



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Reporting student progress to parents is an integral part of the **teaching and learning cycle**. At the end of this term written reports that outline each student's progress will be distributed to parents and carers. At Gilston we endeavour to tailor these reports, particularly in English and Mathematics, to inform you of **strengths, challenges, goals and suggestions for help** against the standards outlined in the Australian Curriculum or the student's Individual Curriculum Plan. The inclusion of behaviour and overall comments and effort ratings will provide a full picture of your child's achievements and work habits. Based on feedback from the P & C, these will continue to be produced in a paper form and will be distributed on the **last Wednesday** of the term. For those who have the QParents app, electronic versions will be available early in term 3.

Have you ever tried to **make sense of a piece of writing** that is about a very unfamiliar topic? It is most likely that you focused on decoding the unfamiliar vocabulary and re-read parts if not all of the text until it made sense. So it is with students, they **initially focus on decoding of the text**, the words and punctuation. Subsequently they must **re-read to attain fluency**. It is after these stages that they are able to focus their thinking on comprehending the message contained. The repeated reading of the text is vital for comprehension. At Gilston **guided reading practices in our classrooms embrace repeated reading as fundamental to successful comprehension**. At home please encourage your child to re-read until they are fluent so they have the best chance of **making meaning** from the book they are reading.

The first day of May marks the beginning of **Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month**. Our school, as part of the Department of Education and Training, is committed to spreading the message that Domestic and family violence is not acceptable. If you, or anyone you know needs help in this regard, please take advantage of the following support options: DVConnect womensline 1800 811 811, 1800RESPECT 1800 737 732, DVConnect mensline 1800 600 636, DVConnect Sexual Assault line 1800 010 120.

I know that several parents have successfully obtained free copies of **Microsoft Office 2016** by following the instructions in the newsletter. To assist those of you who missed the article containing the offer, I include the following excerpt: All

FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday	5 May	Mothers' Day Stall Yr 3-6
Friday	6 May	Going Bush for a Cause Last day for payment Yr 3 Jellurgal Cultural Centre Last day for orders of jumpers and jackets from Uniform Shop Mothers' Day Stall leftover stock sold at gate 8.30am
Monday	16 May 16 May – 23 May	P & C Meeting 7.00pm Book Fair in the Library
Sunday	22 May	Working Bee 8.00-10.30am
Monday	23 May	District Cross Country
Thursday	9 June	Parent Information Session 5.30-6.30pm
Wednesday Friday	27 July – 29 July	Year 5 Camp Tyalgum Ridge Retreat

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
95.81	95.64	95.52	95.86	94.88	94.57	95.15

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.

So we can plan our **working bee**, please let the [ladies in the office](#) know if you will be part of the team on **22 May**. Our main focus will be the **mulching of gardens** with Damon here with his machinery to help with this project. With sufficient support, additional projects will include the enhancement of the play space adjacent to the Goldmine to provide alternative options for lunch time play and the planting of border vegetation along pathways.

Let's "**Go Bush for a Cause**" this Friday (6 May). For a gold coin donation, students are invited to spend their first lunch break in the nature area directly behind the school oval. This will be the first of three fund raising ventures to assist with payment for Marcus' special physiotherapy vest. This will be a novel experience for many of our students (and some staff) and appropriate supervision will be in place to enhance student safety.

Mothers, where would we be without them? In fact, we wouldn't be without them. Sunday is the day we dedicate to recognising and honouring our mums. I extend best wishes to all mothers reading this newsletter, hopeful that you special day will be memorable. I know the volunteers of the P & C did their bit to help your children mark the occasion. Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Going Bush for a cause – Friday 6 May

This Friday (6 May), remember the back to nature lunch activity for all the children at Gilston. During the first break play time we are inviting everyone to bring a gold coin and spend the time on the school's nature trail. In some cases it will be the first time children and teachers will have been in the area, so it should make for a lot of fun, learning and interacting in a different way, in a different setting. The proceeds gained will be used to support one of our students, so please get your children involved for a guaranteed different kind of lunch activity.

