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Gilston Goanna Gossip





12 Nov 2025

From The Middle Of The Pack!



Dear Parents

Christmas decorations are up in the shops which means Christmas will be upon us before we know it! This year has just flown.

A brief update on all things Gilston includes:

- Mrs Hay is currently in an Acting Principal position at a neighbouring school for the rest of the year and Mrs Paech is here in the Deputy Principal position for the remainder of the year.
- A major redesign and build in our Prep/One playground area is about to start, supported by both school and regional funding.
- It's early times, but wheels are starting to move on the shelter structure in the *Pick -Up Area* in front of the school, which will be funded by the Gold Coast City Council, through our involvement in the *Active School Travel* program.
- We currently have 70 prep students for 2026 enrolled as we begin the end of year exercise of placing students and staff to classes.
- Through contacts of Mrs Thompson, one of our grade 3 teachers, we combined with numerous other schools and shipped five schools worth of desks and chairs to PNG schools a great achievement!
- Reading behaviour remains our major whole school focus, with teachers meeting with administration weekly to discuss individual student and class reading data.
- School Disciplinary Absences (included in this newsletter) indicate a genuine improvement in student behaviour, over the last three years. Our school is performing well above neighbouring like schools and is well above regional data.

Voting for school captains for 2026 is now underway, with speeches by the applicants completed at this week's parade. The quality of applicants this year was exceptionally high with four girls getting to the final stages of the merit selection process.

Hold on tight for what is a very busy end of school term!

CiPL





Deputy Chat Lower Primary Deputy (P-2) Kelly Clark

Enrolment for 2026

In the next few weeks, we will be looking at putting classes together for 2026 school year. If your student will not be returning to Gilston in 2026, please ensure you notify the Office at your earliest convenience.

Gilston Geckos

Next Thursday, 13 November, will be the last Gilston Gecko session. All parents are encouraged to attend the Information Session in the hall, presented by one of our Prep teachers. The uniform shop will be open during this time, until 10:30am to purchase uniforms.

If you have a child that is Prep age for 2026 and are yet to enrol them at Gilston, please see the ladies in the Office and collect an enrolment pack quickly!

Active School Travel VCAST Video

Last term, students opted-in to feature in our AST VCAST Video. Click the link below to below to view the final production.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= nU8quuCauo





Deputy Chat Upper Primary Deputy (3-6) Megan Hay

Enrolments for 2026

Gilston State School is now open for 2026 enrolments!

Families with children entering Years 1–6 in 2026 are also encouraged to contact the office to ensure a place is reserved in the appropriate class.

We appreciate the support of our community in spreading the word that Gilston State School is now accepting enrolments for 2026.

Enrolments for High School for year 7, 2026

It is important that all students in year 6 are enrolled in a high school before they leave Gilston Primary.

If you are enrolling in a private school or moving interstate, please let the office know.

Contact the enrolment team at your local feeder high school to organise your enrolment interview before the end of term.

Nerang State High School - (07) 5503 7888

Robina State High School - (07) 5562 3444

Merrimac State High School - (07) 5595 866

Cybersafe Tip

Reach Out Australia has developed materials for parents to assist their child/ren to stay safe online. They have a range of resources that can be accessed <u>click here</u>.

They also have this wonderful resource to access - A Parent's Guide to Instagram https://parents.au.reachout.com/staying-safe-online/social-media-and-teenagers/parents-guide-to-instagram





Acting Deputy Chat Upper Primary Deputy (3-6) Renee Paech

Buy Smart Competition

Congratulations to Lexi, one of our Year 5 students who participated in the Buy Smart Competition run by the office of Fair Trading. Lexi was shortlisted to attend

a ceremony at Parliament House. She was one of 7 students across the state to be shortlisted! Lexi received a highly commended award for her amazing video!





Quality Arts Signature Program - Nerang State High School

Nerang State High School will be holding a second-round audition for their Quality Arts Signature Program on Wednesday 26 November 2025 at 3.30pm.

