



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes  
Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

After nine very productive weeks our **students are demonstrating considerable stamina** to produce a strong finish to the term. I commend our teaching and support staff for developing this learning stamina in our students aware that it is important to each individual's progress. When we reconvene for the second term I am confident that the platform set this term will be a springboard for further success.

**Physical stamina** was on display yesterday as our girls and boys competed in the **Cross Country** events. I was impressed with the **level of fitness evident** in our students and importantly with their **sportsmanship** that was on display. Carnivals are about striving to win, however it is pleasing to witness the attitudes and comradery between the girls and boys as they supported each other.

After more than nine years at Gilston, **Helen Steinhardt** will be relocating to Coomera State School for the beginning of term 2. Her relocation has come about due to an over-allocation of staff in our **Special Education** Program. Since beginning at Gilston in 2007, Helen has been an **integral part of our program**. She has applied her extensive knowledge and skills in the area of special education to the advantage of scores of students and staff in this time. Helen's **commitment** to her role and her **attention to detail** has created a **legacy** of positive relationships with families and clear records of intervention and support for students. Her **advocacy** for the students with special needs ensured successful transitions to high school for her charges. On behalf of the Gilston School community I thank Helen for her contributions and wish her well as she joins the Coomera team next term.

I am pleased to report that **Hannah is home from hospital**, recuperating and hopeful of a start at school in term 2. We look forward to seeing her back.

**Attendance** has remained on track to meet our target of greater than 95% for the year. I note that Year 4 is back in the "green". It is important that **no shortcuts are taken** if we are to achieve our goal. When events such as the **Easter concert** begin a day, the **expectation is that students remain at school for the remainder of the day**.

**There will be some changes to staffing in term two.** Most of

### FOR YOUR DIARY

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
Monday Friday	18 April 22 April	<b>Spell-a-thon</b>
Friday	29 April	Bush Dance
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
96.07	95.7	96.12	96.18	95.28	95.16	95.66

the changes will occur in the Prep year due to teachers returning from leave and reverting back to regular teaching fractions. If you have a child in the Prep year, you will have already received a letter outlining the changes. If you have not, please see your child's teacher.

After analysis of the mathematics results for term one, our teachers **will be clustering students** to best suit their learning needs. This will require students **moving between classes for four, one-hour sessions per week**. This arrangement will allow a more tailored approach to delivering instruction.

**Accelerated Integrated Method (AIM) will be introduced in Languages lessons next term.** Critical fluency in Languages is considered key as a measurement of success and AIM is a "unique, multi-faceted program in that it uses gestures; a specifically researched 'pared down' language; with stories and music to rapidly develop students' fluency". Students in the upper years will begin the program with a view to using this method to extend our Languages Program in line with the National Curriculum in the future. Kylie has monitored the method with other languages and is keen to apply the Japanese version now that it is available. We look forward to further positive results in language learning.

It was pleasing to see the growing **number of attendees at the P & C meeting** on Monday. Unfortunately we were unable to conclude the AGM due to some incomplete records so we will try again next month. The general meeting was informative and finished with some interesting discussions about upcoming parent forums. I thank those in attendance for your respective contributions and extend an **invitation to all parents to join us next month**.

**Spell-a-thon** details will be coming home with your child today; the words to be learnt and the sponsorship form. Students are to collect pledges of support either based on the number of correct spelling or outright donation from sources outside school. Students are encouraged to start learning the words now so they can perform well when tested in week two next term. The volunteers from the P & C will be collecting money following the tests. If you are interested in helping with this process let us know.

History tells me that I will see many of you at the **Easter concert** tomorrow. It promises to be a highlight again. Remember **students are expected to be at school for the full day**.

