Throughout 2014 we have expended the Great Results Guarantee (GRG) funding to support the learning needs of many of our students. The funds have allowed us to extend some of our best intervention processes and extend our offerings in Pre-Prep. The progress for students within the programs has been significant and I salute those staff who deliver instruction for these results. I particularly recognise Nicola’s leadership and expertise in maximising the outcomes. Currently planning is underway for the 2015 funding that will further refine teaching practices and intervention strategies to ensure best outcomes for all students. If you would like to know more about the GRG join us at the P & C meeting next Monday at 7.00pm.

21st Century Learning continues to be a focus at Gilston where high-yield IT strategies are sought to build student learning capacity. This year we have built upon the solid start from 2013 to embrace techniques and devices to enhance learning for students. I applaud the 21st Century Learning Team for identifying and overcoming many of the challenges in this arena. Their dedication has meant that our progress continues. In 2015 we will continue this journey and it is likely that, where there is sufficient interest, support and expertise, we will adopt the BYOD (iPad) strategy.

At 3:30pm on 25 November, we will provide an opportunity for parents wishing to know more about the strategy to have questions answered. This informal meeting will take place in the library. We anticipate gathering expressions of interest from parents as part of the data required to make an informed decision about the viability of the concept in 2015.

Most parents use the absence line to call when their child is away from school and the reason is promptly recorded by the office staff. Consequently, when reports are printed for students each semester there are no unexplained absences listed. To assist parents we regularly send reminders about unexplained absences to those who have overlooked advising us of reasons for absences. To avoid having these appear on the reports I urge you to reconcile absences with the office staff immediately.

Late last term and again early this term I spoke about the Quadrennial School Review that we must undertake as part of the strategic planning cycle of the school. I have since been advised that this process will not be required until next year and consequently the formal feedback collection I eluded to will not occur this term. The annual review processes will proceed as
usual.
At Gilston Leadership is an expectation of all, students, staff and parents. As student move up through the school the expectation of this leadership grows and students are invited to have their demonstrated leadership history and potential recognised through the acquisition of the leadership badge. I will proudly present the latest group of leadership badge recipients at assembly this week with the knowledge that it is from this group that our school captains for 2015 will be chosen. The G20 holiday scheduled for this Friday, 14 November is for Brisbane area only. It does not affect Gilston or the Gold Coast in general. In some of my recent conversations with students and parents I have underlined the importance of attitude to success. In particular I have spoken about the choice we have to choose our attitudes and subsequently dictate to some extent our success. In closing for this week I offer the following quote by Charles Swindoll as an illustration of the power of attitude:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failure, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes.”
Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Thank you Gilston volunteers!
Gilston State School works very hard in providing the very best education for your child, ensuring that every day counts. It is the contribution of parents and community members in and outside the classroom that enhance students’ experience at school. The time and dedication that volunteers give to our school is greatly appreciated. They bring with them a backpack full of skills, laughter, joy and care to assist in the development of student’s learning journey.
Gilston State School would like to say thank you and acknowledge the considerable contribution of our volunteers in our school community by inviting them to a morning tea on Wednesday, 26 November at 9.15am. An invitation will be sent home to all volunteers over the next few days outlining details.

Trivia Night
I had the pleasure of attending my first Gilston Trivia Night last Saturday. The night was a huge success and was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the P&C and The Gilston Club for their tireless work and effort to organise and run such a successful night. You commitment and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Book Fair
is on again! The library has been transformed and a large collection of books and stationery is on display. These items are available to purchase before school, during lunch breaks and after school for the next couple of weeks. Come on down and show your support.

Assessment
At Gilston State School teachers undertake to assess student learning in an ongoing capacity. Throughout each semester all students are provided with a variety of opportunities to demonstrate the level of learning that they have attained. Teachers gather a range of data across the semester that they take to year levels meetings towards the end of each term where student learning attainments are moderated for consistency of teacher judgement. Below is a detailed summary of the processes that this school undertakes to assess, moderate and report on student learning attainments.

Principles of Effective Assessment
At Gilston State School assessment will:
Be a planned and ongoing process of gathering data about students’ academic, social and emotional progress
Involve the use of a range and balance of assessment tools and tasks appropriate to the students’ developmental levels
Be utilised as an integral tool for planning, teaching, learning and reporting
Provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate what they know and can do in a variety of ways across all of the Assessable Elements
Be clearly and explicitly elaborated with students so they are aware of how they are being assessed, the expectations of the assessments and how they can best demonstrate the goals of the assessments
Involve both teachers and students reviewing and reflecting on data gathered through assessment opportunities
Involve a Moderation process that ensures consistency of judgement
Provide important school data that informs the school community of the effectiveness of school curriculum programs and pedagogy and satisfies systemic school data requirements
Be aligned to curriculum intent.

