



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Does your child have a **social networking profile**, Facebook, Instagram or something similar? If they don't the safe answer to this question is "I don't think so" as there are many examples of parents being blissfully unaware that their children have such accounts. I can name several of our families at Gilston who have been unpleasantly surprised to learn that their children have been active in this social media arena for years before they were aware. At Gilston we do what we can to assist parents by teaching our students about the risks and safeguards for using these tools and we thank Alana, **our police liaison for helping** in this regard. Alana also addressed the parent forum last Friday to share her knowledge on the topic with the parents attending.

25 adults and about a dozen children reported for duty last Sunday. Armed with barrows, spades, forks and rakes the team transformed the gardens at the front of the school. The new path borders and fresh bed of mulch will ensure this part of our grounds remain attractive for years to come. On behalf of the school I thank the team for their time and efforts. Again I extend our collective gratitude to **Damon** for his kind donation of machinery and skill to assist with the loading of the mulch, the clearing of weeds, the levelling of the long jump pit and the preparation of the ground ready for planting. Our version of the old saying is now, **"many hands and a man on a machine make light work!"**



I am pleased to report that the **new ramps near the hall are now open for use.** They have been constructed to meet the standard required for wheel chair access and have certainly been built to last. The other big project on the cards is the installation of the underground drains and curb and channeling along to Damon Harris Way. Jeff and his crew are working this week, with minimal disruption to our school, to have the project completed by Friday. This project has been a long time in the planning **and I recognise Jan for her tenacity** and **Cassie from our regional facilities team** for ensuring it came to fruition.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday	26 May	Choir Camp forms and payment due
Friday	27 May	Year 4 Camp Deposit due Year 5/6 Gala Sports Day payment due
Monday	30 May	Auditions start for Performing Arts Comp
Friday	3 June	Last day payment Fizzics Education
Thursday	9 June	Parent Information Session 2017 Preps 5.30-6.30pm
Friday	17 June	Performing Arts Comp in hall 11.50am
Monday	20 June	Year 5/6 Gala Sports Day Firth Park and Mudgeeraba Soccer Club
Friday	24 June	Year 5 Camp payment due
Wednesday	27 July –	Year 5 Camp
Friday	29 July	Tyalgum Ridge Retreat
Friday	12 August	Bush Dance

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

We will be **hosting some visitors from Japan** in August and to help entertain our guests we have rescheduled the **bush dance** to coincide with their visit. Please mark your calendar now – **August 12**. I am looking for volunteers to help organise the event and will happily take your calls if you can help.

At recent P&C meetings the concept of having a **SMS text service** included in our communication strategies has been discussed. It is likely that there will be a whole-of-department solution rolling out to schools. This system will potentially include the advice to parents if their children are not in attendance.

Congratulations to Year's P-3 and Year 6 for maintaining an **attendance rate** in keeping with our target of **greater than 95%**.

With Pat's assistance I will be identifying those students whose attendance for the first semester has been 100%. These students will receive a special certificate to mark the achievement. It goes without saying that this certificate is shared with their parents.

If you are looking for some flexible short-term work I direct your attention to the information in the community notices regarding **field officer work for the upcoming census**.

In closing I draw your attention to the article I wrote last week about the use of the **collection and drop-off zone**. The same information has been distributed to each child in the school in a palm card size note and I will do my best to deliver the cards to all drivers in our car park. Please **follow the guidelines to make smooth the traffic and create a safer environment for us all**.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Gilston Greats

Matthew goes down to Broadbeach Ability Soccer Team training days on Saturdays. He shares his time there with a very special group of animals from Storybook Farm for abused and disabled animals. While everyone was playing and training, Matthew was playing happily together with his friend all morning.

One of the organisers commented on Matthew as "such a delightful young man with the most beautiful manners", as they had a chat covering a range of topics from puppy's sharp teeth to how do we fix the wheels when they break.



With our world full of stories, some we don't often hear,
Come moments of joy and a reason to cheer,

Wheels and feet, up and down, round and round

On an ordinary field, transformed every Saturday to hallowed ground,

They say children and dogs you can't often fool,

On these wonderful days they certainly rule!

Thanks Matthew for showing us all your generous nature, respect and consideration. We hold such traits in the highest regard at Gilston and the world does notice too.

