



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As we opened the doors for the first time this term, we welcomed our returning students and a number of **new faces to our community**. I am pleased and proud that our students have done their job in welcoming new friends and importantly the adults have extended a warm welcome to the new parents. These actions will contribute positively to perpetuating the community feel that we enjoy at our school.

I have spent as much time as I can this week **in classrooms observing the learning** of our students. I have been particularly **impressed with the engagement** I have witnessed with students focused on their learning from the first minute of the school day. This feature of our school is testament to the **quality of the instruction** that is occurring and the **skills of our staff**. I commend our teachers in particular for leading this learning and the students for their engagement in their job, "learning".

Last year a group of students marched under our banner at the **ANZAC parade in Nerang**. Again this year we have been invited to participate in the March at 9:40am from Lavelle Street to the RSL facility (assemble at 9:20am). If you are **interested** in having your children join the march, please call the office (55012333) to **lodge their names**.

One would be forgiven for thinking that when the students break for the term that the school stops. This however is far from the truth as evidenced by the **changes** that greeted you this week: the new partially-completed **ramp to the hall**, the **pathway** between block F and G, the **removal of dangerous and damaging vegetation**. Add to this the spring cleaning and maintenance projects that were undertaken and we enjoy the product of lots of planning and labour. I **commend our staff** responsible for their industry applauding that their actions have minimised disruption to the learning for our students. During the next few weeks the **final touches** will be made to the **paths and railings** before they can be safely opened for public use.

If **imitation is the highest form of flattery** our **tuckshop** convenors and volunteers should take a bow. Recently our tuckshop has been visited by more schools, Mudgeeraba and Clover Hill, as they attempt to emulate the practices and offerings that occur at Gilston. I **warmly congratulate Nicole and the team** for this well-deserved recognition.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	15 April	Commonwealth Student Banking opening new accounts 8.00am Gazebo
Monday	18 April	P & C meeting 7.00pm
Monday	18 April	<b>Spell-a-thon</b>
Friday	22 April	
Wednesday	27 April	Last day for Book Club orders
Friday	29 April	Bush Dance
Monday	16 May – 23 May	Book Fair in the Library

#### 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
96.13	95.55	95.96	95.75	94.73	94.48	94.95

We managed to hit the **200 registered QParent App users target by 2pm** on the last day of term. Well done Gilston. I'm certain we will add some more this term as the satisfied users spread the word. If you want to join those taking advantage of the convenience of payments at your "thumb tips", contact the ladies in the office.

**Feedback is critical for improvement** in all facets of life and so it is that we welcome feedback about our practices. We examine our processes and procedures regularly against feedback from formal and informal sources always striving to improve. At times we receive **positive feedback from you** and I can tell you that when you recognize our staff members' and students' efforts it **brings a smile to their faces**. Please continue to provide feedback that reinforces or helps refine our current practices.

Last term I wrote about the injection of funds from the **Investing for Success** program and the additional offerings this afforded. During the break the [summary of our plan](#) was approved by the Director General and is now **on our website** for your viewing.

The **spell-a-thon** is just around the corner. I trust that during your busy term break you have helped your children **raise some sponsorship** for their upcoming test. Importantly, they will also need some help and motivation to learn their spelling to ensure that their sponsors' commitments are maximised by achieving the highest results possible.

A new date for our **working bee** will be chosen at the P&C meeting next week. At this time, with some upcoming public holidays, is likely to be **mid-May**. Please watch out for this date and mark your calendar once the announcement is made.

**Congratulations Gilston, all the year levels were still in the "Green"** as at the last Wednesday of the term. This means that they were all averaging above 95% attendance. Continue to monitor the progress this term on our weekly newsletters and do your bit by ensuring your children are here on time every day they are fit to do so.

It is inevitable that in our lives we will come across others who are **doing it a little tougher than us**. It is the Aussie way that when we do we extend a **helping hand**. I am pleased to advise that our P&C has endorsed a special fund-raiser for **Marcus Williams** who requires a special vest to assist him with his chest physiotherapy. Marcus has [Kartageners Syndrome](#) and faces some daily challenges that very few others do and to look at him you wouldn't know of the ritual procedures he endures each day just to get to school. Our collective financial help will offset the \$8000 cost of the vest that his parents will source from the USA that will provide some relief for his treatments. More details about the fund raiser will be included in next week's newsletter. Stay safe and keep smiling.  
Bruce

#### **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

##### **Community forum meeting this Friday**

Our next community meeting is on Friday at 2.00pm in the Library rooms. Please come along and join with other parents and carers as we discuss the topic I raised last term. Our guest speaker will be Pamela Day, District Co-ordinator from the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service.

##### **The power of improved instruction**

Despite there being various causes of educational disadvantage, there is only one domain in which an education system can have a significant impact – by harnessing the potential power of improved instruction.

Reid Lyon reported research findings that about 40% of children learn to read readily with only minimal instruction, another 30-

40% will require significant support to make progress in reading; and for 20-30% reading is a seriously difficult task requiring exemplary instruction, probably both intensive and over a longer period. Other estimates, such as by Tyce Palmarffy vary only slightly from those figures. The National Reading Panel reported that about 5% of children find learning to read to be a readily achieved process. About 60% find early reading difficult and a third to a half of that number have great difficulty.

The major reviews of reading not only agreed on the key components of reading programs but also the most effective way of teaching them. They found that explicit or direct instruction was the most effective teaching method, especially for the fundamental code-based components – phonemics and phonics. The gift of reading is a precious gift to have and to pass on, furthermore it's critical to their ability to embrace life-long learning.

The path we are on at Gilston is to improve instruction methods and therefore improve the outcomes for our students based on evidence such as the above.

