



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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Edition: 08/2016

Date: 16 March, 2016

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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

At Gilston we specifically **focus on the teaching of reading**, recognising its fundamental importance to an individual's success. There are six components to our approach to reading instruction, five of which are commonly identified in evidence-based reading instruction and a sixth, "oracy" that has been identified by our region is included as a precursor to learning to read. The other five are:

**Phonemic awareness.** This is the knowledge of, and capacity to manipulate, the smallest sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.

**Phonics.** This is about learning and using the relationships between sounds and letter-symbols to sound out (decode) written words.

**Fluency.** This is the ability to read accurately, quickly and expressively. Fluent readers are able to focus on reading for meaning.

**Vocabulary.** These are the words children need to know in order to comprehend and communicate. Oral vocabulary is the words children recognise or use in listening and speaking. Reading vocabulary is the words children recognise or use in reading and writing.

**Comprehension.** This is the ability to extract and construct meaning from written text using knowledge of words, concepts, facts and ideas.

In keeping with mounting evidence, our teachers and paraprofessionals employ **explicit and direct instruction methods** to teach and consolidate the learning of these elements recognising the efficiencies and success they deliver.

It was a **pleasure to host a group** of teachers and administrators from Regents Park, Ashgrove and our Regional Office yesterday. These people were **keen to observe the teaching practices in our classrooms** that have led to some significant improvements in our students learning. I am pleased that the work our teachers do on a daily basis has been recognised by those further afield and applaud each of them for their contributions to the positive results that have been attained.

It's clear that **I need glasses** after my message to you all Sunday - Autocorrect is an amazing facility? It was disappointing to have to cancel the **working bee**, especially since we had Damon and his machinery on hand to help lighten the load. We will reconvene to select an alternative day and will

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	18 March	Gilston Community Forum 2.00-3.00pm Last day payment Year 2 Beenleigh Historical Village
Saturday	19 March	Local Government Election
Monday	21 March	Gala Sports Day Yr 5 & 6 <b>P &amp; C Annual General Meeting &amp; General Meeting 7.00pm</b>
Thursday	24 March	P-3 Easter Concert 9.15am in the Hall <b>Last day Term 1</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11 April</b>	<b>First day Term 2</b>
Friday	15 April	Commonwealth Student Banking opening new accounts 8.00am Gazebo
Tuesday- Monday	3 May – 9 May	Book Fair

#### 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	96.04	96.53	96.25	94.81	95.18	95.66

advertise the date in the newsletter. I thank those of you who were planning to assist. I trust you will be able to join us next time.

As I write this edition, I know that three of our students are facing some significant medical challenges. **Hannah** is currently in hospital and will be for some time as she recovers from a nasty infection, **Riley** is out of hospital and looking forward to being back at school and **Marcus**, who is no stranger to medical staff, hopes to join us again this week after a lengthy hospital stay. We wish Hannah, Riley and Marcus and their families all the best for their recoveries.

All Queensland **state school students** and staff can download multiple [free copies of Microsoft Office 2016](#) to their personal home computers and mobile devices. Students and staff need to use their school email address and sign in. This offer is available for **personal devices only** and the subscription expires when the student ceases studying in a state school or the employee ceases employment.

Thanks to the feedback from some of the QParent App users we have clarified why some people are not **receiving automatic advice about money owed**. The account holder for the app, (the person who completed the initial registration) must be the person nominated to receive invoices (the person nominated on enrolment). If this has presented a problem for your access to the bill paying feature, please contact the ladies in the office to have the database updated. As I write, there are eight days until the end of the term and only **8 more QParent registrations required** to meet our **target of 200**. That's only 1 per business day. Help us reach our goal by completing your registration today.

Congratulations and thank you to all families for your commitment to attaining our attendance target of greater than 95%. It appears that Prep is on track to be the best attenders for term 1.

**Punctuality** is identified as a key element in the success of business and social relationships. It is a respectful action that applies to schools as well. Karen Joy Fowler's words on the topic resonate with me. Do they with you? "Arriving late is a way of saying that your own time is more valuable than the time of the person who waited for you." Thank you to those who value the time of others equally.

Stay safe and keep smiling.  
Bruce

#### **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** **Community Meetings**

We held another school community get-together yesterday morning on the Prep lawn. It was lovely to talk with all those who came along, thank you for your company. We'll do it again sometime.

Also on Friday (18 March), at 2:00pm in our Library rooms, we're having a forum where parents can come along and listen to an invited guest or someone from our school speak about different topics. Please come along and be a part of our forum. We would really welcome your input and insights and also like to see what you might wish to find out more about. This week we have Pam Day, the District Education LinQ Co-ordinator from the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, Gold Coast, coming to speak to us about emotional resilience and well-being.

#### **Sexuality, Equality, Uniforms and Uniformity**

There will be letter going home to parents of children in our upper grades in the near future talking about the above heading. I would like to think that the topic could become a conversation we could have/air at our Community Forum Meetings. I'd love to hear your

feedback and if a consensus is gained I could look at arranging a guest speaker.

#### **Chess at Gilston State School – Term 2**

The end of term 1 is fast approaching and students have been having a great term of chess, where they have been learning all the strategies, traps and tricks of the game while having lots of fun. A group of students went to William Duncan to compete against other schools in our region. Well done to all who took part.

