Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Our students and staff have been working very hard, with last Friday’s Presentations showcasing just what a great school Gillieston is.

We also took part in Clean Up Australia Day on Monday with the whole school searching for rubbish on our grounds.

From the Principal

Every class showcased something different in their rooms, from a dramatized poem to rewriting a song and making a music video.

One class greeted visitors with drinks and biscuits, another had adults drawing recreations of Van Gogh’s artworks.

It was a great opportunity for families to see the great learning that happens every day in our classrooms.

Thank you to all our visitors for allowing us to share this celebration of learning with you.

Congratulations and well done to all the students and teachers.

There are lots more things coming up, with a PBL parent meeting this afternoon, P&C AGM tomorrow, The H Team show tomorrow that will help students understand more about the power of a bystander in bullying situations and our school Cross Country Carnival after assembly on Friday.

Our students in years 4, 5 and 6 will be able to participate in the Tell Them From Me survey starting on Monday and our Annual Easter/Harmony Day is only a few weeks away.

Download our Skoolbag App or Like us on Facebook to help keep up to date.

Mrs Karen Johanson - Principal
PENGUINS

The Penguins enjoyed showing the parents and visitors what we do at school. We were excited to show off what happened over a week in our class using video footage. We showed our literacy and math groups, counting, smart board activities, gymnastics, playing in the playground and the fun we had at the Water Fun Day. We showcased some of our math group rotations and particularly enjoyed having our visitors join in. Thank you to all that were able to come along and join in.

KOOKABURRAS

The Kookaburras would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents who were able to find some time in their busy days to attend our Oral Presentations. The children enjoyed sharing the room with our visitors and telling them about our busy mornings in Literacy groups. It was lots of fun ‘teaching’ our families how we learn and completing play-doh words, alphabet games, cutting and pasting activities and sounds games together.

Please check for head lice regularly.
FINCHES

We are excited to show our observations from our science experiment! You will see in the photos that one lot of our plants is lovely and green, and growing like crazy, but the other ones, kept in the storeroom with very little sunlight, are quite yellow, and definitely don’t look as healthy. We are learning that these types of plants (snowpeas) need plenty of sunlight if they are going to thrive. We have been recording our observations regularly, and we are thoroughly enjoying the process of carrying out an experiment!

OWLS

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend our class on Friday for our open classroom. We hope you enjoyed our performance of The Owl and the Pussycat by Edward Lear. Our play was the result of a lot of work across a number of learning areas including Literacy, speech, drama and craft. Congratulations to all of my students involved with our presentation. It was wonderful to see the efforts put in by the Outstanding, Whimsical Learners.
Thank you to all of the parents, families and friends that attended the Oral Presentations last Friday. We had standing room only in our room and I am sure that all who attended were entertained!

In preparation of the event, the students all contributed to the presentation in their own individual way by engaging in group discussion and sharing their ideas. We developed the concept as a whole class where everyone’s input and ideas were valued and included as much as possible.

Congratulations to all children who performed so enthusiastically and confidently on Friday. You were very impressive in the way that you all remembered and delivered your part. I was very proud to see everyone participating with such a positive attitude. I received very positive feedback from our VIPs that the students demonstrated beautiful manners and respect to the visitors.

In Sport and PE, we have been playing soccer and training for the Cross Country on Friday. Remember to wear your running shoes on Friday and try, try, try your best! Good luck everyone!

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who joined us on Friday. The students have been working very hard on their e-books and it was a great opportunity for them to share their work. They are now looking forward to sharing them with Kindergarten students.
ROSELLAS

The Rosellas want to say a big thank you to all of our visitors who came along on Friday to see our Oral Presentation; we really enjoyed showing you around our classroom. We worked really hard on creating our Music video which we shared with you. We changed the lyrics to a song we liked and renamed it ‘Rosellas and Miss Warby.’ Then we used the iMovie app on the iPads to film our video. Lastly, we recorded ourselves singing our track and added it to our footage. It was really tricky to get the lyrics to match with the video but eventually we got there. The Rosellas were really proud of the music video and were so happy to see your smiling faces watching it on Friday!

