Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you for everyone’s patience while the repair works continue on Building One. The tradespeople are nearing completion of the external repairs and I am looking forward to the scaffolding starting to come down this Friday.

Some external work needs to continue after this time, before internal painting begins during the school holidays.

Following completion of Building One repairs we will be shifting our attention to continuing to lobby for an upgrade of Building C in the back corner of the school. I will keep you informed of any developments in our school facilities improvement process.

School Council Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all parents and caregivers who attended the 2020 School Council AGM on Monday 17th of February.

The 2019 Gilles Street Annual Report was presented at this meeting. If you were not at the meeting and would like to read this report it is available on the school website.

The AGM is also the time for electing parent / caregiver School Council representatives who serve a two year term. There were two vacancies and I would like to congratulate David Conroy and Ramesh Segaran on being elected to fill these two vacancies.

Ramesh and David join Emma Anderson, Catherine Campbell, Siobhan Guy, Matthew Byrne, Susie Masi, Doreen Begovic, Emily Bourke and Carlton Wilson who are returning parent representatives. Staff elected representatives are Ginny Pryor and Rachael Tennant.

The first “ordinary” School Council meeting was held directly after the AGM. The most important function of this meeting was to elect the 2020 School Council office holders.

School Council elected David Conroy and Emma Anderson as Co-Chairperson, Ramesh Segaran as Treasurer and Catherine Campbell as Secretary.

Congratulations to office holders on your election and thank you to all School Council members for making yourself available to fill these important roles. I look forward to working with you throughout 2020.

The next School Council meeting is Monday 16th March at 6pm in the school library.

Information Communication Technology Rollout Progress

The third and final phase of our ICT rollout will be complete later this term when another 50 laptops come on line at Gilles Street Primary School.

Following this the student to device ratio will be less than 2:1 and this, in conjunction with our
up to date Wi-Fi infrastructure and fast internet is a vast improvement on the very limited access Gilles Street students had to information and communication technology 18 months ago. Thank you to School Council for supporting this process, to Mr Tucker and Owen for all of their hard work in researching and designing the best possible configuration of ICT structure and assets across the school and to all staff who have embraced this roll out and made sure that their own professional learning has enabled them to expose students to high quality learning supported by ICT.

We will be reviewing the ICT rollout later this year and updating plans to ensure the system is effectively maintained and improved in future years.

Teacher Professional Development

Gilles Street teachers are continuing to focus on a cycle of continual improvement in line with the 2019 to 2021 School Improvement Plan. Tomorrow all Mainstream Teachers will be meeting with colleagues from Walkerville and East Adelaide Primary Schools as part of our Learning Design Assessment and Moderation process, IELP Teachers will be focusing on Orthographic Mapping in Reading and SSOs will be involved in Trauma Training.

School Supervision Start Time

Gilles Street Primary School is the only school I know of that runs a free before school supervision program. At most primary schools, teachers do not start duty until 8:30am and any students on school grounds before that time need to be signed into before school care at a cost to parents.

In an attempt to support our school community Gilles Street Primary School before school supervision commences at 7:45am and is free. Children are not able to be on school grounds before 7:45am as there is no supervision and it is not safe.

Please make sure your child is not on school grounds before 7:45am.

I would like to acknowledge the significant support of School Council in continuing to allocate resources to provide free before school supervision from 7:45am.

Have a fantastic long weekend and 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

RAA Street Smart

On the 17th and 25th of February we were lucky enough to have Christina from the RAA to visit and work with our IELP and mainstream junior primary students about road safety.

These interactive sessions included information about pedestrian, passenger and cyclist safety.

Staff reported that students were engaged and focused during these lessons, which highlighted to all the need for vigilance when using the roads in our busy city location.
In recent years we have built a relationship with Julia and Caitlyn from Flinders Park Tennis Club, as they look to help us develop tennis proficiency in our school.

Through the Partnership Program with Tennis Australia we have been able to purchase significant tennis equipment including our own set of collapsible nets.

After working with our junior primary students in 2019, Julia and Caitlyn have returned in 2020 to advance the skills of our middle and upper primary students.

The program focuses on fun, with maximum activity time for each student. Each of our year 3-7 students in IELP and Mainstream classes will have four lessons to develop their understanding of the great game of tennis!

If you would like more information about a tennis club for your child to play at, please visit https://www.tennis.com.au/clubs

Hi, my name is Osborn, and I am in year 5 at Gilles Street Primary School.

On Friday the 13th of March I will take part in the World’s Greatest Shave to help raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. I will be talking about why I have decided to shave at the next assembly (Friday 13th).

If you would like to support my Greatest Shave and donate to the Leukaemia Foundation please search ‘Osborn Forward’ at www.worldsgreatestshave.com

Following a review of our assessment and reporting schedule in 2019, it was decided to move Parent - Teacher Interviews to Term One.

These Interviews for mainstream students are scheduled for Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th of March (Week 8) and Wednesday 25th of March (Week 9).

The booking window for interviews closes at 5:00pm on Friday 13th of March.

You should have received a letter outlining how to register for the Sentral Parent Portal. If you are having trouble with this process please call the school on 8223 5184 or email mark.tucker238@schools.sa.edu.au

If you have used the portal previously, you are able to log in using your existing credentials at www.sentral.gillesstps.sa.edu.au/portal/login
**East Adelaide District Swimming Carnival**

On Tuesday the 3rd of March, Gilles Street PS sent 19 of its most determined swimmers to Kensington for the East Adelaide District Swimming Carnival. As always, students’ spirits were high and everyone was eagerly waiting for their race to be called. I was pleased with the efforts from all swimmers who made GSPS proud.

A massive congratulations to Clara from Mr Thorpe’s Rm 14, who won her heat of the 50m Freestyle.

Well done to all who competed on Tuesday.

George Thring

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**Message from an ex-student**

In the last week our school received an email from an ex-student, Zahra Tavakoli. Zahra attended the Intensive English Language Program as a year 5 student in 1998.

Our program was Zahra’s first experience of speaking English, and this foundation has allowed her to become a successful urban planner working in many places around the world. Zahra currently lives in her native Iran, but is about to emigrate to Canada to continue her career.

She had this to say about her time at GSPS, “Remembering those days is one of my greatest joys, as I learned English for the first time in Adelaide. Looking back to those days’ memories, I found a little happy girl, and I am so proud to have the opportunity to have some of the best days of my life in this school.

I just wanted to share my feelings with you, and I hope every other child would have the same experience as me.”