**Only three QParents** app registrations to go to reach our goal of 200. Will you be the one that helps us hit the target? Also on the topic, Roz has identified that some siblings had not been registered for some families. Consequently she continues to send invitations to have these children included. If you have difficulty with this aspect please see Roz on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

In closing this term I wish to **acknowledge the wonderful team of staff** that we have at Gilston; our teachers, leadership team, teacher aides, administration officers, visiting specialists, groundsman and cleaners. Each member is a vital cog in the machinery that operates to provide the teaching and learning environment that we enjoy. I am **proud of our team** and their contributions that lead to the positive results for our students.

Whatever it is you have planned for the Easter break, may it bring you joy. I am hopeful that each of you will have time to spend with your family making memories to which you will reflect on fondly.

Stay safe and keep smiling.  
Bruce

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Gilston Gourmet living up to the name

Congratulations to Nicole and the ladies in this space who have really kicked some goals this year. The attention and recognition they've received from the Queensland School Tuckshop Association lately recognizing their efforts is certainly something to be very proud of. It's wonderful to know our children are being looked after so well. To add to this, the Gilston Gourmet and the team are gaining attention from other schools in the area who have heard how great things are and now they want to come and see how they could do it at their schools. It is wonderful work you're doing ladies, we appreciate it so very, very much (especially the taste testing).

### Community Forum

Thank you everyone who have shown interest in attending our next Forum. We'll have it in the Library at 2:00pm on Friday 15 April. Please come along if you can make it. If you can't but would like to have input into the discussion, please email the school [admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au) and I'll read it to the group on the day for you. If you don't wish to be recognised publicly on the day, that's not a problem at all. Again, it will be great to see you on the day, or hear from you soon.

### School Break

The break is almost upon us and so I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe time no matter what you're doing. Children, be thankful for what you have and make sure you tell your parents and caregivers every day over the break. Someone more eloquent than I once said, 'It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness.'

To all, thank you for a very productive, successful and enjoyable term and may your God be with you.

### P & C NEWS

Thank you to the students, staff and parents that made the Cross Country yesterday such a fun event. It was great to see everyone out there giving it a go! The breakfast and cake and coffee put on by the hard working ladies in the Tuckshop was a great success, enjoyed by all. Thank you ladies for taking the time to do this.

### What's Happening in Term Two

#### Spelling Bee:

Sponsorship forms and words have gone home, so get practising for Term 2!

#### Bush Dance 29 April:



The P & C are putting on a Family Bush Dance, complete with Line Dancing and a 'Fiddler in the Middle'. So dust off those cowboy boots, dig out your best hat and come and join some good old fashioned country fun.

We need volunteers to help on the night, with set up, clean up, food etc. If you are able to help please text Tam 0415 444 636.

On behalf of the P & C I would like to wish you a safe and happy Easter and a great break. See you all Term 2.

Tam Bell  
Secretary – P & C

## CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

### Age Champions

	Boys	Girls
9 years	Brendan Thomas	Alyssa Thomson
10 years	Carter Wilson	Charlee Potter
11 years	Soren Zwolsman	Ella McRobert
12 years	Andrew Prisley	Charlotte King

### Final House Points

1 <sup>st</sup>	Zimmerman	318 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Latimer	250 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Duncan	234 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Hinze	220 points

## LIBRARY NEWS

Overdue Books – notices have been sent home this week to students who have overdue books. Please make sure your child returns their book after two weeks. They can re borrow it if they need to finish it.

Accounts for unreturned and lost books will be sent out in Week 2 of next term.

## UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Shop **WILL NOT** be open this Thursday 24/03/2016.

Happy Easter from the Uniform Shop Team

## FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER: MICHELLE DAVIES

Hi to all... I'm back and yes, I'm much more relaxed!!! I feel very refreshed and ready to put everything into the year.

Can't holidays work wonders?

I'd like to start by looking at some of our very old, but very important "WISDOMS" in the coming newsletters. After all, these wisdoms have been part of our life since we were born and long before that too.

I'll also try to bring you some further tips and ideas for living with, and truly enjoying, bringing up children.

For this week, let's just spend some time looking at:-

### Wisdom One: Getting Our Work/Life Balance Right!

I think that most of you would already have heard that age old saying...