The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: [http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents](http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents)

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

K. Johanson, principal
Family and friends are invited to attend the 2016 Cross Country to be held at Gillieston Public School.

Date:  Friday, 11th March 2016
Time:  10.00 start (after assembly and a short fruit/drink break)

All students are encouraged to participate in this event. We are asking you to encourage your child/children to start practicing for this event. We will be giving students the opportunity to start practicing 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 could have the opportunity to represent our school at the Maitland Zone Cross Country event.

Students in Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 will be running a shorter distance and course than those students aged 8 years and above. All students will walk the course prior to competing in their race.

Students are reminded to wear suitable foot wear e.g. joggers. NO SPIKES

Please ensure your child has extra water and fruit on the day.

Please come along and support our students. You are welcome to share a picnic lunch with your children at the conclusion of the events. (Approximately 12.00)

Program:
10.00   Walk the Course
10.20   Kinder race and 8 and 9 year old boys and girls
10.50   Year 1 race and 10 year boys and girls
11.20   Year 2 and 11 year boys and girls and 12/13 year boys and girls
12.00   Lunch

Positive Behaviour for Learning

We are safe, respectful learners striving for personal best in a happy and friendly environment.

This afternoon at 4pm teachers and parents are working together on classroom expectations and consequences.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Your opinions, ideas and suggestions are very important to us. We are looking forward to working with the community to ensure our policies and procedures continue to encourage safe, respectful learners.
HOME READING

Our school has started upgrading our Home Readers for students K to 2. All students should have received a Home Reader that needs to be returned each Friday and a different book will be sent home each Monday.

This can be recorded on your child’s Reading Bug sheet. Awards are presented to children for every 25 nights read.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge books can be borrowed from our school library. Ask your child’s teacher about the forms and books.

Have you got the Reading Bug?

Visiting Show this Thursday 10th March

Brainstorm Productions are coming to Gillieston Public School!

Brainstorm Productions visit more than 350,000 students each year with anti-bullying, cyber bullying and welfare education programs via a range of award-winning theatre productions. Brainstorm Productions aim is to reduce the incidences of bullying in schools and improve student behaviour and wellbeing.

The H Team is an exciting adventure story that fosters teamwork, critical thinking skills, self-discipline, physical fitness and highlights the power of the bystander.

All students will be attending this performance.
PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Over the last few weeks the Peer Support Leaders have been doing an outstanding job working with their groups. They have been focusing on being resilient and bouncing back. Resilience is an important life skill. There are always ups and downs in life and it is important to ‘bounce back’.

This week the theme is Friendship and recognising who we have around us to support us in times of need.

GARDEN GURUS

All students who submitted an application for a garden leadership position have been included in a core gardening group. The leaders chosen from those children are as follows:
Caitlyn A
Jack D
Hayden S
Keishante M
Amy C

We begin planting this week, and our garden will be fruitful in no time!

ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Full page (A5) $20 per issue
Half page $10 per issue
Six months Full page $350
Six months half page $180

The School Newsletter is currently distributed to 120 families, both electronically and printed copy, as well as uploaded to the school website and school app.

Please call the office (49 327 542) if you, or anyone you know is interested.

ALL SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

need to have completed the new Working With Children Check.

Camp Australia Now Open!

It’s been an exciting week and a half since the opening of before and after school care. I have had a fantastic time meeting all the new families and getting to know the kids. We have been very creative this week making lots of things like crowns and painting beautifully bright paintings, we even built a huge cubby house out of connector sticks (toy) and blankets. The best part was finding out about the kids.

Looking to Enrol Your Child?

Service Operation Hours:  
BSC Opening time: 7am  
ASC Closing time: 6pm

We provide a variety of cereals, as well as toast with various spreads for breakfast, and have a fresh fruit platter and extra snacks for afternoon tea. During both the morning and afternoon sessions children have access to a wide variety of games, toys and craft activities.

