From The Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The P&C have just informed us that tomorrow’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be postponed until next month. The books need to be audited and available for the AGM and they will not be ready for tomorrow.

Therefore, tomorrow’s meeting will be a regular monthly meeting. This will give any new parents and caregivers the opportunity to join the P&C, enabling them voting rights at the AGM next month.

Friday is our Annual Cross Country Day where all the students will have a chance to compete in their age group at long distance running. Who knows? We may have an Olympic marathon runner in our midst! Even if we don’t, it’s all about fun and participation. Friday also sees our school recognising the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence are all interpersonal behaviours that can create or contribute to negative social environments.

“The NSW Department of Education and Communities rejects all forms of bullying. No student, employee, parent, caregiver or community member should experience bullying within the learning or working environments of the Department.” Bullying: Preventing and responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy (2011)

Additional information, resources and support relating to effective anti-bullying strategies can be found at: www.bullyingnoway.com.au

If you have any concerns about bullying, please approach the school and let us know. Information about Approaching the School can be found later in this newsletter.

A copy of our Anti-bullying plan that was updated last year will be available at tomorrow’s P&C meeting.

I look forward to seeing lots of people there. It’s a great way for parents and caregivers to support our fabulous school.

- Karen Johanson
Approaching the School

From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school in order to:

- Discuss the progress or welfare of your own child.
- Express concern about the actions of other students.
- Enquire about school policy or practice.
- Express concern about actions of staff.

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

These guidelines aim to:

- Provide a guide in order that concerns are dealt with in an open and fair manner.
- Ensure that the rights of students and parents are respected and upheld.
- Support sensitivity and confidentiality
- Help reach an agreed solution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCERN</th>
<th>APPROPRIATE ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The academic progress of your own child</td>
<td>Directly contact the child’s teacher either by note, by phone or at an appropriate time to discuss any issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The welfare of your own child  | For minor issues directly contact your child’s teacher to clarify information.  
|                               | For more serious concerns, contact office. State nature of concern and arrange a suitable time to talk with class teacher or appropriate staff member.  
|                               | To convey information about change of address, telephone number, emergency contact, custody details, health issues etc. Please contact the office. |
| Actions of other students      | Contact the class teacher for a classroom problem.  
|                               | Contact the assistant principal and/or appropriate member of staff. |
| School policy or practice      | Contact office. State nature of concern and make an appointment to see the principal and/or appropriate staff member. |
| Actions of a staff member      | Contact the teacher directly for an appointment. |

On occasion, concerns may cause frustration and anxiety. At such time it is always important to organise a time to talk with school staff in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere.

Please Note. No parent/carer is permitted to directly approach another person's child.

The school will deal with issues between students as part of the school’s Discipline and Welfare policy. In very rare cases, where people wishing to express concerns, do so in an aggressive, threatening or violent manner, the Principal (or nominee) has the legal authority under the “Inclosed Lands Act” to:

- Direct the person to immediately leave the grounds.
- Call the police to remove the person should he/she refuse.
- Withdraw future permission (by letter) for the person to enter the grounds without permission of the principal.
- Seek further legal avenues.
Wallabies Matthew and Riley

Our work on fairy tales continues. Last week we wrote a letter from Goldilocks to the Three Bears to apologise for our actions. We have included 3 of them for you to read.

Dear Bears, I'm very sorry I ate all the porridge. I'm sorry I sat on the chairs and I'm sorry that I slept on your beds. From Goldilocks. By Jack

To the Bears, I am sorry for trespassing. Baby Bear I am sorry for breaking your chair and I am sorry for eating your porridge and sleeping in your bed. I would like to meet you. From Goldy By Jayden

Dear Bears, I am sorry for breaking into your house. I am sorry for eating all of your porridge, breaking your chairs and sleeping in your beds. I would like to be your friend. Perhaps we can play together one day. Love from Goldilocks. By JJ

Library News

Noah A from Koalas has finished the Premier’s Reading Challenge. He is the first in the school for 2014 to do so. Hopefully lots of Gillieston Public School students will complete the challenge this year. Many students have started.

Dugongs are listening to “My Dog” by John Heffernan and Andrew McLean. Other classes are listening to “It’s One World” by Geoff Hocking.

Cross Country - March 21

Family and friends are invited to attend the 2014 Cross Country to be held at Gillieston Public School on Friday, March 21st at 10am.

All students are encouraged to participate in this event. We will be giving students the opportunity to start practising at school during PE each day. It is not a sprint, it is a distance race. It is about running at a sustainable pace.

Students aged 8 and up and who can run the whole course have the opportunity to represent our school at the Maitland Zone Cross Country event in April.

Students in Kinder, Year 1 and 2 will be running a shorter course.

