As is always the case, Term 4 finishes as quickly as it starts. We have now come to the end of another incredibly busy year. I cannot say thank you enough to all of you, but here goes...

Thank you to all of our parent/carer community. You are our partners in your child’s learning and in being partners we continue to work in the best interests of your child. Thank you to the members of our School Council who volunteer their time to work with the school to keep making it better. A special thank you to the Parent and Community Engagement group (PaCE), who work tirelessly to increase the engagement of parents/carers in our school and organise great school fundraisers. Their ability to access raffle prizes and such talented entertainment each year is impressive! Thank you to our teaching and learning staff - teachers and SSOs do a wonderful job to ensure the learning experience for children is the best it can be. Thank you to our front office staff who keep the machines running; without them I know I couldn’t do my job. Thank you to our volunteers who listen to reading, accompany classes on excursions and contribute in the library, amongst so many other things. There are many things we wouldn’t be able to do without your additional support. I would like to also thank my leadership team. They have been incredibly supportive during my time as Principal. Our teamwork has ensured a smooth transition in what could have been a very unsettling time.

Unfortunately at this time of the year we do need to farewell some amazing educators and children. It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Ms Erin Lee, who has been such an asset in our mainstream Reception/Year 1 class working alongside Rachael Tennant. We are happy that she will continue to make a positive impact on children and their learning as she moves to North Ingle School. We will miss her greatly. We say goodbye to Mel Adams, who stepped in to work with that same class as Ms Rachael Tennant stepped in as Aboriginal Education Teacher during the latter half of the year. Señorita Daniela also leaves us, so we say ‘gracias’ to her and we say goodbye to one of our SSO staff, Peter Meffert. We thank him for the work he has done with students, teachers and the rest of the SSO team. Ms. Deb Fisher finishes her contract with us in the Intensive English Language Centre but we hope to see Ms Deb back in 2018.

In the IELC we have a number of bilingual SSOs who support students with their English and so we extend our thanks to each of them for the role they carry out in the school. We do have one special mention and that is for Grace De Zolt, who has decided to retire at the end of this school year. She has made an enormous contribution to the English language development of so many students over many years. Grace loves to travel so we are sure there will be a lot more of this in her future. We also say goodbye to several of our IELC and Mainstream students. We hope they stay in touch and share all of their future successes with us.

On a more positive note, I am excited to welcome Mr. Michael Bawden, our new Principal for 2018. Mr Bawden will bring a new energy to the school and I look forward to what we will achieve next. As teacher in Year 2/3, we welcome Ms. Gill Newby. We are also happy to have Ms. Evana Loucas, Ms. Janet Leadbeater, Ms. Gabby Aujard and Ms. Rosa Santangelo (IELC) remain on staff for 2018.

I sincerely wish each and everyone of you the happiest of celebrations over the coming holidays. Enjoy your time with your loved ones, stay safe and see you Monday 29th January 2018!

-Gyllian Godfrey
Oh, the Places You’ll Go!...

On Tuesday 12th December we said congratulations and ¡Adiós! to all our Year 7 students whose time at Gilles Street has come to an end and they now embark onto their next big adventure: High School! The evening started off with a lot of commotion and excitement as the students, dressed in their best, were treated to a very special dinner, followed by the graduation ceremony in our school hall.

As our students entered the hall, they were greeted by a round of applause and welcomed by the wonderful performance of our Taiko Drummers. We were honoured once again to have Ms Rachel Sanderson, MP for Adelaide, present the ‘Community and Service Citizenship Award’ and this year it was awarded to Lila O’Donnell. Well done, Lila!

From then on, each of our students was invited to take to the stage to share with us their reflections on what they had learnt during their time here, as well as their experiences with the school community and the place, itself. For those of our students who had been with us since Reception, it was particularly special to talk about this as they reflected on the life-long friendships they have made. Here are a few quotes from some of their speeches:

“The past 8 years of my life have been full of joy and laughter.” - Anatasya.

“I’ve made major improvement in my learning that has resulted with the confidence I now have for high school.” - Joseph

“Thank you so much to Ms. Rosa who has been my great teacher and helped me a lot.” - Rika

“I would like to thank all the wonderful teachers for helping me throughout my primary years, especially Mrs McMahon and Angela, not only for the 1 year she taught me but for my whole primary school journey.” - Archer

“I am looking forward to making new friends and meeting new teachers.” - Alyssa

At the end of the ceremony, we congratulated the Year 7s who were awarded the Student of the Year award, so well done to Domenico Quagliata (Rm. 13), Trung Nguyen (Rm. 12) and Rika Imamura (Rm. 14). Once the official proceedings were over, it was disco time where the Year 7s were joined by their Year 6 friends to dance the night away! ¡Buena suerte niños! (good luck children).

-Señorita Alicia Alfaro

Recitals, Senior Voices and Special Achievements.

Our young musicians have been very busy this term. Senior Voice students were invited to sing at the launch of the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal in the Mall early in November. They had an absolute ball and have been asked to participate in the event again next year. The school’s drum, guitar and piano students have also held recitals for their families and friends. Thanks to our amazing instrumental teachers Kat, Nick, Monica, Courtney and Judith for all of your hard work over the year and thank you to our families for making the time to be there, supporting our students in their musical pursuits! (cont. over the page).
The school’s first rock band ‘Hey You Free Fall!’ also held a pop-up concert during lunch last week, rocking out tunes by Lennard Smith, Green Day and other rock bands. A big congratulations is in order for one of our talented students, Mariette Gates for completing her Preliminary Grade AMBE piano exam, finishing with an A Honours result, the highest grade you can achieve! We have also had several students audition for other outside groups, bands, orchestras and troupes and we hope they continue to nurture their musical talents. It has been an amazing year for us and I am so proud of the wonderful achievements of our students here at Gilles Street. I wish everyone safe holidays and I look forward to making more music with your children in 2018!

-Mr. Michael Aquilina
Performing Arts Teacher
**Expressions of Interest**

If your child is interested in learning an instrument, please see below for information about instrumental lessons in 2018. Forms are available from the Flexibuzz. Forms can be returned by Week 1, Term 1, 2018.

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**2018 Instrumental Music Lessons**

**Expression of Interest**

Dear Families,

Gilles Street Primary School is now calling for an Expression of Interest for Instrumental Music Lessons in 2018.

Due to a number of uncertain factors, such as school timetables, structures and new Departmental guidelines around Instrumental Lessons, we cannot confirm your child’s lessons until the beginning of the new year.

The Expression of Interest will allow the school to know what the demand for lessons will be like in 2018. Once we have finalised school processes for 2018, and gone through the correct Departmental procedures, we will contact families to confirm lessons.

Please note: that by completing this form it does not guarantee your child will receive lessons in 2018. If your child is continuing lessons in 2018 we cannot guarantee that they will be learning from the same teacher as this year.

All instrumental lessons will be finalised by February 2018.

Pricing for instrumental hire and lessons will be confirmed in the new year. Lessons are currently $28 per lesson for individual and $14 for paired/group. These prices are subject to change in 2018. In 2018 a once off payment of a $10 services fee will be required for lessons. This $10 fee covers the cost of student diaries, photocopying and administration running fees.

In 2018 lessons for Piano, Drums and Guitar will be offered. String lessons are offered through Instrumental Music Services and a separate form must be completed for those lessons.

Please complete the following ‘Expression of Interest Form’ and return it to Mr. Aquilina by the end of Week 9 for your child to be placed on a waiting list.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email at Michael.Aquilina139@schools.sa.edu.au or by speaking with me at school.

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