



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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Edition: 01/2016

Date: 27 February 2016

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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Happy belated Australia Day! I trust you were able to take advantage of the timing of the public holiday this year to spend some final **family time together** before the start of the school year. I know that our staff have been very industrious in their preparation for today and I commend them for their dedication and application to the task of providing a high-class learning environment.

This may be the first time that I have started a school year on a Wednesday. Three days to work before a weekend – a rather civilised pattern to which I could become accustomed. It may be a bonus for students and staff alike as they make the transition back into the world of formal learning. I **welcome everyone to the 2016 school year** and extend a special welcome to the “new” students at Gilston whether they are starting in Prep or another year level. I know they and their families will be welcomed into our community.

**2015 was a very successful year** for us. Results improved significantly in a range of areas and there were highlights both within and outside the classroom. These results were the product of the **unrelenting focus of our staff to applying strategies that work best**. Our students, your children, developed additional stamina in the learning process and subsequently were able to achieve more than ever before. This year we will again have a very clear focus on specific strategies to ensure we gain most from our collective efforts. Our **Explicit Improvement Agenda for 2016** is listed on the left of this newsletter and will remain there as a reminder of our commitment to improvement. Also on the left margin we will record the **weekly statistics for attendance** with the aim of meeting the **95% attendance target**. Make sure you **play your part by ensuring that your child is at school for every day they are fit to do so**.

As you gathered with friends and acquaintances this morning to catch up on the highlights of your time away from school, you may have noticed some **new faces among our teaching staff**. Throughout last week these people were learning alongside our existing staff and gaining a perspective on how we do the business of teaching and learning at Gilston. I am confident that these new teachers will add further value to the expertise and energy on our site: Nesrin Aydogar (Prep), Lydia McNeill (Yr1), Cherrie McKenna (Yr 4), Andrea Barr-Hamilton (Yr 4), Natasha

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	29 January	Last day payment \$100 Student Resource Scheme
Monday to Friday	14 March 18 March	Swimming Lessons Years 1, 2 & 4
Monday	14 March	Gala Sports Day Year 5 & 6

### 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

P	1	2	3	4	5	6
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Watts (Yr 6) and Denise Cox-McPherson (Head of Special Educational Services). In addition to these permanent appointments we welcome back a number of contract staff.

In the **first eight days** of the year I will be ascertaining the scope of the resources likely to be attributed to Gilston based on the enrolment numbers. This process will be finalised as soon as practical so that we can establish roll classes and operational practices for the remainder of the year. Your patience as we undertake this process is again appreciated.

As you walked through the covered play area this morning you will have noticed the fruit tree orchard above the toilet block. This welcome addition is based on the voluntary labour of Graeme and his wife Beth who worked tirelessly during some of the hottest days to ensure it was installed prior to school start. I **recognise and thank Graeme and Beth** for this contribution. There have been a multitude of projects that also occurred during the break some very obvious, some, including a major plumbing upgrade not so obvious. I applaud Jan and our ancillary staff for making this happen at a time that doesn't impinge on teaching and learning.

In closing this week I extend a collective **expression of gratitude** to the ladies in the **uniform shop** who volunteered their time to ensure our students were prepared for today. This is just one of the examples of how our willing and dedicated parent group add value to our school. In 2016 please find "your way" of adding this value.

Stay safe and keep smiling.  
Bruce

Reminder: The first part-payment of \$100 per student of the **Student Resource Scheme** is due Friday. These payments can be made on line or over the counter on Thursday or Friday.

## **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

### **The New Year – 2016**

Welcome back to school for 2016! I am very excited about the school year that is about to begin. Whether you will be dropping your child off at Gilston for the first day of Prep or you are a veteran parent of a school-aged child, the start of a new school year is always a time filled with excitement. We will focus on providing each child with new challenges that will result in a rewarding school experience. We want your child to be happy and successful at Gilston, and you play a key role. That role is to continually show interest in, and to support, your child.

I continue to be inspired by the dedicated staff and families in this community, and look forward to getting to know our new teaching team members. Gilston is a school where students are supported and encouraged to grow in all areas - academically, socially and emotionally. I am fortunate to be a part of this high-quality learning community, and I speak on behalf of the entire staff when I say we are excited to have each of you as part of our school community. It takes all of us to help each and every child reach his/her potential, and we look forward to sharing in your child's learning experiences.

I look forward to meeting and catching up with everyone and to working with you and your children throughout the year.

### **Uniform change**

This year we have introduced wide brim hats to our uniform. These will replace all other forms of headwear across the school. The hats are in line with Education Queensland sun safe directives. Hats are available for purchase at the uniform shop and the Gilston Gourmet Tuckshop for seven dollars.

### **Life Education Visit, 27 January to 9 February 2016**

From tomorrow Life Education Australia will be in our school. The Life Education Primary School Program has been successfully supporting primary school drug and health education since 1979.

