



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes
Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

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www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au

PHONE : 5501 2333

ABSENCE LINE : 5501 2360

FAX : 5501 2300

admin@gilstonss.eq.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I extend a very warm **welcome** to those of you returning to Gilston and those who are joining us for the first time. Based on the skill and dedication of our staff last week, I forecast that 2017 will be a very productive year for learning. I applaud each of our team members for their contributions to ensuring our start was as smooth as possible.

At Gilston I am always impressed with the **attention to detail** that **parents** bring to the task of preparing their children for school. Again this year our students were resplendent in their uniforms with broad smiles adorning their faces as they reconnected with friends and excitedly learned of their teacher for the year. I thank you for this attention to detail and underline how important the **maintenance of positive attitude** is to successful learning.

Most of you will be aware that the **enrolment numbers captured in the first eight days of each year dictate the number of teachers** we secure and the support resources we receive. Consequently we pay particular attention to this enrolment process often forecasting several plans to accommodate a range of scenarios. During this week and next we will be monitoring the numbers closely, making any logical changes to maximise learning as we await confirmation of resourcing. I thank you for your support in this process.

While you and your children have enjoyed a break from the school routine, **much has been achieved** around the school. From drainage and electrical upgrades to facelifts for some of our buildings, the time with no students on site was used wisely. These projects do not magically occur and commendation is due to **Jan, Graeme, Grant and our wonderful cleaners** for these enhancements.

The **Get Started Vouchers** initiative opens today for 2017. Later in this edition I have included information about the program. There are **significant changes** to the scheme this year that will mean **not all who were successful in the past will be successful this time**. Most of the changes relate to ensuring that the finite number of vouchers are given to those **most in need of financial support**. Consequently I will have a checklist for those applying to ensure that I comply with my accountabilities as a referring agent. This **checklist must be completed and signed** when applications are lodged at the school.

95% attendance remains our target at Gilston. This is a realistic and reasonable target that accommodates the inevitable injuries and illness and emergent family matters that arise. To reach our

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday – Friday	31 January – 3 February	Bicycle Safety Year 4
Monday – Friday	30 January – 10 February	Life Education
Monday	30 January	Life Education Parent Information Session 2.00pm

2017 Explicit Improvement Agenda

Response to intervention (RTI):

Target driven intervention through:

- Data Analysis
- Consistent Core Instruction
- Progress Monitoring
- Supplementary and Intensive Intervention

Gilston Expectations

- Be a Learner
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

Current Attendance Levels

P	1	2	3	4	5	6
99.44	98.49	99.1	99.43	98.85	99.45	98.13

goal **all families must be committed to playing their part** to ensure children are at school for all days they are fit. We will again track and monitor attendance for each year level in our newsletter.

In 2017 our continued focus on school improvement will see us focus on refining our practices to **further differentiate our instruction to maximise learning for all**. Building on our solid foundations, we will analyse our student data and design opportunities to stretch all our students including those demonstrating talents beyond their years and those who require additional support to meet the standards in the Australian Curriculum. Already we have taken the opportunity to design our composite classes to cater for more able students this year. The combination of programs that have been adopted in the past four years have us well-placed for this more sophisticated approach and I anticipate that the upward trajectory of our overall school results will continue. As always, the key to our success will be the deliberate deployment of our skilled workforce. To assess the scope and detail of our plans, Brian, our **Assistant Regional Director will be on site next week**.

When everyone uses the carpark according to the road rules and as signed, the traffic flows more smoothly. The following points help us to ensure traffic does not back up onto Worongary Road in the afternoons and moves more efficiently in the mornings. Please respect each other and the safety of our students by "playing by the rules".

Directions about the collection, drop-off zone to help improve traffic flow and student safety:

1. **Follow the directions on the signs** e.g. do not stay in the zone for more than 2 minutes
2. **Arrive** at the collection zone in the afternoon **after 3.00pm** only (this will avoid congestion through the car park and onto Worongary Road)
3. When arriving at the zone in the morning or afternoon, drive **as far down the zone as possible** to deliver or collect your child/ren. This will smooth the flow and minimise the confusion as people pull out.
4. **Ensure your child has been directed** by you to be at the collection point on time.

