Dear parents and caregivers,

Congratulations to our year seven students on reaching the end of their primary school education and thank you to all of the family, friends and staff who attended Tuesday night’s Year Seven Graduation.

I was so impressed with the way our year sevens presented themselves during the graduation ceremony and it is clear that this group of students are ready for success at high school in 2019.

Well done to the class of 2019. I am sure that you are all more than ready for high school and I look forward to hearing stories of your success in the coming years.

2019 Teachers

Yesterday I received updated news regarding our teaching staff for next year.

Mr George Thring will join us as a specialist PE teacher.

Ms Addy Latisenko will be teaching year five in room 10.

Ms Isabella Tropiano will join Meagan and Daphne in room 1 where she will be teaching a year three and four class.

Mrs Libby Kelsh will be joining us as a Spanish teacher three days per week.

I am also very pleased to announce that Eva Loucas (reception) Janet Leadbeater (year 1/2) and Rosa Santangelo (IELP 6/7) have had their contracts renewed for 2019.

Mainstream classes and teachers for 2019 will be as follows:

- 2 reception classes - Ms Evana and Ms Rachael
- 3 year 1/2 classes – Janet, Gill and Amy, Liz and Jodi
- 3 year 3/4 classes – Angela, Isabella, Meagan and Daphne
- 1 year 5 class – Addy
- 3 year 6/7 classes – Mrs McMahon, Val and Alicia

IELP classes and teachers will continue in 2019 as they are currently structured.

Gilles Street teachers have worked extremely hard to finalise student placement into these classes and to try and meet parent requests.

Students will learn of their classes on Friday and will then have a transition visit with their new teacher in their new class. I am very pleased that Addy Latisenko and Isabella Tropiano are able to visit Gilles Street on Friday to be part of this transition exercise.

Parent / caregiver notification of 2019 classes will be sent home Friday afternoon with student end of year reports.

Despite all the work that has gone into student class placement these will never be perfect and the placement process often has to deal with conflicting parent / caregiver
requests. Please be assured that every effort has been made to place your child in the best possible class for their learning.

Sometimes children will find that they are not placed in a class with all of their friends. This provides a great opportunity for children to make new connections with other students while it is also important to remember that children have the chance to reconnect with friends from other classes every day at lunch and recess time.

**Student Report**

Reports will be sent home Friday afternoon and these will include information regarding your child’s 2019 class placement.

**Volunteers**

Thank you to all volunteers who attended Wednesday morning’s Volunteer Morning Tea. Thank you also to volunteers who were not able to attend this morning tea.

Staff and students at Gilles Street really appreciate your efforts that add value to our school in many, many different ways.

Without our outstanding team of volunteers there would be significantly less learning opportunities for the students of Gilles Street.

Each year the Minister for Education awards a perpetual plaque for our school’s Volunteer of the Year. This year Jatin Sabrawal was our Volunteer of the Year for Mainstream and May Han won this award for IELP.

Congratulations May and Jatin and thank you for your efforts.

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**Year 7 Graduation**

Congratulations to our entire year 7 graduating class of 2018. Those present on Tuesday evening will understand what a special occasion it was with awards presented, memories shared and our students looked grown up and fabulous.

All students gave a speech which allowed them to reminisce and thank those family and school members that had helped them over the years.

Well done to those students who applied for and were successful in graduating with honours: Angas Bickford, Arun De Silva, Elliot Diaz-Wadewitz, Eliza Kane, Fatiha Rashid, Francesca Mares, Helen Kebede, Hotin Liu, Laura Pazos Quintana, Marvin Xu, Phoebe Collins, Sophia Lewis and Yana Gavrishchuk

Particular congratulations go to the award winners on the night:

Leadership award(s): Hotin Liu and Yana Gavrishchuk

Performing Arts Award: Erin Godfrey

Spanish Award: Eliza Kane

Room 12 Student of the Year: Arun De Silva

Room 13 Student of the Year: Francesca Mares

Room 14 Student of the Year: Milana Sapach

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**2019 Calendar**

A calendar of important 2019 term one school dates, that are already known, will be sent to all families via FlexiBuzz.

The preliminary calendar for terms two, three and four will be available on the school website and will be updated as dates for additional school events are confirmed.

