



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I am looking forward to spending some time with our **volunteers** on 25 November. To help me make sure there is sufficient food for the BBQ, please ensure you have registered how many from your family you will be bringing to the event.

Last week I wrote about parents exercising their responsibility to **ensure** that their **children do not access social media**. The vast majority of you embrace this responsibility therefore shielding your children from the negative impacts that are often associated with its misuse. Whilst I did not write specifically about text messaging last week, I urge you to apply tight supervision to this form also. Remember the best method of teaching your children about these forms is by setting a positive example.

At Gilston high expectations underpin everything we do. These **expectations will not diminish** as the weeks count down to the summer break. Please remind your children of this fact so that there is no confusion.

The number of students attending Robina State High School has diminished over the years as the catchment area south of us has fewer and fewer families with school-aged children. Despite low numbers of **ex-Gilston students at the awards night Monday night**, I was **impressed** that our students were recognised with some significant awards. I am always **proud** to share these celebrations with the children and their families.

It wasn't a test, however last week's explanation in the newsletter regarding **SRS invoices** and the management of prepayments highlighted that a significant number of parents **had not read the newsletter**. I recognise that we are all very busy however each week we compile the newsletter to ensure you are kept abreast of important information. Please commit 3 minutes per week to stay in touch.

There are 223 registered users of the **QParents App** at Gilston. These people are able to update details about their children, register the reason their child is absent, monitor their behaviour (positive and negative) and make payments and part payments from their smart devices. Adopting this app was in response to your requests for more convenient methods of communicating and paying bills. If you are not yet availing yourself of this **convenience**, please contact the office for more details.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday	8 November	Book Fair in the Library
Friday	18 November	
Monday	21 November	Final date for orders for Book Club Issue 8
Monday to Friday	21 November 25 November	Swimming Lessons Prep, Year 3, Year 5
Friday	25 November	Volunteer BBQ 5.30-7.00pm Last day payment Year 6 Wet N Wild
Thursday	1 December	Swimming Carnival Year 4-6
Tuesday	6 December	Year 6 Wet N Wild
Wednesday	7 December	Year 6 Presentation

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
94.6	94.65	94.98	93.99	93.39	93.29	93.22

The **transformation** of the space adjacent to the **Goldmine** is **impressive**. The additional concrete areas outside will support our **supervised play program** providing opportunities for students to **refine their social skills**. Also impressive are the **concrete seating** that has been installed on the terraces on the oval. These surfaces will be a welcome inclusion for spectators during our events on the oval. I recognise the coordination that has been required for these projects and thank Graeme for his leadership.

My planning requires your help - if you will **not be returning**, you **want to enrol for 2017** (spaces exist in some year levels) or you want to **register interest** in enrolling in **Prep in 2018**, contact the ladies in the office.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT **Mathematical Olympiads 2016**

Congratulations to all those students who showed their prowess in the Maths Olympiad competition for this year. Many of our students achieved highly in the rankings in the Australasian region. Thanks also to Mrs Stone and her expert tuition which made it possible for our children to shine.

SRS 2017

Thank you to all of our parents participating in the resource scheme next year. This will enable teachers and children to engage totally in the curriculum at hand and achieve the best results. For example, we propose to include online reading and math programs for children as a part of the scheme which will give parents a greater insight into their child's progress along with other benefits. Thanks to the large volume of those wanting to be in the scheme next year, we have a much more favourable buying position. The cost the school has been able to procure per child for the programs is a little over thirty-three dollars. The cost to get a licence for these privately would be a little under two hundred and thirty dollars per child. Thank you again to all, we look forward to a great year in 2017.

Changes to our oval and Goldmine areas

Over the last week we've seen changes to the play area in the Goldmine and to the tiered sections of the oval. The oval area has been in the planning stage for some time and now it's complete. The side and back areas of the Goldmine have also seen some work with the students very happy with the changes. This area gives us much more scope for what we can offer children as an alternative venue for play breaks and learning times. Thank you to Brad Smith and his workers for the work they did in getting this done for us and many thanks to the Gilston P & C who undoubtedly endure my constant harassing for help with projects around the school.

GILSTON SCHOOL CAPTAIN PRESENTATION

A leader is one who guides and inspires others.

Leadership is more than meeting class and school expectations of good behaviour, it is: helping your classmates, leading in a group and inspiring others, being involved in the school community.

It is an exciting time for the Year 5 students who have nominated for Gilston School Captain and Vice Captain positions. These students will give their speeches next week to an audience of their peers, convincing them that they are the best candidate.

Captaincy positions will be awarded on assembly at next Thursday's assembly, 24 November, where we will be congratulating the successful nominees who will receive their badges.

We are proud of the effort of these students, and they have all demonstrated, through their actions and applications, that they possess leadership qualities.

CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

THANK YOU to the parents that supported our Calendar fundraiser.

You can collect your calendars, cards, diaries, mouse mats or sketch pads tomorrow, Thursday 17 November, from 8.30am to 9.15am or 2.15pm to 3.15pm from the uniform shop.

Any queries please contact Tracey on 0408 184 403.

SWIMMING LESSONS

In week 8 of this term Nerang Swim Fit will conduct swimming lessons for Prep, Year 3 and Year 5. 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

SWIMMING CARNIVAL YEAR 4-6

This year's carnival will be held on Thursday 1 December. The students will travel by bus to All Saints indoor swimming pool and compete in 25m and 50m events. As ribbons are awarded in all events, disqualification rules will apply.

