



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Our focus on **mastery of maths concepts** this year includes the delivery of a new maths program within all classrooms from Year 1 to Year 6. The program is a **direct instruction** model that has proven very successful internationally and locally. Our teachers and students are becoming more familiar with the format that includes the use of workbooks and I **commend both groups for their tenacity** in embedding this program into our weekly lessons. We will continue to focus on our adopted strategies confident that the results will improve commensurate to the quality of our instruction. Assisting teachers this year with the coordination of the curriculum and the delivery of high-quality instruction are Debbie Favero, Peta White and Renee Paech. One of their key roles is **modelling high-yield teaching practices** and **providing feedback to teachers** based on specific observations. If you have a child with a "new teacher" this year chances are Debbie, Renee or Peta has been into their rooms already. These ladies are pivotal in delivering our explicit improvement agenda as they were, along with Toni last year.

In 2015 we **measured the effect of our teaching** through some short assessments in mathematics. The effect size as measured by the students' **improvements** was **very impressive**. Again we have captured the current scores for students so we can make similar comparisons for each term this year. Due to the progress in 2015, it has been necessary to have a growing number of students completing extension tests this year as they have demonstrated mastery of the basic facts.

The first **P & C Association meeting** for 2016 will be held in the staffroom **next Monday at 7.00pm**. I look forward to welcoming back those who attended last year and some new faces from families joining Gilston this year. **Everyone is welcome** to join and contribute to the strategic direction of the school and the activities that are planned throughout the year.

This year we welcome **Denise Cox as the first Head of Special Educational Services (HOSES)** at Gilston. Denise will oversee the collection and analysis of specific data to guide the distribution of available resources to meet the needs of all students in our school. Denise has been working in education for many years and in many locations throughout the world and brings with her the skills and talents that she has acquired. I **encourage you to look out in the newsletter each week for**

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	15 February	Last day for Book Club orders P & C Meeting 7.00pm Staffroom Admin Block
Friday	26 February	Last day for payment Japanese cooking Yr 3-6
Friday	4 March	Last day for payment Swimming Lessons Years 1, 2 & 4
Monday to Friday	14 March - 18 March	Swimming Lessons Years 1, 2 & 4
Monday	21 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
99.2	97.39	98.08	98.61	96.13	98.15	98.01

invitations to be part of the parent sessions.

On the topic of parent sessions, please **take advantage of the class information sessions that teachers are conducting early this year.** At these meetings you will have a chance to meet your child's teacher and learn about the systems that will best support your child's learning. In addition you will have a chance to meet the parents of your child's friends.

Parents of **more than one quarter** of our students are connected to school information through the **QParents app**. They are benefiting from the convenience of lodging absences and making payments from their smart devices. If you wish to join them, **complete the attached form** and return it to the ladies in the office to start the process. We are currently processing forms received from Prep parents. If you are one of the 98 parents who have already started but have lost the required links, request of the ladies that they resend the invitation with the details.

There are 600 students at Gilston today and the majority are delivered to, and collected from school each day. **I thank you for your cooperation in the carpark to ensure the safety of all in our school community.** I do however ask that you **refrain from queuing in the collection zone before 3 o'clock in the afternoon** as this creates congestion that often leads to a queue on Worongary Road. Police have enforced the 2 minute maximum stop time during their irregular visits leading to an unwanted drain on drivers' hip pockets. In the morning driving as far along the zone as possible will assist with the flow of traffic out of the carpark.

In closing this week I officially announce that after **40 years** with Education Queensland, **David Gay is retiring.** Since joining the Gilston team in 1996, David has positively influenced and enriched the lives of hundreds of students. His ability to connect with them and know them deeply has been reflected in his reports to parents each semester and his addresses at Presentation Nights. David has taken pride in imparting knowledge and skills to his charges. Both past and current students, speak fondly of their time in his classroom. On behalf of the Gilston State School community I extend David our best wishes for a fulfilling and happy retirement.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

KidsMatter

The Gilston State School Kids Matter Action Committee invite you to take part in the KidsMatter Survey (relevant to you and your child/ren), by the end of this month, 29 February.

Here are the links to each of the surveys:

- **Parent Survey:**
www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/other-resources/school-surveys/parent-survey
- **Student Survey (Year 4 – Year 7):**
www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/studentsurvey_4-7
- **Student Survey (Reception – Year 3):**
www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/studentsurvey_R-3

We would really appreciate your input as it's an important first step for the school Action Team to check the current capacity of the school with regard to promoting student mental health and wellbeing. This information will provide a baseline snapshot across the four KidsMatter Components in the survey's and this important information will inform school planning. Thank you!

Life Education at Gilston

The Life Education van has now departed after working with all

children throughout the school. Their ethos promotes the belief that all children and young people deserve to lead safe and healthy lives – now and into the future. The primary school program consists of 13 curriculum based modules focusing on issues around food and nutrition, personal safety, physical activity, cyber safety, safety with medicine and legal drugs; tobacco, alcohol and caffeine. These modules take a comprehensive approach to drug and health education, help children to develop relationship skills, positive communication (both face to face and online), problem solving and decision making skills. If you'd like to find out more please use the link below. <http://www.lifeeducation.org.au/state-offices/queensland/queensland-news/item/411-healthy-harold-website>

THE DENTAL VAN is offering free dental check-ups to all children from **Prep to Year 6.**

To arrange an appointment for your child telephone:

The Oral Health Client Service Centre

☎1300 300 850

Monday – Friday 8.00 am – 4.30 pm

(Excluding Public Holidays)

Child Dental Benefit Schedule Vouchers are accepted but not mandatory.