One important date is the first day of the 2019 school year. Students are scheduled to return to school on Tuesday 29th of January as Monday 28th is a public holiday.

As we reach the end of the 2018 school year I would like to thank all staff at our school for their outstanding efforts to ensure that Gilles Street students have access to the best possible learning opportunities and I hope you all have a well-deserved break during the summer holidays.

To the students of Gilles Street, I have really enjoyed getting to know you and look forward to working with you and getting to know you better in 2019.

Thank you to all families who show such great support for our school and I wish you all a safe, peaceful and fun filled summer holidays.

See you in 2019

Kind regards

Michael Bawden
What a performance!

Those of you that were there would have to agree that the November 29th performance of ‘Sea of Flags’ put on by the students was a spectacular showcase of what is possible with creativity, a lot of hard work, and the ingenuity of pool noodles turned into musical instruments!

Many weeks of planning and preparation all come down to the moment that the curtain rose on a sold out Royalty Theatre for the world premiere of this brilliant show.

The stars of the show were undoubtedly all the students of our school, but clearly it also couldn’t go ahead without the help, guidance and organisation of the classroom teachers. Special mention must also go to Mr A. and Val for everything they did in preparing students and staff for what is a major event in our school calendar.

If you bought a DVD of the performance we hope you enjoy watching it all over again with your family over the summer break!

Who knows what next year will hold…?

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In 2019 Gilles Street Primary School will be beginning a new student wellbeing & positive education program.

‘Growing with Gratitude’ (GWG), is a relatively new program developed by Adelaide based ex-school teacher Ash Manuel.

The activities contained in the GWG program explicitly teach skills based on the ‘5 habits of happiness’ - gratitude, kindness, empathy, mindfulness and serving others, and lead to greater happiness and resilience.

As an introduction to the program, GWG works in partnership with the Adelaide Crows to deliver an assembly style ‘Positive Reflections’ presentation that focuses on Reflection ‘5 Positive Places’, and includes a reception/year 1 football skill session afterwards.

The team came to Gilles Street on Monday the 10th of December, and they even brought a special surprise guest…!

We look forward to sharing more of the Growing with Gratitude journey as we move into 2019.

For more information about the GWG program visit https://www.growingwithgratitude.com.au/ or scan the QR code.
Sports Presentation Night

On Wednesday the 5th of December a large number of families gathered in the undercroft for a BBQ and a presentation ceremony to celebrate and recognise the sports teams that have represented GSPS during 2018.

As well as teams from Netball and Hockey we had students that had competed East Adelaide District events.

Our netball teams have grown to six this year and we fielded 3 hockey teams through the winter as well.

These teams would not be able to participate each week without the dedication and support from a range of teaching and support staff as well as parents.

On the netball side, an enormous thanks must go to Kate Byron-Scott who coordinates the whole program. Supporting her this year have been Rosa, Gabby, Moni, Kirsty and Leanne McGuire, who’s children do not even attend GSPS anymore!

Our hockey teams were coached by Andy Fisher, with assistants, ex students Elliot Collins and Will Morely. Denise Noack acted as manager and a range of staff but in particular Rod and Billie supervised each week.

Thank you to all coaches and other helpers!

Our only individual award on the night, the ‘Sportsperson of the Year’ was awarded to Helen Kebede. Since joining us at GSPS, Helen has been a keen participant in SAPSASA events, played netball, been a house captain and always conducted herself with wonderful sportsmanship, humility and fairness.

Congratulations Helen and all the best for high school next year and your future sporting pursuits!

Instrumental Music 2019

Studies have shown that learning a musical instrument helps develop a child’s literacy and numeracy skills, problem solving ability and social skills. It also develops discipline through the necessity of regular practice and sequential learning.

The Department for Education's Instrumental Music Service (IMS) offers instrumental lessons on violin, viola and cello at Gilles Street Primary. Students from years 3-7 are eligible.

Lessons are free of charge and are conducted as group lessons during school hours. Instruments can be hired from the school and students borrow their music books from the school library.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the school string programme, please contact Mr. A for an enrolment form.

Places are limited, but every effort will be made to ensure that all students interested are able to learn if they wish.

Judith Bingaman
String teacher - Department for Education - IMS

Summer Vacation Care

Please make sure you book early if you would like your child to attend Vacation Care during the summer holidays!