Chess lessons run on Monday afternoons from 3.10–4.10pm in the library and there are still places available for Term 2. Lessons will commence on Monday 11 April and the cost is \$88.00 per student per term. Gardner Chess cater for all ages and abilities and the educational benefits have been proven – kids think smarter when they know how to play chess! To enrol and pay, please go to this web site [www.gardinerchess.com.au](http://www.gardinerchess.com.au), click on the parent icon, set up an account using your details, click on Student Coaching and Add Student, select term 2, add to cart and check out. Please call the friendly staff on 5522 7221 or visit the web site [www.gardinerchess.com.au](http://www.gardinerchess.com.au) for more information.

#### **Team Madison's Bands for Butterflies**

Variety Clubs of Australia, the children's charity, are holding a celebration event on 7 May for a night of fantastic local music to help support sick and disadvantaged children. Check the noticeboard at the front of the school for details.

#### **Lost Phone**

An iPhone has come into my possession. If anyone is looking for one please come and see me.

#### **P & C NEWS**

##### **Gilston Club 2016**

Following discussions at the last P & C meeting, and the recent Gilston Club 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 run by the Gilston Club will continue to be run.

#### **Thank You**

The P & C have donated a set of wide brimmed hats to school to make sure no child misses out on Sports days. Taralei Williams kindly sewed yellow ribbons on them so they can be differentiated from the kids hats. Thank you for your help with this.

**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.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via the P & C email: [pandc@gilstonss.eq.edu.au](mailto:pandc@gilstonss.eq.edu.au)  
Tam Bell / Gilston State School P & C Secretary

### NOTICE OF AGM

The Gilston State School P & C would like to give notice of our Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 21 March at 7.00pm in the staff room. This will be immediately followed by a regular meeting.

All executive positions will be vacated at this time. Nominations for executive positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) can be dropped in at the office, or will be accepted on the night. Please come along and join the P & C and help us help support your children and your school

### LIBRARY NEWS

Issue 2 of **Book Club** has been delivered to the school this week and your child should have received their books. There will be a **Book Fair** held in Term 2 for 1 week from Tuesday 3 May to Monday 9 May.

Kathy Stone – Librarian

### SOMERSET FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

Last Thursday 32 pupils from Gilston attended this event. We heard guest authors Jacqueline Harvey and Deborah Abela talk about how they became writers and how they write their books.

Kathy Stone – Librarian

**FREE TENNIS SHIRT** – Tennis Australia is giving away a free t-shirt to students. Prep students can also receive a new tennis racquet. If you would like to register your child/children, fill in the attached parent consent and give to our PE teacher Mr Stavar. Thank you.

Scott Stavar / HPE

### SCHOOL BANKING

On Friday 15 April (Week 1, Term 2) Ann from Commonwealth Student Banking will be at the front of the school opening new accounts for anyone interested in getting their child started on their saving journey. Ann will be there from 8.00am and all you need to bring is ID for yourself, the child does not need ID if they are enrolled within our school. Younger siblings can also participate just bring their birth certificates along.

All student banking is done Friday mornings so once you have an account up and running it is as simple as sending their deposit book into class each week.

Happy banking!

### SUGOI NEWS

Sugoi HQ has been buzzing the last couple of weeks with our upcoming performances getting closer. Kendama group will demonstrate some of their new skills on assembly tomorrow and the Sugoi Taiko group have prepared an Easter song for the opening of the Easter Concert on Thursday! Sugoi ne!

### TUCKSHOP REPORT

Thursday 17 March – Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Monica Whetter

Friday 18 March – Kristy Griffin / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 21 March – Paula Black

Ice Blocks – Joanne Smith

Tuesday 22 March – **HELP NEEDED PLEASE**

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 23 March – Rachael Wood / Loretta Wood

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 24 March – Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Monica Whetter

Next Tuesday 22 March is **Cross Country**. The tuckshop will be open from 8.00am offering a selection of breakfast items for sale, e.g. Bacon & Cheese Mini Quiches \$1.00, Vegemite & Cheese Scrolls 50 cents, Mini Fruit Muffin 20 cents, Half Cheese Toasted Sandwiches \$1. All welcome. Come and have breakfast at Gilston Gourmet.

Also we will be offering cake and coffee \$5.00 or cake and tea/cold drink \$4.00 for the parents if you are looking for a little treat.

If parents want to place an order for lunch, please do so before 9.30am.

Have a fantastic 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](http://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](http://www.robinashs.eq.edu.au).

**EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS FUN CAMP** - Monday 4 April, Tuesday 5 April, Wednesday 6 April, Thursday 7 April, Platinum Tennis located at Hinterland Tennis Club, Price Street, Nerang. Full Day 8:30am- 4.00pm \$45, Half Day 8:30am - 12.00pm \$30. 4 Day Pass (Full Day) come all 4 days \$130 per person, 4 Day Pass (Half Day) come all 4 days \$100 per person. **Call Jono 0488 696 939**

**ROBINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL** Academic Excellence & Sports Academy Information Evening – Wednesday 23 March, 2016. Academic Programs 5.30-6.00pm, Sporting Programs 6.15-6.45pm. For more information and RSVP contact Ben Weeks [bweek12@eq.edu.au](mailto:bweek12@eq.edu.au).

**JOB OPPORTUNITY** - 9 month fixed term position starting 13th April, 15 hours per week with potential to increase to 25 hours per week. This role includes advertising, screening candidates, interviewing candidates, keeping records and liaising with our international partners. Candidates must have a high level of computer skills, be reliable and honest, enjoy talking on the phone, have a good grasp of using social media, the ability to work to deadlines and to work independently. For full job description email: [kellie@under31.com.au](mailto:kellie@under31.com.au). Applications close 30th March.

