



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

"Attitude is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, money, circumstances, than failures and success, than what other people think, say, or do. It is more important than appearance, ability, or skill. It will make or break a business, a home, a friendship, an organization. The remarkable thing is I have a **choice every day of what my attitude will be. I cannot change my past. I cannot change the actions of others. I cannot change the inevitable. **The only thing I can change is attitude.** Life is ten percent what happens to me and ninety percent how I react to it."** Charles Swindoll

I lead with one of my **favourite quotes** to make you think about yourself and those around you. I **challenge you** to make a deliberate choice every day for the next week and, to articulate this choice to those close to you because, despite the quote including "I cannot change the actions of others" you may find that your choices do indeed affect those around you.

Our **Parents and Citizens (P & C) Association** is an integral part of our school. Each month their meetings **provide a forum** to provide input into the strategic direction of the school and to discuss and clarify a range of topics from parent feedback. In addition, this peak body also oversees the school fund-raising and event coordination that provides additional opportunities and resources for our school. I invite you to join the team at the next meeting in the staffroom on **Monday 13 February** at 7.00pm (usually meetings are held on the third Monday of the month – this change was forecast at the last meeting last year) Later in this newsletter the P & C have included some information that may **save you some money**. It relates to the conveyance allowance to which you may be entitled.

On the topic of money, **here's something for nothing**. All Queensland state school staff and students can now download multiple **free copies of the latest Microsoft Office** to their personal home computers and mobile devices. Students will need their school log on details to access this offer. To download Office 2016 to a PC or Mac, visit <http://portal.office.com>, log in using school email address, click through to install and follow the prompts. For tablets and smartphones, download from your app store and sign in using the school email address. Detailed instructions are [available](#) via the hyperlink.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday – Friday	30 January – 10 February	Life Education
Friday	10 February	School banking sign up at front gate from 8.00am Last day for Book Club orders.
Monday	13 February	P & C Meeting 7.00pm

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
98.72	95.71	96.2	96.52	93.91	95.17	93.63

It is **important that when we make mistakes we apologise** and attempt to rectify the situation. Let me model this practice this week by extending an apology to Jo Clark, another of our new teachers whose name did not appear with the “new” staff in the newsletter last week. She too has noted the warmth of the welcome at Gilston in the first few weeks (apart from the Principal perhaps).

I am pleased to report that there are **no more anticipated changes to roll classes** after confirming enrolments on “Day 8” were sufficient to maintain our current classroom teaching team. I now eagerly await the staffing allocations for our special education and learning support programs.

2017 is the final year of the federal funding cycle we refer to as **I4S (Investing for Success – formally GRG, Great Results Guarantee)**. This year I anticipate we will receive **\$186 000** to support student learning. In many cases we will be maintaining and building upon the successful programs we established in the first year of the cycle in 2014.

It is apparent from some of the questions at the teacher parent sessions that **there is a thirst for more information about the teaching techniques we have adopted at Gilston**. While the teachers will have been able to answer specific questions during the sessions regarding the “what” and “how” we deliver instruction, **I am keen for you to know, “why”**. My offer to host an information session about high-yield practices stands and I invite interested parents to contact [Tracylee](#) to **register your interest**. Based on the interest received I will coordinate a suitable time for this session.

It appears that my hints about using the collection zone are being heeded judging by the reduced number of cars arriving before 3.00pm – thank you. If this pattern continues it will have a dramatic effect on the congestion in the afternoons. The next stage is **ensuring your child is committed to being at the zone at the time you arrive**. When children are late the traffic stops and parents whose children are ready cannot proceed to the zone. **Please respect your fellow parents by moving on if your child is not at your car in 2 minutes**.

At Gilston we are particularly **proud of our tuckshop**, the Gilston Gourmet. After receiving numerous awards last year, our aim is to maintain the high standards that led to our recognition. Part of this high standard was our adherence to the **workplace health and safety regulations that limits access to workers and volunteers only**. To ensure we do not jeopardize our 5 star rating, please respect this regulation by remaining outside unless you are volunteering.

