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, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>Spell-A-Thon money due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>P &amp; C Annual General Meeting 7.00pm Book Fair in the Library</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 – 23 May</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Year 3 Jellurgal Cultural Centre excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>Community Forum 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>22 May</td>
<td>Working Bee 8.00-10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>23 May</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>27 May</td>
<td>Year 4 Camp Deposit due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9 June</td>
<td>Parent Information Session 5.30-6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>24 June</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp payment due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>27 July – 29 July</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp Tyalgum Ridge Retreat</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>95.57</td>
<td>95.68</td>
<td>95.34</td>
<td>95.71</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>94.49</td>
<td>95.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 teacher 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.

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 ....

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

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.

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au
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!

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
understanding 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 Flessor, 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 Convener

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

KIDS WORLD GILSTON has entered a team in the Kokoda 96K
Challenge this year. Unfortunately one of our team members has
did not 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 55323265.

NERANG STATE HIGH SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT – Friday 20
May. Doors open 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Tickets $10 each or
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

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