Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to our enthusiastic parents who are fixing up our vegetable garden and helping to take care of our chickens. Your time is greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to our volunteers in the classrooms. Volunteers are welcome in any of the classes; however a **Working with Children Check** approval will be required. The website is: www.kids.nsw.gov.au

The P&C Annual General Meeting is on Thursday 10\textsuperscript{th} April, followed by a monthly meeting. All parents and caregivers are welcome.

The P&C are currently organising a Guessing Competition. The tickets were sent home last week. Thank you to all the parents who have already returned their tickets. They would like all tickets (sold or unsold) returned by this Friday. Thank you, also to the families that have donated some Easter chocolate. Every donated Easter egg or rabbit goes into making the prizes, so the more eggs; the more prizes!

Parents, caregivers and grandparents are also invited to enjoy our Easter Harmony Day. There are Harmony Day activities (so wear your orange), an Easter Hat Parade, a Book Fair in the Library and a P&C organised Sausage Sizzle. So come along and enjoy the day.

Teachers are busy writing Term 1 Social Reports that will go home on Friday.

By now most parents would be aware of their child’s Social Development and Commitment to Learning, but a written report may be helpful for some.

Please make an appointment with your child’s class teacher if you would like to discuss these.

- Karen Johanson
Quolls

We are building better sentences every day. We are using who, when, where, what in our sentences. Here are some examples.

On Monday Kevin read a story book in his room. Tyson was playing Minecraft and all of a sudden he heard a weird noise from the oven. By Kevin Dylan was playing in the sticky mud and he found a gold coin. Dylan put a pizza in the oven and set the timer to 35 minutes. By Dylan Riley fell into the sticky mud and found an oven. Riley cooked a big mud pie in an oven. By Riley J Brianna went to the shop on Monday to buy a chocolate cake. Brianna went to zone cross country and came first.

Koalas

We have been revising our whole numbers and addition and subtraction skills over the past week.

Year 1 Have been making up some great “bus stories” to revise their addition facts to ten.

Kindergarten have been learning to add on one and take off one.

Library

This week we are reading Easter books in the library. Koalas, Possums and Wallabies are reading “The Biggest Easter Egg” Bilbies and Quolls are reading “The First Easter Rabbit” by Kate Walker.

The Dugongs will be learning about the origins of Easter. We still have plenty of Premier’s Reading Challenge books at all levels available in the library as well as spare forms. If you have any enquiries, please see Mrs Hennen.

The Book Fair is on next week Friday April 11th. There will be a range of books for sale at various prices - More information next week.

Possums

We have been learning about 'Living Things' in science. "Where does food come from?" Possums have been busy researching using a variety methods to gather information such as conducting internet searches, interviewing primary students and reading information books. Pictured are samples of some of our work.
Bilbies

The Bilbies are working on volume and capacity in maths. We have been working to see the volume of a variety of objects.

Some groups are measuring the volume using water and the other groups are measuring the capacity using one centimetre blocks. It’s fun to learn new things using real objects.

Dugongs

Dugongs have been focussing on interpretation of visual texts and creating descriptions using adjectives and noun groups.

Wallabies

Last week the Wallabies had fun with Ms Bunn. We have been learning about multiplication.

Here are some posters we made to demonstrate all the different ways we can show “5x2=10”.

School Contribution

Each year families are asked to contribute money to the school that will assist us in providing interesting and engaging lessons.

We are asking again for $20 per child up to three children, (the 4th is free).

ANZAC DAY MARCH

All students are invited to wear full school uniform and march proudly behind our school banner at Maitland City’s ANZAC Day march, 25th April.

Students will assemble by 10:30am near the fire station, where they will meet Mrs Johanson and our School Leaders.

The service is at the cenotaph in Maitland Park.
How Does Your Garden Grow? By Kailey and Riley

We are looking forward to seeing our new vegetable and herb garden complete by the time we return to school in term 2.

Gardeners Natasha, Alex, Tessa, Tegan, Rachel and Bruce have been working hard to prepare the garden with paths and timber that has all been recycled. They started work three weeks ago.

The plants that will be in the garden include; strawberries, lettuce, spinach, beans, radish, cabbage, snow peas, broccoli, carrots as well as a variety of herbs.

Different fruits will be planted on a seasonal basis.

To date, the gardeners have done lots of digging and added some cow and chicken manure as well as removing weeds. They have ploughed the garden and will plough again shortly to prepare the soil for planting.

Some existing plants like passionfruit and eggplant will be kept for the new garden because they were growing fine and will do well.

The paths are already under way and have been constructed on a bed of sand to make the pavers stable. ...and to protect our new garden... Look out for the new scarecrow. Can anyone think of a name for him?

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way
to add healthy snacks in lunch boxes

Snacks are an important part of a healthy diet for active children. Kids have little tummies so they need small amounts of food often. Try these simple & healthy snack ideas in your kid’s lunchbox:

- **Popcorn:** plain air-popped popcorn (without salt or butter) mixed with sultanas and dried apple
- **Dried fruit snack packs:** buy them ready made, or make your own at home in reusable containers
- **Fruit salads:** buy small tubs of diced fruit in natural juice, or cut up small pieces of fruit and make your own
- **Crackers & veg:** slice up some avocado or tomato with some rice crackers

It's scientifically proven that kids like smaller portions – so cutting up fruit + veg will ensure it's eaten every day!

