**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

At 3.00pm this Friday we will farewell for the first time a cohort of year 6 students from Gilston State School. Along with the year 7 students they will move to a range of high schools where they will form two thirds of Junior Secondary department (7-9). Throughout the past two years we have been liaising closely with high schools to ensure that the transition is smooth and the outcome positive. I am looking forward to hearing of our students’ achievements in this new format.

The presentation last night celebrated the achievements of the year 6 students. Tonight it is the turn of the Year 7s. The coordination of these events takes considerable time, effort and energy. On behalf of both cohorts I thank the staff and the small band of volunteers involved who make these events special.

Our incoming School Captains had their first chance to represent Gilston in their new roles last night as they welcomed and escorted our special guests at the Presentation Night. Sol Brown, Tracen Nel, Charlotte Richards and Taj Hoff were presented their badges last week and performed their duties with aplomb last night. I congratulate them for their election and look forward to many positive contributions in 2015.

Time given freely to assist others is a precious gift. Many of you have volunteered your time and talents this year in a myriad of ways and for this gift I am grateful. I recognise all volunteers within our school for your respective contributions. Narelle Reed is one such volunteer. This week, Narelle performs some final official duties in the role of P & C President this week after five years at the helm. Her contributions have been extensive and her legacy will include systems and processes that underpin the successful operation of our P & C Association.

Enrolments continue to fluctuate slightly and with this so do our plans for classes for 2015. The BYOD iPad classes have been developed and those parents with children in these classes will be advised this week.

In 2015 our explicit improvement agenda will have two items: Reading and Explicit Instruction. To support our agenda 4 key part-time positions have been created. I will share more about the finer details early next year.

You will remember that we celebrated Alisha Jewry’s invitation to compete in Sydney in the Australian Martial Arts Championships. I am pleased to inform you that she placed second in points sparring and third in Sumo. After training for only nine months this is a very impressive outcome. Alisha let me know that two ex-Gilston students, Hiwot and Brtukan...
Emerson were awarded first place in Freestyle Sparring and Point Sparring respectively. I attended the official opening of the new facilities at the Nerang RSL Tuesday. The venue is very impressive featuring a restaurant and functions rooms. This project was a long time in the planning and is just reward for hard work by many enthusiastic and dedicated people. The Nerang RSL continues to support local schools and Terry McDonald was in attendance last night at our presentation of the year 6 group where he presented a $250 promising student bursary. Terry will return tonight to repeat the process for our year sevens. The first day for students in 2014 will be 27 January. Classes will be formed and displayed in the covered area on the first morning and based on actual enrolment numbers staffing will be confirmed after the eighth day. Our Prep students will attend to 2:30 during the first week.

As the year’s end draws nigh, I applaud all our staff for their respective contributions to a successful year. It is the collective effort and team work that are most productive and our students, your children, are the beneficiaries. I am proud to again be leading this wonderful school.

In closing I wish to thank those who have extended good wishes to me and my family via cards and messages. I expect that I may be unable to thank you all in person so please accept this message of thanks and my wish that your time with your families this Christmas be filled with moments upon which you will reflect fondly.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Presentation evening

Last night I was fortunate enough to be part of the Year 6 Presentation night at Gilston, celebrating with students their primary school years at their final formal event. Students were recognised for their achievements throughout the year and had the opportunity to reminisce on the year that was. I am looking forward to celebrating with our Year 7 students tonight. I wish all graduating students the best of luck during their high school years.

Gilston Greats!
Thank you to all of the students whose work and efforts I have been able to witness this term. Students have exceeded in demonstrating the Four School Expectations: I am a Learner, I am Respectful, I am Responsible and I am Safe. I am looking forward to sharing with students their achievements in 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to the school community during 2014 and wish all families a safe and happy holiday and a festive New Year.

5 SunSmart steps

Extract from:

Active, outdoor play across the day throughout the year is important for health and development. Whenever you’re outside during the sun protection times, make sure the whole family is well protected, including the adults, by using these 5 SunSmart steps, even if it’s cool or cloudy.

1. Slip on covering clothing
If you can see skin, UV can reach it. Try to cover as much skin with cool, loose fitting clothing.

