



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

One of the most pleasant tasks I have each year is **interviewing our incoming Prep students**. It gives me time to learn a little more about each of them and about their families. Together with the information collected through the Gilston Geckos classes, the Orientation Day and the developmental and language assessments, these interviews assist with preparing for the new school year. Judging by the keenness I have witnessed from many of the children so far, it is apparent they would come tomorrow if the opportunity was presented.

Another of the pleasures is **attending the award nights** for the local high schools, where I join families to celebrate the successes of the ex-Gilston students. Last week I was proud to be in the audience as the students from Nerang State High School entertained with their talents and graciously accepted the accolades that were bestowed for being recognised as best in various fields. I recognised many "Gilston kids" throughout the night.

Now it is a vomiting bug that is attempting to derail our attempts to reach our **attendance target of 95%**. This bug has not discriminated, even managing to sideline a number of staff members. **I thank those families affected for taking appropriate measures to ensure that the spread is contained.**

It is imperative that the **Student Resource Scheme** forms are returned by Friday this week. **Every child/family must return the form** that informs us of your intention for 2017. The form has been attached to the newsletter for your convenience.

Volunteers add value in all facets of our society - whether it's those patrolling our beaches to ensure swimmer safety, those manning the canteen at the soccer each weekend or those selling tickets for not-for-profit organisations. Each contribution enhances the lives of others in some way. At Gilston we continue to be the beneficiaries of the generosity of volunteers. Every day in a multitude of ways people are giving freely of their time and expertise for the betterment of the members of the Gilston State School community. To recognise these contributions, **invitations are being distributed** to volunteers to join us for a **BBQ on Friday 25 November at 5:30pm**. I invite you to bring along a cold beverage of your choice to enjoy with your snags. Soft drinks will be provided and Graeme will be

FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	4 November	Participation Agreement Forms due at school office
Tuesday	8 November	Book Fair in the Library
Friday	18 November	
Wednesday	9 November	Auditions for Sugoi Taiko
Thursday	10 November	Last day payment Swimming Lessons Prep, Year 3, Year 5
Monday to Friday	21 November 25 November	Swimming Lessons Prep, Year 3, Year 5
Friday	25 November	Volunteer BBQ 5.30-7.00pm
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
94.62	94.54	94.47	94.02	93.72	93.24	93.3

chained to the BBQ to ensure all in attendance are fed.

A particular group of volunteers are the focus of celebration this Friday as we recognise **Tuckshop Day**. Friday just happens to be the busiest tuckshop day each week so I guess their reward will be record sales. To show your appreciation for the wonderful work they do each week, I invite you to include a message to the staff and volunteers with your child's order on Friday. **Nicole, Mel and Karen** will continue their celebration into the evening when they attend the tuckshop award ceremony where they are **finalists in the "Tuckshop of the Year"** award categories. On behalf of the Gilston School Community, I wish them all the best, hopeful their endeavours in transforming our tuckshop will be recognised.

Informed decisions are good decisions. Whether it is making a significant purchase, selecting a course of study or providing feedback to others, ensuring we have a full suite of facts and information is vital to a successful outcome. At Gilston we encourage our students to seek all relevant information and to test its veracity before drawing conclusions and forming opinions. This applies to scientific investigations, mathematical problem solving or when preparing a persuasive argument. The opposite of informed decisions are **"uninformed decisions"**. My experience with uninformed decisions leads me to recommend that we **don't make them!** It can be very costly, financially, in time wasted and in damage to reputation and relationships. I urge each of you to **model the behaviours of collecting relevant and accurate information**, sharing the process with your children so they too become astute in the process. People with these skills will attract respect and be sought after by employers.

On the topic of informed decisions, I need your help to identify any students who will not be returning to Gilston in 2017. If you are leaving call the office, send an email or send in a note to help us be informed. Likewise if you **know of anyone wishing to enrol**, advise them to contact us immediately.

As Support Teacher: Literacy and Numeracy, Kirsti has been investigating incorporating **Story Dogs** into our programs at Gilston. We have been advised that while they would love to support our school, there are no available volunteers at this time. They explained that recruitment of volunteers is slowing as the year draws to a close but would welcome interest from our community to support the program. Attached to this newsletter is some information and contact details.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

School Photo's

School photos are back today so I'll endeavour to get them out to teachers to give to children to take home this week. Keep an eye out for them.

There are many arguments and much research about how we can best make education better. The focus of this writing is to look at what I've called a distraction from learning. I'd preface this as:

A preoccupation with social and cultural ways of being, and being seen, at school and in classes.

Children bring to any environment particular social and cultural capital. These ways of being can, and seemingly do occupy students' thinking over their efforts with academic progress. Students do not take a holiday from this form of

distraction during school hours unfortunately. Indeed, addressing the impact of it will lead to major improvements in student achievement in learning.

As such, addressing it as a school community needs to be done with all parties, students, teachers and parents involved, being fully informed with the decisions made in **accordance with** school policies and procedures and **accepted by** all parties.

An example of this is a growing trend among students to take social/relational concerns from school home and not reporting to teachers at all while they are at school as a perceived incident occurs. All students are very aware that if they have an issue happening at school they need to be evoking the long standing school rules of reporting to a teacher as things happen.

When a report is made it is always looked into and help and advice given to each student concerned. The answers a child is given though, may not be what they want to hear nor accept in some instances. Their version of the incident and their perception of whether their needs have been met pertaining to an incident is what is going home to parents. While to the individual affected there will be some feelings of being aggrieved there is no allegation being made here of deliberate mis-truths being made by the child. The point being made is that perceptions do cloud our thinking and therefore our explanations. The investigating and reporting on each of these cases brings an emotional and financial cost to all concerned. Both can be argued as a distraction to learning.