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit
GILLIESTON PUBLIC SCHOOL
P & C EASTER
GUESSING COMPETITION
& SAUSAGE SIZZLE!

EASTER EGG DONATION
To assist us with prizes for the Guessing Competition we would like to ask each student to please bring a Chocolate Easter Egg or Bunny into the school office before Friday 4th April 2014.

GUESSING COMPETITION
Gillieston Public School P & C will be hosting a Guessing Competition and Sausage Sizzle for Easter/Harmony Day on Friday 11th April 2014.

Please find attached your 10 Guessing Competition tickets to enable you to be in the draw for a selection of great Easter prizes.

Tickets are $0.50 each.

Please return all tickets by Friday 4th April 2014.

The Guessing Competition will be drawn during the Easter/Harmony Day celebrations.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE
On Easter/Harmony Day we will be holding a Sausage Sizzle. $2 sausage sandwiches and $1 drinks. No pre-orders required just bring your money along with you on the day. Canteen will not be open. However, tea, coffee and biscuits will be available for a gold coin donation. So come and join in the fun!
From the P&C

Well, it has certainly been a steep learning curve for myself, as P&C President. I have to say that, for the most part, I have enjoyed the ride. There have been some ups and downs, but I am glad to say that the ups have definitely won out over the past 12 months. I would like to thank the entire P&C for their efforts over the past 12 months – it was a slow and rocky start, but I think we can all sit back and look at the things we have achieved with a great degree of satisfaction. Some things that we initially thought would be close to impossible to achieve in 12 months have actually come to fruition.

Thank you, also, to all the parents, carers and other school community members who have contributed in so many ways to making our school a better place for our children – without YOUR contributions and support many of our achievements would have simply fallen into a heap. We have high standards and continue to believe that with even greater parent/carer involvement even bigger outcomes can be placed within our sights.

Sincere gratitude, as well, to all the fantastic teaching staff at Gillieston Public School for their support of the P&C’s goals for our children over the past 12 months, in particular our Principal for assisting us in overcoming some obstacles along the way.

A P&C General Meeting was held on Thursday 20 March, 2014 in lieu of the Annual General Meeting, which has been postponed until Thursday 10 April, 2014 as a result of a Financial Audit of the P&C’s activities not being ready in time.

It was great to see a couple of new faces attend the meeting – also a visit from our local Education Director, Mr Andrew Eastcott. The P&C wishes to thank our Principal, Mrs Karen Johanson, for conducting a parent/carer phone survey in relation to P&C meeting days and times. The P&C has held their monthly meetings in the morning of the 2nd Thursday of each month for a number of years now, however, to gauge community sentiment it was decided to ask if these days/times were still relevant. Whilst the options suggested by the parent community were varied, the greater majority considered the existing day/time to be the better option overall. This matter has been a topic of discussion in the past, between the P&C, the Principal and teaching staff, and whilst the P&C would love to be able to have alternating morning and evening meetings, the reasons against having separate meetings (at alternating different times) were simply unable to be ignored. Some of these negatives included teaching staff availability, (in effect) almost having two separate parent groups attending meetings, thus leading to a break down in continuity, etc. Whilst we understand that there may be some parents/carers who are not able to attend our meetings on a Thursday morning, this should not deter any community member the ability to express their opinion on ANY subject, nor should it deter anyone from bringing a matter to the attention of the P&C, for discussion at one of our meetings. There are a number of ways the P&C can be contacted – drop in a letter at the office, drop in a letter to the canteen, send a letter in with your child, email us on gilliestonpublicpandc@gmail.com, by phoning the school office and leaving a message or requesting a call back from a P&C member or by phoning the President directly. P&C members are always around the school, particularly in the mornings, so if you are around, please come and see one of us. We WANT to hear from you.