Our current Year 6 students are welcome to try out for the program.

If any student wishes to apply, please request an Application form from your teacher and RSVP attendance by Monday 24 November to 5503 7888.



E-mobility devices - safety on scooters and bikes

As holidays are approaching many students will be out and about on bikes and scooters, please take the time to read the following information regarding the use of e-scooters and e-bikes. I'd also encourage you speak with your children about their riding behaviour, to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

For more information, visit https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/e-bikes-e-scooters/.

E-scooter rules

- Only children aged 16+ can ride e-scooters and e-skateboards unsupervised.
- Helmets must be worn with the straps properly fastened (bicycle or motorcycle helmets).
- No passengers/doubling only one person riding an e-scooter.

Speed limit of 12km/h on footpaths and shared paths.

E-bike rules

A legal e-bike features:

- Pedals as the primary source of power (motor provides assistance only).
- Motor assistance only up to 25km/h.
- A motor output of 250 watts maximum continuous power.
- Look for a compliance sticker EN15194

Legal e-bikes must follow the same rules as other bicycles.

To check if your e-bike is legal visit: https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/electric-bikes/.

Serious **fines can apply to both riders and parents** for e-mobility offences. In some cases, police can confiscate devices too.





Gilston Greats























Gilston Greats























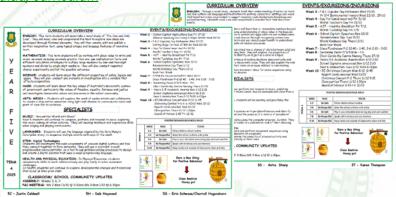
Head of Department/Curriculum — Renee Paech

Curriculum and Classroom Connect

Parent Placemats - What's happening in the classroom this term?

Just a reminder, The Term 4 Parent/Caregiver Placemats can be found on the Gilston SS website under the curriculum tab, go to the right side of the screen you will find the overviews under the related links these provide a snapshot of the term in each year level and have some general information pertaining to curriculum, school events, excursions/incursions and behaviour.

https://gilstonss.eq.edu.au/curriculum







Throughout Terms 2 and 3 some of our Gilston students were involved in the APSMO Competition. APSMO stands for Australasian Problem-Solving Mathematical Olympiads.

Each week they attended a 40-minute session working on complex mathematical problems. This year we had two teams.

Maths Explorers - for Year 3 and 4 students Junior Maths Games - Year 5 and 6 students

Congratulations to all our students who participated and to our medallists below.

Maths Explorer - Year 3/4 students

Bronze – Myles Silver – Cooper Gold – Ezra

Maths Games - Year 5/6 students

Bronze – Jordan Silver – Jett Gold – Jack







Inclusion Support Team Pauline Lewis, Jolie Angus & Aimee Carr

Adjustments at school

Our team at Gilston State School work collaboratively to provide adjustments for all learners depending on their needs, to ensure they can access all areas of the curriculum. Adjustments are made to create an inclusive learning environment for all learners. These include:

Adjustments to the learning environment i.e. placing a student in a location to minimize

distractions or improve their visibility, providing a designated 'quiet area' for students to go when they need a break from a busy classroom environment, reducing sensory input by minimising background noise and other sensory distractions and providing students with modified furniture (seating, adjusted table heights).



 Modified teaching and learning i.e. adjusting daily timetables to accommodate student's needs, providing additional time to complete tasks and assessments, simplifying or extending lesson content to suit the student's level of understanding and using personal devices such as iPads to access learning materials.

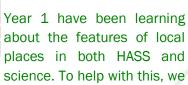


Personalised student support i.e. providing one-on-one assistance or small group
work with teacher aides within the classroom and supporting
student's physical or communication needs via accessible
classroom modifications or assistive technology.

The adjustments are regularly reviewed and changes to the adjustments are made in collaboration with Teaching and Inclusion staff to ensure they remain effective.



Spotlight on Learning—Year 1



had an excursion to Currumbin Creek to observe the natural, constructed and managed features to be found there. The children enjoyed playing on the constructed Pirate Playground but had even more fun spending time at the natural playground at the beach!