If you wish to order lunch for your child at the swimming carnival please use the menu attached to this newsletter. Orders must be placed in a bag or envelope with the correct money and handed to Mr. Stavar by Friday 25 November.

A reminder that swim caps are compulsory and are available in house colours at the tuckshop for \$8.

This year, 9 year olds in Year 3 can compete at the carnival provided they are members of a swim club or are exceptional swimmers. This must be pre-arranged with Mr Stavar prior to the event. We look forward to another great carnival.

Scott Stavar / HPE

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair is on this week. It will finish at 3.30pm this Friday. Thank you to all the families who have supported the school by making a purchase.

Book Club Issue 8 – this is the last Book Club for this year. The final date for orders will be Monday 21 November. Please place all orders using LOOP payment system by this date.

Books to be returned – please return any overdue books to the library as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

JAPANESE IN PREP IN 2017

In 2017 we will be introducing our **Japanese Language program in Prep!** The National Curriculum places a high importance on Languages learning and recognises the benefits of Languages study from a very young age. We have been very fortunate in receiving a grant from Education Queensland to assist in the planning and implementation of our program next year. We look forward to the productive and successful extension of our Languages program here at Gilston!

KIDS BEING TEACHERS FESTIVAL

Our annual Japanese Kids Being Teachers Festival will be held on **Tuesday 29 November**. Our Year 6 students are busy planning and preparing their lessons and would love to showcase their work. **Gilston Parents are invited** to wander through their displays and lessons from **9:10am-9:40am in the Undercover area** in front of the Tuckshop. Please pop in to support our students as they take their turn in front of the class!

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER – MICHELLE DAVIES

Fourteen alternatives to 'Losing it' with your Child

We all know that children, including adolescents, at times, can drive you crazy. They may not listen. They are messy. They don't think before they act. They don't consider another's feelings. However we still need to remember that these factors are a part of growing up, and it takes a loving family to help them learn to be respectful, responsible, tolerant, caring, loving and self-controlled. When everyday problems pile up, our tolerance as parents may not be as strong. Often our ability to control ourselves will be tested. We may be easily angered but the message here is: **DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON YOUR CHILD or CHILDREN or PARTNER.**

It is a matter of mustering your self-control (we all have some). Think of the benefits.

If you show self-control, your child will know what it looks like and hopefully start to copy it.

Other alternative to 'Losing It' include:

- Stop in your tracks. Step back. Walk away then sit down. Talk yourself back to calm.
- Take 5 deep breaths. Inhale. Exhale. Slowly. Slowly. Try some Yoga Breathing (Inhale through one nostril and exhale through the other.)
- Count to 10. Better yet, 20 or say the alphabet out loud or backwards
- Phone a friend, or a relative or even the Parentline.
- Review information on the Raising Children's Network to get some better ideas on how to manage your child's behaviour.
- Still mad? Punch a pillow, a punching bag or munch on an apple.
- Thumb through a magazine, newspaper, photo album, work manual.
- Work out those angry feeling by getting some exercise. Do some sit-ups, kick a ball, jog on the spot, Zumba!!
- Pick up a pencil and write down or draw your thoughts/feelings/ frustrations
- Take a shower, or better still, a lovely relaxing bath
- Lie down on the floor listening to your favourite music or watch your favourite video
- Talk to your pet – they are great listeners and so non-judgemental
- Go to your shed (if you have one) or do some gardening/ mowing or sewing if you need to do

By now hopefully you are feeling calm. By now the problem may not have seemed like it deserved the blood pressure, but it's time to deal with the issue in a calm, peaceful, rational way. You can do it. It's all a matter of choice so remember – **Don't Lose It!**

Adapted from: Qld Centre for Prevention of Child Abuse Information Sheet

GILSTON GOURMET

Thursday 17 November – Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 18 November – Help needed please

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 21 November – Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 22 November – Melanie Harrison/Amelia Edwards

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 23 November – Jenny

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 24 November – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 25 November – Jenny / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Swimming caps are available from the tuckshop for \$8.00.

As the festive season is approaching and everyone is getting busy, Gilston Gourmet are now offering Cheese Platters. Our platters consist of kabana/cabanossi, cheese, crackers, carrot and celery sticks and a dip for \$40.00 each. If you would like to order one, please see Nicole. We need 3 days notice and prepayment is required.

Year 5 parents are sought to assist with the catering for Year 6 presentation night. As a thank you for your assistance you will be given front row seating at your child's presentation night next year.

We will need assistance from 5.00-8.30pm approx on Wednesday 7 December. If you are able to assist, please leave your name and contact number with Nicole in the tuckshop.

Have a great week,

Nicole Meesen

Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SUNS SLEEPOUT Friday 18 November 5.30pm Metricon Stadium. \$10 adult / \$5 kids / \$25 family. Proceeds go to Gold Coast Community Fund. Two movies on the big screen - The Angry Birds Movie & Ghostbusters. Meet some of the Gold Coast SUNS Players

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY Thursday 1 December, 9.00am-2.45pm. Please bring – primary school uniform morning tea, swimming costume, towel, water bottle, sun protection. Lunch – sausage sizzle provided. Student enrolment for 2017 is required for attendance.

