



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes  
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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

After a relaxing four-week tour of several parts of our great country, I must say it was somewhat of a challenge to don the work clothes and ramp up the speed required to keep up with the rest of our team at Gilston. I **thank Graeme and all our staff for leading the way** in my absence and for the planning already in place for this term. I am confident that our final 10 weeks will be most productive and rewarding.

I heard regaled yesterday some of the **stories from the Japan tour** and expect to hear some more this week. Under the supervision and leadership of Kylie, Alison and Scott, our students were provided some wonderful opportunities on foreign soil and I certainly **commend Kylie** for the tour success. It will be the turn of **Year 6 and Year 4** students soon to be away from home with their peers. The **camp**s organised by our teachers provide an opportunity for our students to further develop independence in a safe and supportive environment. I recognise our teachers and thank them on your behalf for their continued commitment to providing these opportunities.

**Prep Orientation** provides children the opportunity to come to school for the morning, mixing with their peers and meeting our teaching staff. It provides parents the opportunity to come along and learn some more about the final stages of the preparation before their children join us. If you are around the school **Tuesday morning**, please make our incoming families feel welcome.

Next week is **Mental Health Week** (9-15 October). Did you know that 20% of Australians live with some form of mental health issue? Each year, Mental Health Week provides an important opportunity for our community to **acknowledge and reflect upon mental health**, take action to highlight the **importance of mental wellbeing**, **reduce stigma**, and **celebrate the service of mental health workers**. Whilst many of us have had direct involvement with mental health or are supporting others with mental health challenges, many others have not. If you would **like to know more** visit <https://www.qldmentalhealthweek.org.au>

As part of our collaboration as a **Nerang Alliance of Schools**, next Wednesday James (Year 4), Jacob (Year 5) and Deklan (Year 6) will be representing Gilston as they compete in the **Speaking Out Competition** at Nerang State High School. I wish these students the best as they deliver speeches next week.

Term four is a busy term, not unlike our first three, however there are **some special annual events** to which we look

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday – Thursday	4 October – 6 October	STARLAB
Wednesday Monday	5 October 10 October	Calendar orders taken
Tuesday	11 October	Prep Orientation Day 9.00am
Friday	21 October	Family Arts Night

#### 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
94.87	94.43	94.23	94.2	93.74	93.08	93.58

forward. I invite your family to be a part of these special events as we count down the final 10 weeks. Stay in touch by **reading the newsletter** each week and **update your diary** from the front page so you don't miss out.

In closing this week I extend our congratulations to **Nerang State High School** for winning the **National Drumline Competition** – a very impressive result given they only formed last year!

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

## **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

### **Welcome back to Term Four**

Hello everyone, so here we go for the last lap of the year and during this term our children will be assessed to gauge the progress they've made during the year. I'd really like to temper this by emphasising it as a gauge of an individual's progress and not as a way of comparing apples to apples. I'd say to all of our students at this stage, do your best – everyday. Let's celebrate your successes and work together on the areas you need support with.

### **Reversed Lunch Times**

As this publication is released on Wednesday's we've only had one day of the new regime regarding the lunch time changes. The people I've spoken to so far have said how happy they were to see that all their children's lunches had been eaten. Children have said they're happy to go out to play and have organised themselves in some aspects of their own volition. So far it's been positive; we'll keep watching to see how it evolves.

### **A Contemplative Moment**

As with what I started with regarding, and quite rightly so, celebrating our children's successes I can't go without contemplating data at a national scale. Australia has been known for some time now as lagging in international academic performance. There's a body of evidence that suggests in Australia we have a two-speed education system, with the differences between the highest and lowest ranking states equalling almost two years of schooling. Analysis of national literacy and numeracy test results put NSW and Victoria as dominating the ranks of high-performing schools, both at primary and secondary levels.

Results of the PISA (Program for International Student Achievement), tests and NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy), outcomes found that the difference between the highest and lowest performing jurisdictions was almost the equivalent of two years of schooling for maths and one and a half years for reading. A state-by-state breakdown of those results shows that the ACT, Victoria and NSW generally outperform the other states on the PISA tests, as well as NAPLAN. If the rest of the nation performed at the same level of the ACT, Australia's ranking would rise considerably.

Australia ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in reading literacy in the latest tests. If the ACT was considered separately, it would rank sixth, ahead of the highly praised Finnish system. In mathematical literacy, Australia ranks 19<sup>th</sup> but the ACT result would put it at equal 13<sup>th</sup>, one place behind Finland. In Science Australia ranks 16<sup>th</sup> but the ACT score would put it eighth.

Despite Queensland with only 20% of Australia's population and having only a handful of high-schools and primary schools in the top one hundred performing schools, the state's education minister Kate Jones says our performance had improved more than any other state since NAPLAN testing was introduced. Compared with last year we have improved in fifteen out of twenty test areas in our students' performance in meeting the national minimum standard. She has been reported as saying the implementation of the Australia Curriculum, introduction of the Prep year and moving year seven to high school has helped lift educational

outcomes for all students.

The Grattan Institutes director for school education, Peter Goss said that when looking at NAPLAN what is important is the amount of progress students are making in different schools in different states which has a positive influence on our national standard. Kevin Donnelly, a senior research fellow at the Australian Catholic University has said that lifting educational standards was "a very complex issue" and there was no magic bullet which will remedy where we are now. He has also stated that Australia had embraced constructivism or enquiry-based learning whereas leading educational powerhouses such as Shanghai, Finland, Singapore and Japan had adopted more explicit teaching or direct instruction. As I said earlier, there's much to contemplate here. Good thing your children are at Gilston, we've adopted Explicit and Direct Instruction techniques for nearly two years now.

