



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mastery of concepts is a fundamental tenet underpinning teaching and learning at Gilston. Builders spend time and energy when constructing a house to ensure the foundation is completed to a standard that will support the frame and structure. So too with learning, our teachers focus on ensuring the foundational concepts are mastered to ensure that each student can build on these as the learning becomes more abstract. The **Direct Instruction approach** we have adopted for the teaching of some elements of mathematics and **consolidation activities** that occur each week have contributed positively to **mastery of concepts**. Based on these, our students are well placed to apply their knowledge and understanding to solve problems and demonstrate thinking of a higher order.

The quality of the speeches presented by the students at the **Speaking Out Competition** at Nerang State High School was again extraordinary. Our representatives Jacob Gaudens-McMullen and James du Cloux held their own and impressed the audience and judges. I commend them for their commitment and thank them for representing Gilston.

Our teachers engaged in professional learning on Monday while the girls and boys enjoyed a day away from school. Part of the learning was the **refinement of reporting** and in particular the specific elements to be included in English and Mathematics comments. Based on research with Australian parents and local feedback from you, we endeavour to provide reports that include your child's strengths, challenges, goals and strategies for moving forward. These reports supplement the interviews between parents and teachers offered in terms one and three.

The Student Resource Scheme details have been distributed and I **thank you** if you have already returned your form. I **applaud Graeme and the ladies** in the office for the time spent ensuring value for money and for keeping the cost to the lowest of the schools in our local area.

I explained to those at the P & C meeting on Monday that we can no longer include incursions and excursions due to legislation, however parents can make prepayments. If you want to avoid making multiple payments throughout the year by making a prepayment, please **contact the ladies in the office**.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	21 October	Family Arts Night
Monday to Friday	21 November	Swimming Lessons
Friday	25 November	Prep, Year 3, Year 5
Thursday	1 December	Swimming Carnival Year 4-6

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
94.7	94.45	94.34	94.9	93.88	93.03	93.8

Supervision of children before and after school is the responsibility of parents. The only **exception** is the assistance provided in marshalling the students to the **buses** and at the **collection zone** in the afternoon. **Parents supervising their children** in the morning and afternoon can access the junior play area with their **Year 1 and Prep students only**. Older students are not to be on this equipment at any time.

Congratulations to the Gilston Gourmet. Nicole, Mel and Karen and the team of volunteers have been recognised by the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops. **Gilston Gourmet is a finalist in the "Tuckshop of the Year" state-wide awards.**

Next Friday we celebrate **World Teachers Day** in Queensland. There is no doubt that teachers have a significant impact on our lives and we can all remember those from our childhood who had the most influence. On your behalf I **extend gratitude to the teaching team at Gilston** for their respective dedication and commitment to building relationships and tailoring a learning environment for your children.

It appears that many 2017 Prep families are yet to lodge the second part of the enrolment package and to book a time for interview. **Your immediate attention** to this will assist with our efficiency and help me organize my diary with suitable times. Those who didn't come to the Orientation day will need to collect part 2 of the pack from the office.

If your child will not be, or there is a chance that your child will not be enrolled **at Gilston in 2017**, please **let the ladies know**. Accurate planning for next year relies on this information.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **Family Arts Night this Friday**.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT About NAPLAN Online

A total of 69 state schools from all seven regions successfully participated in a trial of the national NAPLAN Online platform from 16 to 26 August. Feedback from principals, teachers and students was positive. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 showed they were confident ICT users and found the online tests engaging.

Soon ACARA will release a public demonstration website so all schools and their communities can see what NAPLAN Online looks like. In October, schools will be asked to nominate their interest in transitioning to NAPLAN Online in 2018.

Australian education ministers have agreed that schools will use NAPLAN Online by 2019. Significant work is underway to help our schools successfully transition.

For an overview download [NAPLAN Online: the essentials presentation \(PPT, 1.5MB\)](#)

School Photo's 2016

School photos should be back at school by the first week in November. We will get them to students to take home as soon as we can after that.

Gilston State School Inter-School Chess Tournament

The Gold Coast Individual Age Chess Championships will be held on Wednesday 26 October, 2016 at Emmanuel College, Carrara. The best way to get there is via College Road off Emerald Lakes Drive. It will be held in the Sports Hall. The start time is 8.45am at the venue – finishing at 2.30pm. The school has met the cost of registration.

