



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Thirty-seven years ago a career in education began in Homehill for a lady we have claimed as our own for more than sixteen years. **Debbie Favero** continues to be recognised as a talented teacher whose most recent role has revolved around guiding teachers to reach their inherent potential. Debbie has decided that at the end of this term she **will retire**. Her contribution to our school has been considerable from **within her classroom**, through the years she was a **key teacher**, to today where she is pivotal in **leading the pedagogy of our school**. Debbie's legacy will be the advanced skills of our teachers and the results of our students. In sixteen years Debbie has touched many families at Gilston and I know that she has left an **indelible mark on the lives of many children**. I wish Debbie well in her richly-deserved retirement and **extend our collective gratitude** for her contributions to Gilston State School.

Resultant to **Debbie's retirement** and the upcoming **maternity leave for Kate and Jolie**, there will be some minor staffing changes for the second semester. While all of these changes have not been finalised, I can advise that **Kirsti Hendrie** will be taking up the reins from Jolie in the role of **Support Teacher: Literacy and Numeracy** and **Peta White** will assume an additional two days in the **Pedagogical Leader** role. Negotiations and interviews are currently underway to fill the subsequent vacancies.

Basic maths facts are undeniably some of the **building blocks for mathematics** competency. So it is that we focus on these critical elements in our weekly teaching. Each term we **gauge student progress** by testing students on three minute challenges. Testament to our teachers' efforts the results for students since this testing began has risen enormously, individually and collectively. Once students reach close to 100% in these tests they progress to what we call the **extension facts**. Last year there were some students in years 5 and 6 who sat these tests. This year we already have four students in year two at this level. **Continue to encourage your children** to practise their basic facts at home.

Gilston is certainly focused on **academic excellence** however we have **never deviated from the tenet of community and looking out for one another**. Through the fun of wearing our team colours and donating a gold coin today, we again tangibly

FOR YOUR DIARY

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	Gala Day Year 5 & 6
Wednesday	22 June	Senior Athletics Year 4-6
Thursday	23 June	Junior Athletics Year 1-3
Friday	24 June	Prep Athletics Year 5 Camp payment due
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
95.25	95.63	95.23	95.42	94.75	94.36	95.15

supporting one of our own. These vital financial contributions will help Marcus' family access the equipment that will assist with his treatment. Thank you Gilston for your continued support.

Brian, our **Assistant Regional Director** visited last week. This time he brought a few friends from our regional team to have a closer look at our practices and to learn about what changes we have made to ensure alignment and consistency of curriculum and teaching practices throughout the school. Brian will be at school again today to share feedback about his observations with our staff.

I extend a huge **expression of gratitude** to **all drivers** who have observed the guidelines distributed in the newsletter and through the notes sent home and delivered through car windows. By delaying your arrival until after 3.00pm the **congestion in the carpark has diminished** and the **safety** of all at our school has been **enhanced**.

Our second **Enrolling Families session** will be held on **9 June at 5:30pm**. Invitations have been sent out to those who expressed an interest in enrolling for Prep in 2017. If you know of any other families considering applying for enrolment in 2017, please extend an invitation to attend this session. Those interested in 2018 are also welcome to attend.

Thank you for the value you place on ensuring your children are here every day they are fit to do so. Our attendance is improving as illustrated by the comparison to these figures from this time last year.

P	1	2	3	4	5	6
95.59	94.75	95.39	94.08	93.58	94.34	94.38

Stay safe and keep smiling
Bruce - Go the Maroons!

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT **On reading**

I guarantee there has been a story or a poem written that would raise a goose bump on the toughest skin.

In today's world with the heightened need for students to be very proficient in the art of reading, scientific evidence for effective teaching of reading, notes "some Australian students are not equipped with the literacy skills they will need to participate fully in life beyond school" (Hempenstall, 2016). An American study of high school students in 2011 found that students who regularly engaged in leisure reading consistently scored significantly higher than did their peers who did not. Research from around the world shows that leisure reading enhances students' reading comprehension, language, vocabulary development, general knowledge, and empathy for others as well as their self-confidence as readers and as capable individuals.

From this position we need to see more and more evidence of students, children, engaging in the practice of reading on a recreational level more now than ever. Students home environments which model the enjoyment of reading have a substantial impact on a child's performance in reading (Mullis, Martin, Foy & Drucker, 2012; OECD, 2010).

To ensure that students experience the benefits of leisure reading, teachers, schools and families should support students' reading choices by making available a wide range of print, digital and multi-modal texts that align with and expand on students' interests. Our school library and the Gold Coast libraries are perfect no cost, resources for children to use and be lost in a sea of leisurely possibilities. In our school I see one student reading for pleasure every day and I wonder at the sight, as I know this person will be successful.

