Our Peer Support lessons started where senior students take on leadership roles to create and foster relationships across all age groups. This supports our students to be safe, respectful learners in a happy and friendly environment.

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to school and welcome to all our new families. It has been great to pop into each class and see them all engaged in their learning. (I took a photo in each classroom.)

This Friday will be our first Assembly. Our newly elected school captains will be running the assembly. All parents are welcome.

Next Tuesday 9 February at 6pm in our Library is an information session from Camp Australia about our new Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) starting up. It's a great opportunity to find out more about how you can access this service.

Our first P&C meeting for the year is next Thursday at 9:30am in the school hall. Join this month so you can vote at the AGM next month.

The Primary School Swimming Carnival and the Infants Water Day are on the calendar with notes going home soon. All children are expected to attend these events. The Primary Swimming Carnival will have events for both swimmers and non-swimmers. Parents are invited to join us at either one or both events (if possible).

Mrs Karen Johanson - Principal
Classroom Capers

Penguins
With Mrs Bennett

Kookaburras
With Mrs Main

Finches
with Mrs Heath
Owls
with Ms Thompson

Magpies
with Mrs Ison

Rosellas
with Miss Warby
INFANTS WATER DAY

On Tuesday, 16th of February 2016, students in K to 2, will be having a Water Fun Day where all activities will be related to water play, water craft and water/sun safety.

Parents and carers are invited to come and have a picnic lunch with your child at 12pm and then participate in the water activities in the afternoon.

Children will participate in water activities which will mean that they will get wet. We ask that you send them to school dressed in their uniform with their swimmers already on. Please pack an extra t-shirt (that will get wet) to ensure that they don’t get sunburnt.

PRIMARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our Primary Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 16th February at Beresfield Swimming Centre. Travel for all students will be by bus. Please note these details:

- Normal arrival at school by 9.05am.
- The bus will leave school at 9.30 am after roll call, to arrive at the pool by 9.50 am.
- The bus will leave the pool at 2.00 pm to arrive back at school by 2:30pm.
- **ALL STUDENTS MUST COME TO SCHOOL AND TRAVEL TO THE POOL ON THE BUS.**
- Parents will need to arrange their own transport to the pool. Students can go home with parents or return to school on the bus.
- All children are to wear a coloured wrist band to indicate their swimming ability.
- Children may wear their house coloured T-shirt with their school shorts and hat.
GYMNASTICS FOR ALL

As part of our Sports in Schools Program we have specialised gymnastics teachers from Sport for Life who will be teaching our students every Thursday. The timetable for each class is as follows;

9:05 Magpies, 9:50 Rosellas, 10:35 Owls, 12:05 Finches, 12:35 Penguins, 1:05 Kookaburras and 2:00 Eagles.

Gymnastics is part of our NSW Syllabus requirements and these fully qualified instructors enable our students to receive the highest quality of lessons.

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Our school has been implementing the Peer Support Program for a number of years now. We have staff who keep their training up to date through Peer Support Australia, who then train senior students to be group leaders in this program.

The program empowers young people to support each other and contribute positively to society. It provides students with a supportive learning environment in which to develop the skills, understanding, attitudes and strategies to improve their mental, social and emotional wellbeing.

These activities will be happening across the school each Monday afternoon during term 1.

GILLO IS A GREAT SCHOOL

Just ask us!

We have great students who are keen to learn, friendly and wear their uniform proudly. Our teachers are highly qualified and continually striving to make learning individual and fun for every student.

Our school plan has three strategic directions;

1. Create successful learners
2. Enhance whole school practices
3. Strengthen community partnerships

If you or your child has an issue, we are keen to hear about it. Please contact the school on 49 327 542 and make an appointment to talk with your child’s class teacher. If the need arises, please call and make an appointment with one of our two Assistant Principals, Mrs Madden and Mrs Ison. If the issue needs to go further then our Principal Mrs Johanson is also available with an appointment.
CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

Our school has surveyed families who have overwhelmingly supported this program and after years of applying we have finally been allocated funding and approval. Below is the advertisement for the position.

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN POSITION

Generate Ministries invites applications for the position of School Chaplain for 10 hours per week at Gillieston Public School commencing in Term 2, 2016.

Generate School Chaplains work in partnership with schools, local Chaplaincy Support Teams, and Generate Ministries, to provide pastoral care in NSW Government School communities.

Generate Ministries is a Christian organisation employing School Chaplains in NSW state schools. All Generate employees must adhere to the Generate Statements of Belief and Code of Conduct.

Application information can be found at mychaplain.org.au

From the P&C

Our first P&C meeting for the year will be on Thursday 11 February at 9:30 am in the school hall. All new families are welcome. The membership fee is $2 that will enable voting rights at the next month’s meeting, the AGM.

Our P&C have worked very hard over the years, raising money for our children. The current goal is to purchase shade over the concrete area in the playground.

A fundraising opportunity is available for our P&C to volunteer their time with Maitland Lion’s Club at this year’s Maitland Show. Please contact the school if you are available to support this at any time on 19, 20 or 21 February.

Our school canteen is still currently closed. Announcements will be made on Facebook and Skoolbag when it will be open.

We are hoping to open the canteen next week. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered. We are now waiting for Working with Children Checks to be completed and a co-ordinator to do rosters and order food.

We still need more volunteers. It is from 9am to 12 noon only. The students hand in lunch orders which are delivered to classes at 11:05. At 11:15 until 11:35 students can purchase food over the counter. Most volunteers clean and tidy, and are on their way home by 12.

Year 6 students sell ice blocks at Recess as their fundraising activity all year.

Please call the office or write your name on roster in the hall to volunteer. We need at least two volunteers each day to open.
New Outside School Hours Care at Gillieston Public School

Dear Families,

We are excited to be partnering with your school to deliver Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

We will partner with your school community to deliver a tailored before and after school care and vacation care program that is focused on bringing out the very best in kids. The program combines active games with structured and unstructured play, quiet time and a healthy snack. Every day is an adventure led by enthusiastic Camp Australia educators who are on a mission to make kids smile.

Parent Information Session
To help families understand how the program is structured, to meet our educators, and to find out how to make bookings and manage your account, a Parent Information Session will be held at the school.

When: 6:00pm Tuesday 8th February 2016
Where: Library

We understand time is valuable to working parents and you may not be able to attend this information night. If this is the case, please visit www.campaustralia.com.au and use the school finder to find out all you need to know about the program.

Register and Book
Through your school page on our website you can request an information pack, or register and book your children into the program.

If you have any further questions, you can call our friendly Customer Service Team from Monday to Friday (8.00am – 6.00pm AEST) on 1300 105 343.

We look forward to seeing you in OSHC soon!

Yours sincerely,

Kylie Parks
Camp Australia
Regional Coordinator

ALL SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS need to have completed the new Working With Children Check.

Go to www.kids.nsw.gov.au to complete application.

SKOOLBAG APP
Did you know you can send an absentee note through this App. Use the Parent eForms.
“Save time do it online!”
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**Diary Dates**

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**Just For Fun!**

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*We are safe, respectful learners.*