



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes  
Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

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[www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au](http://www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au)

PHONE : 5501 2333

ABSENCE LINE : 5501 2360

FAX : 5501 2300

[admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au)

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

**Informed decisions are good decisions, yes?** In 2016 we enjoy the benefits of a high speed connectivity to the internet and the plethora of information that is available on the World Wide Web. Information is literally at our fingertips. Whilst it takes a degree of **critical literacy** to ascertain the credibility of the information, it is nonetheless available. Unfortunately we are surrounded by examples of uninformed decisions in media and social circles and consequently run the risk of basing decisions on poor information. At school **we teach children about assessing the veracity of data from the internet** to reduce the likelihood of poorly-informed decisions. I urge you to support this learning by **modelling to your children at home** this critical literacy in ascertaining credible information from the internet. Tell them what you are thinking as you discern what is valid and what is not. This will ensure they too make informed decisions based on valid and reliable data and not shallow opinion.

On the topic of ascertaining information, we have responded to **requests to include more information on [our website](#)** to assist you. Earlier this year with the assistance of Tracylee, additional information about events, including permissions notes have been uploaded, the upcoming events are listed in [the calendar](#) and summaries of celebrations are captured. Popular sections that include [tips for parenting](#) remain as a feature along with details about preparing your child for school. I encourage you to **spend some time reacquainting yourself with the features of the site** so you are aware for future reference.

As part of the **Nerang Alliance of Schools**, we are planning to create a position to oversee the **collaboration of our schools with the Early Childhood Education Centres (ECEC), The Benevolent Society and Griffith University**. Our intent is to create and strengthen ties to ensure best possible outcomes for all children by assisting families and building capacity of all involved in supporting each child's development. The work undertaken in the "Enrolling Families Project" by our staff in the past three years, the work of Brett at the Benevolent Society, the network of ECEC and the collaboration of the Nerang Alliance of Schools has created a platform from which we plan this venture. This is an exciting piece of work that has already gained the attention of our Regional Director and School supervisors in Canberra. I will keep you updated with our

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	25 November	Volunteer BBQ 5.30-7.00pm <b>Last day payment Year 6 Wet N Wild</b>
Wednesday	30 November	Junior & Senior Choirs to Melody Park
Thursday	1 December	Swimming Carnival Year 4-6
Friday	2 December	Instrument Music Parent Meeting
Monday	5 December	Christmas Concert 9.15am Prep – Year 4
Tuesday	6 December	Year 6 Wet N Wild
Wednesday	7 December	Year 6 Presentation
Friday	9 December	<b>Last day Term 4 2016</b>
Monday	23 January	<b>First day Term 1 2017</b>

#### 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
94.72	94.66	95	93.97	93.37	93.32	93.2

progress.

Whilst unexpected, we still have **space for additional enrolments** in some year levels (including Prep) for 2017. If you know of families who are yet to commit to enrolling their children or are looking for a change from the non-state school sector, encourage them to make an appointment.

On Friday week, **White Ribbon Day** provides an important opportunity for all of us — and for men in particular — to **stand up, speak out and act to prevent violence against women**. Violence against women is never acceptable and needs to be eliminated. We all have a responsibility to speak out against it. Schools, workplaces and individuals can help reduce violence against women by demonstrating respect for women and girls and by modelling and valuing healthy, respectful relationships. **At Gilston respect is a cornerstone of our expectations as is being responsible for our own behaviour**. I invite you to spend some time with your children speaking about healthy relationships and the negative ramification of violence in families and the community in general.

Earlier this year we held a **“go bush for a cause”** to raise funds to assist Marcus and his family with medical treatment. The funds contributed to the purchase of an expensive “smart vest” that has impacted very positively on Marcus’ life and the lives of his family. Taralei, Simon, Kendra and Marcus have **expressed their deep and sincere gratitude to the Gilston School Community** for their love and contribution that has provided Marcus some much-needed autonomy and independence in managing his condition.

This morning our teachers met to **analyse data** pertaining to basic number facts and some fundamentals in language. This data measures the effect of the teaching throughout the year. Based on the **impressive results in all roll classes**, I **commend our teachers for their impact**.

**Some facts for your consideration** as you decide what time to **collect your child** and what to say to your child about being ready for you when you arrive:

On Monday it was **3:05pm before a student entered a car in the collection zone**. At **3:08pm** the second student was collected. At this time the line-up of cars extended through the carpark and onto Worongary Road.