True measures of success

I spoke last week about the standard of the education students have available to them when attending Gilston, and the week before about attendance every day. At Gilston we see our enduring moral imperative and our purpose is to ensure that every student is succeeding.

On the standard of education

Over the last year and a half we have implemented a range of strategies and practices which are recognised by our colleagues, regional directors, and national and world research as bringing about better outcomes for those students engaged in the process. Last week we had a visit from our Assistant Regional Director Mr Brian Ragh. In his feedback he noted 'the high quality of

instruction evident in classrooms, collaborative learning and goal-directed action that outlines specific strategies for improving the quality of students' lives.'

From this point now we need to challenge our students about their level of engagement and commitment to their education. Our data shows unequivocally, that those engaged have improved and in some cases quite considerably.

Other data sources show though that the level of disengagement is rising. This is evident in the instances of poor behaviour choices recorded in our data base by teachers.

The world is a very daunting prospect for those entering, or about to enter into the job market now, and the trend is expected to continue, not getting easier as time goes by. One could argue that primary school aged children don't need to worry about such things because of their young age, but evidence is there to show that if they don't have that mastery of knowledge of foundation learning they will be unable to perform in future years and to national and world trends to be competitive in later life. So my argument is that we need to promote real learning to our children to instil in them the real meaning and intent of learning which I describe here as "the process by which learners become aware of, and increasingly in control of, habits of perception, inquiry, learning, and growth that they have internalized." (Maudsley, 1979).

The chances of anyone nowadays, and in the future getting a job without a QCE is near impossible. At best the current year six students will not hit the job market for another six years. Their level of commitment and engagement at a primary school level is an imperative building block in ensuring their life chances. That's it.

So as a school we recognise that without everyone's support around making sure our students are ready for learning in a real sense all day, every day, they will be disadvantaged. I would like to promote the notion of individual student improvement from individual students (Meta learning), as something for them to internalise and challenge for them to improve. What would it take for them to say I want to better my math skills, I'm already sitting at an "A" level but what can I do to be better. Have a conversation with a child about the above.

Community Forum

Last Friday our community liaison officer, Alana, came to talk about the world wide web/social media and the pitfalls and dangers for unsuspecting users. In our case we especially want our students to be as aware as they possibly can and promote safe practices in them. Alana stayed on afterwards to go into the prep area to chat with students. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank her very much for her wonderful work with our school, students and parents, and most importantly thank her for the selflessness shown by her to take time to come out to see us.

The Working Bee

On Saturday we had a wonderful turn-out of people who came to beautify our school grounds. I'm sure everyone has seen the work done by now. Thank you everyone for giving up your time on Sunday, the place looks great because of you. From my perspective though, when I look at the gardens I'll remember that time and think fondly and thank you all over again.

Round One for Wear Your Colours

Not too many sleeps until the first round comes around. The first of June is the day to come to school in your favourite sporting colours with a gold coin donation.

P & C NEWS

Thank you to all who attended our much needed working bee on Sunday. Both parents and kids did an amazing job with replanting and getting our beautiful gardens mulched. The entry to the school is looking great. Also a big shout out to Damon Harris for bringing his digger, this saved us time and allowed us to get through much more garden area.

Quotes Needed

We are looking to do some building in the hall so if there are any builders or plasterers in our school community that would be happy to come and give us a quote please contact. Jem Mob: 0407 091 826

Bush Dance

A date has been set! Friday 12 August. We need plenty of helpers to make this event happen. Please contact Tam mob: 0415 444 636 if you can join the Dance Committee.

Father's Day Stall

Don't forget many hands make light work!!

GALA DAY

The term 2 Gala Day for Years 5 and 6 will be held on Monday 20 June at Firth Park and Mudgeeraba Soccer club.

Our teams have been training each Friday in preparation for this event. The netball players using the back courts have been experiencing a mosquito problem and will be offered repellent on Fridays. If you would rather your child not apply repellent please advise the netball coach Mrs Vairy. Thank you.

DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

On Monday, 30 of our best runners competed at this event. They all ran very well and we are proud of their efforts. Congratulations to Andrew Prisley who will now go on to compete at the Regional Cross Country in June.

Scott Stavar

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair

A huge thank you to all the students and families who have once again generously supported our 1st Book Fair for 2016.

The funds raised at Book Fair provide valuable resources for all our students.

