



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Congratulations to our new **Executive of our P&C: Jemma Baldwin** – President, **Amanda Otto** and **Tam Bell** – Vice Presidents, **Paula Black** – Secretary, **Caroline Crawford** – Treasurer, **Brenda Flemming** – Assistant to the Treasurer. In congratulating these volunteers, I express my thanks to them for accepting the responsibility to lead our parent group. For most of them this is an extension of their membership of the Executive so they will be building on the platform developed in previous years. I look forward to their collective contributions and extend an invitation to all parents to contact any of the ladies to offer your assistance.

Have you been to our [website](#) recently? There have been some enhancements incorporated to **improve communication** with you and the community. One of these has been the inclusion of all notes relating to the planned excursions, incursions and camps (for those times when the note doesn't make it home). Click on the news link to open the item to reveal the corresponding note on the right hand side. You will also notice that we have expanded the number of events that are on view from the front page. I thank Tracylee for efforts in this latest design.

At last count **\$4624** had been raised through the **spell-a-thon**. This is an **impressive total** and I thank you all for your support. While the money raised is significant, the bonus I have noticed was the motivation it provided for some individual students to produce their very best. Well done students!!

Managing payments is part of our school's business and I am grateful that Jan, Pat, Roz and Tracylee oversee the day-to-day operations in this regard. Part of their task is to ensure that accounts are settled in accordance with timelines and to arrange payment plans where financial hardship exists. **Paying invoices on time will enhance our efficiency and will ensure your children can participate in all extra curricula events.**

It is clear that the current practice of **queuing in the collection zone prior to 3 00pm is creating some safety issues** as traffic backs onto Worongary Road. Our local police officers have been doing their best to enhance this safety by moving motorists on. Since their last visit I have suggested that the main contributing factor to the congestion was the illegal parking in the collection zone. Consequently I ask that you

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	16 - 23 May	Book Fair in the Library
Thursday	19 May	Yr3 Jellurgal excursion
Friday	20 May	Community Forum 2.00pm
Sunday	22 May	Working Bee 8.00-10.30am
Monday	23 May	District Cross Country Last day for Pie Drive orders and payment
Wednesday	25 May	NSHS Parent Information Evening 5.00pm
Friday	27 May	Year 4 Camp Deposit due
Thursday	9 June	Parent Information Session 2017 Preps 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
95.31	95.72	95.36	95.61	94.86	94.53	95.24

observe the following guidelines in the use of the zone.

1. Follow the directions on the signs e.g. do not stay in the zone for more than 2 minutes
2. **Arrive** at the collection zone in the afternoon **after 3.00pm** only (this will avoid congestion through the car park and onto Worongary Road)
3. When arriving at the zone in the morning or afternoon, drive as far down the zone as possible to deliver or collect your child/ren. This smooths the flow and minimises the confusion as people pull out.
4. Ensure your child has been directed by you to be at the collection point on time.

Throughout this week teachers have been undertaking a series of individual assessments to confirm student progress. These results will help inform the report you will receive in the last week of term.

Gilston is part of the Nerang Alliance of Schools. We work with each other to benefit the students within all our schools and to enhance transition to high school. One of the activities planned to assist with the transition is the **Open Night that will be held at Nerang SHS on May 25 at 5:00 PM.** Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the school and inform the next step in your child's transition to high school.

Enrolments for 2017 are steadily growing. I expect that I will be able to **offer some out-of-catchment placements in July** this year to assist families with planning. The offers will be based on the date of receipt of the written applications. Again I remind you that if you haven't lodged an application to do so immediately.

Throughout next week **drainage works will be conducted on the roadway beside the hall.** Please be mindful that there may be some disruption in our carpark due to the heavy machinery involved. Please be aware that staff who normally park inside the school grounds will be required to utilise the regular car park during the week. I thank you in anticipation for your patience as these important works are undertaken.

In closing this week I remind you of the opportunity to stock up on some cool weather food – some **pies**. Please lodge your forms with the ladies in the tuckshop.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT **Community Forum meeting**

This coming Friday we are holding another of the community forum sessions. We have our Police Liaison Officer coming to help parents in dealing with the dilemmas associated with children's safe and appropriate use of the Internet. We kick off at 2.00pm in the Library, please come along as we'd love to see you. We would also like to get some ideas from you as to future topics we could explore.

High performing primary schools: What do they have in common?

I was looking at the findings from a study conducted to explore similarities among high performing Western Australian Government primary schools. Nine schools were selected, on the basis of trends in their NAPLAN scores from 2010 to 2014. There were at least three common characteristics among all nine schools:

- Stable long term school leadership, with principals averaging 12 years in their school;
- Well-developed school improvement plans; and
- Reading programs based on explicit teaching of synthetic phonics in the early years.

Some of the strategies identified in the study as bringing about high performing teaching practice where;

- Lower variation teaching (characterised by school based scope and sequence plans that provide teachers with guidance on what, how and when to teach).
- Mandated textbook series and resources
- Formally timetabled literacy and numeracy blocks
- Fine grained achievement targets for individual students and for each term and school year
- Explicit teaching; and Direct instruction programs.