Parents are responsible for transporting children to/from the tournament and for supervision of their children on the day. Students need to wear full school uniform. A canteen will be in operation but children may bring their own food and drinks.

The final word (this week)

I was in Mrs Fry's year five class and heard something from the children that made me very proud of them. They were telling me the meaning of failure. My impression was that they believe it means an opportunity to learn.

Earlier this week as I was flicking through popular media literature I came across this quote. "What separates the winners from the losers is how a person reacts to each new twist of fate." It came from a man named Donald Trump. Now, at this point I'd like to refocus my attention back to the wonderful thinking portrayed by the class and how they gave the quote meaning. I think the lesson they taught me was that no matter who you are, your political leanings, race, religion, gender or anything else can stop you from being great.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club – the final day for ordering books from Issue 7 will be today Wednesday 19 October. Thank you to all parents who have ordered. The books should be at school in the next two weeks.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

Philosophy in the Library

This week our Year 3 students have read the book "ISH" by Peter Reynolds. It raises some important questions about art and creativity. This book relates well to our current Gilston Art Show. Our Year 3 students came up with the following comments during our philosophy discussion:

"Does art have to be perfect?" Art still has value even though it is not perfect.

"Art can be perfect to the person who draws it".

"Everybody has a different perspective". Eli Year 3

Others don't have a right to tell you how to express yourself.

Other people can have an opinion about your art, but they don't have the right to criticize you.

Kathy Stone – Philosophy Facilitator

CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

THANK YOU to the parents that supported our Calendar fundraiser.

We should have all calendars, cards, diaries, mouse mats and sketch pads back by 14 November.

Thank you to the ladies in the tuckshop for all your help and a VERY special thank you to Amy Meesen for all your help gathering the artwork so that it could be sent off. This fundraiser would not have happened without your help and support.

Any queries, regarding this fundraiser, please contact Tracey on 0408 184 403.



FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER

Did you know that last week was Mental Health Week? But what exactly does the term "Mental Health" mean? Mental Health is a positive state of wellbeing. The term is used to describe emotional and social wellness. It involves feeling positive about ourselves, the people and events in our lives, and being able to live life to our fullest capacity.

The World Health Organisation defines mental health as "a state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community."

Our mental health influences everything we do:

- How we think, feel and behave
- The way we relate to other people
- The way we respond to the challenges of everyday life; and
- How we cope with events such as changing jobs, having a baby, raising a child, relationship difficulties, retirement, loss and physical illness,



Things to do to improve your mental health

- Exercise daily – at least for 30 minutes
- Eat healthy foods – avoid drinking too much coffee, eating too much fat, and sugars
- Visit your doctor regularly to ensure good health
- Build a community around yourself – having people to talk to makes life happier and more enjoyable
- Keep busy and involved – in family, school, work, leisure
- Drink plenty of water
- Have adequate sleep – restful sleep. If you snore or have sleep apnea see your doctor
- Seek help if you are feeling down, don't let the blues take over



- Be kind to yourself – do things that you enjoy e.g. a relaxing bath, take a movie, go to dinner
- Do things for other people – not only will they benefit but it is a boost for you as well
- Practise thinking good thoughts, avoid bad thoughts
- Watch comedy shows, seek out humour, laugh loudly

Mental health is an essential part of our overall health and affects our physical health; as our physical health also affects our mental health. It is also strongly related to our behaviour, particularly our social behaviour and relationships with others. So put the effort in and work to be mentally healthy.

Written by Guidance Officer Liz McNeill and adapted from: Austn Network for Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention for Mental Health

GILSTON GOURMET

Thursday 20 October - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 21 October –Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 24 October – Paula Black / Jenny Toohey

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 25 October – Mel Harrison / Amelia Edwards

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 26 October – Jenny Toohey

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 27 October - Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 28 October –Jenny Toohey / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TENNIS LESSONS - Looking to make new friends and learn new tennis skills all while having fun?

Platinum Tennis Coaching is running before school lessons at Gilston Primary School four mornings a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Lessons run for 60 minutes from 7:45-8:45am costing \$12 per lesson. Currently we are offering a free trial lesson. If you would like to take advantage of this offer bookings are essential. Please contact Jono on 0488 696 939.

