Dear Parents and Caregivers

Term one is certainly flying by and it is hard to believe that there are only two more weeks until school holidays.

Thank you PaCE!

On Saturday 17th of March the Parent and Community Engagement group (PaCE) organised and ran an Election Day Barbecue and Bake Sale to raise funds for our school.

This group included parents and grandparents of Gilles Street PS children and their effort on Election Day raised over $3500 for our school. This fundraising will be targeted to support purchases of additional resources for students at Gilles Street. Students, teachers and PaCE will have input into how this money is spent. Currently we are awaiting delivery of a set of decodable readers that were purchased as a result of PaCE fundraising in 2017.

Thank you to everyone who helped out to organise and run the Election Day Barbecue and to those families who donated baked goods for the Bake Sale.

Professional Development Bentleigh West PS

Last week three junior primary teachers and I travelled to Bentleigh West Primary School in Melbourne.

The purpose of this visit was to observe and learn more about Bentleigh West’s commitment to Direct Instruction in Literacy Teaching that has led to tremendous gains in Literacy understanding and achievement across the school. The teachers and I observed classroom practice and were involved in workshops that taught us more about this whole school learning program that uses explicit, multisensory teaching practice to teach the Big 6 of Reading.

Gilles Street teachers will continue to be engaged in this professional development as we look to implement this teaching program in a way that best suits students at Gilles Street Primary School.

This teaching will complement existing programs at our school and works in line with the Australian Curriculum. I will keep you updated on all progress.

Parent and Caregiver Engagement

In second term we will begin a series of Parent / Caregiver morning teas. There will be four morning teas and invites to Parents and Caregivers will be in line with the following year levels
From the Principal continued

On Friday 16th of March we celebrated the National Day of Action Against Bullying. Our school was decorated in orange and we took part in many fun and exciting activities, based around the theme ‘Imagine a World free from Bullying and Violence.’

Oliver was our roving reporter for the day and he went in search of people that were able to tell him their thoughts on a world without bullying. It was a fantastic, fun day, filled with laughter, togetherness and bubbles.

There were lots of bubbles!
On the Tuesday the 13th of March, nearly 300 teachers from across the 8 primary schools in our partnership gathered at Prospect North Primary School to engage in diverse collective learning experiences.

The morning was focused around the outstanding work that PNPS has been undertaking in Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths. Teachers and students from Prospect North led workshops to further enhance the entire Partnership’s understanding in this area.

Mary & Kate, Rooms 18 & 19, loved learning about ways that they could integrate the use of Ozobots into their learning programs!

Last Thursday, the 22nd of March, Ali Clarke from ABC breakfast radio came to Gilles Street to record her popular segment ‘Kids Q & A’. She met with a group of Year 2 & 3 students, asking them questions like ‘What would you find at the end of a rainbow?’. Ali was very impressed with the mature manner in which our students engaged with her and in their ability to express themselves on a variety of topics. The children were thoughtful, expressive, considered and funny in their responses. Listen out for the interviews on ABC 891 breakfast show over the coming month!

Wednesday 21st of March was another day that our school was bathed in a sea of colour. This is the date every year that Harmony Day is celebrated around the country.

There were a range of activities available for students, a highlight of which were the hundreds of pancakes made by Rachael C and a small handful of dedicated helpers. There were many satisfied customers, able to choose from a variety of toppings in the yard before school!

To develop their appreciation for people from all over the world Room 19 students enjoyed making flags from countries around the world. They also constructed a map of Australia entirely using cut outs of their hand!
School IT Works

Mr Tucker is working with the DECD IT Division to review our school’s Information Technology system, hardware and peripherals and to develop a plan for ICT improvement at our school. This will include the upgrade of our wireless network and associated infrastructure and these improvements will enable Gilles Street PS to increase the quality and capacity of IT learning opportunities across the school. Students and teachers will be involved in this process to ensure our improving IT system best supports teaching and learning at our school.

Tree Tagging

Have you noticed that the sheoak in the front of our school has a tag on it? The tag gives us information about the tree.

Last month, Room 7 started to find information about trees. Every Wednesday we went to the park to find out particular information about them.

Height of Trees

We used two very interesting methods to measure the height. Firstly, we folded a piece of paper into a right angle triangle and used it to find the top of the tree by putting it near our eye. Then we used a trundle wheel to measure from where we stood to the bottom of the tree - that told us the tree’s height!

The other method was a bit strange. We walked away from the tree and bent down to look for the top of the tree between our legs. When we could see the top, we used a trundle wheel again to measure the distance to the tree. This distance is the same as the height!

Tree Circumference

We used a string to measure 1.4m up a tree. We used a tape measure to measure the circumference at this height. We measure all trees at 1.4 metres to be sure it is the same information.

Canopy

We used a compass to find east to west and north to south. Class members stood at each of the four compass point edges of the tree canopy. We measured this space and worked out the area of the canopy and the amount of shade area the tree gives us.

Please look after trees, we need them to breathe and their shade keeps our houses cool. Isn’t it interesting how much pollution they take out of the air?

Community News

Call for participants:
Mobile support for new dads

The SA Mental Health Commission is seeking new and expectant dads for a pilot project, which will offer information, support and advice through their mobile phones.

Participants in the SMS4dadsSA project must be over 18 with mobile phones that are capable of sending and receiving text messages. Their partners must be at least 20 weeks pregnant.

Up to 300 SA dads will be recruited for the pilot project.

Contact:
SA Mental Health Commission,
Phone 1300 293 220