonican on kdoon3@eq.edu.au

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**GILSTON GOURMET**

Thursday 11 August - Tracey Zimmerman
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Friday 12 August - Help needed please
Ice blocks – Anne H
Monday 15 August - Paula Black
Ice Blocks – Sal G
Tuesday 16 August – Melanie Harrison
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Wednesday 17 August - Help needed
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Thursday 18 August - Tracey Zimmerman
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Friday 19 August - Help needed
Ice Blocks - Help needed

Reminder if you have **ordered pies**, they will be ready for collection on Tuesday 16 August from 2.30pm. If anyone has any spare plastic bags, could you please drop them into the Tuckshop before next Tuesday? Also we need a couple of helpers next Tuesday morning to help sort the pies. If you are able to help, please pop in and see Nicole.

**Volunteers?** Where would I be without them?? I would like to thank all the tuckshop volunteers for your time over the year. There are a couple of ladies, who commit to volunteering in our school tuckshop each week without fail, and I would like to say thank you to Paula Black, Melanie Harrison, Tracey Zimmerman, Amanda Masters and Tanya Cameron. Thank you, I really appreciate your time, effort and support.

Look out for **Sushi** forms. They will be coming home next week.
Have a great week.
Nicole Meesen
Gilston Gourmet Tuckshop Convenor

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**DISCOVERY IN THE GARDENS** Saturday 13 August, 10.00am-2.00pm, Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. Free hands-on garden and science fun for children and adults.

**KIRRA NIPPERS SIGN-ON** Oasis Pool, Banora Point, 9.00-11.00am 21 August and 11 September 2016, Age Groups from Under 6 to Under 15. Season starts 18 September. Further information www.kirrasurfclub.com.au

**MUDGEERABA NERANG & DISTRICTS’ CRICKET CLUB JUNIOR SIGN ON DAY** Sunday 28 August 10.00am-2.00pm, Nielsens Road, C