"All Work and No Play...It can indeed make Jack a rather dull boy!"

I wonder how many of us actually stop to consider this as we go about our daily life.

I've just come back from a really lovely holiday in Europe. Indeed, it was a holiday I never thought I'd ever get the opportunity to take when I was young!

I now realise more than ever, just how important being with family is, and how important holidays are to both our personal health and our perspective.....

I guess most of you already know that your health is extremely important, but did you also know that your lifestyle choices, your personal wellbeing and your own mental wellbeing are even more important to your personal longevity?

Time for family, connectedness in your own community and personal relaxation are just as important (if not more important) than your daily work/career goals and aspirations. When we truly connect with others, around us and develop personal long term goals through connections and personal interests with family and community, we sew fruitful seeds for everyday life that can lengthen our own longevity.

Have you thought you could be a workaholic? Are you perhaps burning that candle of yours at both ends? Might you be "married to the job" or running here and running there and not really thinking about your own family or your

true self?

If these clichés describe your personal approach to life, and maybe you've also started to let your vacation days just pile up, you may actually be sowing seeds for some very serious health problems in the future.

Plan a vacation....spend some more time with your loved ones... indeed spend some more time developing personal interests.

Always allow some time each day to laugh and to love. Develop an interesting hobby and make some stronger connections with your family and close community.

Many recent studies have already linked working very long hours to a risk of high blood pressure, stroke and/or heart attack. At the very least, being stressed can make you and the people around you fairly uncomfortable. Are you always grumpy? Are you negative and complaining about everything all the time? You may just be working too hard! Researchers have looked at the data and found that those who work too much, too often and too intensely do tend to suffer more personal health risks.

Please, please, just take some time out to make sure you get your own work/life balance sorted. Make it a goal to try to spend a few hours with family and friends, watch over them and make sure you have time to really love and care for them.

Please everyone enjoy the holiday season over Easter and make sure you spend some time just being together.

## KidsMatter at Gilston

Do any of you happen to recall me talking about the KidsMatter program in late 2015?

If you do, you may also remember me talking about the introduction of this great program at Gilston in 2016.

We hope you will soon start to notice the few extra activities we are going to be introducing. We aim to focus on promoting our community connectedness, and also on our role in being a supportive school environment. We'll also be trialing some programs that can assist our children to develop greater resilience and emotional wellbeing.

KidsMatter helps us to understand that we should all be coming together and running different programs and activities that can promote everyone's wellbeing. We aim to strengthen our school/community links and foster the wellbeing of our students.

KidsMatter was originally a national initiative. It's been around for a few years now. It provides some really wonderful ideas and resources that can assist us all to better support and nurture our kids. After all...don't we as a collective want our children to be happy, healthy, successful and ready to face their personal futures with love, strength and resilience?

KidsMatter acts as a comprehensive framework. It fosters:



1. Positive School Community
2. Quality Social and Emotional Learning for Students
3. Schools working closely with Parents and Carers
4. Support for Children with Mental Health Difficulties



Late last year we were busy forming and training our new KidsMatter Action Team. We're now getting together to do some brainstorming and planning in relation to

KidsMatter's implementation. You're also likely to start seeing those butterflies re-emerging around the school again in Term 2.

This week I'm asking you all to participate in a short online survey in the school's newsletter.

Please... If you are able to spare a couple of minutes of your busy day I'd really appreciate it if you could fill out this survey over Easter by using the provided links below. This will greatly assist us to better understand what your thoughts are, and how we as a school community can improve on what we are already doing. Many Thanks.

Just click this Parent Survey link to begin the survey:

[Our KidsMatter Parent Survey](#)

Many thanks for your response and support.



### TAIKO PERFORMANCE

Our Sugoi Taiko (Japanese drumming) group will put their newly formed skills to the test this Thursday when they perform at the school's Easter concert. The group have been rehearsing a special Easter song and are looking forward to their first public performance. The concert starts at 9.15am in the school hall.

