Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Congratulations to our new House Captains. They worked very hard yesterday, organising cheers. Both Primary and Infants students had busy days yesterday with the Swimming Carnival and Water Fun day. Children pushed themselves beyond what they thought they could achieve in the water, (we had two heats for the 200m Individual Medley!) Our Infant students listened to the Firefighters and enjoyed making and floating their own boats.

Thank you to all the parents and families who supported these events.

The students and staff appreciate your time.

The classes are now gearing up for their Oral Presentations and Cross Country events.

Don’t forget to register for Camp Australia—Just in case.

Mrs Karen Johanson - Principal
PENGUINS

Within our morning sessions the Year 1 Kookaburras visit the Penguin room and the Kindergarten Penguins visit the Kookaburra classroom. During this time the Kindergarten students participate in Jolly Phonics while the Year 1 students work on spelling and handwriting. Sometimes we have to lie on our tummies while we write our spelling words. This is strengthening our core while we learn. Please bring a labelled paint shirt if you haven’t already done so.

Please check for head lice regularly.

KOOKABURRAS

The Kookaburras enjoy writing on our whiteboards. Year 1 have been writing their spelling words and Kindergarten have been having a go at using correct letter formation. They have been so excited to show me their work.

FINCHES

The Finches have started learning about the artist Vincent Van Gogh. To begin with we looked at his use of colour, and connected it to the colour wheel. We saw how the three primary colours can create all of the colours of the rainbow. We will soon be looking at line and texture, and then how the artist used all three elements in his works.
**OWLS**

Our boats are ready to set sail on the water fun day and we just have to pick up the owl and the pussycat. The text has been read a number of times in class. Let’s hope they float.

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**MAGPIES**

The Marvellous Magpies have been engaging in some personal development and have been establishing learning goals. As part of this process we completed a Multiple Intelligences survey which helped us to understand the different ways people can learn. In our survey, most of the students said they preferred to learn by using a computer and like to work with friends rather than working alone. Over half the class said they enjoyed talking about their learning and engaging in creative activities. No wonder it often gets a little chirpy in the Magpie’s room!

Congratulations to the Magpies for being selected as class of the week at the school assembly for two weeks in a row. Well done everyone—outstanding positive behaviour.

I have had the pleasure of meeting some parents and families at our Student Conferences last week. Thank you to all the families who have visited our classroom and participated in the conferences. I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

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**ROSELLAS**

The Rosellas are 21st century learners! We love the freedom of choice in our classroom. When completing learning tasks, we get to choose where we sit and it does not have to be at a table. If we feel like sitting on the floor, we can! This week we are focusing on time in Maths and we want to ask for your help with our learning. When it’s time to have dinner, ask us to tell you what the time is. When it’s time for bed, ask us to tell you what the time is. Wearing a watch is another great way to support students learning as it gives them regular practice at reading time.
This week we have been learning about our emotions and how we can change what we are thinking by focusing on our thoughts. We watched the Inside Out movie to understand how Riley’s emotions were affected by what she was thinking. Liam remembered not only do we have our thoughts but we also have memories. Some are good and some are sad.

The Garden Gurus

Now that Mr Harmes has been able to organise the snipping of the weeds in the garden, we are ready to grow some food! Application forms will be sent home soon with children who are willing to commit to a small team responsible for the garden who will be the environmental leaders in our school. Could you spare an hour a week to help us out? We would love to have community members working with us on this project, and there might be the odd harvest on offer!

Student Oral Presentations

Friday 4 March
10:05 to 10:35 Kookaburras
10:35 to 11:05 Penguins
LUNCH BREAK
12:05 to 12:35 Owls
12:35 to 1:05 Finches
1:05 to 1:35 Magpies
RECESS BREAK
2:05 to 2:35 Rosellas
2:35 to 3:05 Eagles
PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

One of the Peer Support activities this week involved the leaders taking the group outside for a game. The playground was filled with the buzzing, happy sounds of children organising and playing with other children. It was fantastic to see and hear.

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, quality skills-based assessment program which rewards and recognises achievement. ICAS gives you broad insights into your child's performance across English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Spelling and Writing. ICAS (sometimes referred to as the UNSW assessments) has been developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) since 1981.

