I am pleased to report that there were some new members at the P & C meeting on Monday night. They were able to contribute to discussion and debate on a range of topics including swimming carnival operation procedures, discos, fund raising, financial management and the role of sub committees. We are certainly blessed to have the support of the members of this group and I am confident that we will again have a successful year in the support of students at Gilston. Our next meeting is 21 March.

Are you keen to engage in a little exercise while helping to beautify the school gardens? Join us on Sunday 13 March from 8.00 am as we spread mulch throughout the school gardens. If you are new to our school, please come along and meet other parents in an atmosphere of cooperation and community-mindedness. We usually work for a few hours before enjoying a cold drink and a BBQ. While it may sound like hard work, we are blessed to have Damon and his machinery on hand again to help load trailers to make our task considerably easier.

David Gay’s retirement from Gilston has created an opportunity for Kathlyn Tedder to share her skills. Kathlyn is an experienced teacher and is excited about joining our teaching team next Monday. I am confident she will be afforded a warm Gilston welcome and with the support of the rest of our team, will make a smooth transition into our school.

It is apparent that our youngest students are leading the way in attendance data this year. Well done Prep parents! Every day counts when it comes to learning. Please continue to ensure children are at school on every day they are fit to do so.

The count of students whose parents are using QParents app is growing week-by-week and now stands at 164. Welcome to our newest members. In case you have lost the details, invitations will be re-sent to those of you who nominated last year and have not yet completed the registration. If you do have any difficulties registering for the app please contact Roz in the office on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday for assistance as she is a firsthand user of the tool.

Thank you for your prompt payment of the Student Resource Scheme. The second payment of $60, while not due until the
end of Term 2, can be paid in instalments using the QParents app. For those who have overlooked the initial payment, reminders will be sent home shortly for immediate settlement.

The first Enrolling Families information session for Prep enrolments for 2017 will be held on 8 March. It is imperative that anyone interested in enrolling children in Prep in 2017 has lodged contact details with us as Jolie will be using these details to provide details of the session and subsequent elements of the program. If you know of someone whose child is expected to start next year remind them to contact the office. This applies to those both inside and outside the catchment zone.

In recent weeks several schools have been targeted with what have turned out to be hoax bomb and violence threats. Each of these has been managed according to the policies in schools and in cooperation with emergency services. At Gilston we have rehearsed actions that would be taken should a threat be made to our safety. Our staff in the office are aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of such a call and I am confident that if, or when, a call is received we will be able to respond swiftly and confidently.

Due to staff commitments off campus this Friday afternoon, the school office will be shut at 3:30pm. Please ensure your children are collected prior to this time.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Gilston Gourmet

The Gilston Gourmet now has a Five Star Michelin rating by the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops. This means Nicole and the ladies who help out week after week are providing great quality food items to the students and staff at Gilston State School. On behalf of everyone, thank you very much ladies for your dedication and efforts. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful team you would be very welcome.

100% Attendance Goal

Ensuring your child is at school on time is another priority for 2016. Students arriving late or leaving early on a regular basis are at risk of having this impact on learning in much the same was as absenteeism does. The target for our Student Attendance Rate continues to be greater than 95%. To turn high potential into high performance students need to be at school learning for as close to 100% of the time as possible.

One of our goals is to teach all children to read by the end of the third year of schooling, which is Year 2. We have roughly 580 days to achieve our goal. Catching up if you are behind by the end of Year 2 has a low probability of occurring without intensive remedial intervention.

The start of the year sees Gilston with an attendance rate of 97%, despite a fairly consistent number of students absent to date. The current rate for the whole school means that overall, parents are doing a good job of managing attendance at school. To help parents with letting the school know you can lodge the absences (and reason), on the QParents App.

On the official school rolls, we currently have 3% unexplained absences for all students (an unexplained absence is when a student is away and no notification is given, or parents are aware the child is away and no reason is given for the absence). Unfortunately, we need to be vigilant to reaching our target for 2016 of >95%.

P & C NEWS

Gilston Club 2016

Following discussions at Monday night’s P&C meeting, the P&C will be looking at temporarily suspending the operation of the Gilston Club for 2016 at this year’s AGM. There is currently not enough volunteer support to justify running a separate committee at this time.

We would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who have given their time to make the Gilston Club what it is. Your tireless efforts often go unnoticed but the funds you raise for our school are appreciated by all.

We would like to assure all parents and students that all the fundraising activities (including Mothers and Fathers day stalls) usually organised by the Gilston Club will continue.

HELPERS ALWAYS NEEDED!!! Please feel free to put your hand up to help with any of the fundraising events that come up during the year, many hands make light work, and all monies raised benefit our school and students.

The P & C will revisit this decision if enough support is forthcoming to enable the Gilston Club to run after its next meeting. The date of the Gilston Club Meeting will be in the newsletter shortly.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via the P&C email: pandc@gilstonss.eq.edu.au

Tam Bell
Gilston State School P&C Secretary

SPORT NEWS – Year 2 student Angel Smith has been awarded ‘student of the year’ at the Combined Martial Arts Academy. She is the youngest ever recipient of this award. Year 6 student Emily has been selected in the Oceanic District U11 Netball Team. Congratulations to both girls.

Scott Stavar / HPE Gilston SS

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au
ENROLLING FAMILIES
On Tuesday 8 March we will be holding our first Parent Information Session for families enrolling their child/children in Prep for 2017. The session will cover a number of topics including:
- Pre-Prep classes
- Screening assessments
- Interviews
- An explanation of the Enrolment Management Plan (EMP)
- Visits from the Community Health Nurse and Oral Health
- Strategies for how to best to prepare for Prep
If you have a child beginning Prep in 2017, and have not already expressed an interest, please contact the office to do so.
Jolie Angus / STLAN / Enrolling Families

LIBRARY NEWS
Book Club Issue 1 orders have now closed. The orders will be arriving at school in the next 7-10 working days.

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS will be held on 19 March and Gilston State School will again be a polling booth.

TUCKSHOP REPORT
Thursday 18 February – Tracey Zimmerman
Ice Blocks – Monica Whetter
Friday 19 February – Kristy Griffin / Tammy Schenau
Ice Blocks - Help needed
Monday 22 February – Lydia Moss / Paula Black
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 23 February – Mel Harrison / Kerrie Bray
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Wednesday 24 February – Loretta Wood / Beth Sonter
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Thursday 25 February – Tracey Zimmerman / help needed
Ice Blocks – Monica Whetter
Friday 26 February – Help needed please
Ice Blocks – Help needed

I would like to thank Teresa Evans (Mum of Kai & Aidan) for all her time, support and effort over the past couple of years. Teresa has volunteered her time every 2nd Friday to help in the tuckshop. We wish you all the best for your new adventure.
Reminder that you can order cupcakes if your child is having a birthday and you have no time to bake. Please come and see Nicole to place an order. The cost is $25 for a class set of iced cupcakes. I need at least 1 weeks’ notice, and payment is required 1 week prior.
Have a great week;
Nicole Meesen- Tuckshop Convenor
gilston_tuckshop@gmail.com

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

MUDGEEBAJAFC NAB AFL AUSKICK CENTRE - Sign on & 1st Session Friday 12 February, 4:30pm to 5:30pm, Saik 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 AND 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

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au