## **JAPAN TOUR 2016**

### Japan Tour – places available

We are very lucky to have a short window of opportunity to add a limited number of students to our Japan Tour 2016. Japan Tour runs from **15-25 September** and includes all meals, transport, airfares, accommodation, entry fees and standard EQ travel insurance. This year we do not have a Homestay component in the Tour – all accommodation will be in hotels. If you are interested in more details please contact Mrs Doonican tomorrow at [kdoon3@eq.edu.au](mailto:kdoon3@eq.edu.au) (please include your phone number).



Places will be finalised during the holidays.

The Sugoi HQ has seen a busy start to 2016. With the delivery of our Specialist Hub Mrs Miller has been able to fully utilise the wonderful instruments we have here at Gilston, working with guitars without the space restrictions of the old classroom. The noise has been minimal and there have not been any disruptions to other lessons, in fact the nearby teachers report that the noise is well-contained and hardly noticed at all. Look out for Ukuleles in the lower grades next term!

Specialist lessons have run much more smoothly with less movement required between classes and more opportunity to focus on the curriculum. Our brand new iPads, won through our entry in a film competition last year, have been used in the Sugoi HQ for another film production and the Taiko group have an awesome space to set up and practice.

Accelerated Integrated Method (AIM) will be introduced in Languages next term also, giving students an excellent opportunity to develop critical fluency in Japanese through constant use of the language in the classroom.

Check out the Zaru soba we made in Japanese lessons this week!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8BCDXkwHwI>

### GILSTON GOURMET REPORT

Thursday 24 March – Help needed

Ice Blocks – Monica Whetter

Monday 11 April – Paula Black / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 12 April - Melanie Harrison

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 13 April – Rachel Wood / Loretta Wood

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 14 April – Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 15 April – Kristy Griffin / Help needed

Ice Blocks – - Help needed

A big thank you to all the kids and parents who had breakfast with us at school yesterday - it was so great to see so many parents and kids.

Also a big thank you to the following ladies who assisted me with the breakfast; Paula Black, Tam Bell, Danielle Graham, Karen Bowden and Mel Wright - thanks for your help and support.

We will be offering **Cake & Coffee \$5, Cake & Cold Drink \$4** on Thursday morning for the Easter Concert. Also we will have snacks and cold drinks available for sale.

Gilston Gourmet was awarded the **best "Snack"** for our GG's Snack box at a convention in Brisbane on Saturday. Congratulations to Gilston Gourmet.

**Next term** we will be introducing some new menu items, so watch this space.

Have a great holiday, take Care.

Nicole Meesen- Tuckshop Convenor

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

**AFL QUEENSLAND** has developed a new program just for girls. RAMP bridges the gap between Auskick and Club Football. Wednesday 27 April (8 weeks), 4.30-5.30pm, Robina AFC, Scottsdale Drive, Robina. \$90 includes registration and Term 3 competition fee. Register [gcsouthgirlsrampsportingpulse.net](http://gcsouthgirlsrampsportingpulse.net).

**NRL SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOOTY CLINIC** Helensvale Hornets Tuesday 5 April, 10.00am-2.00pm, girls and boys 5 to 13 years - \$40 per child. [www.playnrl.com/seg](http://www.playnrl.com/seg) or 0447 440 068.

**CELEBRATE CONNECT TO YOUR CREEK WEEK** by joining Seqwater for free yoga and meditation classes in the tranquil setting at Advancetown Lake (Hinze Dam). Saturday 9 April - Kids Yoga: 2.00 - 3.15 pm. Thursday 14 April - Easy Stretch and Breathe 9.30 - 10.30, Learn to Meditate: 10.45 - 11.30, Saturday 16 April - Yoga: 9.00 – 10.00 am, Learn to Meditate: 10.15 - 11.00 am. For more information contact the Hinze Dam Visitor Centre on 5644 3019 or [education@seqwater.com.au](mailto:education@seqwater.com.au)

**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).

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