



Gilles Street PS Newsletter



innovative pilot school



ALL FUTURE ISSUES WILL BE SENT VIA TIQBIZ and available from the school website.

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Issue 1

Diary Dates

Tuesday 7 February

5.00 - 6.00 pm Responding to Abuse and Neglect Training for Volunteers

Wednesday 15 February

5.00 - 7.30 pm Acquaintance Night and Community Picnic

Friday 17 February

9.15 am Whole School Assembly

Monday 20 February

6.00 - 7.00 pm Responding to Abuse and Neglect Training for Volunteers

7.00 - 9.00 pm School Council Meeting

Water Safety Education

27/2 - 3/3 Reception -Year 5

From the Principal

Welcome

Welcome to the Gilles Street Primary School community for 2017. It is a pleasure to welcome all of our new families, including those of you with children starting in Reception, those of you with children starting in the Intensive English Language Centre and of course our continuing families.

2017 brings with it some changes. Firstly, we are in the process of finalising some renovations in the Reception classroom. This area will be strongly influenced by a Reggio approach to teaching and learning. I have been fortunate enough to have attended a DECD sponsored study tour to Reggio in Italy this past January and I look forward to building on this in collaboration with Rachael Tennant and Erin Lee, in this renovated space.

Secondly, we have also made changes to our break times. Please note that recess is now 10.50 -11.20 am and lunch 1.00 -1.30 pm. This may influence the times that you book appointments for your child/dren.

Lastly, we are introducing Digital Technologies this year for mainstream students (R-5). Your child's teacher will inform you of the terms in which this subject will be delivered to the students through their own class newsletters.

School Communication

The school has a variety of ways of sharing important information. Tiqbiz will be the main source of information, both from the school and from your child's class. Find the details on page 3. The school website and the Sentral Parent Portal (for mainstream parents) also provide important information about the school.

Opportunities

Gilles Street Primary School has a wonderful parent/caregiver community and last year saw the introduction of the Class Parent Representatives program to further enhance communication between families of a

class. This year we are calling for volunteers to fill this role. It is anticipated that the Class Parent Representative/s will do things like: Organise a class contact list, help welcome new families and farewell those leaving, assist with the collections for fundraising events and organising after school play dates/social events.

It is not anticipated that the role will be particularly onerous and volunteers will be under no obligation to do more than the basic requirements. The role is not limited to one person and can be taken on by a few parents within a class (2 or 3 is probably ideal).

Class Parent Representatives will be supported by a Parent Coordinator and members of the teaching staff will be available to answer any questions, provide guidance and/or practical support.

Please consider taking on this valuable role.

Deb O'Neill



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

Inside this issue:

Parking Zones
Attendance Matters
Kids Yoga **2**

Volunteering and
RAN Training
Tiqbiz **3**

Water Safety
Education Program
Information **4**

Parking Zones

Parking Zones around the school are put in place to ensure pedestrian safety. Children are in particular danger near schools because:

- Their small size makes it hard for drivers to see them between traffic, parked cars, stobie poles and other obstacles.

- They are easily distracted and may not be aware of traffic. They may suddenly run onto the road - eg to meet a parent.

Some road rules you particularly need to be aware of are:

- You must **not** stop in a **NO STOPPING/BUS** Zone, even for a few seconds to pick up your child.

- You **may** stop in a **NO PARKING ZONE** for a few seconds to pick up a child who is waiting near by. You must **not** park or leave the vehicle.

- You must **not** double park, or stop in the line of traffic, to pick up or drop off a child.

- You must **not** stop in a bicycle lane.

- You must **not** stop within 20 metres before a crossing or 10 metres after a crossing.

- You must **not** stop within 10 metres of an intersection or junction without traffic lights.

If you have any enquiries regarding this information please contact Adelaide City Council on 8203 7203.

Adelaide City Council Parking and Information Officers and the Eastern Adelaide Police are aware of these issues and will monitor the situation and deal with breaches accordingly to ensure children's safety, and expiations will be issued to any vehicles contravening these rules.

Please be mindful of your own behaviour around schools, whether in relation to where you park or the respect shown to Officers trying to ensure pedestrian safety – you are our children's greatest role model.

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance at preschool and school is important for children and students to get the most from their education.

Ensuring regular attendance at preschool and school is a shared responsibility between parents/caregivers, preschools and schools.

Patterns of attendance and absence that are set up in the early years usually persist through education and life. Regular attendance at school is important to a child's learning and development.

Poor attendance may lead to learning difficulties because children who are frequently absent are likely to miss learning the basic skills needed for their future education.

Schools and preschools work with parents to encourage attendance and participation to:

- provide a safe, success orientated and caring environment

- provide relevant learning programs for all students

- maintain accurate records of attendance

- ensure non-attendance is followed up through early intervention

- develop strategies to resolve attendance difficulties.

We understand that there are situations where a child is late or misses school, these include:

- Your child is too sick to leave the house

- Your child has an infectious illness such as gastroenteritis, chicken pox or measles

- Your child needs to attend medical or dental appointments that could not be made out of school hours

- The school principal is provided with a genuine reason that prevents the child attending school

- Your child has been granted an [exemption from school](#)

- Your child has been sent home or suspended from school for disciplinary reasons.

If a student is absent due to reported illness for three or more consecutive days the principal can ask for a medical certificate.

Informing school about your child's absence

It is important to notify the school of your child's absence or lateness and the reason for it. We can be informed via a direct message to your child's teacher, phone call or email to the school or via the form on TIQBIZ. If you are unable to notify the school in advance, send a note covering the days missed on the day of your child's return.