Spotlight on Learning— Year 5

Year 5 Camp: Courage, Teamwork and Big Adventures!

Two weeks ago, our Year 5 students returned from camp buzzing with excitement, new skills and wonderful shared memories. Over three days, they challenged

themselves both physically and emotionally, learned to work as a team and showed responsibility in looking after themselves and each other.

One of the most memorable highlights was the *high ropes course*. Students clipped on helmets, took brave breaths and stepped up into the treetops. For many, this was their first time facing a fear of heights head-on. We watched as students encouraged one another, called up kind words from the ground and celebrated every step forward. It was inspiring to see so many young people push beyond their comfort zones.

The giant's playground climbing frame and obstacle course were full of laughter, determination and muddy knees. Students scrambled, balanced and swung their way through each section, cheering each other on like a true team. The crate stack challenge tested balance and problem-solving, as students worked to build a tower beneath their feet while trying to stay upright. Each climber was supported by a team of 4 or 5 below them, offering words of support. There were many wobbly crates and plenty of triumphant smiles!

For pure adrenaline, the *giant swing* was unbeatable. One pull of the rope, a soaring moment of suspense, and then a swooping, joyful rush through the air. Many students who began the week nervous finished with pride bursting from their faces.

Camp life wasn't just about adventure activities. Students learned independence and responsibility, too. They washed and dried their own dishes after every meal, took turns preparing the dining room, and even served meals to their friends and teachers. We enjoyed warm breakfasts, hearty dinners and delicious desserts, students enjoyed their meals and gained new appreciation for the work that goes into feeding a group.

There were moments of challenge. There were moments of hesitation. And there were many moments of triumph. What stood out most this year was the courage to try, the compassion to support others and the confidence that grew in each student day by day.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 cohort. They returned home a little taller, a little braver and filled with stories they'll remember for years to come.

Thank you to the families for your support and to the staff for their time, care and encouragement throughout the camp. What an adventure!

Mrs Schwass

Year 5 Classroom Teacher





Spotlight on Learning— Year 5



Shipping Container to PNG

This was a massive project, but we finally got the container packed and it is

heading for the docks. 3T wrote letters to the students in PNG hoping they love their new desks and books. We even sent teacher resources over for 'Mums Preschool'.

It was a huge undertaking but thanks to 6 other schools for donating their furniture we got this over the line.

We engaged Pacific Assist and their church volunteers to organise logistics, pack and send the container to PNG. Great job, everyone!

It takes a 'village'

























Physical Education—Scott Stavar



National championships

Congratulations to Lewis from 3S who came 7th in the BMX National Championships.









Basketball State Champions

Congratulations to Year 5 student, James D, on the following Basketball achievements –

- Gold Coast Celtics U12 Div 1 Champions (Coaches Award winner)
- Gold Coast Tides Rep Team, State Champions (Players' Player and MVP winner)
- Basketball Qld invitation only Development Program selection











Physical Education—Scott Stavar

SWIMMING DATES—

Week 8-Lessons: Prep, Year 3 and 5

Week 9-Lessons: Year 1, 2 and 4

Week 10—Wednesday Dec 10 Swimming Carnival Years 4—6



Year 6 student Lee C was recently crowned the 2025 National Pump Track Champion in Boys Under 13. He also finished his BMX Racing season as 6th in Australia. Well done Lee. You are a superstar!









Physical Education—Scott Stavar

TOUCH FOOTBALL

Six teams represented Gilston in the recent All Schools Primary Touch Football Tournament. They played with much skill, determination, flair and sportsmanship. Many comments were received from opposition families and coaches praising our teams' respect, teamwork and positive attitude. We are very proud of their efforts. A big thankyou to coaches, Mandy Hinze, Jaret Hinze, Melanie Flesser, Ruby Flesser, Finn Power & Chaise Hall. Well done to all involved.















Gardening Club

Mrs Sharp's Gardening Club are very busy in the garden beds. Weeding, fertilising and watering plants.