About volunteering

Many have heard the expression that helping others can help oneself, but is that really true? Researchers at the London School of Economics examined the relationship between volunteering and measures of happiness in a large group of American adults and found that the more often people volunteered, the happier they were. Compared with people who never volunteered, the odds of being "very happy" rose seven percent among those who volunteered monthly and 12 percent for those who volunteered every two to four weeks. Other studies discovered that among weekly volunteers, 16 percent felt very happy – a hike in happiness comparable to having an income of \$75,000 - \$100,000 versus \$20,000.

More recently, in August 2014, Gallup released a study that said people who actively work to better their communities have higher overall well-being than those who do not. With research showing such a significant correlation between volunteering and health, as well as volunteering and happiness, why wouldn't you volunteer?

So potentially, volunteering has a great many upsides. People make lifelong friends through volunteering and they benefit from being part of something empowering. Volunteering works on the principle that together we can make a difference. We're social creatures - we become powerful and effective when we work together. Our self-confidence increases, as does our sense of pride and identity. Volunteering helps take your mind off your own

worries and gives you a renewed sense of purpose and perspective. There's also a body of researched evidence showing that volunteering helps battle stress and anxiety, which so many of us can be prone to.

To those who do, and have, volunteered your time in our school, thank you so very much. Without what you do our school would be a lesser place than what it is today because of the richness your efforts bring. The data above is surely validated when we look at Gilston State School's volunteer group – it makes me feel great having you around.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS: NAPLAN 2016

Dear parents

As you know, the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be held from 10 to 12 May 2016. Now that the Australian Curriculum is being implemented in each state and territory, we've aligned NAPLAN to the Australian Curriculum: English and the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics. As such, NAPLAN should have less impact on your child's day-to-day learning, as the best preparation for NAPLAN is for students to continue learning what they do every day in the classroom.

NAPLAN is an important tool for parents, educators and the public to see how Australia's children are meeting essential literacy and numeracy standards. It's a point-in-time snapshot assessment of students' achievements in these important areas. It certainly doesn't replace the important tests that are regularly held in classrooms around the country. It simply complements existing tests and adds a valuable national dimension.

In August–September you'll receive your child's NAPLAN results. If you have any concerns, you should speak to your child's teacher, as they know your child's learning best.

Some students may feel anxious about NAPLAN, but it's up to the adults in children's lives to help keep NAPLAN in context. It's a test that is only taken four times in a child's schooling life – over three days, there are four tests that take around one hour each. **NAPLAN tests what students should already know from their everyday learning**, and there are no prizes or repercussions for doing well or not so well in the tests.

NAPLAN doesn't test everything that happens in a classroom – it isn't intended to – but it does look at the critically important areas of literacy and numeracy – skills that your child will take with them to their adult life.

For more information about NAPLAN, including fact sheets, FAQs and examples of tests, please visit the NAP website.

NAPLAN breakfast dates 10, 11 and 12 May in the Tuckshop area 8.00-8.45am. All year levels welcome.

Nerang State High School Parent Information Evening for Year 7 2017

All intending students and families are invited to come along and see what is on offer at Nerang State High on Wednesday 25 May. The event starts at 5:00pm, going through to 6:30pm (Faculty Booths open from 5:00pm), in the Nerang State High School Hall.

And in closing...

I'm looking for cardboard packing boxes about 600-800mm square. If you have anything like this you'd like to have out of your lives please think of me.

GOLD COAST ORAL HEALTH SERVICES

FINAL OFFER

Gold Coast Oral Health Services are offering **free dental check-ups** to children in **Prep to Year 6**. The service will be provided on-site by Mobile Dental Clinic 61 at Gilston Primary School. Hours of operation for this clinic are Monday to Thursday 8.00am-4.30pm.

To arrange an appointment for your child telephone The Oral Health Client Service Centre on 1300 300 850, Monday-Friday 8.00am-4.30pm (excluding Public Holidays).

Child Dental Benefit Schedule Vouchers are accepted. When your child's \$1,000 cap is reached there will be no out-of-pocket expenses provided your child meets *eligibility criteria.

