



GILSTON STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Principal: Bruce Langes
Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I lead this week with some **special news** regarding our Deputy Principal, **Graeme Weatherburn**. Last week Graeme was approached to relocate to **Kowanyama State School**, a school on the western side of **Cape York Peninsula**. After due consideration Graeme decided to accept the move and will take up duty in term 2. Graeme's deep understanding of the cultural complexities that exist in Kowanyama will be an asset to their school and the community in general. In wishing him all the best for his posting we are vitally aware of the impact of his transfer on our school. Since joining us in 2012 Graeme has applied his **child-centred approach** to **supporting the learning for students** in our school. His **sense of humour** (somewhat dry) and general wit has brought smiles and delight to students and adults alike. I am **personally grateful** for the **loyalty** Graeme has exhibited and his **willingness to attend to the myriad of tasks that are necessary every day to ensure the smooth operation of our school**. On behalf of our grateful school community I wish Graeme well, confident he will make a positive difference at Kowanyama.

It was only last week that we publically farewelled **Yolanda Dickmann** after 30 years of service at Gilston. As a **teacher for 41 years** I can imagine this time to be **bitter sweet** for her. By coincidence that same week I reconnected with my kindergarten teacher Miss Stott, and pondered on how she must have felt after the significant lapse of time. It had me wishing for Yolanda many such encounters with past students in the years to come as I am confident it is heart-warming knowing of your influence as told by them. As I said on assembly, Yolanda has influenced many lives in her career, not just students.

I am currently liaising with the key staff in our district office to undertake a **selection process** to fill the position made vacant by Graeme's relocation. Given the timeline, this position will be filled temporarily initially with a permanent replacement to follow in accordance with the set guidelines.

Some people find it harder to learn than others. There are many reasons for finding learning difficult and our teachers are always looking for ways to help students learn. One example of how adjustments are made is the work of our Goldmine staff who support a wide range of students both within classrooms and at the Goldmine. During my regular visits to the Goldmine I

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	13-17 March	Swimming Year 1, 2 and 4
Thursday	16 March	Prep 2018 Parents Information Session 9:30am
Monday	20 March	Gala Day Year 5 & 6 Firth Park Mudgeeraba Gilston State School P & C Annual General Meeting 7.00pm Admin Building
Wednesday	22 March	Year 6 Leadership Day
Friday	24 March	P & C Movie Night (Hall)
Wednesday	29 March	Cross Country
Friday	31 March	9:15 am P-3 Easter Concert (Hall) Last Day Term 1
Tuesday	18 April	First Day Term 2

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
96.79	95.78	95.7	95.53	94.58	95.36	94.06

continue to be impressed with the progress of the students. The pride they have in sharing their learning is heart-warming and bodes well for further learning as they make their way through their schooling years. The Goldmine has another face though and that is as a hub for play during the breaks. Students from all over the school descend on this location to engage in games and play that reinforces social skills and the development of friendships. I **commend** all our **staff** for their ongoing emphasis on **tailoring their teaching to ensure students succeed**.

Whilst it is unlikely you will see her at Gilston often, **Lyndel Chambers** has joined our **Nerang Alliance** of Schools in the role of **Pedagogy Coach**. Lyndel will be working closely with the staffs in our feeder centres, liaising with support agencies and experts to maximise the development of these young people and further smooth the transition for families from Kindergarten to Prep. We warmly welcome Lyndel to our Alliance.

Tomorrow I look forward to meeting with parents of students commencing at Gilston in **Prep in 2018**. This information session is a critical stage in the successful program we call **"Enrolling Families"**.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Efficacy: the quality of being able to produce a desired or intended outcome

This week I'd like to encourage community debate about the purposes of schooling, especially at Gilston, and the mandate given to us from our governing body, and their position for the next decade. It is about the "purposes or aims of education in today's world and our commitment to excellence and high learning expectations."

We've all heard Mr Dylan telling us about how 'The Times They Are a-Changin'.' He released it **in 1964** and it still rings true today. JFK also spoke about there being 'nothing more certain and unchanging than uncertainty and change.'

In **1971**, Ivan Illich's "Deschooling Society" argued for a change to the approach we had for schooling. He said "A good educational system should have three purposes: it should **provide all** who want to learn with access to available resources at any time in their lives; **empower all** who want to share what they know to **find those who want to learn it from them**."

In a paper to the Queensland Government **in 2010** Kaye Schofield put forward in 'The Purpose of Education; A contribution to the Discussion: Queensland State Education,' "Over the next decade, the overarching purposes of schooling in Queensland should be to prepare all young people to be active and reflective citizens of Australia, capable and keen to fully participate in, and shape community, economic and political life in Queensland and beyond, able to confidently engage with other cultures at home and abroad, and with a disposition to lifelong learning."

