



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

High Expectations, Teacher Accountable Learning, Explicit Instruction, Knowledge Retention, Relationship Building and Consistent Practices – these are the elements that constitute our **School Charter** at Gilston. For the last three years we have refined all facets regarding these elements to ensure the energies expended reap maximum effect in the learning of our students. I would welcome the opportunity to elaborate on our Charter and **invite you to express your interest in attending an evening session** for this purpose. Please email your interest to Tracylee tleon16@eq.edu.au.

On the topic of efficiency, I remind all parents that the **QParents app** is available. Parents of 196 of our students have taken advantage of the features of the app by registering with the ladies in the office.

Those of you who have spent some time in the school this year will have seen some **new faces in the teaching ranks**. Mitch Brown (Year 5), Erin Wheeler (Year 5), Rebecca Barker (Prep) and Anne Sheldon (Guidance Officer) have settled quickly and have shared that they have appreciated the welcome by the Gilston community.

Next week our teachers will be planning **information sessions** to outline pertinent aspects of their classrooms. These sessions provide an opportunity to meet the teacher and have any of your questions answered. I **encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity**.

Being on time is a sign of respect. In a school setting, it ensures a smooth start to the day for all students in each classroom. Please spend the energy required to establish routines before school that ensure your child is on time every day. On behalf of our teachers I thank you in anticipation for your attention to this important matter.

When I was very much younger my parents used the expression, "**success breeds success**". I understood they were telling me the more I succeeded the more I would succeed. As an adult I learned that they used the expression to recognise attainment and to motivate me and my siblings for the next challenge. As an educator I came to realise it was the multitude of other expressions and guidance they employed pertaining to **resilience** and **persistence** that led to success in

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday – Friday	30 January – 10 February	Life Education
Friday	10 February	School banking sign up at front gate from 8.00am

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
98.78	95.44	95.64	97.1	95.11	95.42	94.48

the first place. So it is with learning at school. Student success will be based on their application and determination and the guidance from our teachers and you. Only then will they succeed and gain the confidence that leads to future success.

Based on the **current enrolment** numbers I anticipate that there will be no need for wholesale changes to the current roll classes. Finalisation of this arrangement will occur after the **Day 8** return tomorrow.

Gilston has one of the shortest [handbooks](#) in Queensland. Deliberately the document was presented in a summary format to provide parents a succinct overview on a wide range of topics. One of these topics regards **payments** and includes **methods** and **timing** of same. As a reminder I have included this section later in this newsletter. Please adhere to the processes to ensure our efficiency.

In closing this week I remind you that there is **no formal supervision of students prior to school**. Your children remain your responsibility until the first bell at 8:55am. Please be clear with your children of your expectations of their behaviour prior to this time.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Taking stock of Happy Vs Healthy, being Confident, Competent and Engaging in Unnatural Acts

For the majority of students formal education must be a frustrating, mystic experience. Also, while at school we expect them to engage in a number of unnatural acts. Take reading for example. Reading is an unnatural act that we have to lead young children through in a very detailed and systematic way. We aren't born with an alphabet in our brain. The alphabet is an invention. Mankind has invented the alphabet along with the phonetic and graphophonic systems that accompany it. So therefore reading isn't natural and doesn't come naturally to a significant percentage of children. Further to this, in today's world being literate (being able to de-code, disseminate and critique written language), is commonly known as a pre-requisite to being able to function in today's society.

In a lot of learning environments students are exposed to a non-precise approach to learning by providing the students with a false sense of academic progress. When the student is in the fourth grade she will do fourth grade work – even if she lacks the skills that are essential prerequisites to the tasks presented. The teacher teaches material that appears in curriculum and syllabus documents. Going through the motions, putting something down on paper, filling in all the blanks, producing the kind of marks that will hopefully satisfy the teacher – these become the important consideration for the student. They displace the need for mastery. The student settles for half learning, for never quite understanding.

At Gilston we have high expectations about what our students will know and what they will be able to show as a result of their learning. In their core subjects students are engaged in explicit and direct instruction of the content presented so they will have understanding and they will therefore have mastery of that content. Data collected over the last few years shows huge gains in student achievement and proof that what we are doing here really works.

Of course, to achieve this, we need to know our students and what they don't know. This enables us to best organise and

distribute our resources to achieve the best possible result for our charges. Physically this looks like what we see in regard to class compositions. It is possible that a student will not be sitting next to or be in the same class as their current friend. The reason behind this class make-up and engaging your children in unnatural acts is about students gaining mastery in subjects tailored to their needs so as to be able to be successful later in schooling and life thereafter, along with developing a confident and competent human being, are major parts of our core business.

We devote a huge amount of time, deliberation and longitudinal student data to construct classes each year, with all of the above and much more used as our guide. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your recognition of this and your feedback already received.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION 2017

We're expecting religion lessons to start in week four (Monday 13 February), and continuing every Monday thereafter. Lessons will be conducted by members of the New Beginnings Christian Church. Those parents/carers who have nominated to have their children attending will soon receive an invoice for the books they will need for those lessons. Religious Instruction booklets for students were not part of the Student Resource Scheme (SRS). This was explained in the Participation Agreement Form given out last year.

If you feel you have been invoiced in error please let the office know and we will remedy the situation.

"MONEY

Our preferred method of money collection is via the internet. Money is also collected at the school office between 8.00am and 11.00am on Thursdays and Fridays. EFTPOS facilities are available for adults. All compulsory payments must be settled by due dates. **Participation in extra-curricula activities, where a financial contribution is necessary, will depend on whether all invoices have been settled or payment arrangements are in place.** This includes, but is not limited to: excursions, competitions, interschool sport and camps."

HOMESTAY FAMILIES WANTED FOR 7 DAY VISITS

We are hoping to arrange Homestay visits for Japanese students during the year and need HOMESTAY FAMILIES. If you would be interested in hosting a student in the future we will need to have Blue Cards current for all members of the household over 18 years old. Blue Cards for volunteer use in the school are free but take 6-8 weeks to be approved. Please fill and return the Blue Card application form attached and email it straight back to jwall344@eq.edu.au

It is set up for easy completion on your phone or tablet – no printing required!

See the Host Family Flyer attached for more information.

GILSTON GOURMET

Tuckshop Roster

Thursday 2 February - : Help needed

Ice blocks – Help needed

Friday 3 February – Jenny / Amelia Edwards

Ice blocks - Help needed

Monday 6 February - Jenny

Ice blocks - : Help needed

Tuesday 7 February – Help needed

Ice blocks - Help needed

Wednesday 8 February -- Jenny

Ice blocks - Help needed

Thursday 9 February – Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 10 February – Jenny / Amelia Edwards

Ice blocks - Help needed

We need more volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the morning from 9.00-11.30am, also any afternoon from 1.15-2.45pm.

If you can help, please phone Nicole our Tuckshop Convenor on 5501 2333.

If you have a child's birthday coming up and you don't have time to bake cupcakes, we can do this for you. A class set of iced cupcakes is \$30.00. We need one week's notice and prepayment.

Sushi order forms will be coming home this week. Keep an eye out.

Also keep an eye on Gilston Gourmet Facebook page for daily specials.

Have a great week.

Nicole Meesen, Tuckshop Convenor, 5501 2333.

UNIFORM SHOP REPORT

Our school uniform shop will be open this Thursday from 2.30-3.30pm.

If anyone would like to help out in the uniform shop each week, please come and see Nicole Meesen in the Tuckshop.

We still have senior shirts available at \$30.00 each.

If you require any uniforms and can't make it on Thursday afternoon open times, the tuckshop will be able to help you.

Have a great week.

Nicole Meesen.

