



innovative pilot school



# Gilles Street PS Newsletter

Principal: Deb O'Neill

Assistant Principals: Gyllian Godfrey, Rachael Courtney

Assistant Principal (IELC): Ginny Pryor

Ph: 8223 5184 Fax: 8223 7114

[www.gillesstps.sa.edu.au](http://www.gillesstps.sa.edu.au)

April 13, 2017

Issue 3

## Diary Dates

Monday 1 May

Return to school for Term 2

Tuesday 2 May

Year 6/7 Big Day Out

9 - 11 May

Year 3, 5, 7 NAPLAN

May 9 & 12

IELC Mantoux Testing

15 - 17 May

Rooms 1 & 2 Camp

Mon 22 May

School Council Meeting

Mon 12 June

Public Holiday - School closed

Tue 13 June

Pupil Free Day

OSHC Available

## From the Principal

As the term draws to an end it has been wonderful to reflect on the achievements of the term.

The successful Acquaintance Night and Family Picnic was a wonderful opportunity for parents who are new to the school to meet the community and for others to catch up and meet their child's teachers. Many parents commented to me that it is one of the highlights of the school year.

The Annual General Meeting was well attended and we welcome 2 new members to the council. The 2017 School council members are David Conroy - Chairperson, Emma Anderson - Vice Chairperson, Sarah Marshall - Secretary, Michael Gates -Treasurer and Ramesh Raja Segaran - Correspondence Secretary. The remaining council members are Jo De Silva, Anthony Keane, Catherine Campbell, Siobhan Guy, Zane Young and new members Hulya Gilbert and Valerie Mangini. Staff representatives are Deb O'Neill, Gyllian Godfrey, Rachael Courtney and Erin Lee.

Special thanks to Jo De Silva and Anthony Keane for their work over the years as cooperating Chairs.

We thank all of the council members for donating their time and expertise to work together to make our school great.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and hope you get to spend some quality time with your family.

## 2017 Hockey and Netball

Hockey and Netball seasons begin in Term 2. Expressions of Interest have gone home and the teams have been practising. All matches start in Week 2 and finish in Week 9. Netball is on Thursday afternoons and Hockey on Friday afternoons. Add the Tiqbiz (Flexibuzz) boxes for updates.

## Inside this issue:

Finance Information 2  
Term 2 Yoga  
Harmony Day

Tiqbiz  
NAPLAN

Chicks in Room 6! 3  
School News  
Public Education

Community Notices 4



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

## Finance Information - Term 1 Payments Due

Please be aware that you may receive a statement regarding any outstanding fees. These fees are now due. If you require assistance with fee payments please make a time to discuss options with Jody in the Finance Office or the Principal.

Payments can be made online via Qkr! or Bpoint or at the Finance Office window between 8.30 - 9.30 am or 2.30 - 3.30 pm.

## Harmony Day

This year we celebrated diversity on Harmony Day by filling our school with Mandalas. The day was designed & supported by our Harmony Day committee and our



Social Work students, Lauren and Yining. Students created flower bracelets, chalk and sand mandalas and rock

paintings. The school was a sea of orange and beautiful art.



**Kids Yoga** continues next term.

There are so many benefits to yoga, especially as a beautiful way to finish the academic week! If you are interested, come and chat to Vivian in Room 7 or catch Mariam Hajabed in the yard before or after school for more information and an information/permission note.

## TIQBIZ is changing to Flexibuzz

If are registered with TIQBIZ you should have received information regarding changes that are coming. TIQBIZ is to become FLEXIBUZZ from the **28th April, 2017**. To ensure that you can accurately locate the app and platform information, you will start to see **"Tiqbiz is now FlexiBuzz"** logo. This means that you can find it using "Tiqbiz" or "FlexiBuzz" on the web or in your app store. You will be required to apply the update and you should receive information from Flexibuzz when this needs to happen.

## NAPLAN

Students in years 3, 5 and 7 will be sitting the NAPLAN tests during week 2 term 2. The tests will consist of Writing and Language on Tuesday morning Reading on Wednesday morning & Numeracy on Thursday morning and there will be an opportunity for catch ups on the Friday morning.

NAPLAN is used by governments, education authorities and schools to determine whether young Australians are meeting important educational goals in literacy and numeracy. It provides a snapshot of your child's progress as they travel through school to see how well they are learning the skills of reading, writing, and mathematics. It also provides information to the school that assist in determining areas for further development.

Some nervousness is expected and as a parent, you can help your child by treating NAPLAN test days just like any other school day and reassuring them that NAPLAN is not a pass or fail test. Staff have been using strategies to familiarise students with test conditions and we have been encouraging all students to approach the test with a positive growth mindset knowing that some questions will be easy whilst others may be more difficult. Individual test results will be available at the end of term 3, usually around September and will be distributed by the school. If you have any concerns please talk to your child's teacher.