In closing this week I extend a collective **expression of gratitude** to the ladies in the **uniform shop** who volunteered their time to ensure our students were prepared for day one. This is just one of the examples of how our willing and dedicated parent group add value to our school. In 2017 please find "your way" of adding this value.

Enjoy our National Day tomorrow.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

GET STARTED VOUCHERS?

The next round (Round 9) of the Queensland Government's Get Started Vouchers program is due to open on **25 January 2017**. Following is important information regarding changes to the program for Round 9, specifically around the referral agent process.

Get Started Vouchers is an initiative to **provide up to \$150 to eligible children** and young people, to help pay for sport or recreation club membership and/or participation fees through registered clubs.

If the child/young person or their parent/carer/guardian **holds a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, they can apply online as soon as the round opens**. These children **do not need to use the referral agent process**.

Updates to the referral agent process

The department is changing the referral agent process to ensure that children and young people **who can least afford the costs** to participate are supported by Get Started Vouchers. To ensure that the vouchers are going to those

families most in need, a new referral agent process will be implemented from Round 9.

The department now requires that eligible referral agents register with the department to be able to refer children and young people for a voucher. Further details regarding referral agent criteria and eligibility requirements are on our website, along with fact sheets for parents and referral agents. Simply Google 'Get Started Vouchers' or go to the information here

www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/getinthegame/getstarted/refer/

For further information on the Get Started Vouchers program, please refer to the website - www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/getinthegame/getstarted/

If you have any specific questions about the program then please email the team at getstarted@npsr.qld.gov.au.

LIFE EDUCATION VISIT, 30 January to 10 February,

From next week Life Education Australia will be in our school. The Life Education Primary School Program has been successfully supporting primary school drug and health education since 1979.

Life Education's comprehensive programs have been specifically designed to assist schools achieve the outcomes of the National Curriculum. Activities are based on the Health and Physical Education outcomes. They are also designed to be integrated into additional curriculum areas, as deemed relevant by individual schools. In our case it will align with our social emotional well-being program. Primary schools play a vital role in preparing children for life and in shaping their journey through school. Research shows that the earlier we encourage children to develop positive self-image, self-esteem and a feeling of uniqueness, the better equipped they are to make positive healthy choices in life.

Life Education assists students to:

- Acquire age appropriate knowledge to support informed health choices
- Develop and practice skills and strategies to act upon individual decisions
- Recognise the values and attitudes that may influence lifestyle choices and behaviours.

If you do not wish your child to attend please phone the office as soon as possible.

There will be a **Parent Information Session** at 2.00pm on Monday 30 January in the Life Education Van at the school.

WHATS ON IN THE MUSIC ROOM THIS TERM

Junior and Senior choir will begin in week 2. The Junior choir for Year 3 & 4 will rehearse on Tuesdays at 1st break and the Senior choir for Year 5 & 6 will be on Thursdays at 1st break. Year 2 students will have the opportunity to join us at a later date.

Eisteddfod choir auditions will be held in weeks 4 and 5. These auditions are open to students in Year 3 to 6. Please see Mrs Miller to register for an audition. More information can be found on the music noticeboard also.

Taiko drumming will begin in week 2. All of our members will have a meeting at 1st break on Monday. Usually our beginners and our 'green' members will rehearse on Monday at 1st break and our 'gold' group on Wednesday at 1st break.

Looking forward to a fantastic year of music making!

Alison Miller

SCHOOL BANKING

On Friday 10 February Ann from Commonwealth Student Banking will be at the front of the school opening new accounts for anyone interested in getting their child started on their saving journey. Ann will be there from 8.00am and all you need to bring is ID for yourself, the child does not need ID if they are enrolled within our school. Younger siblings can also participate just bring their birth certificates along. All student banking is done Friday mornings so once you have an account up and running it is as simple as sending their deposit book into class each week. Happy banking!

BACK TO SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE

The **Gold Coast Road Policing Unit** are seeking your help. Safety around schools is paramount and all drivers have a responsibility to observe the rules. The police understand that this time of year sees new school children arriving at most schools and this is often an exciting and stressful time for both parents and students. They remind all motorists that by not adhering to the road rules you jeopardise the safety of your own children and those from other families.

