



# GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes  
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Edition: 40/2016

Date: 7 December, 2016

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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Teaching **is** rocket science – I have shared this view with you on a number of occasions in recent years. So it is that I **recognise our teachers** for their respective contributions to the learning that has occurred at Gilston this year. Our school plans outline clearly “**what to teach**”, “**when to teach it**” and “**how to teach**” however it is each **teachers’ relationship with students** that dictates the degree of success in learning. Their ability to assess student understanding in seconds, provide feedback that provides clarity and knowing how each child “ticks” is something that makes a great teacher. As we approach the final whistle for 2016 I applaud our teachers and those staff members that teach in a paraprofessional role. Their **impact on student learning** this year has been significant.

On the topic of recognising teachers, I **thank those of you who have provided feedback** about the impact individual teachers have had on your child’s learning and general development. This praise is deserved and much appreciated.

One teacher who will not be with us in 2017 is **Kathy Stone**. Kathy is relocating to the Sunshine Coast and despite my urging will not commute daily to Gilston next year. Kathy has contributed very positively to Gilston in her role as Librarian, Gifted and Talented Mentor and teacher of philosophy to our youngest students. On behalf of a grateful school community I wish Kathy all the best as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

As enrolment numbers fluctuate, so too does the quantity of staffing predicted for 2017. Based on our estimates today, we are most likely to bid farewell to some of our contract teachers as we induct new permanent staff to Gilston next year. I **thank these teachers for their application to teaching at Gilston** and wish them well in their future careers. Chances are we will see them again at Gilston in the future.

The **new permanent teachers** we welcome in 2017 are: from temporary to permanent, Natalie Wilkes and Kathrina Tillston, from Lockhart in FNQ, Mitch Brown, from Hopevale in FNQ, Lizzie Coppick, from Emerald North in CQ, Erin Wheeler and from Broadbeach, Jo Clark.

**Learning is the core business at Gilston.** As I have written above, our teachers are fundamental in this process ably

### FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Friday</b>	<b>9 December</b>	<b>Last day Term 4 2016</b>
Tuesday	17 January	Uniform Shop open 8.00am-10.00am
Thursday	19 January	Uniform Shop open 2.00pm-4.00pm
Monday	23 January	Uniform Shop open from 7.45am
<b>Monday</b>	<b>23 January</b>	<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
94.69	94.48	94.91	94	93.32	93.19	92.98

supported by paraprofessionals in our classrooms. Alongside these people though are those supporting the process: our **administrative staff**, our **facilities** and **cleaning personnel** and a range of staff whose job it is to ensure that our environment is suitable for the delivery of instruction. The importance of each contribution is undeniable in the smooth daily operation of our school and I thank all support staff for making our school great.

With the closure of this school year, we bid **farewell to Gary**. Gary has more recently been a cleaner at Gilston, plying his skills in the twilight hours when most of us are at home. Prior to this role, Gary was our janitor groundsman for many years. He is an unassuming man who has taken pride in his roles at Gilston. He is also a humble man who does not feel comfortable being the centre of attention however I deliberately isolate him today to recognise jobs well done and to express our collective gratitude for his contribution to Gilston over many years. I extend Gary our best wishes for the future.

It is apparent from the talent pool in our recent **school and sport captain** elections that there are numerous leaders in our emerging senior year. Those who will be wearing the special badges in 2017 are:

School Captains: **Zahlia** Jeffery and **Tom** van Loon  
 School Vice-Captains **Trinity** Rollison and **Jacob** Gaudens-McMullin

House Captains

Latimer: **Kayley** Moore, **Jade** Kinzett  
 Duncan: **Ginshirou** Ueno, **Poppy** Cooper  
 Zimmerman: **Zak** Riley, **Mya** Pascon  
 Hinze: **Phoenix** Stein, **Ella** Whiteley

I **congratulate these students** on their success and look forward to their respective contributions in 2017.