GSS Art Show







Library News—Helena Haling



Book Fair is here – Monday 10 to Friday 14 November.

Come along and check out all the awesome books for sale.

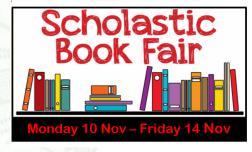
There are some great value books – Perfect for Christmas gifts.

Open times:

Before school - 8.30 - 9.00am

After school - 3.00 - 3.30pm

Plus during 1st break each day



Families are welcome to browse along with the students during the morning and afternoon sessions. Every book that you buy helps our school get more books and cool resources for our library – **Thank you for your support!**

Book Club Issue #8:

Orders need to be submitted and paid for online.

The closing date is Friday 21 November.

Please submit by then to ensure that orders are received in a timely manner.

All orders will be delivered to student's classes on arrival.

There has been some confusion between **Book Fair and Book Club**.

Book Club catalogue orders are ordered and paid for online. On arrival we will deliver them to student's classes.

Book Fair orders can also be placed online but the receipt number for payment is written on the back of the **Wish List** and returned to the library for book collection.

Library Book Returns:

Please start returning your library books from Monday 17 November (Week 7)

There will be no borrowing after this date.

Lost a book? Come and see me for a chat.







PCL—Positive Culture for Learning Focus Expectation

Be Safe Respectful Be a Learner

Play in your allocated area during play and wet weather.

Prep to 1: Prep playground

Year 1: Mini Oval

Year 2: Jnr Soccer and playground

Year 3—6: Oval, ball court and senior playground

Year 2—6: can access Secret Garden









Students using their 200 Bee Sting points to have lunch with Mr Douglas and Mrs Clark.

School Attendance

Whole School Attendance Target for 2025 is 94%

Current Attendance Level is %92.1%

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ABSENCES (SHORT)					
2023	2024	2025			
18	10	4			





From the Office—Finance & Admin Tracylee Leonard, Jo Hoger, Pauline Creek, Cindy Smith

Activity	Year Level	Cost	Due Date
Camp -CyC Burleigh	Year 6	\$317.00	Friday 14 November
Swimming	Prep, 3 & 5	\$ 35.00	Friday 14 November
Wet n' Wild	Year 6	Entry \$ 20.00 Bus \$ 12.00	Friday 21 November
Santa Show	Prep,	\$ 8.00	Friday 21 November

All permissions found in QParents in 2025

Term 4

Dates to Remember

WEEK 6 Play in your allocated area during play & wet weather			12/11 Book Fair	13/11 Book Fair Year 3/4 Sport Rotations Gilston Geckos Prep Program 9:00am & Uniform Shop open World Kindness Day	14/11 Active School Travel Year 5/6 Sport Book Fair
WEEK 7 Speak with kindness and use manners	17/11	18/11	19/11 STEM EX Incursion NVEEC	20/11 Year 3/4 Sport Rotations	21/11 Active School Travel Year 5/6 Sport Disco Fundraiser OLA P-2 12:40-1:40pm 3-6 2:10-3:00pm
WEEK 8 Speak with kindness and use manners	24/11 Swimming (P/3/5)	25/11 Swimming (P/3/5) Yr 6 Transition Day Nerang SHS	26/11 Swimming (P/3/5)	27/11 Year 3/4 Sport Rotations Swimming (P/3/5) Choir Carols-My Centre Nerang	28/11 Active School Travel Swimming (P/3/5) Year 5/6 Sport Final P & C Raffle drawn
WEEK 9 Keep inside and outside of classroom clean and tidy	1/12 PAR 2:10pm WS School Captains Announced P & C Meeting 5:30pm Tallai Golf Club Swimming (1,2,4) Prep Santa Around the World	2/12 Swimming (1,2,4) Year 6 Graduation Ceremony 5:00-6:00pm	3/12 Swimming (1,2,4) Year 6 Camp CYC Burleigh	4/12 Swimming (1,2,4) Year 3/4 Sport Rotations Y6 Robina SHS Orientation Day Year 6 Camp CYC Burleigh	5/12 Active School Travel Swimming (1,2,4) Year 6 Camp CYC Burleigh
WEEK 10 Keep inside and outside of classroom clean and tidy	8/12 Academic Awards Yrs 3-5 9:10am RI Xmas Concert 11:45am	9/12 Year 6 Wet n Wild	10/12 Swmming Carnival Yr 4-6 All Saints Anglican College Newsletter – Final 2025 Report Cards Emailed	11/12 Xmas concert P-2 9:15am Class parties 1:30pm	12/12 Last day of term 4 Guard of Honour 2:45pm

