



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Judging from the feedback I received on the night and again on Monday, the **bush dance** was a huge **success**. The tireless workers behind the scene deserve this positive feedback and I commend them for the hours spent planning the event. The requests to repeat the event were many and I am sure that with your support another will occur next year.

One group that was particularly entertained by the goings-on during the night was our **guests from Japan**. Again I **commend Kylie for the work in organising this visit**, from the negotiations with Education Queensland International to arranging billets to host our visitors. I am sure they will have many fond memories of their time with us at Gilston.

Our **band and choir** are becoming more excited as their respective performances on the "big stage" draw close. Alison and Steve have toiled behind the scenes to shape these **eisteddfod** performances coaching collectively and individually to ensure the best outcome is delivered on the day. Graeme and I look forward to being part of the appreciative audiences that will assemble to recognise the students' talents.

The success of our forward planning for 2016 relies on the **accuracy of our information**. I ask for your help in this regard. Already I have data about Prep students through our Enrolling Families project. The other side to the ledger is important too and so I ask that if your circumstance have changed and **your child will no longer be attending Gilston** in 2017, please advise the office as soon as possible. Early advice will allow me to make offers to families on our waiting list so they can adequately prepare for the change.

Thank you for your ongoing **commitment to ensuring your child is at school every day they are fit to do so**. Your collective efforts have led to a **slight increase in attendance** to this point in the year. With **less "holidays"** during the school term and less nasty bugs, I am sure we will finish stronger than last year. Our **Assistant Regional Director is closely monitoring** these statistics and has noted our improvement toward our **95% attendance goal**. I am hoping to be able to celebrate Gilston's results at the year's end.

There are times **when I am away** from the school attending to a myriad of matters pertaining to leading our school. Yesterday for instance I attended the annual staffing conference at which all principals considered the placement of teachers being transferred to our region from throughout Qld. **I have full confidence** that during my absences, **our very able team on**

FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday	18 August	Band at Eisteddfod. Session commences 9.00am GC Arts Centre
Monday	22 August	Choir at Eisteddfod (6.30pm)
Friday	26 August	Gold Coast Show Holiday
Tuesday	30 August	Book Club due
Tuesday	30 August	School Photos
Wednesday	31 August	
Wednesday	7 September	Great Book Swap
Thursday	8 September	Book Character Parade
Monday	12 September	P & C Meeting 7.00pm.

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
94.93	94.55	94.53	94.81	94.12	93.87	94.41

site can ensure the smooth operation of our school.
Remember the show holiday on Friday 26 August.
Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

A take on NAPLAN results 2016 and student academic performance

So it's over again for another year. How did we go? Not too badly. Our results can improve and with the systems we have in place at Gilston I believe we will.

The talk amongst academics and education reformists is that on a federal level the NAPLAN scores are stagnating. They show modest gains in the primary years – particularly in reading. At the secondary level it shows the scores are static. So if this year's NAPLAN results showed no marked improvement, it can be argued that the results which test kids in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, weren't a disaster either.

At this point in time there are those who are saying that the results are masking some worse news – the achievement divide in Australian schools is getting bigger. When linked with other data, NAPLAN shows that when schools are measured against a 'socio educational index', there is a growing gap in NAPLAN achievement between the schools which rank highly - which have kids from richer households, live in better areas and have higher incomes - and schools that don't. "The advantaged kids have gone up and the disadvantaged kids have gone down", says Chris Bonner and Bernie Shepard from the Centre for Policy Development, (*The Uneven Playing Field: The State of Australian Schools, May 2016*). Peter Goss from the Grattan Institute, an independent think tank dedicated to developing high quality public policy for Australia's future, supports this view and goes on to blame the segregated schooling system we have in Australia. Mr. Goss, along with Rachel Wilson, an education assessment expert at the University of Sydney, agree that a segregated system disadvantages all students and that our schools are "increasingly separated in their academic ability, socio-economic status and ethnicity".

Wilson says another reason school achievement is languishing. Over the last two decades universities have been lowering the level for teaching courses and the federal government removed quotas from bachelor degree courses. I'd disagree on the point being made here that the standard of teachers has fallen since 2011 and cite the statement made by the Federal Minister for Education, Simon Birmingham. This week he released figures from the Literacy and Numeracy Test for graduating teachers which showed that 94.5% met the standard for literacy and 93.1% met the standard for numeracy.

Evidence of good teaching practice is part of the reform needed, and making it continually improve - all teachers at Gilston are committed to this goal and the reforms we have had in place for over a year now are showing great improvement in student achievement in all areas of NAPLAN and further validated when triangulated with other assessment data.

Our methods of teaching reading and phonics has a very strong research backing and school data shows strong evidence of how students are achieving because of the above coupled with an intense focus regarding the teaching of reading and phonics we employ in the younger grades, our learning support department, special needs and upper grades. Other techniques that are seeing students achieving higher in numeracy, is a dedicated approach to collaborative learning through ability grading in classes, mastery learning and explicit instruction on what and why students need to engage in their learning.

So now to student engagement or non-engagement in academic pursuits. Does the latter of these two points raise

questions around the higher expectations from teachers, prospective high schools, employers, government, the media etc., that children may exhibit a reluctance to engage in learning and or try harder? Is it because teachers are using real, validated and moderated evidence instead of an anecdotal approach to grading? It is a combination of all these factors and do the yearly release of NAPLAN scores remind us of this? International research places Australia well down the list in regard to student achievement in literacy and numeracy.