There have been nearly 200 school days this year and the following students have been here for **every minute of each of these days**. Our **"100% attenders"** this year are:

**Charlotte** Harrison (Prep), **Tyrone** Bowden (Year 4), together with 2 other students from Prep and Year 4 whose names cannot be published in this media. Along with the many other students whose attendance was close to 100%, these students have moved us closer to our attendance target of 95% overall. I thank all families who have made school attendance a priority. For your interest, this time last year we were:

P	1	2	3	4	5	6
94.35	94.11	94.06	93.46	92.8	93.34	92.61

Pat has produced approximately **1000 certificates to celebrate the academic, behaviour and effort** of the students at Gilston. This is an impressive result and Graeme and I look forward to presenting these to students prior to the end of the week.

Tonight we formally **present our Year 6 cohort** for the final time. In the company of families, special guests from the community and neighbouring schools, our students will be recognised for their achievements. On assembly last week we proudly paraded those students who have been **nominated for the range of awards** that will be presented tonight. I was buoyed by statements from some of the younger students after the assembly as they shared with each other that they aspire to be nominated when their turn arrives.

As Principal, I am **enormously proud of our school**, the team of staff, the eager students and the supportive parents at Gilston. 2016 has been a great year. Our **staff has expended enormous effort** to ensure success for our students reaping rewards in the shape of very **impressive academic, sporting and cultural results** and the development and refinement of **citizenship skills** based on our consistent approach. The **energy that has been expended is remarkable** and worthy of a well-deserved break.

In closing this year I wish to **thank those who have extended good wishes to me and my family** via cards and messages. I expect that I may be unable to thank you all in person so please accept this message of thanks and my wish that your time with your families this Christmas be filled with moments upon which you will reflect fondly. Stay safe and keep smiling.  
 Bruce

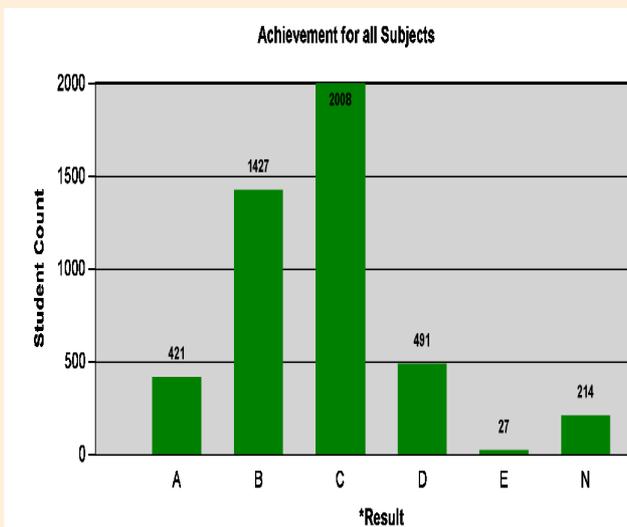
### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT Taking stock

The next round of PISA results are due to be released soon. It's likely to lead to another round of excessive criticism of Australian schools and political chest beating. Some statistics to note thus far. Finland's PISA status has been slipping. In 2012 (the latest scores available), Finland fell out of the top 10. Today's top PISA performers are all Asian: Shanghai, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea. Like Finland, these places are also culturally homogenous, but this is where the similarity ends. In most other ways, their educational cultures are the opposite of Finland's.

Of course, we can learn from them, but we cannot just impose their ways on Australian schools. Our culture is different and our population is more diverse. If we wish to excel in education, we must develop tactics, practices and models suitable for our country's circumstances — an education designed to meet the needs of Australian students, schools and culture. As far as the criticism about us "falling further behind", that's already being touted in the media, it might be interesting to add a conversation about the innovations, ideas and innovators that come out of our country only have to leave and go overseas to gain financial backing and support?

So how have we fared in light of what we know and what will or may be?