Late arrival to school

If you are late bringing your child to school, your child must be signed in via the Front Office, with a reason. Students will receive a card to hand over to their teacher advising that they are late and that a reason has been entered into the system.

All unexplained absences and late arrivals require a reason and will be followed up.

We appreciate your cooperation with this.

If you have any questions or require clarification please contact Deb O'Neill, Principal or Rachael Courtney, Assistant Principal.

KIDS YOGA

Due to Wendy (the yoga teacher) being in India on a yoga retreat, **Kids Yoga** will start on [Friday March 17th](#). This 4 week, Term 1 block makes it a great opportunity for people who have not come before to give it a go for a month and see what they think. 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.

Volunteering and Mandatory Responding to Abuse and Neglect Training

Did you know it is compulsory for **ALL** volunteers to undertake the Responding to Abuse and Neglect – Education Care – for volunteers training (RAN-EC), formerly known as Mandatory Reporting, to be able to volunteer at school from 2016? This requirement is in addition to the Department for Communities & Social Inclusion - Working with Children screening. Not attending one of these workshops may prevent you from volunteering at school until you complete this training. (If you have already completed this training for 2016 – 2018 elsewhere, please provide a copy to the school). If you are considering volunteering at school in any capacity it is recommended that you also attend one of these sessions. The training addresses how to identify possible indicators of children experiencing abuse, neglect or family violence, your obligations and the processes to follow. This is critical information for all of our volunteers. Rachael Courtney is currently running the first series of workshops for 2017. Please make sure you are signed up with Tiqbiz to get important notifications regarding further sessions this term. If you have any questions or are unsure of the DECD requirements and/or the training please contact Rachael Courtney, Assistant Principal, Wellbeing and Inclusion.

TIQBIZ

2017 sees us roll out TIQBIZ as the main way you will receive school newsletters, general updates, classroom updates, reminders, events and much, much more!

Tiqbiz is available on iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android Phone, Android Tablet and any other type of device or computer via a website version.

We kindly ask that you download tiqbiz to one of these devices, register a free account then find our school and add the groups (boxes) that apply to you.

You'll receive all the information with a push notification – much like a text message directly to your device. Any last minute changes or reminders, we'll be able to reach you to keep you completely informed and up-to-date.

The app has some great features that will allow us to get information through easily and quickly, you'll be reminded about important upcoming calendar dates, and everything we post can be translated into over 100 languages!

We've programmed the app to show icons that link to all of the online tools we use, so anytime you need to access one of these tools, you can do it easily via the app by clicking the icon that you need.

You will also be able to submit student absences, authorised by your signature, electronically signed straight onto the screen with your finger!

We feel this fantastic community engagement tool is going to hugely improve our flow of communication and resources to you, so we very much hope you enjoy using it.

Here's how to set up tiqbiz

Phone and tablet.

Search **tiqbiz** in your app store.



Android



iPad & iPhone

For Apple:

Select 'allow' notifications.

Computer

Access the web version of tiqbiz.

Go to web.tiqbiz.com then register/log-in

Add us



Log-in

Open tiqbiz and register/log-in.



Search

Select the 'Search' icon and type in our name. Select us from the results.



Add

Click the 'Add' icon beside the boxes that apply to you.



Return to search

Click the back arrow to return to search.



Home

Click the 'Home' icon to view.

Please email for technical support: support@tiqbiz.com

Pokemon Cards

There have been some issues with Pokemon cards (missing/swapping etc.) at school. Please discourage students from bringing cards to school.



WATER SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM TAKE HOME INFORMATION

This year Water Safety Education is scheduled for Term 1, Week 5 for all students in Mainstream, Reception to Year 5. Year 6/7s and IELC students will have their sessions in Term 4.

Access to water and participation in aquatic activities in, on and around the water plays a significant part in the lives of Australians. Pool, rivers, lakes and beaches provide opportunities to enjoy a variety of sport and recreational activities including swimming, canoeing, sailing, surfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, kayaking, water skiing, knee boarding, use of boats, fishing etc.

What is Water Safety Education?

Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) Water Safety Education program provides an educational experience that:

- is designed to encourage students to think for themselves, make good decisions and understand the consequences through simulated open water scenarios and personal survival strategies
- promotes confidence and awareness by providing opportunities for student to develop skills and knowledge that can help to keep them and others safe in a variety of aquatic environments
- focuses on what primary school children are able to learn in their school program to ensure they are able to save themselves in potentially dangerous situations

The program is based on the belief that **"if we only have one opportunity to teach kids what they should do if they fall into open water, these are the key skills they actually need to learn"**.

You may notice that the DECD program is different in emphasis from other "Learn to Swim" programs your child may access outside DECD. It is important that children learn the skill and knowledge and gain the understanding and ability to make good decisions around water and keep themselves and others safe.

At Gilles Street Primary School we access the program at the Unley Swimming Pool, Forestville. All students participate in a one hour lesson each day during the week.

In preparation for the program, we advise that you label rashies, bathers, towels and goggles, have a plastic bag for wet items and have sunscreen readily available. Classroom teachers may request volunteers to ensure that our aquatic activity supervision ratios are met, in particular with transportation on the bus. If you are available to assist please let your child's teacher know.

Parents are welcome at the pool. However, we do not allow any photography by parents/guardians to ensure the safety and privacy of **all** students. We will appoint a staff member to take photos and these may be accessed on request. Thank you for your cooperation.

Water Safety Education program schedules, consents and invoices will be sent home in the coming weeks.