Due to the preparation of our dedicated staff, our first day of school was the smoothest I can remember. As parents and carers you played your part by ensuring your children were resplendent in their uniforms and that they had their books and additional requirements for the classroom. Given our start I think it sensible to predict a very successful year.

At this time of the year I rest assured that between the staff, school leaders and existing families, those new to our school are assisted as they settle in. This support was again evident this morning as our year six students played tour guide for our Prep parents while introductions occurred between new and returning parents. I welcome the new faces to the Gilston family and look forward to your contributions to the evolving fabric of our school.

This time last year I recognised the dedicated volunteers in the uniform shop for braving the oppressive heat to provide parents access to uniforms. This year it was the deluge that challenged their stocking efforts on Friday. Cleaning half an inch of water from the room prior to commencing was above and beyond the call of duty. If you have a sense of adventure and want to join this team or express your interest in any of the volunteer teams, contact the office.

The student vacation period gave us a chance to perform some maintenance activities throughout the school. From plumbing to painting, much was achieved with a number of tasks to be completed in the coming weekends. Unfortunately, the rain that we welcomed to sustain our plants has provided its own challenges with damage being sustained to spaces including garden areas. We may require an earlier-than-usual working bee to replace the mulch that floated and washed away. I salute our cleaners and grounds people for the efforts expended in preparing for our first day.

Our Explicit Improvement Agenda for 2015 will focus our attention on two main priorities: Guided Reading and Explicit Teaching. To support this Explicit Improvement Agenda, we have adopted some creative staffing arrangements. Nutana Donaldson, Toni Williams and Peta Williams will lead sectors...
within the school in the area of curriculum while Debbie Favero will lead the support of teachers in explicit teaching. A particular focus within explicit teaching will be the adoption of consolidation techniques to ensure students move learning from short-term to long-term memory. Expect to hear more about “slides” at your parent teacher meetings and within these newsletters throughout the year.

Will we beat 95% attendance this year? Success for our team relies on all players so play your part and help us meet our goal.

At Gilston we are blessed to have a very supportive parent body. One aspect of this support is the raising of funds to provide enhancements to the opportunities for our students. Over the break I was advised that in response to a detailed grant application, Gilston will be receiving $26954.54 to support stage two of the upgrade to the tuckshop. Mia and Jemma have worked tirelessly to secure this funding and for this I extend our collective thanks.

Several of you have enquired about Pat as you noticed her absence from the office this week. Regrettably, Pat’s husband Chris passed recently after an extended illness. Pat is not only aware of our collective support but is grateful for it and the privacy we are extending to her and her family. She will take some leave and will return soon.

In the mornings and afternoons your children are your responsibility. Our members have been directed to concentrate on preparing for instruction and reviewing programs at these times. The exceptions to this are the duties in the collection zone and the escort of the bus students to buses. Rather than ban the access to the school playgrounds at this time, I have agreed to grant access under the condition that you supervise your children closely. Please ensure you meet this condition so access can be sustained. Students arriving prior to 8:30am are restricted to the covered play area.

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I was impressed with the apparent order and efficiency that was evident in the car park yesterday. It is not usually the case on the first day and is testament to your courtesy and patience as drivers and pedestrians. I remind everyone that two minutes is the maximum stopping time in the collection zone. If your child has not arrived in this time please “do a lap”.

Gilston State School will be a polling booth for the State Election this Saturday.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Welcome back everyone. It was great to see the excitement on students’ faces yesterday as they began their 2015 school year with a smile. Welcome to all of those families who are new to Gilston. I am sure you have already developed positive memories after yesterday and trust in our ability as educators to ensure we are catering for your child’s learning needs.

Welcome back to our teaching and support staff and to Michelle Davies, our Guidance Officer. I am sure you will enjoy your time here at Gilston.

Prior to the commencement of the school year teachers were busy preparing for the year ahead to ensure the commencement of 2015 was as smooth as possible. I would like to thank the teachers for their time and effort they have put in to ensure this smooth start. This was evident yesterday as the first day of the school year was a huge success.