On the topic of tuckshop I remind everyone that the ladies are **not permitted to grant credit**.

Healthy bodies and minds ensure best learning for us all, especially girls and boys. On behalf of your children, **thank you for providing healthy food both at school and home and ensuring sufficient sleep each night** to recharge their developing minds and bodies.
Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As we enter into the new school year an endearing train of thought is “here we go again.” We're now in the third week back for children and teachers have been back for four weeks. It is the case that we reinvent schooling every year. Despite any successes we may have had with last year's

cohort of students, teachers have to start again this year with a brand new cohort. The greatest change that most student's experience is the level of competence of the teacher in deriving the start point for the learning, as the school and their peers are ‘similar’ to what they would have experienced the previous year. “It is easy to see how it is tempting for teachers to re-do the successes of the previous year, to judge students in terms of last year's cohort and to insist on an orderly progression of what has worked before.”

As a school, and indeed a region, the message from our ARD's, the Director General and agenda of education in Queensland is about **improving each students' outcomes, each year**. The message is we are **not to rest on the laurels of achievements of the previous year**, as tempting as it may be. It's not surprising to see that some students may experience ‘anxiety attacks’, when they too realise they are major players in this agenda of improvement as well.

Now on to another facet of schooling. Tyack and Cuban (1995), coined the phrase “the grammar of schooling” which I've talked about above. It's the age old notion of carrying on from what worked last year, age grading students, that students should be responsible for their own learning, the division of knowledge into separate subjects and the self-contained classrooms with one teacher. There's a myriad of notions, strategies and programs that have been perceived, debated and enacted over the past century with dubious results and great lack of data in regard to did it work or not.

Another facet from the grammar of schooling, is the student, parent, teacher relationship. This is a very powerful, dynamic and productive area that has been proven to improve student outcomes. Imagine a student is tested at the start of a year, and then re-tested at the end of the same year (e.g., a spelling test). By comparing the two results we can measure the size of the effect the teaching/learning/schooling has had on the student. The effect size of the student/teacher relationship is 0.72, teacher credibility is 0.90, (Hattie, 2016).

Fundamentally the higher effect size the more likely that every child would receive one years' worth of growth over one year of schooling. An effect size of 0.4 is regarded as average or typical.

To maximise success make time to go to your parent information sessions, become familiar with our improvement agenda and get to know your child's teacher. Engage in conversations about the goals and targets for your child.

Pedestrian Crossing Protocols

Please be aware of the need to use the designated parking areas and pedestrian crossings, especially when escorting children. We are on a busy and winding road and one could only assume, it's only a matter of time before something could go horribly wrong.

P & C NEWS

Welcome back to both our old and new Gilston Families I hope you all had a safe and happy break with your loved ones and are ready to get back into the school routine. Our first P & C meeting will be held on 13 February 2017 at 7.00pm. You can find us at the Admin building in the staff room and we would love to see you there to help us to discuss any upcoming events or issues and help us to make positive changes for your children and our school. Come and have your say.

Jemma Baldwin P & C 0407091826

SCHOOL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The P & C would like to let you know about funding that may be available to parents of Gilston State School.

If you live further than 3.2km from your nearest Primary school (4.8 for High School) you may qualify for help with the costs of getting your child/ren to school. Help is either a conveyance allowance - paid each semester, or help with bus fares.

If you need an application posted out to you call 5630 8857.
Gilston State School P & C

SPORT NEWS - DISTRICT TRIALS

During the school year our students have the opportunity to participate in district sport trials. The following procedures must be observed:

- students will be informed during the season of the trial dates in accordance with the District Sport Calendar.
- They indicate their interest in attending to the PE teacher who will then determine whether the student is of the right age, experience and skill level to trial.
- The Principal will then assess whether the student is a positive ambassador of Gilston Primary. If the student displays these attributes they will be nominated to trial.
- Schools can usually nominate up to 4 students per sport.

