



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

600 mouths to feed in less than 30 minutes... Sounds like a challenge, however Nicole and a willing and energetic band of helpers did just this yesterday and this morning as they provided the annual NAPLAN breakfast. I commend all involved for meeting the challenge and thank them for their time.

On the topic of food, I recently received a **summary from the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops regarding the progress at Gilston.** I am proud to share the following facts and statistics: Menu health check improved from a **2 star to a five 5**, increased proportion of **green items by 21%**, and a name change with corresponding signage ("**Gilston Gourmet**"). The **volume of sales** this year continues to increase with the positive response to the changing offerings stretching the team each and every week to meet deadlines. **If you want to join this dynamic team**, please contact Nicole.

While our students in years three and five complete their national tests this week, **I have been in other classrooms throughout the school.** I have been most impressed with the **writing** I read in year one, the **sight words** that I saw in Prep, the **reading** I heard in the Goldmine, the smooth operation of the **reading groups** in Year two and the **number fact recall** that was demonstrated in the year four and six classrooms. I congratulate the students for these results, recognising the amazing input from our teachers each and every day.

Our curriculum is aligned with the Australian Curriculum and outlines the standards that are expected in each subject and each year level. A student receiving a **"C" rating is deemed to have achieved this standard.** Students exceeding the standard for their year level will have their achievement rated "B" or "A". Our teachers use guides to making these judgements and collaborate to **ensure judgements are moderated** across the year level. On your child's report that you will receive in the final week of the term, you will also be given a comparison of your child's rating with the entire year level at Gilston.

Judging by the stories I heard recounted on Monday, it appears that many mothers were deservedly spoiled on Sunday. The recollections uncovered some serious child spoiling in many cases too. I wish to draw attention to the **band of organisers of the mother's day stall** and commend them for their dedication to providing the service for our school. Their input brought

FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	13 May	Spell-A-Thon money due
Monday	16 May	P & C Annual General Meeting 7.00pm
	16 - 23 May	Book Fair in the Library
Thursday	19 May	Year 3 Jellurgal Cultural Centre excursion
Friday	20 May	Community Forum 2.00pm
Sunday	22 May	Working Bee 8.00-10.30am
Monday	23 May	District Cross Country
Friday	27 May	Year 4 Camp Deposit due
Thursday	9 June	Parent Information Session 5.30-6.30pm
Friday	24 June	Year 5 Camp payment due
Wednesday	27 July –	Year 5 Camp
Friday	29 July	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
95.57	95.68	95.34	95.71	94.8	94.49	95.29

smiles to not only the mum's faces but to those of the children as they "shopped" for mum's present. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

I'm hopeful of a late surge in volunteer numbers for the **working bee planned for 22 May**. Currently there are 10 on the list. A couple of hours of your time will be most appreciated.

P & C will meet again on Monday night. The AGM that was adjourned in March will be completed prior to the general monthly meeting. All parents and carers are invited to be part of this forum.

I am very proud to report that your generosity in supporting the **"Going Bush for a Cause"** led to **raising \$500** to assist Marcus' family with his medical costs. Marcus and about 400 other students descended on the bush track behind the oval for the first play break on Friday. The cacophony that ensued meant that any wildlife with functional hearing found another place to be during that time. The excitement and wonder was painted on the faces of the children as they emerged from their adventure with stories of climbing logs and overcoming the odd scratch from the wait-a-while plants abounding. It is apparent from the requests to do it again in the second break that repeating the event will be well-received.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The day we went down to the woods to play

Thank you to all who got on board to support a great cause, it was a huge success. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience playing in the area and also having the company of their teachers made it a memorable time. Everyone was suitably attired, with one of our teachers commenting she was able to walk the entirety of the course with her dignity intact. Large obstacles across the path were not an issue.



Free Breakfast this Thursday – the last day of NAPLAN

Come along for breakfast with your children this Thursday from around 8.00am until 8.45am. All are welcome and the food is free, the atmosphere will be great if we have your company. It is the last day for the NAPLAN testing but we don't need an excuse for a party.

Our next Community Forum Meeting – Cyber Safety

The next community forum meeting will be on in the Library on Friday 20 May at 2.00pm. We are hoping to have our police liaison officer come along to talk to, and with, parents. If you'd like to know more, or clear up any myths about the subject and our children's participation in this medium, please come along. Another topic we could discuss is getting children ready to, and switched on to learning. If anyone has something they'd like to raise please let me know. Conversations so far with some people have made us think that maybe you're not the only one thinking a particular way or about a certain thing and this forum could get us together sharing ideas and solutions.

Working Bee

The working bee is on the 22nd of the month, if you could spare a couple of hours on the day we would love to see you. We would like to do some remodelling around the admin block and pathways at the front of the school and clear up around the S.E.P area to allow for more space for children to play. Certainly a need for rest and refreshment after would be needed and Bruce is most willing to supply the appropriate refreshment medium. If you can make it please contact the ladies in the office for catering purposes.

