



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I am guessing that there were more than 60 parents and family members in attendance yesterday morning at the **Enrolling Families information session**. It was a pleasure to address the group to explain the core values of our school and meet some of them afterwards. The **interest level of parents is high** again this year and the details that were shared will ensure that both parents and students alike will be very well-prepared by the end of the year. I wish to **recognise** the attention to detail and personal touch that **Jolie** brings to her **leadership of this project**.

In **2014** we received the first component of a **four-year funding plan from the Federal Government**. This funding that was distributed by the State Government was badged as **Great Results Guarantee (GRG)** and totalled \$174 299. In **2015** we received \$183 297 and this year under the new name of **Investing for Success (IAS)** we will expend \$186 405. This **injection of funds directly to our school** has provided a **fully-funded Pre-Prep program (Enrolling Families)**, additional **speech and language intervention programs**, **reading intervention** personnel to attend to the identified learning needs of individual students, **pedagogical and curriculum leaders** to oversee the "what we teach" and "how we teach" and time for teachers to design **high quality programs**. The **results have been outstanding** as measured by the **academic success of our students** and the **consistency and alignment** of our **teaching practices**. Queensland schools are fortunate and **grateful that this funding has been distributed directly to schools** as our colleagues in some other states have not been as lucky. If you would like to know more about the funding and its allocation, please join us at the P&C meetings where I can answer questions and provide details of our results and the funded programs.

Measuring the impact of our teachers' input and instruction at Gilston is something we have introduced and continue to refine. We utilise some standard assessments throughout each year to measure the progress of students. The information we gather inevitably provides positive feedback to our skilled professionals. The **term 1 data** again supports our teachers' effectiveness with **average gains exceeding statistically reliable targets**. I **commend all teachers** for their dedication to their craft of teaching and their ongoing refinement of their instructional practices. I **congratulate the students on their**

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday	13 March	Working Bee
Monday to Friday	14 March - 18 March	Swimming Lessons Years 1, 2 & 4
Friday	18 March	Gilston Community Forum 2.00-3.00pm
Saturday	19 March	Local Government Election
Monday	21 March	Gala Sports Day Yr 5 & 6 P & C AGM & General Meeting 7.00pm

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
96.92	96.88	96.35	95.97	94.88	95.15	95.74

impressive gains.

One of the improvement agenda items at Gilston this year is the delivery of a **direct instruction method for mathematics**. Our teachers in years 1-6 have applied their skills this term to adjusting their instruction methods. Now, with a greater understanding of the delivery method and the scope of learning our **teachers are working in their year level teams to adopt creative solutions to ensuring students are accessing content to meet their learning requirements**. This fine-tuning will be based on placement tests across each year level.

Last week I wrote about our preparation for **evacuation and lock down** specifically relating to the threats that have been common in other schools. I wrote about the **emphasis on the safety** of the students and staff. Whilst not directly related, the event last Friday that led to the delay of the school bus was another example of how we respond to a need to care for our students, your children, in response to an unplanned event. I **acknowledge the staff involved, especially Graeme** for his calm in managing the circumstances.

Gilston State School will be a polling booth for the elections on March 19. If you are in division 5 or 9 then take advantage of the convenience this booth provides.

Only 13 more registrations are required for us to reach the **term target of 200** approved users of the QParents app. If you are one of the 144 who have been invited, please complete the registration as soon as possible.

I am looking forward to seeing those of you who can help at the **working bee this Sunday**. The fun begins at 8.00am and concludes with a sausage and cold drink at 10:30 ish. If we have to postpone the event due to rain, I will send an email notification to the addresses listed on our database (the same one to which we send the newsletter).

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Tuesday 15 March Early morning Tea

Tuesday next week we are holding an informal morning tea on the grass of the Prep Oval prior to the start of the school day. Come along and share a cuppa and a chat any time after eight. It'll be great to see you.

Gilston Gourmet

Everyone at Gilston is aware our Gilston Gourmet has a five star food rating from the Queensland Tuckshop Association. We are also very aware of the fine foods that we are able to partake of every school day. Because of this our reputation as a supplier of great choices for our children is spreading far and wide. So much so that other schools are making contact seeking information on how we did it and how we could help them achieve the same status. I can't thank Nicole and her small, dedicated team enough for their efforts to have such a wonderful facility at our disposal. Thank you ladies. If anyone is able to give some time preparing, serving or just being a part of a great team, please contact Nicole as we're always looking for more involvement from our parents and carers in the school.

