If you are not aware of our attendance target of greater than 95%, you are new to our school or haven’t read a newsletter for three years. Last year we moved closer to this target finishing the year on 94.6%. In 2012 we recorded 92%, in 2013-93.4%, 2014-93.7% and 2015-94%. Let’s make 2017 the year we exceed the 95% mark! As with any team achievement, it’ll take us all to play our part.

Targets aside, I understand that there will always be required absences. Illness, bereavement and sporting representation are just some that recur. To ensure our processes regarding the recording of these absences, it is vital that advice be given to the office as soon as practical. This will ensure we avoid unnecessary text messages. To assist you in this task, the ladies accept notifications via: e-mail, phone (Absent Line 5501 2360), face-to-face, QParents App and notes to the office. For efficiency direct all advice regarding absences to the office.

If your child is absent due to representative duties e.g. sport, band etc, please ensure this detail is included in your correspondence.

In the past two weeks student assessment data has been analysed to identify specific learning needs. Based on this analysis resources will be deployed to deliver explicit instruction to address the needs. This intervention will be for the full range of abilities ensuring that we give each child the best chance of gaining at least one year level of learning in each year at school. Our teachers will be articulating to the students the learning that is intended in these programs. I encourage you to ask your children about these learning goals and their progress towards attainment.

At Gilston we are very fortunate to have air-conditioning in all classrooms. During the hot weather of the past few weeks this has improved the comfort of our students and our staff members. During the times that students are outside however, we monitor conditions to ensure student welfare. The insistence on wearing a hat, the encouragement to drink water regularly and the tempering of physical activity to a level that is appropriate for the conditions are part of the management. If we have any concern regarding your child’s health as a result of the heat, you will be notified by phone.
It appears that a growing number of parents are keen to take advantage of the convenience offered by the QParents app - over 230 users at last count. The app is generally very robust however this week, I was notified that there have been some problems with the android app when making payments. If you use an android device, please note the following and action accordingly: “Some users have reported that making payments using the QParents app on their android phone is not working. They are directed to the BPoint portal but do not receive a “payment successful” message and the payment is not processed. To resolve this issue uninstall the QParents app, then download and re-install the app via Google Play.”

It would be hard to argue that in Australia in 2017, we choose to access most information electronically. In many cases we conduct our daily activities similarly: banking, communicating, booking services, sharing images. With this in mind, we will be removing the hard copy option of the newsletter unless parents provide a reasonable case for providing a printed copy for them. If you do not have access to a computer, smart phone or other electronic device and require a hard copy, please pen a letter to the ladies in the office explaining your circumstance. We will continue to have a hard copy available at each classroom in the school.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
The gardening crew are doing fine! We’ve planted sunflower seeds to brighten things up a bit and hope it’s not too late for them to grow. We’re also talking about how we can prolong the watering using recycled empty plastic bottles. This process is another great avenue for conversations with the children about a number of issues pertaining to the concept.

CROSS COUNTRY
This year’s event will be held on Wednesday 29 March. Students are to wear house shirts on the day please.
- The Prep–3 carnival will run during first session starting with Prep races.
- The 4-6 carnival will commence in middle session beginning with year 4.
All competitors will receive a house point and an ice block after participating. Any 10-12 year olds who place in the top 4 will represent Gilston Primary at the District Cross Country on Thursday 25 May. We look forward to a fun and successful carnival.

RUN CLUB
In preparation for the Cross Country, Run Club will begin on Monday 20 February. Students wishing to improve their fitness can meet the House Captains on the oval from 8:15am Monday to Friday and run/walk laps of the oval. The boy and girl who run the most laps in each year level will receive a prize. See Mr Stavar or the House Captains for more details

CHOIR
We had a huge group of Year 2 students join the junior choir this week. It was very exciting! The children had some fun with singing games and learning the basics of breathing techniques.
I talked to the children about being committed to attending rehearsals and any encouragement that parents can give would be greatly appreciated. If students are at school on the rehearsal day they are expected to attend. I have a strict 3 strikes then out policy for non-attendees. The choir rehearses in the music room (near the Year 2 block) every Tuesday at 1st break play time. If there are any other Year 2 or 3 students who would like to join the junior choir, it’s not too late. No forms are required. New members can simply turn up next Tuesday.
Alison Miller / Music Teacher

GILSTON GOURMET
Tuckshop Roster
Thursday 16 February - : Rach Delany/ Help needed
Ice blocks – Help needed
Friday 17 February – Linda Rodgers/ Amelia Brown
Ice blocks - Help needed
Monday 20 February – Pip Collins / Jenny
Ice blocks - : Help needed
Tuesday 21 February – Melanie Harrison / Caroline Fitzroy
Ice blocks - Help needed
Wednesday 22 February – Kirsty Robertson
Ice blocks - Help needed
Thursday 23 February – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Friday 24 February – Amelia Brown / Jenny
Ice blocks - Help needed
Sushi Day is on Tuesday 28 February, 2017. Order forms will go home tomorrow and payment and order forms will be due back by next Thursday 23 February, 2017. Have a great week, Nicole Meesen Tuckshop Convenor

UNIFORM SHOP
Uniform Shop open every Thursday afternoon from 2.30 - 3.30pm
All uniform orders are processed through the tuckshop, once these orders are filled they will be put into your child’s teacher’s pigeon hole at the staff room. Your child’s teacher will hand your child their uniform orders.
Sports Shirts have been ordered and will be here in about 2 weeks. If you require a sports shirt, you can pre pay for 1 at the tuckshop and as soon as they come in I will make sure your child gets one.
We have also ordered more homework satchels, once again when these come in I will let you know and get these to your child.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
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.

Ice blocks - Help needed
Tuesday 21 February – Melanie Harrison / Caroline Fitzroy
Ice blocks - Help needed
Wednesday 22 February – Kirsty Robertson
Ice blocks - Help needed
Thursday 23 February – Help needed
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