All students will walk the course prior to competing in their race.

Students are reminded to wear suitable footwear eg: joggers. No Spikes. Please ensure your child has extra water and fruit.
The Bilbies have been learning about Saint Patrick’s Day.

We learned about Saint Patrick because he got kidnapped when he was only ten and escaped from the pirates when he was 22 years old.

Saint Patrick was a shepherd for 6 years. Then he went back to Scotland and he studied for 16 years.

He went to different countries to tell people about Christianity.
Winter uniforms may now be ordered by using the order form below, with money to be paid at the time of ordering. Cash only and correct money preferred.

This will be the only opportunity to order winter uniforms. Extra order forms available. These are all plain maroon, no logo.

Orders need to be in by: 2/4/14

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________________

Class: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Fleecy Zip Jacket  -  $16.50  Size __________ Quantity __________

V Neck Jumper     -  $14.00  Size __________ Quantity __________

Crew Neck Jumper  -  $13.00  Size __________ Quantity __________

Track Pants       -  $15.00  Size __________ Quantity __________

Dbl Knee Track Pants -  $17.50  Size __________ Quantity __________

Ponte Pants       -  $19.00  Size __________ Quantity __________

Flying Jacket     -  $27.00  Size __________ Quantity __________

Dry and Cosy      -  $29.50  Size __________ Quantity __________

Total __________
Quolls  photos by Vaughan and Alyssa

Last week part of the homework was to design and make an insect. Take a look at some of the insects that the students made.

Koalas

We’ve been learning about nouns in class. A noun is a word that is a person, place or thing.

We also learnt that adjectives describe a noun. I wrote a short description; “in my box is a toy, it is red and black and it is a long toy snake.”

Possums

All Possums have been working hard and learning about living things.

This week we visited the School Chickens to see living things up close in their pen.

“The chickens have soft feathers,” - Jack.

“Our chickens like to eat vegetables for lunch,” Tyrone.

“A chicken jumped into the water because it was too hot,” - Temperance.

“I held a fat, white one,” - Raya.

“The chicken chased me and flapped his wing,” Logan.

“I found five little eggs,” Phoenix.

“They pulled the crust right out of my fingers,” Cooper
Thursday saw Gillieston school visited by Vets from Maitland. The students were curious about what they were going to be shown.

During the exciting visit, the vets displayed several different animals for us to see including rabbits, some guinea pigs, a dog, a bearded dragon and some dead snakes and spiders in jars.

The vets explained that the Gillieston area is inhabited by many snakes and spiders. The animals have needed to find new places to live as more houses are built here.

Some students were able to touch the lizard that the vet had clinging to her shirt. The rabbits were soft and cuddly and one was very shy.

Part of the display included a model of some dog’s teeth and a cat’s skeleton.

We were also shown some of the equipment vets use in their work like the stethoscope. Several students helped in a demonstration of how to bandage an injured dog.

Afterwards, some were so impressed that they said they would like to be vets when they are older.
**Diary Dates**

**20th March**
P&C Monthly Meeting (AGM postponed until next month)

**21st March**
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

**21st March**
School Cross Country Carnival

**25th March**
Active After School Basketball at Maitland Federation Centre.

**3rd April**
Zone Cross Country

**9th April**
School Anzac Day Ceremony

**11th April**
Easter/Harmony Day

**11th April**
Last day of Term 1

**BANKING DAY**
Please note the new banking day is Tuesday

**Friday Assembly**
9.15am - Parents and Caregivers welcome

---

**Week 7 Award Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KOALAS</th>
<th>WALLABIES</th>
<th>QUOLLS</th>
<th>Mrs HENNEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donaye</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Brody</td>
<td>Noah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madi</td>
<td>Zac</td>
<td>Flynn</td>
<td>Hana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayden</td>
<td>Toby</td>
<td>Rory</td>
<td>Matthew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POSSUMS</strong></td>
<td><strong>BILBIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>DUGONGS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tylah</td>
<td>Hayden</td>
<td>Shaye</td>
<td>Sam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyrone</td>
<td>Kaidyn</td>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Riley</td>
<td>Flynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ricky</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Nutrition Snippet**

**The simplest way to get kids in the kitchen**

Cooking in the kitchen is a great time to catch up with your kids, and get them involved in fruit and veg preparation. Try our top 10 tips for getting kids into the kitchen:

1. Washing vegies
2. Setting the table
3. Mixing the salad
4. Mashing potato
5. Putting toppings on pizzas
6. Choosing and adding fillings to sandwiches
7. Measuring frozen vegies before cooking
8. Picking fruit and veg from the garden
9. Unpacking shopping from the supermarket
10. Get older kids to help peel or chop fruit and vegetables

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

---

**National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence**

Friday 21 March 2014