In his book *Visible Learning*, John Hattie (2009), speaks on a number of factors that have major impediments to students progressing in their learning. He describes them as "killers of high expectations and encouragement to succeed." I believe students with a preoccupation to unfounded/improper social perceptions and ways of being while at school taking precedence over achievement, can be described as such.

Something to think over...

People can judge me for what I've done. And I think when somebody's out in the public eye, that's what they do. So I'm fully comfortable with who I am, what I stand for, and what I've always stood for. (Hillary Clinton).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

There will be no Instrumental Music lessons or band practice this Friday 4 November.

SWIMMING LESSONS

In week 8 of this term Nerang Swim Fit will conduct swimming lessons for Prep, Year 3 and Year 5. Payment of \$35.00 is due by Thursday 10 November. See your class teacher for exact lesson times. Students require school uniform, togs, towel and thongs. Swim caps and goggles are recommended. As swimming is an approved component of our Physical Education Program all students are expected to attend. Please advise the office if your child is unable to swim due to a medical condition. Scott Stavar / HPE

SUGOI CLUBS 2017

Sugoi = awesome! In 2017 the **Sugoi Taiko** ('Tye-ko'-Japanese drumming) club will continue. Taiko is an exciting and energetic style of drumming. If you have never witnessed it, check out these Youtube links and you will

see how truly amazing it can be <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsKqBy2uJ34> and a clip from Australia's Got Talent <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvkdKN-Wljo> It not only teaches beat and rhythm, but also motor skills, team work and is an excellent form of physical activity. Some of our Year 4-6 students this year have already experienced Taiko and it has been a big hit!

Children who are currently in Years 3, 4 and 5 are invited to apply to join the 2017 lunchtime club. **Application forms will be available from Mrs Miller in week 5. Auditions for new members will take place at first break on Wednesday 9 November in the music room.** There will be a fee when joining this group which will supply each member with their own bachi (Taiko drum sticks) and tuition.



Alison Miller
Music Teacher

MATHS OLYMPIAD NEWS

Congratulations are extended to all Year 6 students who participated in this year's Olympiad Competition. The school results have been very good.

Our school's overall score placed Gilston in the top 25% of schools in Australia which is quite an achievement.

Congratulations go to Adrian Smith who got the highest score in our team.

I have enjoyed working with these students all year and watching them progress.

Awards and certificates will be handed out at assembly in Week 6.

Kathy Stone / Olympiad Coach

MATHS GAMES

Congratulations to all students in Year 4 and 5 who have been in this programme. The students have all been learning lots about problem solving strategies and making lots of progress.

Certificates and awards will be given out at assembly in Week 6.

LIBRARY REPORT

Deliveries from **Book Club Issue 7** should have arrived home with your child last week.

Book Fair will be held in our school library from Tuesday 8 November to Friday 18 November. The library will be open from 8.15am until 3.30pm for sales daily.

Please come along and purchase a book or some stationery and help support our school library. All funds raised go to support our students with books and literacy programmes. See you there!

Kathy Stone / Librarian

CHOIR NEWS

On Thursday 3 November the senior choir and some of our taiko players will be involved in a special nation-wide performance. The children will be performing the song "Let It Play", written especially for "Music: Count Us In. The idea of

the day is to get more Australians making music: in schools, communities, everywhere. Children throughout the country will all be performing the same song, at the same time. The Gold Coast event will be held at 2 venues, the top of the Q1 building and the Surfers Paradise foreshore, starting at 11.00am. All are welcome to attend the foreshore performance

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER - MICHELLE DAVIES My Community Directory – Gold Coast

Have you all heard of My Community Directory - Gold Coast? It's a wonderful on-line resource that can provide you with up to date information about community organizations who provide services on the Gold Coast.

There is actually a My Community Directory available for all geographical areas in Queensland. If you have family or friends living somewhere else in our sunny state this may also be a useful resource for them. Make sure you take some time to check out the website soon. We all like to have information about resources in our area that may be helpful. Whether you are interested in Transport Services, Child Services, Aged Care Services, Information and Counselling Services or just Community Clubs and Interest Groups it's all here in the one place and there's so much more. It's a very helpful resource for us all. Do go on-line sometime soon and take a look. If you have time you could follow this link <https://www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/>

GILSTON GOURMET

Thursday 3 November – Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 4 November – Jenny / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 7 November – Paula Black

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 8 November – Melanie Harrison/Amelia Edwards

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 9 November – Jenny

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 10 November – Tracey Zimmerman / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 11 November - Jenny

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Swimming caps are available at the tuckshop - \$8.00 each.

This Friday is world "Tuckshop Day"; which gives you all an opportunity to give a special thank you to all tuckshop workers and volunteers and recognise the valuable role these teams play in every school.

Tuckshop Day recognises the great work of thousands of people across the state each and every school day. It also highlights the important role tuckshops play in school life.

Providing nutritious food and drinks means families can have one less task to worry about at the start of their day and helps students to concentrate and learn well in class.

Have a great week,

Nicole Meesen / Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Children and adults are welcome to join the **NERANG CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS CHOIR**. Rehearsals Saturdays and/or Wednesday nights. Performance at the Nerang carols Saturday 17 December. See Mrs Miller in the music room for more information.

MERRIMAC SHS ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING for students entering Year 7 in 2017 will be held Wednesday, 9 November at 6.30pm in the Library.

