Dear Parents and Caregivers

The first three weeks of the 2020 school year have flown by and every day I am impressed with the positive start Gilles Street students and staff have made to their learning and teaching and the effective ways students are working with each other in class and in the yard.

Our school yard is a buzzing, friendly and inclusive place to be and the manner in which our senior students are already stepping up to take a more significant leadership role around the school has been noticed and really pleasing to see.

Gilles Street staff worked extremely hard to prepare their classrooms for the beginning of the school year and this has set a wonderful foundation for the focus they have placed on wellbeing and learning throughout the early weeks of term. In every class I can see teachers presenting students with clear learning intentions and success criteria while also providing explicit feedback that enables them to move forward with their learning.

Professional Learning Community process by identifying their shared challenge of practice and groups of teachers will engaged in ongoing professional development programs for writing, maths, reading comprehension and spelling during terms one and two. These programs include Playberry Etymology and Morphology for Junior Primary Spelling, Writing Plus, Thinking Maths and Reading Comprehension Teaching Strategies.

Acquaintance Night

Thank you to all families who came along to Acquaintance Night on Tuesday. We were blessed with terrific weather and it was great to see you all taking such an active interest in your child’s learning and your involvement in our school community picnic at Glover Playground.

If you were unable to attend Tuesday’s Acquaintance night and would like to receive class information please contact your child’s teacher and request this information is sent to you.

Mainstream Parent Teacher Interviews

Following a review of our assessment and reporting schedule in 2019 it was decided to move Parent - Teacher Interviews forward to Term One. This will provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to connect earlier in the year and identify any learning or
From the Principal Continued...

wellbeing concerns in first term rather than towards the end of second term.
We believe this is a more effective process than the First Impressions Reports that have been sent out in previous years and therefore these interviews will replace the First Impressions Reports.

Parent - Teacher Interviews for mainstream students are scheduled for Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th of March (Week 8) and Wednesday 25th of March (Week 9) and all interviews are expected to be conducted on these dates.

Mr Tucker will send you more information regarding the booking process for these interviews very soon.

Mid-year reports will be sent out at the end of term two and parents will have the opportunity to attend a second Parent - Teacher Interview early in third term if this is identified as a need following the Mid-year student report.

School Council Annual General Meeting

Our School Council Annual General Meeting will be held in the school library on Monday 17th of February at 6:00pm. All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

If you would like to nominate for School Council in 2020 please submit your nomination form to the front office by midday on Monday 19th February.

If you have any questions regarding Gilles Street Primary School please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Have a great week!
Kind regards, Michael

School Fees Reminder

Unless you have made a payment arrangement with the Finance Office, or have submitted an application for School Card, all Materials & Services Fees (M & S) are due in full by the end of Term 1.

Our preferred method of payment is via the Qkr! mobile app.

Other payment options are cash, credit card, or online BPOINT. (Please note Finance Office hours.)

Invoices for your family were sent home last week. If you didn’t receive yours, please see Dil in the Office.

School Card

Application for School Card 2020 open now. Copies of forms are available from the front office, online at www.sa.gov.au, or by scanning the QR code. If you have children attending other schools, please remember you will need to complete a form for each school. Clarification can be sought here at school from Dil or at DECD.Schoolcard@sa.gov.au

Commitment to Pay for School Activities

All school activities requiring payment will be accompanied by a Commitment to Pay form. We appreciate this being completed as your intention to meet the cost of the activity. All payments need to be received prior to the activity for your child to participate. If you are experiencing financial difficulty please speak with Dil in the Finance Office or Michael Bawden, Principal.

Office Hours for Payments

Office hours for school payments are between 8.30 - 9.30 am and 2.30 - 3.30 pm. Online payments can be made at any time. Please note that Qkr! Is our preferred payment method.

If you require more information on Qkr! Please see Dil or access the information from the Online Payments section of our website.

Finance Office Information

Have you registered for Flexibuzz?

Flexibuzz is our main form of communication with parents and families so please take the time to sign up, join Gilles Street Primary School and add relevant boxes to your profile.

If you have any questions or require help please contact Mark Tucker, Assistant Principal - Teaching and Learning, at mark.tucker238@schools.sa.edu.au or the school phone on 8223 5184.
Welcome to 2020

If you were in the yard on the first day of the school year, you will have been welcomed by the smell of smouldering native leaves and plants.

This year we were lucky enough to have Uncle Fred with us to perform a smoking ceremony as a way of beginning the new year.

Uncle Fred was very keen for all students to be a part of the ceremony. He gathered all students together to explain what was happening and the significance of the ceremony.

He then guided students past the burning twigs and leaves so that all had the chance to begin the new school year freshly cleansed by the smoke.

It was a wonderful morning and a lovely opportunity for our students to build an understanding of the culture that preceded us on Kaurna land.

We would like to pay our respect and appreciation to Uncle Fred for the significant time he invested with us and thank him for the way that his deep understanding of culture was able to provide us with such a positive start to the year.

What is a Smoking Ceremony?

A smoking ceremony is an ancient aboriginal custom that involves burning various native plants to produce smoke, which has cleansing properties and makes pathway for a bright future.

Certain traditional smoking ceremonies are also believed to be used for positive therapeutic outcomes depending on what plants are available from region to region.

When you see a smoking ceremony happening, it is a gift from Aboriginal people to all people in Australia so make sure you go to the smoke and wave it over you and cleanse the past for a better future.

OHSC Update

As you will be aware from the ‘Diary Dates’ on the front page of this edition, we have Pupil Free Days next Friday 21st of February and in week 6, Friday 6th of March.

OHSC will be open between 7:45am-6:15pm each of these days. Please scan the QR codes to access information and permission forms for each respective day.

Community News

2020 OPEN EVENING AND PRINCIPAL’S TOUR

**Unley High School**

**OPEN EVENING**

6.00pm - 8.00pm
Principal's address - 6.30pm
Bookings are not required

**PRINCIPAL’S TOUR**

9.30am - 10.30am
Bookings essential for Principal's Tours
Register at: tours@adh.edu.au

**MARCH 4**

**MARCH 18**

Adelaide Junior Bulldogs

Register Now 2020 Season

Only $80

**Bulldogs Cap Included with 2020 Registration**

Girls!

Are you interested in playing Aussie Rules Footy for a local club?

The Goodwood Saints Football Club is seeking players for under 10, 12, 14, 16 & 18’s and women’s senior football.

Season commences 4th April

For further details contact Fabian Muller
Female Football Director
gfrc@goodwoodsaints.com.au

WWW.GOODWOODSAINTS.COM.AU