Red: Excursions - Green: P&C - Yellow - Holidays - Blue: Sport - Pink: School Events

Black: Parade WS=Whole School QW= Quality Work - Orange: Newsletter - Purple: Other Events
Brown: Pre-Prep - SRC = Student Representative Council

GILSTON GOANNA GOSSIP NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Please contact admin on 5501 2333 or email office@gilstonss.eq.edu.au to discuss details.

Term 1 per edition 1/2 pag

1/2 page = \$25 Full page=\$50

Cut off date –Friday prior to Newsletter release date



P & C News Burdette - President

Doing it for the kids!

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DONATIONS

Thank you for all the wonderful donations for our end of year Christmas Raffle. Any student who donated an item received 1 FREE raffle ticket from their class teacher to go in the draw. The winner of the \$120 Cinema Gift Voucher was Georgia W in 4D.





CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets on sale Tuesday, 11 November

Tickets for our end of year Christmas Raffle go on sale WEEK 6, Tuesday, 11 November. Tickets can be purchased via Munch Monitor, over the counter in the Tuckshop or purchased from the rotunda between 8:15am - 9:00am Monday, 24 November until 9.00am Friday, 28 November when the winners will be announced.

Tickets are still only \$2 and there's heaps of great prizes to be won.

This year's Christmas Hampers are...

PREP - SMIGGLE

Yr 1 - The Body Shop Advent Calendar

Yr 2 - Gourmet Snacks

Yr 3 - Movie Night

Yr 4 - Summer

Yr 5 - Snack Attack

Yr 6 - Vouchers

P&C - Hoverboard & helmet

PLUS - Mystery Prize



HALLOWEEN CUPCAKE FUNDRAISER

Congratulations to Jzaiah R and Remi S - winners of our two 'Trick or Treat' lolly buckets.

Thank you to everyone who supported our latest fundraiser. All funds will now go back to the school to support future improvements and initiatives.

Our heartfelt thanks again to the incredibly talented Skye Faulkner for icing and decorating just under 300 cupcakes for our latest Red Day fundraiser. Skye's skill and expertise as a baker and cake decorator are valued. We

are so grateful when she gives up her precious time to give back to our school. Thank you once again Skye.





WHITE FABRIC MARKERS

The P&C now have WHITE fabric markers in the Uniform Shop and Tuckshop if students and parents are wanting to label their clothing. It has become apparent that while BLACK is great for writing your name on a blue, teal or red hat it's not exactly ideal for a Black one. And the same can be said for our school jackets. If you'd like to take advantage of this, please pop into the Tuckshop or Uniform Shop (Monday's only) and we'll gladly help you out.

UNIFORM SHOP

Please allow 3-4 days turnaround for uniform Munch Monitor orders to be fulfilled and delivered to your child's teacher's pigeonhole. If you require an item URGENTLY, please DO NOT order via Munch Monitor but instead pop into the Uniform Shop, Mondays only between 8.15am - 9.15am to pay by EFTPOS or CASH and collect the item in person.