Please note that convenors will only accept nominations from school PE teachers. Nominations cannot be submitted by students, parents or club coaches.

Thank you.

Scott Stavar / HPE Teacher

JAPANESE NEWS

Quizlet

Language acquisition is boosted by regular and frequent use. I would like students to be regularly accessing the vocabulary and script sets I have set up in Quizlet. You can access these sets by registering your child on www.quizlet.com.

You could also download the app to your Apple or Android device for free. It uses very little space as these are simple word files.

1. Register using your child's first name and last letter of their surname and add a number you'll remember (birth day/month?) Eg: JaneD1234
2. Search for kdoon3 and request to join the relevant class (Grade 4/5/6)
3. Wait for approval (several days) then start practicing! Students should practice regularly – I'd like to see them spend five minutes, three times each week.

Hiragana

This free app is also very good for practicing reading and writing and helps students recognise the sounds in simple words. Students are all working towards a Hiragana Black Belt this year so lots of practice is essential!

MUSIC NEWS

The Year 2 students can now join the **Junior choir**. The choir will rehearse at 1st break on Tuesdays every week. Students are expected to attend every rehearsal when they are at school.

Year 4 will now move up to the **Senior choir**. This choir will meet every Thursday at 1st break.

Eisteddfod choir auditions begin next Monday and run for 2 weeks. A sign-up sheet is located on the noticeboard outside the music room.

Alison Miller / Music Teacher

RECORDERS

Year 3, 4 and some Year 5 students need a recorder for music lessons. The recorders stay at school during the term, ready for each lesson. If your son/daughter is in Year 4 or the 4/5 class please send their recorder to school and ask them to drop it at the music room as soon as possible. (If they took them home last year)

Alison Miller / Music Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

The first issue of **Book Club** has gone home. Please make sure you place your Book Club order by Friday 10 February as this is the closing date for all school orders.

Thank you.

GILSTON GOURMET

Tuckshop Roster

Thursday 9 February – Help needed

Ice Blocks – Help needed

Friday 10 February – Amelia / Jenny / Linda Rogers

Ice blocks - Help needed

Monday 13 February – Pip Collins / Jenny

Ice blocks - : Help needed

Tuesday 14 February – Melanie Harrison / Caroline Fitzroy

Ice blocks - Help needed

Wednesday 15 February – Help needed

Ice blocks - Help needed

Thursday 16 February - : Help needed

Ice blocks – Help needed

Friday 17 February – Amelia / Jenny

Ice blocks - Help needed

A reminder to all parents to please make sure all lunch orders are placed before 9.30am.

Year 6 students, if you would like to help out in the tuckshop at lunch breaks, please come up and put your name down to go on a roster.

We have a new "Variety box". Combo 7 is available this year, which consists of a mini quiche, seasonal fruit, carrot or cucumber sticks, crackers and dip of your choice (tzkatzi, hommus, or avocado) for \$5.

Have a great week and keep cool,
Nicole Meesen Tuckshop Convenor

UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform hours have changed, we are now open on Thursday's from 2.30- 3.30pm.

Senior shirts are \$30.00 each.

Have a great week,
Nicole Meesen / Uniform shop

COMMUNITY NOTICES

FREE TENNIS COACHING - Platinum Tennis are running a free introduction to tennis program. These lessons will run weekly from Monday 13 February until Monday 6 March before school 8.00-8:45am. This program is free for students who are wishing to get involved in tennis or try something new. Please note limited spaces are available. Please contact the school office for bookings. For more information please contact Jono on 0488 696 939.

MILO T20 BLAST gives girls and boys the opportunity to play fun games of cricket in an active and social setting. Visit www.playcricket.com.au/t20blast

NERANG BMX CLUB COME AND TRY DAY 18 February 9.00am-1.00pm. Free bike and helmet hire, free sausage sizzle, goodie bag and coaching tips. Cnr Cayuga & Mortensen Road, Nerang. Contact Debbie 0438 253 247 / Alec 0431 277 597. All welcome.