Life Education's comprehensive programs have been specifically designed to assist schools achieve the outcomes of the National Curriculum. Activities are based on the Health and Physical Education outcomes. They are also designed to be integrated into additional curriculum areas, as deemed relevant by individual schools. In our case it will align with our social emotional well-being program. Primary schools play a vital role in preparing children for life and in shaping their journey through school. Research shows that the earlier we encourage children to develop positive self-image, self-esteem and a feeling of uniqueness, the better equipped they are to make positive healthy choices in life.

Life Education assists students to:

- Acquire age appropriate knowledge to support informed health choices
- Develop and practice skills and strategies to act upon individual decisions
- Recognise the values and attitudes that may influence lifestyle choices and behaviours.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE**

The **Gold Coast Road Policing Unit** are seeking your help. Safety around schools is paramount and all drivers have a responsibility to observe the rules. The police understand that this time of year sees new school children arriving at most schools and this is often an exciting and stressful time for both parents and students. They remind all motorists that by not adhering to the road rules you jeopardise the safety of your own children and those from other families. The following outlines the penalties for breaches of rules:

1. **Speed Limits** - By now hopefully all parents are aware of the 40km/h speed limits during school times. Fines for exceeding the speed limit are as follows:  
Exceed speed limit in school zone by less than 13km/h \$157 1 Point  
at least 13km/h but not more than 20km/h \$235- 3 Points  
more than 20km/h but not more than 30km/h \$392 - 4 Points  
more than 30km/h but not more than 40km/h \$549 - 6 Points  
more than 40km/h \$1,099 - 8 Points
2. **Illegal parking** - The most common parking complaints and offences:  
Stop on children's crossing \$47  
Stop within 20m before or 10m after children's crossing \$47  
Stop contrary to 'NO STOPPING' sign \$47  
Stop contrary to 'NO PARKING' sign \$47  
Stop contrary to continuous yellow edge line \$47  
Stop unauthorised vehicle in bus zone \$47  
Double park \$47  
Stop across footpath \$47  
Stop across driveway \$47
3. **Crossing**  
Fail to stop at children's crossing when 'STOP' sign displayed \$353 - 3 Points

#### 4. General Road Rules

- Driver fail to wear seatbelt \$353 – 3 Points*
- Driver drive with unrestrained passenger 16 years old or older \$353 - 3 Points*
- Drive motor vehicle while passenger < 6 mths old unrestrained \$353 - 3 Points*
- Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 6 mths old but < 4 yrs old unrestrained \$353 - 3 Points*
- Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 4 yrs old but < 7 yrs old unrestrained \$353 - 3 Points*
- Drive motor vehicle with more than one row of seats while passenger < 4 yrs in front Row \$353 - 3 Points*
- Drive motor vehicle with more than one row of seats while passenger aged 4 years to < 7 yrs in front row and other seats not occupied by children aged < 7yrs \$353 - 3 Points*
- Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 7 yrs but < 16 yrs unrestrained \$353 - 3 Points*
- Drive vehicle with passenger at least 7 yrs but < 16 yrs in same seat position as another passenger \$353 - 3 Points*
- Driver use hand-held mobile phone \$353 - 3 Points*

#### 5. For those that have students driving to school

- P1 type holder fail to display legible red plate at rear of motorbike \$188 - 2 Points*
- P1 type holder fail to display legible red plates at front and rear of car \$188 - 2 Points*

#### TUCKSHOP REPORT

- Thursday 28 January – Tracey Zimmerman/Help needed*
- Ice Blocks – Help needed*
- Friday 29 January – Urgent help needed*
- Ice Blocks – Help needed*
- Monday 1 February – Beth Sonter*
- Ice Blocks – Help needed*
- Tuesday 2 February – Help needed*
- Ice Blocks – Help needed*
- Wednesday 3 February – Help needed*
- Ice Blocks – Help needed*
- Thursday 4 February – Help needed*
- Ice Blocks – Help needed*
- Friday 5 February – Help needed*
- Ice Blocks - Help needed*

*We would like to welcome everyone back and also a warm welcome to our new families. Our Tuckshop is so loved by students and staff, we are in need of more volunteers to help our tuckshop run smoothly. If you are able to volunteer a couple of hours, weekly or monthly we would love to hear from you, your time would be greatly appreciated. Come up and see Nicole, Mel or Karen, or email the tuckshop at [gilstontuckshop@gmail.com](mailto:gilstontuckshop@gmail.com).*

*On Monday 1 February we will be introducing our new tuckshop menu for 2016. New menus will be given to students on Friday to bring home. Our tuckshop has a new name, "Gilston Gourmet".*

*Looking forward to seeing some new and familiar faces in the tuckshop this year.*

*Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor*

#### COMMUNITY NOTICES

**TENNIS AUSTRALIA ENDORSED PROGRAM** for primary students which uses specially designed court sizes & equipment to help develop skills for life, making it A LOT OF FUN. Lessons start Tuesday 2 February before school and will run every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 7:00 - 8:45am at: Gilston Primary School Tennis Court. \$84 for 7 weeks (\$12 per lesson). Look forward to seeing you on the court. Details & bookings contact Jonathon 0488 696 939.