Uniform Shop

Orders can be placed at the tuckshop or online through Munch Monitor

https://

www.munchmonitor.com/

Account/Login

Open Mondays 8:15-9:15am

Tuckshop

ailstontuckshop@gmail.com

Closed Mondays

Open Tuesday - Friday 8:30am – 9:00am for lunch orders and over counter sales

11:15am—11.35am (first break) for over the counter sales

Tuckshop Order

Orders can be placed at the tuckshop each morning, or online through Munch Monitor

https://

www.munchmonitor.comAcc ount/Login

School ID: gilstonss Password: munch4211

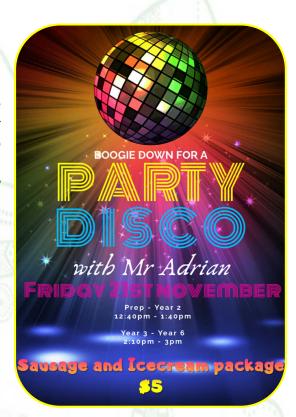


SRC News



The SRC are holding a sausage sizzle and ice-cream fundraiser to coincide with the school disco on Friday, 21 November. All orders and payments are due by Wednesday, 19 November. All money raised from the event will go back into the school.







PCYC news-Kylie Morris

Term 4 is flying by, but we are working hard to fit in all the activities the children have requested. So far, we have been learning about animals and their habitats, creating some indigenous marsupial paintings along with our weekly cadet club on a Monday morning and weekly science activity on Fridays. In the coming weeks we are looking at Titanic (so many grade 2 have requested this topic) and mythical creatures.

We have finalised our Holiday Fun program, the bookings will open Week 6. We have some super fun activities planned that the children have requested. They are super excited for the K-Pop Demon hunter day...

If you need any information or would like to enrol in Gilston Fun Squad, email gilstonfunsquad@pcyc.org.au or call 0418 277 403

FYI- PCYC Gilston Fun Squad will close for 2 weeks over the Christmas Period, we will be closed from Monday, 22December and re-open Monday, 5 January 2026.







Healthy Screen Time Habits Webinar



Support your child's wellbeing with smart, simple screen time strategies

Join us for a practical and engaging weblinar designed to help parents and caregivers build healthy screen time habits for children. Learn simple strategies to balance technology use, encourage positive behaviour, and support your child's development in a digital world.

Presented by Life Ed Queensland and Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, this webinar can guide you to:

- Set reasonable screen time limits
- Teach healthy screen time habits
- Manage conflict over screen time
- Help your child be safe and responsible online

Register for your FREE parenting webinar now:

Wednesday 26 November, 7:00pm online 60 minutes inclusive of question time

Healthy Screen Time Habits

[School Coordinator Contact Name]



REGISTER HERE









Translink—School Bus Service

Applications are now open for 2026 bus passes.





Apply for STAS online

Did you know that you can apply online for STAS (School Transport Assistance Scheme)?

- Up to five children
- Any device

For more information:

- Visit www.qld.gov.au/schooltransportassistance
- Contact STASdigital.Helpdesk@tmr.qld.gov.au or 1300 119 289 for technical assistance with your online application
- Speak to your local bus operator about bus services.

KINETIC GOLD COAST (PREVIOUSLY SURFSIDE TRANSLINK)

as your Bus Operator





Community Announcements







Community Announcements



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WILL: WILL: VONSTIEGLITZ@QLDCRICKET.COM.AU



Community Announcements

Brisbane Bullets—Special Ticket Offer 1 FREE CHILD TICKET with a PAYING ADULT





CALLING GILSTON STATE SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

We are excited to announce an EXCLUSIVE offer, brought to you by the Brisbane Heat & Queensland Cricket

e discounted

Anyone within our School Community can purchase tickets to the BBL through the QR CODE to receive discounted tickets and sit together in the Schools Bay at any of the Brisbane Heat home games.

The school with the most tickets purchased via their unique QR Code will win an exclusive visit from Brisbane Heat players!

2nd place will win a School Equipment pack valued at \$500 and 3rd place will receive a signed Brisbane Heat bat.

The school with the most tickets purchased through the QR Code in NOVEMBER will receive a FUNLAB Voucher for EVERY STUDENT IN THE







QLD Cricket Schools Lead - Lauren.McQueen@qldcricket.com.au