Maths Games and Maths Olympiad

Last Wednesday several students from years 4-6 participated in the first series of questions for these National Competitions. Congratulations to all students who took part in these challenging competitions. By taking part in these programs our students will be improving their problem solving abilities and developing higher order thinking skills.

Kathy Stone

Maths Olympiad Teacher

HELP NEEDED WITH STUDENT BANKING

Do you have an hour to spare on Friday mornings?

If you have we really need your help with student banking. Call in on Friday morning and talk to the girls.

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER – Michelle Davies

Belonging and connectedness improves mental health and learning

KidsMatter teaches us that all children need to feel that their world is a safe place where people care about them, and where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met. They also need to know they are surrounded by people who can help them to sort out their problems.

When these needs are met children develop a true sense of belonging.

This is a major protective factor and it has been found to help protect children against all kinds of mental health problems and even improves their learning. Children who feel that they belong to a group are usually happier; more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than others. They are also more motivated and more successful learners.

Being connected provides us with pathways we can use to seek support when we need it most. Our children often need help to develop these pathways for themselves. Once connected to their friends, teachers, and extended family as well as to other friendly adults in the community they can feel safer and more protected.

We all need to take the time to develop these very same pathways ourselves. By developing connections with others, we open the door to communication and feeling listened to. We open the door to a strong support network. We can then approach others and work together with educational staff and other community professionals to help our children learn and develop.

Support can come from many different avenues. It may come from talking with teaching staff, nursing staff and from your family doctor. It may come from seeking the help of a professional counsellor or a psychologist. It may come from talking and sharing ideas with another family that attends the same school or sporting event that your child goes to.

Interestingly, many times you won't even be looking for actual support or solutions when you find that they just magically appear!

You may have felt that things were going reasonably well when all of a sudden you turn up a truly helpful idea just through your conversations with others you connect with.

Being part of the community and feeling connected helps to keep parents and carers informed. You yourself are then better able to support your own child's early learning experiences and also promote the development of closer connections for your children as well.

GILSTON GOURMET

Thursday 26 May - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice blocks – Anne M

Friday 27 May - Kristy Griffin/ Help needed

Ice blocks - Help needed

Monday 30 May –Paula Black

Ice blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 31 May – Mel Harrison

Ice blocks – Jody

Wednesday 1 June –Help needed

Ice blocks – Help needed

Thursday 2 June - Tracey Zimmerman/Help needed

Ice blocks –Ange L

Friday 3 June – HELP NEEDED

Ice blocks – Help needed

We are also selling, in the mornings before school, toast with jam, vegemite or honey for 50 cents.

Thank you to all those families who have supported our pie drive and handed in orders.

All pies will be ready for collection at the tuckshop on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 June from 2.30-4.30pm.

Remember to bring bags, eskys or boxes to transport your pies home safely.

Have a great week,

Nicole Meesen/Tuckshop Convenor

UNIFORM SHOP-Senior Polo Shirts

Reminder that year 5 students needing Senior shirts for 2017 have their forms filled out and returned to the office. This is just to give us an estimate of how many and the sizes we will need for next year.

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

Tracey

COMMUNITY NOTICES

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL offers **Summit High Performance Programs** for Year 7 in 2017 to students with talents in areas of: STEAM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Maths) and Summit Sport (High Performance). Applications are open and details can be found on the school website or by contacting the school administration office. www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au or 5595 8666.

Census Field Officer

The Census on 9 August 2016, will be the first time where more than 15 million people are expected to complete the Census online. The Australian Bureau of Statistics is currently recruiting over 38,000 field officers across Australia to assist with following up those households that have not responded to the Census.

Remuneration is \$21.61 per hour + an incidentals allowance to cover the cost of data/phone expenses + a motor vehicle allowance for approved travel. Paid training is provided as well as full support from your area supervisor. The total hours of work will generally vary from 60 hours up to 150 hours over the period of employment. There is opportunity to work non-standard hours as well as flexible working days & hours to suit work/life balance.

If you, or anyone you know, are looking for up to approx. 5 weeks work during August & September; please register online at www.abs.gov.au/census. For more information about being a Census Field Officer in the Gilston, Tallai, Worongary & Mudgeeraba areas – contact Area Supervisor (and Gilston parent) Amanda Otto on 0490 067 661. Applications close 29 May 2016.