P & C NEWS

Hat Drive For Charity

Anyone who wishes to donate their old style hats to Bougainville Papua New Guinea there is a collection box in the school canteen until 22 February. Feel free to let the kids add a letter with their hats Thanks to all that donate.

Any queries please contact Jem Baldwin 0407091826

TENNIS

As part of the Sporting Schools Program Coach Jono has been conducting tennis lessons with all classes this week. Students have had great fun playing games and learning the basics of tennis. On Thursday and Friday, Jono will be holding trials for those students in 4-7 wishing to represent Gilston at the Gold Coast Inter-school Challenge. This is a weekend doubles tournament. Successful students will be advised of all details. Jono will also run a school doubles tournament for all interested students in years 5 and 6 with more details to follow.

Coach Jono is conducting tennis lessons on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 7:45–8:45am on our school court at a cost of \$12 per lesson. Parents can see Jono if interested.

RUN CLUB

In preparation for the Cross Country from 22 March we will be having Run Club on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:15am to 8:45am. Any student who wishes to improve their fitness is welcome to come and run laps of the oval at those times. They will be supervised by Mr Stavar and the House Captains. There will be prizes for those that run the most laps in each year level.

Scott Stavar / HPE Gilston SS

OUR SUGOI HQ (MUSIC AND JAPANESE) has secured a fantastic Interactive Performance for the Year 3-6 students in a few weeks! The University of Queensland Taiko group will be visiting our school in Week 5 to perform and involve the students in Taiko (Japanese drums). Following the performance our very own Sugoi Taiko group will have a workshop with the group to gain more skill and practice their technique. The costs for this show will be paid through the Languages Innovation Grant

secured in 2015. Our Sugoi Taiko group is by application and will be open to students from Year 4-6 each year.

SETSUBUN (節分) is the day before the beginning of spring in Japan. The name literally means "seasonal division", but usually the term refers to the spring Setsubun celebrated yearly on 3 February as part of the Spring Festival. In its association with the Lunar New Year, spring Setsubun can be and was previously thought of as a sort of New Year's Eve, and so was accompanied by a special ritual to cleanse away all the bad luck of the former year and drive away disease-bringing creatures for the year to come. This special ritual is called mamemaki ((literally "bean scattering"). Year 3/4 students will be learning about Setsubun this week.

TUCKSHOP REPORT

Thursday 11 February – Tracey Zimmerman / Lydia Moss
Preparation - Karen Sharp

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 12 February – Teresa Evans / Mandy R /
Amanda McGuinness

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 15 February – Beth S / Lydia Moss / Paula Black

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 16 February – Lydia Moss / Melanie Harrison

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 17 February – Loretta Wood

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 18 February – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 19 February – Kristy Griffin

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Help with ice blocks is needed from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. If you are able to help you will be guaranteed a close park.

We are starting to offer some gluten free items. You can now order gluten free sandwiches, gluten free nuggets \$3.00 and gluten free crackers are available in the snack boxes.

I would like to welcome a couple of new volunteers to our tuckshop team – Lydia Moss, Melanie Harrison , Nelly Mann, Beth S, Jeni Rae, Kristy Mulhearn, Kerrie Bray and Loretta Wood. Thank you ladies for donating your time. I really appreciate your help as do the children.

Lastly I would like to say a BIG thank you to Andrea Goldring. Over the past couple of weeks Andrea has been helping us design the new menu layout. Thank you so much Andrea for what you have produced. Our new menu looks clean, fresh and exciting.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

NERANG BULLS RUGBY UNION SIGN ON DAY 13 February 10.00am-2.00pm, Glennon Park, Pappas Way, Carrara. Contact Mark Muir on 0457 891 276 or kylie.tanswell@gmail.com

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 have started 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.

NERANG SOCCER CLUB Registrations are now open for the 2016 Season. Training has commenced but it isn't too late to join! 3-5yo Squirts Program, U6-U11 Miniros, U12 – U16 Competition Age. For more information see our website www.nerangsoccerclub.com

or contact Mel on 0418 770 915

MUDGEERABA J AFC NAB AFL AUSKICK CENTRE - Sign on & 1st Session Friday 12 February, 4:30pm to 5:30pm, Salk Oval, Thrower Drive, Palm Beach, Cost: \$70. For more information contact: Eunice on 0438 172 716 or visit www.aflauskick.com.au. Register online & pay online at www.aflauskick.com.au . **Please print your receipt and bring to the first session.**

MUDGEERABA HOCKEY CLUB INVITES YOU TO COME TRY HOCKEY - Fun games, All equipment supplied. Thursday 18 & 25 February, 5.30-6.30pm. Keith Hunt Park, Musgrave Ave, Labrador.

Contact info@mudgeehockey.com, www.mudgeehockey.com