Reading for pleasure is an act of civilization; it's one of the greatest acts of civilization because it takes the free raw material of the mind and builds castles of opportunities.

Year Four Camp in October

The year four teachers are reviewing the Year 4 camp program. To add value to the experience and costs, we are looking at going on a 2 night 3 day camp in mid-October. The cost of the camp will be approximately \$260 based on 80 students attending. This cost will vary given the final number of students going and includes transport, accommodation, all meals and activities. The activities include bush walking, swimming, team games, archery, battle-star (team building), survivor mud course, indigenous art and culture and an animal/reptile show.

We would welcome your feedback on the proposal and if we feel we can go ahead we will start to formalise the booking with the venue.

Life Education Talk About It Program

Next week (6 June), the school will be offering Sexual Health and Relationships Education for our Year 5 and 6 students. Each class will attend a number of sessions. The information here aims to help you understand the content of this session. The school recognises that you are the primary educator of your child on issues surrounding their sexuality, however we believe we can work together to help children stay safe by encouraging healthy attitudes. The TALK ABOUT IT program by Life Education includes information on puberty incorporating physical growth and emotional changes, relationships and the concept of self. It is designed to help students understand and cope with this important phase of development.

The program is designed to assist young people develop a positive attitude towards their own sexuality and provides them with information on how to look after themselves during this stage of their development. The lesson/s being conducted will focus on the physical, social and emotional changes experienced during puberty and helping students understand and cope with this important phase of development. We are fortunate to have a very experienced educator from Life Education conducting the sessions which have been tailored to the needs of our school and students.

If you would like further information please contact Liz Ham at Life Education directly on (07) 55720166 or 0448 013 855. There is a great resource available for parents online called [Talk Soon. Talk Often](#) you may like to read. We would like to invite parents to an information session on Monday 6 June at 9.00am in the Library/science/music room.

If you are interested in attending the parent session or if you do not want your child to attend these sessions please let your child's teacher know with a written note.

CARNIVALS

Please note the following dates in your calendar. More information will be made available closer to each event.

Gala Day Year 5 & 6 – Monday 20 June

Senior Athletics Year 4-6 – Wednesday 22 June

Junior Athletics Year 1-3 – Thursday 23 June

Prep Athletics – Friday 24 June

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 to the Admin Block on Friday morning and talk to the girls.

The new 2016-2017 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK is now available to order. Forms are in the Office and attached to today's newsletter. At a cost of just \$60 they provide vouchers to the value of \$20,000 for various entertainment venues. Gilston State School receives 20% of all Entertainment books sold. You can order online (see attached link) or return your completed form to the wooden box in the office. Once we receive your payment, your Entertainment Book or Digital Membership will be delivered to you. Please note that there is a cost of \$12.00 for any Books that need to be posted.

Any questions or queries, please contact Brenda Flemming on 0429 907 485.

GILSTON GOURMET

Thursday 2 June – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice blocks – Help needed

Friday 3 June – HELP NEEDED PLEASE

Ice blocks - Help needed

Monday 6 June – Paula Black

Ice blocks - Help needed

Tuesday 7 June – Melanie Harrison

Ice blocks - Help needed

Wednesday 8 June - Help needed

Ice blocks - Help needed

Thursday 9 June – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice blocks – Mary O

*Friday 10 June – **Help needed urgently***

Ice blocks - Help needed

Pies will be ready for collection on Monday 6 June and Tuesday 7 June between 2.30-4.30pm. Please make sure you bring bags and boxes to transport your pies home. Also if you are able to help on either of these days, please let Nicole know.

Thank you to all families who supported our first pie drive for the year. There will be another pie drive early next term, if you have missed this one.

With sports carnivals coming up, we will be offering cake and coffee for parents for \$5 and take advantage of ordering your lunch from the tuckshop on these days.

Have a great week,

Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor☺

COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE BIG FAMILY FUNANZA – Community and Family Festival – Sunday 26 June, 10.00am-2.00pm. Nerang Country Paradise Parklands. Family activities and games, food and coffee, free entry, stalls, workshops and more.

GOLD COAST TABLE TENNIS Free Come and Try Day - Saturday 18 June 10.00am-12.00pm - Gold Coast Table Tennis Centre, Lot 1 Herbertson Drive, Molendinar.
www.goldcoasttabletennis.org.au.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES Nerang Library has a range of cool craft for kids these school holidays. Book now to join in the fun <http://bit.ly/CGLibrariesEvents> or phone 5581 7180.

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.