MindUP™ at Gilston

MindUP™ is a research-based training program for educators and children. This program is based in neuroscience and supports improved academic performance while enhancing perspective taking, empathy and kindness as well as fostering complex problem solving skills. Students learn to self-regulate

behavior and mindfully engage in focused concentration required for academic success. Founder Goldie Hawn, collaborated with neuroscientists, cognitive psychologists and educators to create MindUP™, a program that fosters a classroom-learning environment where a child's ability to academically succeed and personally thrive is maximized and directly linked to their overall state of well-being.

The program is sponsored by the Nerang Benevolent Society and the North Gold Coast Early Years Centre. Students who participate in the MindUP™ curriculum learn about three important areas of the brain. This helps them think and react to everything around them. These parts include the Prefrontal Cortex (good decision making), the Amygdala (regulates information going to the Prefrontal Cortex) and the Hippocampus (creates, processes and stores important facts and memories).

YEAR 5 & 6 GALA DAY

On Monday 21 March our year 5 and 6 students will be participating in a Gala Day with Nerang, Tallebudgera and Mudgeeraba Creek State Schools. The students will participate in various sports, the aim of which is to have fun, improve skills, interact with other schools and develop team and school spirit. The students will arrive at Firth Park and start their games at 9:45am. Spectators are most welcome. We look forward to a great day.
Scott Stavar / HPE

SPORT NEWS

Well done to Kaylee Moore, Tom Van Loon and Soren Zwolsman for their great swimming at the Regional Carnival. Congratulations to Adrian Smith on his selection in the U12 District Rugby League team. These are just some of the great sport stars we have at Gilston.

Cross Country

This year's event will be held on Tuesday 22 March. Races begin at 9.15am and will proceed from youngest grades to oldest. All competitors will receive a house point and an ice block when participating. Any 10-12 year olds who place in the top 4 will represent Gilston State School at the District Cross country on Thursday 19 May, 2016. We look forward to a fun and successful carnival

Cross Country Program

Prep	9.15am
Year 1	9.40am
Year 2	10.05am
Year 3	10.30am
Girls & Boys 9 Years (Only Year 4)	11.50am
Girls & Boys (10 years)	12.15am
Girls & Boys (11 years)	12.40pm
Girls & Boys (12 years)	1.05pm

Scott Stavar / HPE

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club Issue 2 orders close today. The books you have ordered will arrive here at school before the end of term and will be handed out to students.

Library Books

Please encourage your child to borrow a book from our library every week and to read at home with them. If your child has an overdue book please return it promptly. If they have a lost book please come and see the library staff.

Thank you.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

EISTEDDFOD CHOIR AUDITIONS

Auditions are underway for the selection of this year's Eisteddfod Choir. All students in Years 3-6 are welcome to try out. See Mrs Miller ASAP for a time. Auditions conclude on Thursday 10 March.

'**GILSTON COMMUNITY FORUM**' provides an opportunity for parents to socialise and discuss topics of interest every 3rd Friday of the month. Topics will reflect the interests of the community group and may include discussions about life-long learning, toddler taming, healthy snacks for kids at school, parenting in the 21st century, cyber safety, dyslexia, mindfulness, stress & relaxation, the gifted child, life-long learning, motivation & more!

The first '**Gilston Community Forum**' will be held on Friday 18 March at 2.00pm-3.00pm in the Green Room of the Library. Our first guest speaker is Pamela Day from the Child & Youth Mental Service at the Gold Coast Hospital & Health Service who will be discussing **resilience and well-being**.

Please come along for a social afternoon & community discussion. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Denise Cox / Head of Special Education Services

TUCKSHOP REPORT

Thursday 10 March – Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Monica Whetter

Friday 11 March – Nelly Armstrong / Help needed

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Thursday 14 March – Paula Black

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 15 March – Mel Harrison

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 16 March – Beth Sonter / Rachael Wood

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 17 March – Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Monica Whetter

Wednesday 18 March – Kristy Griffin / Tammy S / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Special thanks to a lovely mum Rose (Ms Aydogar's Mum) for coming in and cooking a special, traditional Turkish Borek for some of our teachers and staff - it was delicious. Thank you Rose for your time.

Just letting you all know that the slinky machines are away having a grease and oil change, as these machines get a good work out slinking about 40 apples a day. Hoping to have the machines back by Friday. I am more than happy to cut the children's apples up for them. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Cross Country is on Tuesday 22 March. If any parents, grandparents or carers would like to order their lunch please do so by 9.30am.

Also the tuckshop will be offering cake and coffee / tea for \$5.00.

Have a great week,

Nicole Meesen - Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICES

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL is pleased to offer scholarships in academic performance, sports, instrumental music and dance for students in Year 7 – 2017. Visit www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au for applications. Applications close 20 April, 2016.

ROBINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL information session - academic scholarship for 2017 – 23 March at 5.30pm. More details at www.robinashs.eq.edu.au.

