



Gillwinga Public School

A leader in Excellence Innovation & Opportunity

Telephone: 6642 2344

Facsimile: 6643 2051

Email: gillwinga-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Principal: Colette Abrahall

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to another busy week. Today our students had another opportunity to work with well known Australian Author, Mr. John Heffernan. Mr Heffernan will be back at Gillwinga on Thursday 29th April and I am sure the students and staff look forward to his return visit.

Thank you to Mrs Baker and 5/6B for putting together the ANZAC Day assembly last Friday. A special thank you to all those students who marched on ANZAC Day and participated in the commemorative service. It was great to see our two school Captains, Brooke Lilley and Joshua Tajber, having the confidence to stand up in front of such a big crowd and read the "Prayer for Thanksgiving", well done. The following photos were taken at the Anzac Day march:





This week we will be holding our annual cross-country event on Thursday 29th April. This year we will be combining with South Grafton Public School. Students will start walking the course at approximately 9:30am. Parents are more than welcome to come along and cheer on the children. The Clarence District Cross-Country will also be held at Gillwinga on Friday 7th May. Those children who qualify will receive information and permission notes early next week.

Some parents may remember the wonderful success we had with our school Rugby League team in 2009. Much of that success was made possible through the work of Ms Cross and Mr Josh Nagle. This year Mr. Nagle has again agreed to help out with our school team and we have already entered them into the Goodwill Challenge, a competition organised by the Australian Rugby League for students in Years 5 and 6. This year Mr. Nagle will also coach a girl's touch football team and they have also been entered into the touch football draw for the Goodwill Challenge. We are indeed very lucky to have Mr Nagle working with our students and thank you also to Ms Cross for organising this great opportunity for both boys and girls.

While we're on the sporting front, Mrs Magarry has been working very hard with the girl's Netball team and they will face off against South Grafton in the first round of this year's PSSA Netball Knockout competition. We will let you know when this match is to be played.

Mrs Magarry has also been working hard with the school chess teams and we are just waiting on confirmation of the venue for the first round of that competition.

No doubt you have heard or read reports in the media concerning this year's NAPLAN tests which are due to be conducted in Week 4 (10th – 14th of May). At the moment, the majority of Year 3 and 5 teachers at Gillwinga have agreed to run this year's tests and parents will be advised of the details closer to the actual test dates.

Seeing as we live in such a technologically based society and knowing students' great love of homework, I thought this little quote was quite amusing:

"Computers are being called upon to perform many new functions, including the consumption of homework formerly eaten by the dog".

Doug Larson - newspaper columnist

Kind regards

Phil Cavanagh (Relieving Principal)

Congratulations to our Writer and Mathematics Champions of the week. Both students are from 5/6B.

Writer of the Week: Samantha Duroux



Mathematics champion of the Week:

Shania Knight



Week 1 weekly award winners: Sebastian Bailey, Elisa Allen, Reese Russell, Hanna Kaptein, Jesse Ross, Julian Torrens, Bailey Chalker, Tegan Fallon, Janai Ross, Joshua Gordon, Jack Kelleher, Zarly Smith, Shanea Young, Rhys Fordham.

Bronze Award winners: Hanna Kaptein and Jax Graham.



Handball competition:

Handball is very popular at Gillwinga. In Term 1 we held our very own Gillwinga Handball Competition. The winners were:

Stage 1: Jesse Ross and Isaiah Thornton.

Stage 2: Megan Tillmann and Matthew Vermeulen Smith.

Stage 3: Brooke Lilley and Dane O'Connor.

These winners will go onto the Clarence Valley Handball Competition held at the Basketball Stadium early in Term 2. Congratulations to our six winners and all the best at the next level.

Music: Some music information: A US Study of Year 5 students found that incorporating music learning into other curriculum areas helps kids learn maths and science concepts.

Stewart House: Please return any donation money with the Stewart House envelope to the front office by this Friday.

Dates to remember:

Clarence Science Initiative (CSI): Wed 28th Apr, 12th, 19th, 26th May, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June

Writing Workshop: 27th and 29th Apr

District Cross Country: Fri 7th May

NAPLAN WEEK 4

Language conventions & writing: Tues 11th May

Reading: Wed 12th May

Numeracy: Thur 13th May

Computer Skills International Assessment: Tues 25th May

Science International Assessment: Wed 9th June

Queen's Birthday: Mon 14th June

School Photos: Thur 17th June

School show – Leaping Loonies: Fri 18th June

School Reports home: Fri, 18th June

Parent/Teacher interviews: Mon 21st, June to Fri 2nd July

Spelling International Assessment: Tues 22nd June

Writing International Assessment: Tues 22nd June

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

Wed 28th April: Sue Osborn

Thurs 29th April: Michelle Tainsh

Fri 30th April: Beth Herkess
Sharon Bagster

Mon 3rd May: Deneal Connelly