Lower variation schools made significant investments in teachers' professional development, including some or all of the following strategies:

- In class coaching;
- Peer observation programs
- Study tours to explicit teaching schools
- Study of the organisational and curriculum characteristics of case study schools

While Gilston obviously wasn't included in the study, on the afore-mentioned points we certainly score 100%. I felt quite buoyed by the findings, given we are able to (with hand on heart), share our current direction with our school community and now use unrelated research confirming we are on the right track to ensure your child's future is being catered for.

Wednesday 1 June 2016

Time to dust off the colours and declare your allegiances, the State of Origin series kicks off in a couple of weeks. On the day we're asking students (and staff), to wear their team/sport colours, doesn't matter if you play or have interests in another code or sport you're welcome. We are asking for a donation of a gold coin from children if they want to dress up in their favourite colours. All monies raised will be going to support a student in our school. I'll go on the record now and say I feel a change coming – only time will tell.

P & C NEWS **AGM**

Thank you to all who attended the AGM Monday night. The turnout was great.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to your new P & C Executive committee.

President:	Jemma Baldwin
Vice Presidents:	Tamara Bell & Amanda Otto
Treasurer:	Caroline Crawford
Assistant Treasurer:	Brenda Flemming
Secretary:	Paula Black

Thank you ladies for putting your hands up. We look forward to great things this year.

SPELLATHON

Was a resounding success, raising approximately \$4600 for the school. A big congratulations to all the students who studied hard and really got into the spirit of the Spellathon. Thank you also to all who sponsored our hard working students.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

Thank you to all our hard working volunteers who organised and manned the stall. The stall exceeded expectations, the gifts were superb, and students and parents alike were thrilled. The stall raised approximately \$2500! A top effort!

NAPLAN

The P&C put on breakfast for the students last week. Thank you to Nicole for organising it and thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made it a success.

HELP ALWAYS NEEDED

As always, we need volunteers for every activity the P & C does. We are looking for parents to put their hands up to assist with organising our activities, as well as help on the actual day of the activity. We are having a Father's Day stall in Term 3, as well as rescheduling the bush dance/disco to coincide with the Japanese student's visit. If you can help with the organisation of any of these please email us pandc@gilstonss.eq.edu.au



We are using **Quizlet** in our Japanese classes. Students are encouraged to create their own account on or on a **free app** downloaded onto their Apple or Android device. Account names are preferred to be in the format **JohnD** (First Name and first letter of Last name) allowing students to send us their progress and scores as we continue. You will likely need a number after the name (ie: JohnD56) as accounts may already exist in the name alone. After students have created an account they can search for my username **kdoon3** and then send a request to join their class (**Grade 3, 4, 5 or 6**). Once accepted students will have access to script, writing, vocab and grammar practice sets according to the topics we are studying each term. These sets enable the user to practise through study sets, games and time trials and have already made for some exciting, nail-biting competitions in class!

More exciting News from Sugoi HQ...we will be **hosting a group of Japanese high school students** for an afternoon of fun, food and conversation later this term. Students timetabled for Music, PE and Japanese lessons on the day will enjoy a fabulous cultural exchange and the opportunity to forge global friendships!

Check out the **Zaru soba** we made in Japanese lessons recently!

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

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair is on this week. Please come and visit the library and make a purchase to help support our school library.

Kathy Stone/Librarian

GILSTON GOURMET

Thursday 19 May:

Ice blocks: help needed

Friday 20 May: HELP NEEDED URGENT

Ice blocks: help needed

Monday 23 May: Paula Black

Ice blocks: help needed

Tuesday 24 May: Mel Harrison

Ice blocks: help needed

Wednesday 25 May: Help needed

Ice blocks: Kim L

Thursday 26 May: Tracey Zimmerman

Ice blocks: Help needed

Friday 27 May: Kristy Griffin/ Help needed

Ice blocks: help needed

With a couple more days of selling, make sure you get your pie drive forms and money back by Monday 23rd May, 2016. Please put your order forms and money in the wooden box in the office.

Each morning before school, we will be selling ham & cheese toasties for \$3.00 each, and ham & cheese or just cheese quesadilla's (toasted Tortilla's), ½ tortilla \$1.50 and full tortilla \$3.50.

If you are wanting cupcakes for your child's birthday, we require at least 1 weeks' notice; for a class set of iced cupcakes \$25.00 – payable at the tuckshop.

Congratulations to one of our tuckshop volunteers Lydia Moss (mum of Lachlan in 2S), on the birth of her baby, Jack. Wishing you all the best and we can't wait to meet him.

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.

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.**

HAYES & CO HARRISVILLE – Sunday 22 May 10 00am Clearing Sale- Antiques, cattle care equipment, farming machinery equipment, garden household and miscellaneous items.

Refreshments available 329 Pocket Rd Numbinbah Valley further enquires please contact the office ph.07 5463 8099 admin@hayesandco.com.au