Designing authentic assessment tasks
When designing authentic assessment tasks, teachers at Gilston consider the following:
The task must be aligned with the targeted curriculum and include higher-order thinking.
Quality assessment addresses issues of rigorous cognitive and affective expectations, authenticity, credibility and accessibility.
Decisions about the quality of student work should be based on task-specific assessable elements.

Assessment Strategies
At Gilston, teachers have a repertoire of assessment methods that can be used to assess students’ knowledge and understanding on a specific key learning area.
Assessment Strategies may include:

Anecdotal records and observations
- Concept maps
- Exhibitions
- Multiple Choice Tests
- Projects
- Annotated diagrams
- True-False tests

Checklists
- Concept Maps
- Written Responses
- Open-ended Tasks
- Oral Presentations
- Short answer tests
- Drama presentations

Consistency of teacher judgement
Teachers make judgments about student achievement by matching evidence in student work to the Standards.
These Standards are detailed on the front of individual report cards.
The best way for teachers to make more consistent judgments is to discuss and critique student work against Standards. Moderation is a process where teachers develop common interpretations of the qualities associated with the Standards by sharing how they apply them to student work.
At Gilston State School, moderation occurs at year levels. Moderation within a year level in a key learning area occurs at the end of each major assessment task.
Until next time,
Kelly Clark

P & C NEWS
What a sensational event the “Trivia Night” was. Congratulations to Lisa Cochram and her Gilston Club Team - job well done. MC of the night Trent Firmin was in fine voice and entertained the fantastic number of “Trivia experts”.
Just a reminder our last P & C meeting for the year will be this Monday night at 7.00pm in the Administration block. It is the November meeting where the P & C open up the tenure for the tuckshop position for next year. Should you wish to express interest in the positions please email me on narellereed@gmail.com. A decision will be made promptly next week.
A uniform reminder for those attending Nerang High School next year: Nerang State High School will open their Uniform Shop on Saturday 22 November from 9.00am – 12 noon. Uniforms can be tried on for size for purchase or layby. Get in early to avoid the rush in January. Normal hours are Tuesday-Thursday 8.15–11.00am. January trading hours are Monday 20–Saturday 24 January 9.00–12 noon
As always any questions or queries please feel welcome to contact me. Kind regards Narelle Reed P & C President Tel: 0403046920

GILSTON CLUB NEWS
Thank you to everyone who attended Saturday Night’s Trivia Night! We had a total of 13 tables and it looked like everyone had a great time. A big thank you must go out to Trent Firmin for doing a fantastic job of compering the night, along with doing up the questions. Also, thank you to Trudy & Christene for working in the bar and to Jemma for tallying up all the answers. Remember, we love feedback so please let us know what you thought of the night (the good & the bad!)
Unfortunately, the framed signed Queensland Origin Team Jersey didn’t get bid upon and therefore we are going to hold a silent auction over the next 10 days. The bidding is to start at $500.00 (to cover costs) and all bids are to come into our email address at gilstonclub@gilstonss.eq.edu.au and must be received by Friday 21 November. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by either the abovementioned email or on 0414912217. The Jersey will be in the office if you wish to have a look at it or I can email you a photo should you wish. Remember, this would make a GREAT Xmas Present!
And lastly, the Calendars/Diaries etc. that have been ordered will be coming home with your kids this week. Thanks…. Lisa - Chairperson

LIBRARY NEWS
The Book Fair is now on! It ends on 24 November. Parents can come to the library at 8.30-9.00am or 3.00-3.30pm to have a look and make a purchase.
Overdue books – thank you to the families who have returned overdue books. If your child has a book that is lost please contact the librarians. Accounts have been issued for unreturned books. If you cannot return your child’s book, please see the librarians about paying your account.
Issue 8 of Book Club has been sent home this week. This is the last Book Club for 2014.
Please have completed orders to the librarians by Friday 21 November.
Congratulations to our school Maths Olympiad Team. Three of our team placed in the top 10% and 8 were placed in the top 25% of competitors. Certificates and awards were presented to all team members at Thursday’s assembly. Well done to these students.
Mrs Stone (Olympiad Coach)
Thank you for your support
The librarians, Kathy Stone & Shelley Batson

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 13 November - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 14 November – Crystal Storey, Jade B, Teresa Evans,
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Monday 17 November – Mel Moore
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 18 November – Ame Seagrove, June Stewart
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Wednesday 19 November - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Thursday 20 November - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 21 November – Brenda Fleming, Kristy Griffin, Jade B, Teresa Evans
Ice Blocks – Help needed

Thank you to all those children, teachers and staff who spoilt us with flowers, chocolates and homemade cards and gifts – we feel much appreciated and we both had a great day. Also a big thank you to all our volunteers.
Have a good week, Nicole Meesen – Tuckshop Convenor

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au