*Eligibility – all Queensland resident children aged four years or older who have not completed year 10 of secondary school.

Further information on can be accessed via URL: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth/html/services/oralhealth.asp>



KODOMONOHI

Children's Day (こどもの日 *Kodomo no Hi*) is a Japanese national holiday which takes place annually on 5 May, the fifth day of the fifth month. It is a day set aside to respect children's personalities and to celebrate their happiness. It was designated a national holiday by the Japanese government in 1948. It has been a day of celebration in Japan since ancient times. It was originally exclusively male celebrating boys and recognizing fathers, but has since been changed to include both boys and girls, as well as recognizing mothers along with fathers. Families display Carp Streamers (*koinobori*) from their houses, children make origami Samurai helmets (*kabuto*) and special foods are prepared for parties and sold in local stalls.



What's on at the SUGOI HQ?

Down in the Music and Languages block there are a lot of exciting things happening this term. We have the following clubs and rehearsals- Monday 1st break – Taiko (Japanese drumming); Monday 2nd break – Kendama Club; Tuesday 1st break - Junior choir (Years 2 and 3); Wednesday 1st break – Eisteddfod Choir; Wednesday 2nd Break – Taiko and Kendama Club; Thursday 1st break –Senior Choir (Years 4-6); Thursday 2nd break - Guitar practice; Friday 1st break – Eisteddfod Choir; Friday 2nd break – Guitar practice.

GPAC IS COMING!

The Gilston Performing Arts Competition (our annual talent show) will be held later this term. Entry forms are available now. Collect a form from the Music room door. Auditions begin on 30 May.

UNIFORM SHOP

To keep costs down this year we will be placing orders for jumpers and jackets. Orders will be placed Friday 6 May 2016. To make life a little easier you will be able to make a layby. 50% of your total will need to be paid before Friday 6 May 2016 if you wish to have a jumper or jacket. They will be ready for collection Thursday 26 May 2016.

From now until the 26 May 2016 we will be selling all cargo pants and girls boot leg pants for \$10.00

Medium hats have been ordered.

If you are able to volunteer your time one Thursday afternoon a month please phone Tracey on 0408 184 403 or let Nicole know in the tuck shop.

Thank you

GILSTON GOURMET REPORT

Thursday 5 May - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Joanne Scott

Friday 6 May – **Urgent - help needed please**

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 9 May – Paula Black

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Tuesday 10 May – Melanie Harrison

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 11 May – Rachael Wood

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 12 May – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 13 May – Kristy Griffin / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

It's that time of year to stock up your freezers with our **2016 Pie Drive**. Order Forms will be coming home this week, so please look in your child's bag. If anyone has any questions about the pie drive please come and see Nicole, Mel or Karen.

Also next week is NAPLAN. We require some volunteers to help the tuckshop serve the children breakfast from 8.00-9.00am on Tuesday 10 May, Wednesday 11 May and Thursday 12 May. If you are able to help, please let Nicole know.

Remember many hands make light work.

Have a fantastic week,

Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICES

KIDS WORLD GILSTON has entered a team in the **Kokoda 96K Challenge** this year. Unfortunately one of our team members has had to pull out. We are now looking for someone to compete in this challenge with us on the weekend 16 & 17 July. If you or anyone you know would be interested could you please come down and see us or call us on 55332365.

THE BIG FAMILY FUNANZA Sunday 26 June 10.00am-2.00pm, Nerang Country Paradise Parklands.

NERANG STATE HIGH SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT – Friday 20 May. Doors open 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Tickets \$10 each or \$12 on the night. Tables of 8 can be booked now by calling Tracey Spiers on 0412 267 263 or tspie16@eq.edu.au. BYO food. **Strictly NO BYO alcohol.**

AFL AUSKICK Sign on & 1st 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. Participants receive benefits which includes, Hat, Football, lunch bag and much more. **To register:** Register online & pay online at www.aflauskick.com.au. Please print your receipt and bring to the first session.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING MERRIMAC STATE HIGH for students entering Year 7 in 2017 will be held Tuesday, 17 May at 6.30pm in the Hall. 5595 8666 or office@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au