Attendance

Please ensure that your child is at school on time every day to optimise learning opportunities. To date our student attendance, despite a fairly consistent number of students sick over the course of the semester, sits at **95.2%** for the whole school. It means that overall, parents are doing a good job of managing attendance at school. Congratulations to the 204 students who have 100% attendance for the year to date. Keep up the good work! One or two days a week doesn't seem like much but did you know

	Individual Attendance Rate Students attending 85% of the time will miss approximately 3 days for every 4 weeks of school
At 85% Attendance	5 school days = 1 school week 20 school days = 4 school weeks 4 school weeks = 1 school month
Week	0.75 school days or almost 1 day per week
Month	3 school days per school month
Semester	15 school days or 3 school weeks per semester
Year	30 school days or 1.5 school year, 2 school months
By the end of year 7	240 school days or 1 school year, 7.5 school months
By the end of year 12	390 school days or almost 2 school years (after 13 years of schooling)

P & C NEWS

Notice of AGM:

Please be advised that the P & C will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Monday 16 May 2016 at 7.00pm. This will be followed immediately by the general meeting. All executive positions will be vacated at this time and nominations taken for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Spell-A-Thon money is due by Friday 13 May. Please put this in the wooden box in the office. Thank you.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair WILL BE HELD FROM Monday 16 May to Monday 23 May. Please feel free to visit our library and make a purchase.

All money raised from the sale of books goes to buy more books and resources for your children at Gilston. Please support our Book Fair and buy a book!

Kathy Stone / Librarian

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER – Michelle Davies

Wisdom 4: Take a Walk in their Shoes: Treating others with Empathy and Compassion

We've all heard this golden oldie but where does it come from?

Some believe that it stems from an old proverb dating back to the Cherokee tribe of Native Americans. They originally used to say "Don't judge a man until you have walked a mile or two in his shoes".

So what does it mean?

It's actually all about having empathy for the people around us. Being able to empathize allows us to identify and better understand how another person might be feeling. It gives us some ability to be able to understand and comprehend the actions of others. It helps us to be able to look at and better understand the world from the perspective of others and to look at life from another's point of view. It can help us to appreciate them better and grasp why they might be making the choices that they do. But did you know that the ability to empathize with others is relative to our own ability to identify, feel and understand our own feelings. We can't really begin to understand how someone else might be feeling if we haven't already lived a similar experience ourselves. Put more simply, it can be complicated and difficult to understand what a person is undergoing, if you haven't undergone something yourself. Sometimes we need to listen and find out more about the other person's story...the other person's journey before we can truly "take a Walk in their Shoes."

And why is it important?

We're all different and unique. This is what makes our lives more interesting. We really should be embracing and celebrate these differences rather than expecting everyone else to do things in exactly the same way as we do. People experience different things as they walk the rich journey of life. People also respond differently to the same situations. We can learn from each other and embrace diversity and difference.

We do need the support of others around us and we tend to prosper and become more successful when we develop warm and respectful relationships within our communities. For the next couple of months try to practice more empathy and compassion. Accept people for who they are. Be thankful that not everyone sees things in exactly the same way. Spend some time really listening to others and then really show them you care about them even if you come from a different perspective. It's amazing how this empathy and respect can change a whole relationship.

UNIFORM SHOP

Orders have been placed for jumpers and jackets. They will be ready for collection Thursday 26 May 2016.

From now until 26 May 2016 we will be selling all cargo pants and girls boot leg pants for \$10.00
Medium hats have arrived.

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

Thursday 12 May – Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 13 May – Kristy Griffin / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 16 May – Paula Black

Ice Blocks – Kim Jo

Tuesday 17 May – Mel Harrison

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 18 May – Rachael Wood

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 19 May – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 20 May – HELP NEEDED PLEASE

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Pie Drive forms went home last week. Please check your child's bag if you haven't received one. Any questions regarding the pie drive please come and see Nicole.

We would like to extend a **special thank you** to Nick and his team at Coles Worongary for donating the eggs for our NAPLAN Breakfast.

Also special thanks to the following people who volunteered their time to provide breakfast this week:

Paula & Rob Black, Karen Bowden, Tam Bell, Jemma Baldwin, Mel Flessler, Jenny James, Tracey Zimmerman, Clare & Darren Smith.

Remember if you would like to be a part of the volunteer team at the tuckshop, please come and see us.

Have a great week.

Nicole Meesen – Tuckshop Convenor

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 Tennis, and we have designed our tennis programs to be a perfect blend of fun and education. 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. If you would like to take this offer bookings are essential please contact Jono on 0488 696 939.

SCHOOL TERM SKATEBOARD LESSONS – 5-12 Years, beginner & intermediate, qualified coaches. Nerang Skatepark Tuesdays, Beginners 3.30pm, Intermediate 4.30pm, first class free - \$15 per class.

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.

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.**

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