**The person who can claim to be educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change.**

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

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all had a great time over Easter with your family.

It is hard to believe that we are already in term 2. This term will be busy with a spellathon, a bush dance, mothers' day stall, working bee and the list goes on.

I invite you all to the P & C meeting on Monday in the staffroom at 7.00pm where we will discuss our plans for the term and beyond.

Have a great week  
Jemma 0407091826

#### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TERM TWO**

##### **Spellathon**

Sponsorship forms and words have gone home, so get practising and collecting sponsors.

##### **Bush Dance 29 April**



The P&C are holding 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 can't run the dance without volunteers to help on the night; setting up, cleaning up, making and selling food etc. Line dancing experts needed too!!

If you are able to help please contact me on 0415 444 636.  
Tam Bell - Secretary – P & C

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Year 6 student Ella McRobert has been selected in the U12 Oceanic District Girls Hockey Team. Well done Ella.

#### **TENNIS**

The finals of our school tennis tournament will be played this Friday in the hall at second break. The girls' final will see Ella McRobert and Jorja Brown play Trinity Rollison and Maia Gardner. Gin Ueno and Soren Zwolsman will take on Brayden Templer and Jack Krantz in the boys' final.

Spectators are most welcome.

## **JUNIOR CHOIR**

*Year 2 students were invited to join the Junior choir this week. The choir rehearses every Tuesday at first break. There is no cost involved in being a part of this group and all Year 2 students are welcome. See Mrs Miller if you require further information.*

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

*Book Club Issue 3 has gone home with students this week. The last date for orders will be Wednesday 27 April. Please remember to order on-line using the LOOP payment options.*

*Book Fair will be held this term. It will run from Monday 16 May to Monday 23 May.*

*Kathy Stone / Librarian*

## **GILSTON GOURMET REPORT**

*Thursday 14 April – Kerrie Bray*

*Ice Blocks – Monica Whetter*

*Friday 15 April – Kristy Griffin / Help needed*

*Ice Blocks – Jane Smith*

*Monday 18 April – Paula Black*

*Ice Blocks – Help needed*

*Tuesday 19 April – Melanie Harrison*

*Ice Blocks – Help needed*

*Wednesday 20 April – Rachael Wood*

*Ice Blocks – Help needed*

*Thursday 21 April – Tracey Zimmerman*

*Ice Blocks – Monica Whetter*

*Friday 22 April – HELP NEEDED PLEASE*

*Ice Blocks – Help needed*

*We have 3 new meals on offer this term as the winter is coming, Macaroni and Cheese, Chicken Fried Rice and Beef Lasagne. They are all 220g portion sizes and suitable for our children to eat. These all have the green tick of approval from Smart food choices. These will be on sale as of Monday and will be \$4.50 each serve.*

*If your child does not get the correct lunch order, please have them come to the Tuckshop and the ladies will sort it out for them*

*Have a great week,*

*Nicole Meesen - Tuckshop Convenor*

## **UNIFORM SHOP**

*Welcome back to Term 2.*

*The Uniform Shop will be open on Thursdays from 2.15-3.00pm.*

## **JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

*Sugoi HQ has been working towards our goal to have more interactions with Japanese students and the ability to engage our students in the culture and language they study. We plan to organise a visit from a group of Japanese students to Gilston later in the year. We are looking for families who would be willing to host a student at their house for a week. Activities will be organised within the school for the group during school hours.*

*If you are interested in more information on hosting a Japanese student please complete and return the form your child will be bringing home from school today. It is also attached to the Newsletter.*

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**FREE TENNIS LESSON** - Looking to make new friends and learn new tennis skills all while having fun? Platinum Tennis Coaching located at the Hinterland Tennis Club, Price Street, Nerang are offering a free tennis lesson to any children wanting to get involved in the sport, we have designed our tennis programs to be a perfect blend of fun and education.

So if you are between 4-18 years of age why not come along and join in. Lessons run 6 days a week Monday to Friday from 3:30pm Saturdays from 8.00am. We also have lessons before school on school grounds Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7:45am. If you would like to take up this offer, bookings are essential. Please contact Jono on 0488 696 939.

**AFL AUSKICK Sign on & 1<sup>st</sup> Session:** – Thursday 5 May, 3:10-4:10pm, Gilston SS oval, **Cost:** \$75. **For more information contact:** Tim on 5594 5722. Girls can do Auskick as well, come along & have Fun Girls. Or visit [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au). Participants receive benefits which includes, Hat, Football, lunch bag and much more. **To register:** Register online & pay online at [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au). Please print your receipt and bring to the first session.

**LEARN TO PLAY BASKETBALL WITH THE WESTERN WARRIORS** boys & girls from U10 to U20. All abilities welcome. Winter season commences 16 June. Enquire now, places available. [warrriors@seahawksgc.com.au](mailto:warrriors@seahawksgc.com.au) or 0477 076 665

**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.

**AFL QUEENSLAND HAS DEVELOPED A NEW PROGRAM JUST FOR GIRLS**, because we recognise that signing up to junior club competitions can be a little bit daunting. Our RAMP (Regional AFL Match Program) bridges the gap between Auskick and Club Football. We'll help you and your daughter become 'club ready', develop her confidence, and build her knowledge of the game. Wednesday 27 April (8 weeks) 4.30-5.30pm, Robina AFC, Scottsdale Drive, Robina, \$90 includes registration & Term 3 competition Fee. Register [gcsouthgirlsramp.sportingpulse.net](http://gcsouthgirlsramp.sportingpulse.net)  
**HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR ACT 4 KIDS SWIM-A-THON** 1 May, 9.00am-12.00pm. 19A 4 Beaudesert Nerang Road. Nerang Fair. For more information please call 0413 079 359.