### **Something more**

If you're in the mood for a take on the factors which impact on life regarding social determinants, education, health, work and longevity can I urge you to go to the ABC's Boyer Lectures 2016 – Living and Working ([abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)). It's a great insight and Sir Michael Marmot puts forward an interesting argument.

### **Student Resource Scheme**

Once again we'll be having the resource scheme running at Gilston in 2017. We are pleased to inform you that the cost is going to be kept the same as last year and will be \$160.00 per student. This will include access to technology/licenced computer programs, photocopying, classroom stationary, CMC texts and text book as per year level requirements, use of puzzles, games, fine and gross motor equipment, resource centre – use of class sets, reading books, home readers, etc.

More information will be sent out shortly.

### **The SRS does not include:**

- Voluntary contributions to supplement the instruction, administration and facilities provided at the school
- School activities, such as school excursions, camps, sport, music instrumental program or other extra-curricular competitions and performances
- RI (Religions Instruction) booklets

### **LATE PAYMENTS**

**No late payments** will be accepted via BPoint, internet, phone or at the office. All payments must reach the office by the closing date. Reports will be run off at COB on the closing date and those who have not paid will not be able to attend.

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

This week Issue 7 of Book Club has been sent home. The last date for orders will be Wednesday 19 October. Please place your order on-line by going on the Scholastic website and using the LOOP payment method.

Thank you

Kathy Stone / Librarian

## CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

We are happy to announce that we are doing the calendars again!

You will be able to view your child's art work, place an order and pay on Monday 10 October 8.30-9.15am and 2.30-3.15pm, Tuesday 11 October 2.30-3.15pm, Wednesday 12 October 8.30-9.15am and 2.30-3.15pm and Thursday 13 October 8.30-9.15am at the Rotunda. Thursday afternoon you can view, order and pay at the Uniform Shop 2.3-3.15pm. Art work and orders will be posted Thursday 13 October and can be collected Monday 14 November 2016.

Payment can be made by cash or EFTPOS. Please see attached flyer for prices. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Tracey on 0408 184 403 or speak to the ladies in the Tuckshop. Thank you for your support.

## SUGOI JAPAN TOUR 2016

From Himeji to Harajuku, Flamingos to Futons, Natto to Noodles and Taiko to Torii our Japan Tour 2016 was jam-packed with sights, sounds, tastes and temptations! Thirteen students and three teachers participated in this year's tour through Tokyo, Hiroshima, Kyoto and Nara over eleven busy days. Many new experiences were had: futons, communal baths and bidet toilets (!), curry for breakfast, green tea mocha and pumpkin ice cream, salty plums, 100Yen shops, Family Mart, Todaiji Temple's big Bhudda, Kinkakuji Golden Temple, Himeji Castle, Harajuku and Ameyokocho Markets and, of course, Disneyland!!

We look forward to offering our next Japan Tour in 2018 for students enrolled in Years 5 & 6 during that year. If your child is in Year 3 or 4 right now you can consider sending your child on Japan Tour 2018. Please feel free to contact me on [kdoon3@eq.edu.au](mailto:kdoon3@eq.edu.au) for more information.

## GILSTON GOURMET

Thursday 6 October - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 7 October - Help needed please

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 10 October – Paula Black

Ice Blocks - Help needed

Tuesday 11 October – Melanie Harrison

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 12 October - Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 13 October - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 14 October - Help needed please

Ice Blocks – Help needed

As you are all aware we are trialling new lunch break routines for this term, which means the children now play before they eat at both breaks.

To accommodate these changes, the tuckshop requires more volunteers to be able to operate and continue to maintain our high standards of food. I am looking for help either from 9.00-11.30am for first break or 1.30-2.00pm for second break.

If you can assist, please come up and see Nicole in the tuckshop or email me at [gilstontuckshop@gmail.com](mailto:gilstontuckshop@gmail.com).

Your time will be greatly appreciated.

Have a great week.

Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

Mudgeeraba Uniting Church, 89 Franklin Drive, will be holding their **VILLAGE CRAFT FAIR** on **28 & 29 October**. Come along and enjoy some of the creative talent Mudgeeraba and surrounds has to offer! There'll be original artworks, handmade crafts and quilts, plants, cakes and book stalls, pre-loved art, coffee shop and BBQ. On Saturday there'll be a jumping castle and slot car fun for the kids. For bookings and enquiries phone 5525 1309.

**PLAY BASKETBALL** – boys and girls U10 to U20. Coomera City Warriors. Enquire now [warriors@seahawksgc.com.au](mailto:warriors@seahawksgc.com.au), 0477076665 or 0418103913 (after hours), [westernwarriors.com.au](http://westernwarriors.com.au).

**KIDS WORLD GILSTON** incorporating Gilston Kids Cottage - ENROLMENTS AVAILABLE FOR 2017. Visitors welcome anytime 590 Worongary Road, Gilston (next door to Gilston State School) Phone: 55332365, Web: [www.kidsworldgilston.com](http://www.kidsworldgilston.com), Email: [kr@kidsworld.net.au](mailto:kr@kidsworld.net.au). Follow us on Facebook