The following outlines the penalties for breaches of rules:

- Speed Limits** - By now hopefully all parents are aware of the 40km/h speed limits during school times. Fines for exceeding the speed limit are as follows:
Exceed speed limit in school zone by less than 13km/h \$162 1 Point
at least 13km/h but not more than 20km/h \$243 - 3 Points
more than 20km/h but not more than 30km/h \$406 - 4 Points
more than 30km/h but not more than 40km/h \$568 - 6 Points
more than 40km/h \$1,137 - 8 Points
- Illegal parking** - The most common parking complaints and offences:
Stop on children's crossing \$48
Stop within 20m before or 10m after children's crossing \$48
Stop contrary to 'NO STOPPING' sign \$48
Stop contrary to 'NO PARKING' sign \$48
Stop contrary to continuous yellow edge line \$48
Stop unauthorised vehicle in bus zone \$48
Double park \$48
Stop across footpath \$48
Stop across driveway \$48
- Crossing**
Fail to stop at children's crossing when 'STOP' sign displayed \$365 - 3 Points
- General Road Rules**
Driver fail to wear seatbelt \$365 - 3 Points
Driver drive with unrestrained passenger 16 years old or older \$365 - 3 Points
Drive motor vehicle while passenger < 6 mths old unrestrained \$365 - 3 Points
Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 6 mths old but < 4 yrs old unrestrained \$365 - 3 Points
Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 4 yrs old but < 7 yrs old unrestrained \$365 - 3 Points
Drive motor vehicle with more than one row of seats while passenger < 4 yrs in front Row \$365 - 3 Points
Drive motor vehicle with more than one row of seats while passenger aged 4 years to < 7 yrs in front row and other seats not occupied by children aged < 7yrs \$365 - 3 Points
Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 7 yrs but < 16 yrs unrestrained \$365 - 3 Points
Drive vehicle with passenger at least 7 yrs but < 16 yrs in

same seat position as another passenger \$365 - 3 Points

Driver use hand-held mobile phone \$365 - 3 Points

5. For those that have students driving to school

P1 type holder fail to display legible red plate at rear of motorbike \$195 - 2 Points

P1 type holder fail to display legible red plates at front and rear of car \$195 - 2 Points

GILSTON GOURMET

Tuckshop Roster

Thursday 26 January - Public Holiday

Friday 27 January - Linda Rodgers/ Amelia Brown

Ice blocks - Help needed

Monday 30 January - Help needed

Ice blocks - : Help needed

Tuesday 31 January - Help needed

Ice blocks - Help needed

Wednesday 1 February -- Help needed

Ice blocks - Help needed

Thursday 2 February - : Help needed

Ice blocks - Help needed

Friday 3 February - Linda Rodgers/Amelia Brown

Ice blocks - Help needed

Our award winning tuckshop is so loved by students and staff, we are in need of volunteers to help our tuckshop run smoothly. If you are able to volunteer a couple of hours, weekly or monthly we would love to hear from you, your time would be greatly appreciated. We have a variety of jobs that need to be done each day, so if you are not interested in making sandwiches, there are behind the scene jobs like prepping food, bagging up frozen products and stocking shelves, just to name a few. The hours are usually for 1st break 9.00-11.30am or 2nd break 1.30-2.45pm.

If you are able to help please contact, Nicole Meesen our Tuckshop Convenor on 07 5501 2333 or gilstontuckshop@gmail.com

Please make sure you change your child's class on flexi schools before you place your next order. If you are new to the school and are having trouble setting up a flexi school account, please come and see me in the tuckshop.

All prep students are allowed to order Tuckshop for either 1st or 2nd break.

Have a great week, Nicole Meesen Tuckshop Convenor

UNIFORM SHOP REPORT

It seems that we have a little bit of confusion amongst our Year 6 students and families. Last year the uniform shop put out an expression of interest to see how many senior shirts students needed. Please note there was no payment taken for this expression of interest.

If you want to purchase any senior shirts, please do so via flexi schools or at Gilston gourmet.

Our large hats should be in by Friday 27 January 2017 for those students waiting for these

COMMUNITY NOTICES

GC FIVE A SIDES offers the opportunity for children and adults of all abilities to come and try 5 A side football on our state of the art 3G Artificial fields. Junior leagues begin February for U6's - U18's. We also offer Tiny Tots Programmes (2-5 Yrs) - U5-7's Development Programmes, Birthday Parties and various adults leagues for all ages and abilities. For more information and online registrations please visit www.gcfiveasides.com