One of the other concerns that arose from the recent parent/carer phone survey is the impression some school community members have of the P&C. The P&C is made up of parents, carers and other community members who are volunteers that often work tirelessly behind the scenes for one major reason: STUDENT WELFARE. Whilst at times, to some, it may appear as though the P&C is ‘clicky’ or ‘not working in collaboration with the school, this is certainly not the intention of this P&C. In 2013 alone, the P&C has seen just under $24,000 raised (including the canteen, which accounted for nearly $7,000 of income), whilst at the same time spending over $23,000. The setting up and initial operation of the canteen has been our major expense in 2013, however it is now operating under its own steam, financially, and is already beginning to yield a return to the P&C for use within the school. Some of the other ways the P&C has supported the school in 2013 include a fridge for the 2013 5/6 class, Swim Bus Hire, Kindy Hats, 4 x gazebo shelters, new playground equipment, gift crafting for Mothers’ Day / Fathers’ Day and over $1,000 in prizes to children who raised money by their participation in the Olympathon. The P&C has also been heavily involved in some major improvements at our school including the new waste/sewerage system and, most importantly, the new fencing around the new parts of the school boundary. Without the P&C’s continued efforts and its contribution of $7,500, plus a grant obtained by Mrs Johanson from the Department, this fence would never have been reality today. Our children are much safer now, but most importantly are able to enjoy the use of this new area on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, it’s only the same small group of parents/carers who put in their time to make these things happen – if this makes the P&C appear to be ‘clicky’, then we apologise now. We have an AGM in April – now is the time to get involved. Many parent/carers are not aware of the role of the P&C in general, and particularly what is involved in holding an executive position within the P&C. We have included some information about the role of the P&C and some basic information about each of the positions. At each AGM, all positions are declared vacant – any member of the P&C is able to be nominated for a position as an officer. The officer positions include: President, Vice President #1, Vice President #2, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Other positions which may be elected at an AGM include, but are not limited to, Canteen Co-ordinator, Fundraising Co-ordinator (These are NOT officer positions, but may be included as part of the P&C Executive Committee.)

There are no ‘special’ skills needed to fill any of the above positions – in fact each and every current P&C officer was new to their roles in 2011 when elected. This is a prime opportunity to be involved in our school and the more parents, carers and community members that get involved, the less ‘clicky’ it will appear and the more our children’s welfare will benefit.

I certainly hope to see as many parents and carers at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10 April, 2013 as possible. The AGM is followed by a regular, monthly General Meeting, so if there are any issues you feel need to be raised or discussed, please feel free to contact us on gilliestonpublicpandc@gmail.com or leave a note at the front office (the P&C has a correspondence box there) or call/SMS (0435) 118 089.

Stan Mikolajski
**Easter Harmony Day**

**Friday 11th April 2014**

9:05 to 10am  Children go into class, rolls are marked. Then, children may go with their parents, carers or grandparents to Book Fair.

10 to 11am Harmony Day activity in Peer Support groups.

11am Picnic lunch with families (P&C have a BBQ)

12noon Easter Hat Parade (Hats to be made at home)

1 to 1:30pm Children return to class. Children may go with their parents, carers or grandparents to Book Fair.

1:35 to 2:05pm Recess.

2:05pm to 3:05pm  Children return to class.

Parents and grandparents may wish to bring:

- Picnic chair
- Picnic lunch
- Hat/sunscreen

Students, parents and grandparents are encouraged to wear orange as we join together to celebrate Harmony Day.

Easter Hats need to be made at home and can be stored in classrooms until parade or brought in at 12:00.

The Book Fair is in the Library. Book prices range from $7 to $30 as they are quality books from well-known authors. Students without parental supervision can visit the Book Fair during second half lunch.

For Child Protection reasons we ask that you only take photos of your own children on the day.

---

**Easter Harmony Day**

WHERE: Maitland Hockey Centre

WHO: Under 12 Players - Born 2002 - 2004

WHEN: 24th April

TIME: 10am - 4pm

REGISTRATION Closes: 7th April

COST: $53

REGISTER:  Link can be found at 'maitlandhockey.org.au' or Hockey NSW

Diary Dates

3rd April
Zone Cross Country

9th April
School ANZAC Day Ceremony

10th April
P&C AGM and General Meeting

11th April
Easter/Harmony Day

11th April
Last day of Term 1

25th April
Maitland ANZAC Day March and Service

28th April
Teachers return for Staff Professional Development

29th April
Students Return

BANKING DAY
Banking Day every Tuesday - A great way to teach your children about the value and control of their money

Friday Assembly
9.15am - Parents and Caregivers welcome

Week 9 Award Winners

KOALAS
Joshua
Claire
Destiny

BILBIES
Van
Jayden
Byron

WALLABIES
Tyrone
Chelsea
Cooper

MRS HENNEN
Malcolm
Joshua
Kyon
Ricky
Hollie
Byron

Safety Concerns

Students have been very creative and productive making bracelets and necklaces from small brightly coloured bands.

Unfortunately some students have been wearing multiple bracelets on both arms, using them like sling shots and dangerously flicking others with them and some of our younger students are putting them in their mouths.

For these reasons the school has told the children to leave them at home. Please do not bring them or wear them to school.

Leaders Conference

On Monday, March 31st, our School Leaders, Ainsley, Zac and Charli went to Sydney Qantas Arena for a Leaders’ Conference.

At the conference, there were five guest speakers. The first was Mike Martin. He talked about how to be a good leader and never give up. He was followed by former NSW Premier, Hon. Bob Carr who spoke about being a good leader. Third speaker was Coen Ashton who told us about how hard life has been because of his lungs.

The forth speaker was Andy Griffiths. He told about his funny made-up stories (A baby's head with a dinosaur’s body then a rubber ducky’s head with the dinosaur’s body).

The final speaker was well-known journalist and media leader, Ita Buttrose who told us about how she got to be Australian of The Year (2013). The conference was hosted by Murray who could speak Spanish and Scottish.