But all is not lost, as a school we would like to give a service guarantee that as a bare minimum, a child will achieve at level at school if they are here on time, all the time and engaged in the learning on offer to them. That being the case we can discount the arguments around NAPLAN scores, PISA rankings, teacher effectiveness and ability, socio-economic background, plus any other factors not addressed here and look forward to brighter futures for our children.

P & C NEWS

Bush Dance Wrap Up - Yeehaw!

The Bush Dance was a resounding success. We raised almost \$4000. It was a great family fun night and kids and parents alike had a wonderful time.

Thank you so much to Bill for providing us with the music. We really appreciate you donating your time. Also thanks to Mrs Faulkner for promoting the dance in the lead up and for being our MC on the night.

A massive thank you to Mandy Hinze, Erin Godfrey, Nicole Meesen and Tracey Zimmerman, for organising and running the dance, without these ladies the dance would never have happened. Thanks also to all our wonderful volunteers on the night too, it was amazing to have so many mums and dads and teachers helping out.

Next P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 12 September at 7.00pm.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club Issue 6 has gone home this week. Orders are due back on Tuesday 30 August. Please order online using the LOOP payment system.

Book Week Celebrations will be held in Week 9 this term. The Book Parade, "The Great Book Swap" and visits from local librarians will all be held then.

Book Week: The theme this year is "Australia: Story country". All are most welcome to come and see the books on display and also our own staff "Australian Stories".

ATHLETICS

Last week, 30 of our best athletes represented our school at District Athletics. Of these, 11 won their way through to Championship Day. Well done to all athletes. We wish Andrew Prisley the best of luck as he will now represent Gold Coast South in the 800m at Regionals. Go Andrew!!!

Scott Stavar

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER: MICHELLE DAVIES

Encourage Perseverance and Follow Through

Our children often need our help to develop their skills of perseverance.

Have you spoken to your child recently about the fact that success doesn't come without great effort?

We know that in the game of life, it is not necessarily the most talented person who achieves the most. More often it is the person who has learnt to stay with something in the face of adversity. The more we are able to stick with it and show our tenacity, the more likely we are to build success in our own lives.

Even our enjoyable personal goals may require considerable focus and persistence. All too often people give up in the face of setbacks and difficulties. Then they can fail to achieve their personal dreams.

We need to teach our children the importance of persevering even in the face of setbacks and difficulties. By consciously teaching our children the importance of staying with something and following through, we are able to open up their own chances of achieving success in their later lives.

Talk to your child regularly about the connection between hard work and achievement of outcomes. Give your child positive feedback whenever you see them putting in some extra effort to accomplish something.

The following children's books could all be useful as an introduction to discussing how important perseverance can be in our lives. You might like to look them up or talk to your local librarian about how you can get a copy.

"The Gigantic Little Hero" – Matt Whitlock

"Luke goes to Bat" – by Rachel Isadora

"Jackson's Plan" – by Linda Talley & Andra Chase

"Mia Ham, Winners Never Quit" – by Carol Thompson

"Sally Jean, The Bicycle Queen" – by Cari Best and Christine Davenier

We all know that the child who learns to persevere will have a much better chance of achieving their own personal dreams even if things start to get a little tough along the way. Try to help your child to develop this perseverance and grit while they are still young.

GILSTON GOURMET

Thursday 18 August - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – The Wiggles

Friday 19 August - HELP NEEDED PLEASE

Ice Blocks – Hi-5

Monday 22 August - Paula Black

Ice Blocks – Fireman Sam

Tuesday 23 August – Melanie Harrison/ Help needed please

Ice Blocks – Peppa Pig

Wednesday 24 August - Help needed

Ice Blocks - George

Thursday 25 August - Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Larry the Lizard

Friday 26 August – SHOW HOLIDAY

Sushi Day Tuesday 23 August. Please make sure you return your orders and payment to the tuckshop by 9.00am this Friday 19 August.

Thank you to all the wonderful families who supported our last pie drive for this year; A special thank you goes to the following families for their outstanding effort for both of the pie drives.

- Racheal Stanley (Finn 5N & Samantha 2S)
- Kylie Marks (Indiana 5W & Lilly 3W)

Also special thank you goes to Paula Black, Mel Wright, Karen Bowden and Tracey Zimmerman for all their help in supporting me with these Pie Drives.

Have a great week,

Nicole Meesen

Tuckshop Convenor

SUGOI NEWS

Last week we had the pleasure of hosting the Sakai G Exchange from Japan. Seven lucky families enjoyed having these students Homestay with them for the week, making memories and creating experiences they will treasure. If you would like to have this opportunity for your family in the future please visit the [Gilston Website](#) for more information on the process of hosting or email kdoon3@eq.edu.au for more information. **Have a look at the photos on the flyer attached.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES

KURRAWA SLSC NIPPERS SIGN ON Sunday 28 August & 11 September at Miami Aquatic Centre, 9.00-11.00am.

BLOSSOM INTO SPRING FASHION SHOW – Saturday 3 September, 2.00pm. Mudgeeraba Uniting Church, Franklin Drive. \$5 adult, gold coin student, free under 12. Cash only.

KIRRA NIPPERS SIGN-ON Oasis Pool, Banora Point, 9.00-11.00am 21 August and 11 September 2016. Age Groups from Under 6 to Under 15. Season starts 18 September. Further information www.kirrasurfclub.com.au

MUDGEERABA NERANG & DISTRICTS' CRICKET CLUB JUNIOR SIGN ON DAY Sunday 28 August 10.00am-2.00pm, Nielsens Road, Carrara. www.mndcc.com.au

COOLANGATTA SL NIPPERS sign on and club open day Sunday 21 August & 11 September and sign on and pool proficiency on Sunday 28 August & 18 September. www.coolangattaslsc.com.au