How to Enrol:

Enrolment information can be found on our website: www.campaustralia.com.au. There are also brochure’s available from the OSHC Room or the front office with further information, including costs of attendance. Please don’t hesitate to drop in if you have any questions about enrolling your child into OSHC.
Thank you to all our volunteers in the canteen. We still need someone each second Thursday.
Easter egg donations can be dropped off at the school office. They will be gift wrapped into baskets for prizes at the Annual Easter hat Parade Thursday 24 March.

We will be having a Sausage Sizzle for lunch orders on the day.

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

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CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Our children proudly took part in this event by cleaning up any rubbish they could find in our school playground. Well done!

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**From the P&C**

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/3-11/3</td>
<td>Judy S</td>
<td>Ashley O</td>
<td>Lucia D</td>
<td>Ashle O</td>
<td>Edwina L</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kristy B</td>
<td>Jo M</td>
<td>Tracey U</td>
<td>Cheryl W</td>
<td>Rachel K</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Amanda B</th>
<th>Ashley O</th>
<th>Ange D</th>
<th>Ashley O</th>
<th>Judy S</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14/3-18/3</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Judy S</th>
<th>Ashley O</th>
<th>Lucia D</th>
<th>Ashle O</th>
<th>Good Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21/3-25/3</td>
<td>Kristy B</td>
<td>Jo M</td>
<td>Tracey U</td>
<td>Cheryl W</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th><strong>Easter Monday</strong></th>
<th>Ashley O</th>
<th>Ange D</th>
<th>Ashley O</th>
<th>Judy S</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28/3-1/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jo M</td>
<td>Lucia D</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
<td>Krista R</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Judy S</th>
<th>Ashley O</th>
<th>Lucia D</th>
<th>Ashle O</th>
<th>Edwina L</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/4-8/4</td>
<td>Kristy B</td>
<td>Jo M</td>
<td>Tracey U</td>
<td>Cheryl W</td>
<td>Rachel K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Thank you to all our volunteers in the canteen. We still need someone each second Thursday. Easter egg donations can be dropped off at the school office. They will be gift wrapped into baskets for prizes at the Annual Easter hat Parade Thursday 24 March.

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**EASTER/HARMONY DAY**

It’s time to start getting your Easter Hats ready for the Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 24 March. Hats are made at home and brought in on the day. They’re stored in the classrooms until the parade time. Again, we will be celebrating Harmony Day as well, so we have a Mufti Day where all students, teachers, parents, grandparents and carers are encouraged to wear something orange.

The Canteen will NOT be open on the day. The P&C are organising a Sausage Sizzle for lunch instead.

Order forms will be going home soon. Please assist the P&C by ordering before the day.

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**Week 6 Award Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PENGUINS</th>
<th>OWLS</th>
<th>ROSELLAS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yin Jon G</td>
<td>Sienna</td>
<td>Cory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis A</td>
<td>Tye</td>
<td>Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aliyah H</td>
<td>Ella</td>
<td>Kaidyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>KOOKABURRAS</td>
<td>MAGPIES</td>
<td>EAGLES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellie Y</td>
<td>Jack P</td>
<td>Ricky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey F</td>
<td>Telisha H</td>
<td>Jake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phaebe S</td>
<td>Jett M</td>
<td>Tim</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINCHES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shanika S</td>
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<td>Brodie F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temperance E</td>
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## Diary Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<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>
<td>11 School Cross Country</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clean Up Aust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 8</td>
<td>14 School Banking</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 9</td>
<td>21 School Banking</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Easter Hat Parade Harmony Day</td>
<td>25 GOOD FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 10</td>
<td>28 EASTER MONDAY</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>31</td>
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## Just For Fun!

We are safe, respectful learners.

Find us on Facebook

**BULLYING**  
**STOPS HERE**

We are safe, respectful learners.