When your child takes part in ICAS assessments, we can track their learning as they progress from year to year. It also helps us identify potentially gifted students and those who may need more focused and purposeful teaching to achieve their best.

Entry forms will be sent home in the next few weeks for all of those students interested in participating in the ICAS assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICAS Subject</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>ICAS Sitting Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>3-10</td>
<td>Tues 17 May</td>
<td>Tues 5 April</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>Tues 31 May</td>
<td>Tues 3 May</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3-12</td>
<td>Mon 13 June - Fri 17 June*</td>
<td>Mon 16 May</td>
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<td>Spelling</td>
<td>2-7</td>
<td>Wed 15 June</td>
<td>Wed 18 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>Tues 2 August</td>
<td>Tues 21 June</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>Tues 16 August</td>
<td>Tues 21 June</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SKOOLBAG APP

Did you know you can send an absentee note through this App. Use the Parent eForms.

“Save time do it online!”

ALL SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

need to have completed the new Working With Children Check.

Go to www.kids.nsw.gov.au to complete application.
Our first P&C meeting for the year was on Thursday 11 February at 9:30am in the school library. It was lovely having so many new and familiar faces.

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.

Thank you to the volunteers who are supporting our fundraising opportunity with Maitland Lion’s Club at this year’s Maitland Show.

Ashley has kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the canteen. Thank you also to the people who have volunteered to work in the canteen. We still need more help. If you need help to apply for your Working With Children’s Check, please call the school’s office.

Our school canteen is now OPEN every day with our regular menu. Please check Facebook or download our Skoolbag App for any changes.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers.

Our next meeting is the AGM on the 10 March in the school Library at 9:30am.

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Award-Winning In-School Theatre Performances

The H Team

On Thursday 10 March Brainstorm Productions will be presenting their student wellbeing program ‘The H Team’ for all students K to 6.

The H Team, a live educational theatre program, will encourage children to make good decisions affecting their health and happiness. They will learn strategies to resist the lure of advertising, peer pressure and inspire them to be kind to themselves and others. They discover that what they’re looking for can’t be found on social media, the internet or playing video games. This powerful live theatre experience helps students understand why they can become stressed, or depressed, and how to achieve physical and emotional balance and wellbeing.

The H Team is part of our student wellbeing curriculum and the program has been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, as well as real-life student experiences. The methodology of the program is safe, supportive and nonjudgmental and designed to provide students with positive and useful tools that they can use in their everyday lives.

More than 350,000 Australian students have already benefited from Brainstorm Productions multi award-winning educational theatre programs over the past twelve months. Their programs cater to the specific wellbeing needs of students, helping to create a healthy and harmonious school environment. If you would like to know more about Brainstorm Productions, visit their website at www.brainstormproductions.edu.au
School Opal Card Applications

All school students now need to have an Opal Card for travel to and from school on the bus.

Opal Cards are applied for online at www.transport.info/school-students

Our school has been assessed by Transport NSW as being unsafe for students to travel which means all students at Gillieston Public School are eligible to receive a bus pass.

If you receive an email stating that your application is denied, you then need to click on the link within the email to reply - stating that the school has been assessed as being unsafe for travel. This will be reviewed by Transport NSW and you will be notified by email of the outcome.

If you have any further questions please contact Transport NSW on 131500.

Week 3 Award Winners

PENGUINS
Georgia
Matthew
Xander

KOOKABURRAS
Izaya M
Lexi G

FINCHES
Peter T
Shianne R

OWLS
Lily M
Jack W
Locksley

MAGPIES
Amelia
Caleb
Beyer

EAGLES
Jordan M
Mackenzeye
Marko

ROSELLAS
Brody
Jake
Caitlyn
# Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk 4</td>
<td>15 School Banking</td>
<td>16 Primary Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Infants Water Day</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Wk 5</td>
<td>22 School Banking</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 6</td>
<td>29 School Banking</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 7</td>
<td>7 School Banking</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9 Parent Consult Meet 3:30pm</td>
<td>10 The H Team Show P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clean Up Aust</td>
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## Just For Fun!

Find us on Facebook

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"Can you believe it? They build a pool, then put a fence around it!"

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We are safe, respectful learners.