An "A" to "E", or five point scale clearly defines against specific learning standards. Students will be bringing home the results of their learning either today or tomorrow. Please keep a look out for report cards. Our assessment process is an ongoing and integral part of the teaching and learning process. We align our processes with the National Curriculum and our latest results show that;



- We have had nine different schools from the South-East region send teachers to us for them to experience and learn from how we teach at Gilston.
- Our children continue, year after year to either win or be placed highly in the Readers Cup Competition on the Gold Coast
- Somerset Writing Competition, Writers Festival
- RSL History Project
- Maths Olympiad Year 6 and Maths Game Year 4/5
- LOTE Program – State winners of the Language Film Competition
- We have a number of State and soon to be national champions in respective sports



This is not a comprehensive list. Given the factual, and seemingly conflicting information throughout this piece I am in awe of all the children at Gilston who do so well in many different areas of their lives. I believe these children have the personal freedom and confidence to say, do, and be who they really are, without worrying so much about how they appear to others and what they might think or say about them. They are the epitome of the Oscar Wilde quote, **Be yourself – everyone else is taken.**

I believe 2016 has been a very good year, and the future holds great promise. I take this opportunity to wish all of our Gilston Greats and their families the very best for the upcoming break, and may your God be with you.

#### **UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS 2017**

The Uniform Shop will be open on the following dates:

Tuesday 17 January – 8.00am-10.00am

Thursday 19 January – 2.00pm-4.00pm

Monday 23 January (first day of term 1 2017) from 7.45am.

#### **SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

The final house points for the swimming carnival are as follows:

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> | Latimer (559)   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> | Hinze (376)     |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> | Duncan (319)    |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup></b> | Zimmerman (309) |

The **Age Champions** are:

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
<b>9 Years</b>	Kalen Templer	Megan Collis
<b>10 Years</b>	Zac Riley / Matthew Absalom	Kayley Moore
<b>11 Years</b>	Soren Zwolsman	Shayley Pankhurst
<b>12 Years</b>	Andrew Stoner	Malena Tate

#### **CHOIR NEWS**

Both the senior and junior choirs have now wrapped up for the year. Unfortunately for some of the choir children we ended on a slightly sour note when the Channel 7 crew, who were set to record the children for the local news, cancelled their visit to the school. Despite this disappointment, our final performances at Kmart and Melody Park were well received and lots of fun for all involved. Thank you to the choir children for working hard this year and to parents for your support and assistance with transport. See you all again in 2017. Merry Christmas everyone.

Alison Miller / Music Teacher

The festive season is just around the corner, and [Queensland Fire and Emergency Services](https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/community-safety/Pages/default.aspx) (<https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/community-safety/Pages/default.aspx>) are encouraging parents to ensure their entire household is fire aware. Don't let your Christmas go up in a puff of smoke!

#### **LIBRARY REPORT**

During this last week could I please remind all pupils to return their library books by Friday.

This is my last report as Gilston's Teacher/Librarian and I would like to say how much I have enjoyed working in this role here.

My very best wishes to Gilston School pupils, families and staff for a very Happy Christmas and a relaxing holiday.

All the best for 2017!

Kathy Stone / Librarian

#### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

##### **SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS FUN CAMP –**

**Week 1** Monday-Friday 12/12/16–16/12/16, **Week 2** Monday-Wednesday 19/12/16-21/12/16, **Week 3** Monday-Friday 9/1/17-13/1/17, **Week 4** Monday-Friday 16/1/17 – 20/1/17. Full Day 8:30am–4.00pm, Half Day 8:30am–12.00pm. Full Day \$40, Half Day \$25. Platinum Tennis located at Hinterland Tennis Club, Price Street, Nerang. Activities include Hot Shot Tennis Coaching, Water Bomb War, Treasure Hunt, Soccer, Basketball, Cricket. All children welcome aged between 4 yrs–6 yrs. **Jono 0488 696 939**