A message for the students: Students, aim for the stars with the administration and our support team. Please ensure your child arrives on time in the collection zone. If your child has not arrived in this time please “do a lap”.

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A message for the students: Students, aim for the stars when it comes to academic achievement. Believe in yourself and commence each day with a positive attitude of ‘I can’ and you will be pleasantly surprised of the gains you will make throughout the year. Remember to celebrate your successes, as this intrinsic motivation will assist you in your in your educational journey. I look forward to celebrating these successes with throughout this term.

Life Education

Very soon, Life Education mobile classroom will be visiting Gilston, engaging your child in an exciting and memorable learning experience. Life Education in about prevention through education – providing your child with important knowledge, skills and confidence to live a healthy, safe life.

This educational experience will be fully funded by the P&C and Gilston Club to ensure all students have access to this valuable experience. I would like to thank the P&C and the Gilston Club for their continual contribution towards educational programs.

Free parent information session: Life Education offers a free information session for parents and guardians. This session will be held on Thursday 12 February, commencing at 2:10pm in the mobile education centre located beside the Tuckshop.

This is your opportunity to find out what your child will be learning and is a great forum to increase knowledge, share views with other parents and develop strategies to raise happy, healthy kids.

If you will be attending the Parent Information Session, please register your interest with the administration staff.

Until next time

Kelly Clark

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au
Welcome to all the new and returning families and students. We trust everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday and your children are settling in to their new routines.

Parking Arrivals – Day 1
First day back is always a very busy day, thank you to all parents who showed care and consideration. As a community if we all work together, follow the best examples of road rules and the do and don’ts for Gilston we can all have an easy start to our day. Attached is how to use the school drop off and pick up zones as a refresher for existing families as well as our new families.

Volunteering at Gilston
Your P & C plays a vital role in supporting the children and the school. As you are aware the P & C members are all volunteers - the team in the uniform shop or on the crossing are parents just like yourselves. Shortly a note will come home on how to volunteer at Gilston. With so many of our parents in full time work, it does make it more difficult to find that hour or so every other week to help out at the school. When the note arrives, if you find you have a little time to chip in, it would be greatly appreciated, and it really is a nice way to be involved.

Community Notices
A great Family Day Out this Sunday: Charity Cricket Match between the Gold Coast Suns and Bond Uni Rugby Club, raising funds for Autism Gold Coast, on Sunday 1 February at Cheltenham Oval Robina, 10am-3pm. Gold coin entry. Lots of fun for all the family – limited overs cricket, jumping castle, face painting, balloon artists, pony rides, hot rod cars/racing car/fire engine on display, food stall, raffles. -Helen Steinhardt

Sand Safari, Australian Sand Sculpting fourth annual event The Foreshore, Surfers Paradise. This year we are bringing DISNEY to Surfers Paradise. It’s a great event for the whole family with FREE sculpture viewing, sand workshops and more! Sand Safari begins Friday 13 Feb and ends Sunday 1 March. Phone: (07) 5584 3700 Website: http://www.surfersparadise.com/whats-on/free-events/sand-safari/

If you are new to our school and would like help to set up a flexischool’s account, please come and see us.

Reminder to existing families to update your child’s year and class on flexischool’s.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers, meet some great people and help our school, your time would be greatly appreciated. Whether it’s for an hour or a couple of hours, weekly fortnightly or monthly we would be delighted to meet you.

Please contact Nicole our tuckshop convener on PH: 55012333 or email: gilstontuckshop@gmail.com.au

Nicole – Tuckshop Convener

TUCKSHOP REPORT
Our Tuckshop is open Monday-Friday 8.30am -2.45pm
We have two breaks
1st break 11am-11.40am
2nd break 1.40pm-2.10pm

We offer array of healthy meal and snack options. If you would like a copy of the menu please pop up to the tuckshop.

We have two options for ordering, our preferred method is flexischool’s www.flexischool.com.au or you can write your order on a brown paper bag and place your cash in the bag along with your child’s name, class and which break they would like it.