2. Slop on SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum sunscreen
For any skin not covered by clothing, apply a generous amount of SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen about 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours. One application is not enough. Only use sunscreen with other forms of sun protection. Sunscreen should never be used to extend time in the sun.

3. Slap on a hat
A good sun protective hat shades the head, face, eyes, ears and neck. Bucket, wide-brimmed or legionnaire hats are best. Baseball caps do not offer enough protection for the cheeks, ears and neck, and are not recommended.

4. Seek shade
Always be sure to keep babies under 12 months well protected and in the shade during the sun protection times. Even in the shade, UV can reflect from surfaces such as sand, glass, brick and concrete, so still use a hat, clothing, sunscreen and sunglasses.

Choose play spaces with shade or take some with you.

5. Slide on sunglasses
Sunglasses are recommended any time you are outside to protect your eyes, which are particularly sensitive to the sun’s UV rays.

During the sun protection times, use a hat and/or sunglasses to protect your child’s eyes from UV radiation. Toy or fashion-labelled sunglasses do not meet the requirements for sunglasses under the Australian Standard and should not be used for sun protection.

Until next time,
Kelly Clark

P&C NEWS

This is the time of well wishes and thoughts of family gatherings, safe and happy holidays. Your P & C is both thankful and very appreciative of the support we receive throughout the year, with all our accumulative efforts for the benefit of all the children. As my last contribution please allow me to indulge in a small trip down memory lane and share some interesting snippets. During this past 5 years the Tuckshop has produced approximately 70,000 lunches and the Uniform shop has sold approximately 15,000 articles of clothing and hats. The P & C and Gilston Club through parent support has directly donated over $175,000 to the school for things like playgrounds, books, teaching resources, furniture, whiteboards, air conditioners, sporting equipment, excursions, incursions, education programs, walkways and paths and the list goes on. We have held 10 discos, and have only had to retrieve 6 or so students who went for a wander in the gardens. (Senior students – just looking for some space they said). The newsletter has contained approx. 63 articles on road safety and parking around the school. Hmmmm. We’ve held 9 working bees for the gardens and had some 250 parents, family and friends call in and help (wow great effort).

We thank all the parents, carers, friends and often staff who volunteer their time every day in so many areas around the school. On a personal note my capacity to volunteer has been made possible by the wonderful people who directly assist the operation of the P & C. Thank you Christene Dukes, Trent Firmin, Mel Andrew, Jemma Baldwin, Mel Wright, Lisa Cochrane, Nicole Meeson, Trudy Brown, Tanya Komrowski and of course the School executive Bruce, Kelly, Graham, Heather, Jan, Pat and Roz. All the extras the P & C coordinate here at Gilston would not be possible without these people.

Uniform Shop - 2015
A reminder the uniform shop return to school dates are:

20 January, 2015; 10.00am–12noon
22 January, 2015; 2.00–4.00pm.
**Tuckshop**
The Tuckshop is OPEN and fully operational every day this week.
Wishing you safety and happiness.
Warm regards, Narelle Reed

**LIBRARY NEWS**
As the school holidays draw near we would like to thank our library monitors for doing a great job and helping out at break times.
Thank you also to the students and their families for supporting our Book Club and Book Fair so well throughout the year.
The long summer break is a great opportunity for children to read new books and I would like to remind families to visit their local library, join for free and borrow lots of great books to read and share together.
We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday and look forward to see you in 2015.
The librarians – Shelley Batson & Kathy Stone

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**
Thursday 11 December - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 12 December – Teresa Evans / Kristy Griffin / Brenda Fleming / Alex / Jade
Ice Blocks – Help needed

This Friday (last day) we will be having a sausage sizzle at first break outside the tuckshop. The cost is $1.00.
Also all other tuckshop food will be available as well, unless we run out of stock.

I would like to thank all my volunteers for a wonderful year, your help and support has been very much appreciated.

Wishing you all a merry, happy and safe Christmas.
Regards
Nicole – Tuckshop Convenor

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**
NERANG CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS has been postponed until Saturday 20 December. Santa, carols, rides and fireworks.
Bischof Park, Nerang, 3.00-8.30pm. Carols from 6.00pm.