#### **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Participant Readiness Information Sessions**

**The NDIS is the new way of providing support for Australians with disability, their families and carers and will progressively roll out across Queensland over a three year period.**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) information sessions for the general public are being held ahead of each region’s transition. The Gold Coast area has a session presented by YFS at **Labrador on 30 November**. For more information, **please contact Sean Redmond** the Project Coordinator on **07 3826 1500** or [seanr@yfs.org.au](mailto:seanr@yfs.org.au)

I am looking forward to spending time with our **volunteers this Friday** to recognise their contributions to our school throughout 2016. The RSVPs have been collated, the snags and onions have been ordered and the chef (Graeme) has been secured. We will be providing some soft drinks for your refreshment and I invite you to bring along any other fizzy drink that you may choose to enjoy.

Stay safe and keep smiling.  
Bruce

#### **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

##### **Contributions from the Gilston State School P & C**

This year we’ve had projects running around the school in different areas. Namely, they’ve been the projector screen and internal walls around the stage area in the Hall. The concreting around the periphery of the Goldmine and the concreting of the tiered section of the oval, plus the finishing off of the Library by way of all the blinds around both rooms. All of these enhancements to our school have only been able to be carried out because of the hard work and dedication of our small but exceptional Parents and Citizens committee. We can’t thank them enough for all they do to make our school great. If we look at the monetary contribution, the total amount donated to the school for these projects alone was \$18,500. This coupled with all the time they donate to us and all the other things they do lead us to be so truly grateful.

##### **After school traffic protocols**

At this point in time I’d like to ask all our parents/caregivers to please be vigilant with safety around the pick-up/drop-off zone, and appropriate pedestrian crossing during peak times. Please be aware of the speed limits along the school access road.

There has been an increase in incidents where people and children crossing the roads not at the designated crossings and coupled with the previous statement has led to some close calls and distress to those either involved or witnessing such events.

##### **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

##### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

- Senior Band will play on Assembly tomorrow 24 November.
- Lessons will be conducted this Friday but there will be no Senior Band on this day.
- On Friday 2 December there will be an Instrumental Music Parent Meeting. Please meet in the undercover area at 9.00-9.10am and then you will be escorted to the Instrumental Music Room.

Steve Broxton / Instrumental Music Teacher

##### **LIBRARY NEWS**

**Book Fair** was a huge success. Thank you to all the student and parents who supported our school by purchasing a book.

**Book Club Issue 8**. Orders are now closed for all school Book Clubs. Thank you to all families who have ordered throughout the year.

Kathy Stone / Librarian

**FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER – MICHELLE DAVIES  
GOOD MANNERS – THE WAY TO A PERSON'S HEART**

Good manners are about being courteous, polite and respecting others and yourself. When you use manners you are considering the feelings of other people, and being the kind of person that others will like and respect. The good thing about manners is they are contagious – what you do every day can encourage others to do the same. People often tend to mimic what they see.

Here are some simple but useful tips for you to teach and demonstrate to your child (guaranteed to make parenting easier at the same time):

*Be polite*

- Say hello (or good morning) when you meet someone you know
- Say 'please' and 'thank you' as often as possible
- Say 'excuse me' if you need to interrupt or pass between people
- Always ask if you want to borrow something, and return it in good order
- Take your turn (or offer others to go first)
- For older children - when answering the phone say hello and who you are, and ask how you can help the person)

*Be respectful*

- Look after yours and others' property
- Offer an older person or a pregnant lady or a disabled person your seat if they are standing
- Open a door to others (don't push your way in first)
- Use nice language not bad language
- Always introduce a friend (this is is.....) if you know 2 people don't know each other
- Be aware of your noise level - avoid being loud in a public place – it's not fair on others
- Treat others kindly
- Be aware of others' cultural ways (eg. it is highly rude in Japan to blow your nose in public)
- Always be aware of others feelings and respect them.

*When eating*

- Never talk with food in your mouth
- Eat silently and with your mouth closed

*Having good manners not only makes you a pleasant person but will also make others want to be with you. It's usually nicer to be around a respectful and a polite person than to be around someone who is inconsiderate.*

Aspects adapted from 'Kids Health Topics' – Children, Youth and Women's Health Service.

**GILSTON GOURMET**

Thursday 24 November – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 25 November – Jenny / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Monday 28 November – Jenny / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Tuesday 29 November – Mel Harrison / Amelia Edwards

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Wednesday 30 November – Jenny / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thursday 1 December – Tracey Zimmerman

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 2 December – Jenny / Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed.

Year 5 parents are sought to assist with the catering for the 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 approximately 5.00-8.30pm 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**

**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.

**ROBINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION DAY** Thursday

1 December, 9.30am-2.30pm. For more information or to be sent an enrolment pack please contact Mr Aaron Carlisle [acar161@eq.edu.au](mailto:acar161@eq.edu.au)

**MUDGEERABA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS** – Firth

Park, Sunday 27 November. Arrive anytime from 4.00pm. 5.00pm Performances from local schools, 6.00pm Community Carols commence. Free Animal Farm, Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Entertainment and a visit from Santa. Food stalls & drinks available.