At Gilston our interpretation of all this, and more, is to teach **surface learning** through a direct and explicit approach. They've got the basics. Students can then develop **deeper understandings** and make connections, relationships and schema to organise skills and concepts. We can then take that further so students have the ability to **transfer** that knowledge and ways of doing to new situations and learning opportunities. There's a plethora of research and information out there about the direction we must take, and the ways we

can do it, in regard to success **no matter who we are in education**.

When we look though, we see those desperate to cling to the notion of wanting to carry on the same as they always used to. None more so than students, who **in today's world, 2017**, are more prone to shying away from challenge, risk-taking and ultimately true independence. Wanting things to be the same from the outside, and carry the same ways, but inside fearful of what life may have in store. We continue to talk of the nation, the family, work, tradition and nature as if they were all the same as in the past. They are not. The outer shell remains, but inside all is different...more and more students have the potential to become inadequate to the tasks they will be called upon to perform, and to withdraw from accepting the world that will be their tomorrow, ultimately accepting the tranquility of mediocracy.

As I've written above, there's a great body of research about these issues effecting us today and those of tomorrow. I'd invite you all to read Michael Grose's book 'The Spoonfed Generation, 2017', were he puts forward his theory on why today's children are becoming, or already are, less willing to be less independent and risk-averse and how we could combat it.

To the Gold Coast Chess Tournament participants

Congratulations to all those who competed at the chess tournament on Wednesday of last week. I'd urge you all to persevere with your studies because of your success at the tournament. It's a clear indication of your fortitude, resilience, knowledge and courage, to walk into a hall of over five-hundred plus strangers and give it your best shot.

Kind regards
Graeme

DRUMMING IS COMING!

Last week we had a meeting with Courtney Muldoon from PCYC. Courtney has kindly offered to run a 10 week **Drumbeats** program starting in Term 2. We also have some enthusiastic members of staff who have expressed an interest in completing the Drumbeats training program. These staff members would then continue the program with new groups of students in the following terms. Watch this space!

GILSTON GOURMET & UNIFORM NEWS

Tuckshop Roster

Thursday 16 March- Rachel Delany

Ice blocks – Help needed

Friday 17 March – Amelia Edwards / Jenny

Ice blocks- Help needed

Monday 20 March- **Help needed**

Ice blocks - Help needed

Tuesday 21March – Melanie Harrison / Caroline Fitzroy

Ice blocks - Help needed

Wednesday 22 March – Jenny

Ice blocks - Help needed

Thursday 23 March- Help needed

Ice blocks - Help needed

Friday 24 March– Jenny / Amelia Edwards

Ice blocks: Help needed

Swimming caps are available at the tuckshop - \$8.00 each.

Homework Satchels have arrived; and are available at the tuckshop and uniform shop for \$15.00. Sports Shirts should be here by Monday 20 March.

It has come to my attention that some families are ordering all food items for 1st break, and then what the child can't eat, then goes into the child's school bag until the next break. All hot food needs to be consumed first as this can't be reheated. If your child is having tuckshop for both breaks, you need to do 2 separate orders over the counter as well as on flexi schools.

Friday night 24 March, Gilston State School P & C are holding a 'Family Movie Night' in the hall. All families are welcome and the movies that will be showing are: *The Secret Life of Pets* and *Trolls*. There will be hot food, drinks and snacks available on the night from 5.30pm. Movie will start at 6pm.

Have a great week,

Nicole Meesen
Tuckshop Convenor

COMMUNITY

ROBINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL SIGNATURE PROGRAM INFORMATION EVENING - Monday 27 March 5.30pm (Academic Excellence, Japanese Immersion, Community Action Service, Sport Academy Programs). Performing Arts Centre, 1 Investigator Drive, Robina. For more information contact acar161@eq.edu.au

BLACK & BLING TRIVIA NIGHT – come and join **Nerang State High School** community for a night of Black & Bling. Friday 26 May Nerang State High School Hall – 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Tickets \$10 each or \$12 on the night. Contact Tracey Spiers 0412 267 263 or pandc@nerangshs.eq.edu.au

EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS FUN CAMP - Monday 3/4/17, Tuesday 4/4/17, Wednesday 5/4/17, Monday 10/4/17 , Tuesday 11/4/17, Wednesday 12/4/17. Platinum Tennis located at Hinterland Tennis Club, 5 Price Street, Nerang. Full Day 8.30am-4.00pm \$40, Half Day 8.30am – 12 noon \$25. 3 Day Pass (Full Day) \$90 per person, 3 Day Pass (Half Day) \$60 per person. Activities include Hot Shot Tennis Coaching, Easter egg hunt, water bomb fight, Easter egg painting, soccer, movie Interested? All children welcome aged between 4yrs - 16yrs. Call Jono 0488 696 939