## Baby Chicks in Room 6

As part of our Science Inquiry unit on 'Living Things', Room 6 adopted some incubated eggs, which have now hatched into baby chicks! The students are very excited, as they are seeing first hand how a living thing changes across different stages of its life cycle. Below are some images and comments about the process from Room 6 class members.

"I love the chicks so much, I want to keep one." - Lara, "On Monday Room 6 had 10 eggs, and now we have 10 cheeping chickens!" - Maisy. "I can't wait until I hold the chicks, they are so, so cute!" - Ella J, "I think the chicks are super cute." - Tia, "The chicks are cute and fluffy and sleepy." - Xintian, "On Monday we put the eggs in, on Tuesday the eggs hatched." - Jiaxuan, "On Monday in Room 6 our class got chicken eggs to see if they would hatch. On Tuesday they started hatching. Now we have 10 baby chicks." - Raphael, "I love the chicks so much, I really want to have some because they are so fluffy. I really want to hug all the chicks while they are a baby because they are so cute. When they were in the incubator, one was so crazy they ran and slipped on an egg. They are so cute when they eat and drink." - Aalia, "On Monday we got eggs, on Tuesday they hatched." - Phoenix, "I love the chicks. I have never seen a chick be born. I like the way they hug and sleep, and I really want to keep one and it is adorable when they eat and drink." - Emily, "I love the chicks so much they are so adorable, especially when they eat and drink and sleep. The eggs were cute too, I felt like kissing and hugging them." - Kwaish.



## School News

**Brightpath** We are a DECD trial school for Brightpath. This online tool, developed by researchers in WA, assists teachers to effectively and efficiently compare children's writing. This ensures that teachers are consistent in their judgements of children's writing. Targeted teaching points are highlighted to ensure that the learning is appropriately individualised. The program also allows us to better manage and share student progress information to parents. To date, in the mainstream, we have collected narrative writing samples, begun a comparison within and across year levels and next term look forward to working with the Brightpath program. Information about the program can be found at

<http://www.brightpath.com.au>

**QuickSmart** We have been accepted into a research project with the DECD to improve the numeracy skills of our students. We have 16 children from our Year 5 cohort participating in this project and in the short time it has been running we have seen great improvement so we are looking forward to being able to offer this opportunity to others students in the future. QuickSmart Numeracy is a mathematics intervention program for middle school students. It has been designed to improve students' learning by focusing on developing fast and accurate basic skills. When students can automatically recall number facts, their working memory is freed up so that they are able to engage meaningfully with more demanding mathematical tasks. The QuickSmart programs have been developed by the SiMERR National Research Centre at the University of New England and are based on educational theory. More information on the QuickSmart programs is available on the website <http://quicksmart.une.edu.au>

## Public Education in South Australia

The Public Education Advisory committee (PEAC), formed in 2015 to 'champion public education and provide advice to the minister'. To fulfil its charter, the PEAC firstly needed a common understanding of the characteristics of public education and the Statement on Public Education in South Australia was developed. You can download and read the statement as well as view the video from this link <https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/department/about-department/public-education-statement>. We have also shared the clip on our Facebook page.

## Family Volunteering Opportunity

The volunteer Bushland program at the Adelaide City Council is now inviting families to join this environmental activity.

The aim of the program is to improve the natural environment of the Adelaide Park Lands by taking part in working bees and educational activities in the Wirrarninthe area (Park 23) on the first Saturday of each month between 9:00 – 11:30am.

The Ranger guides and supports the volunteers who undertake

- Weed identification and management
- Planting of local native plants
- Flora and fauna monitoring
- Native fauna habitat provision
- Environmental monitoring e.g. water quality

If you would like to know more about this opportunity please go to

<http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/your-community/community-development/be-a-volunteer/current-volunteer-vacancies?category=horticulture#horticulture>

or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@cityofadelaide.com.au](mailto:volunteers@cityofadelaide.com.au) or phone 8203 7290



## Parenting after Divorce and Separation

Separation and divorce can be a stressful and challenging time for parents and children. It can put children at risk for emotional and behavioural problems, poor academic achievement, and ongoing relationship problems. Parents also may also experience increased depression, anxiety and stress.

It is important that families have access to evidence-based preventative interventions. Researchers at the University of South Australia and The University of Queensland are developing an online intervention to support parents during this transition. They are encouraging parents to have an input into what is important to go in the program and what their needs are.

Interested parents can learn more about the study and complete a brief online survey at <https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/pads>