We have had a great start to the year at Pilton State School. It has been wonderful to see supportive families and happy students working at learning and enjoying themselves while they do it. Thanks very much to the P&C for putting on the warm welcome at the BBQ last week. It was very well attended and we hope to see all families involved at the school as much as they are able in 2015.

**Reading Helpers and Volunteers**

It is very important that we recognise the volunteers and helpers at school that do so much for us. Thankyou to you all. If any community members are interested in reading with students the best times for this are from 8:00am until 8:45am and from 10:00am until 10:30am when the whole school focuses on reading during reading groups. For those who wish to spend the whole morning in the school I am confident we can find plenty of opportunities to assist our students with their school work… and then join us for morning tea! If you are new to the school please see Madonna or I in the office to sort out the basic requirements for school volunteers.

**Homework**

Homework has been sent home for all students and there is an expectation that students will complete it. Homework is designed to build responsibility for learning and give students the opportunity to practice the skills and reinforce the knowledge that has been taught at school. The most important thing for all students remains reading every day and all students have been added to an online-program called Accelerated Reader that allows them to take online quizzes and complete other activities about the books that they borrow from the school library. I will be putting some guidance about this out in next week’s homework book for my class, and students who don’t have access to the internet at home will have lots of opportunity to use this at school. Finally, homework is not meant to be stressful or strenuous for students or parents so please keep in touch if there are any problems arising at home.

**iPads for learning**

We have recently set up and started using 7 iPads in the school. These have already proven to be a great tool for motivating students and have given us the opportunity to try new ways of conducting number facts practice, reading groups and even making electronic books and reports. I would like to show some of these new ways of learning at the first P&C meeting if you would like to come and see how it can work, and maybe check out some of the apps that can be beneficial for students to have on home devices.

**Student Leaders**

We have three school leaders at Pilton State School this year. These students are invited to attend a student leader’s day in Brisbane on the 20th March. More details about this day will be forthcoming and if any parents of our leaders wish to attend please let me know as we are organising transport to and from the event in co-operation with other schools in our area. We will be holding a presentation morning of the student leader badges in the next two weeks and look forward to hearing from our new school leaders about what leadership means to them. Student leader’s will be able to purchase a school leader shirt and as a part of fund-raising for this will be selling ice-blocks at school, keep an eye out for an advertisement they will prepare with all the details for this!

All the best for everyone’s entries into the Clifton Show and thanks to the staff and parents who have helped our school be well represented this weekend.

Jon Robertson
Clifton Ladies Social Tennis will commence at 9am on Tuesday, 3rd March at the Clifton Association Tennis Courts. The cost to play is $3. Compulsory membership to the Association is $50 per year, which includes insurance with Queensland Tennis. The Ladies Social Tennis has teams organized to play fixtures each Tuesday (excluding School Holidays), but it is very social and you don’t have to be a Sam Stosur to play. If you have young children, you are assured of plenty of babysitters!

Remember, the more you play, the more you improve your game, and it’s all about having fun and friendship. Please contact Janette Frahm on 46 964 541/ 0409 49 5 514 or Shirley Erhardt on 46 663 470/ 0427 509 065 by 21st February. All ladies welcome and invited.

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**Annual General Meeting**

of S214 and P1198 Bus Routes (Pilton /Clifton and West Haldon/ Pilton).

**Wednesday 18th February, 2015.**

Parents and guardians of children on the above bus routes please note the AGM of the respective Conveyance Committees will be held at the Pilton State School on Wednesday 18th February 2015 at 7.00pm for the West Haldon/Pilton and 7.30pm for Pilton/ Clifton.

As the meeting requires a quorum of 75% of all eligible parents and guardians (based on one representative per family) you attendance would be appreciated. Please advise if you have any agenda items. Karen Watson (Sec S214): 0488051663 Ian Brady (Pres S214): 0417077293 Rebekah Turkington (Sec P1198): 46972103

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**Tenders Invited**

The agreement for the removal of school rubbish, presently being done by the P&C, must be renewed annually. Therefore the school is now calling for tenders to provide this service. Rubbish would need to be taken to the dump twice weekly during term time.

Tenders should be sealed in an envelope and should arrive at the school office by:

**4pm Friday 27th February, 2015**

Address:
Private and Confidential -Tender Enclosed
The Principal
Pilton State School
24 Pilton Valley Road
PILTON QLD 4361

For further information, please contact the school office.

The lowest, or any tender may not necessarily be accepted.

Thank you,
Madonna

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**Free Healthy Living Activities.**

- NEW FREE Clifton Walking Group & Win a Kobo E-Reader - Get together with your friends and family and join the new, free Women Out Walking Clifton group. Starting Feb 6, the group will meet weekly on Fridays at 7:30am at the Platz Oval, Clifton Recreation Reserve (off Morton St). Join and log 8 walks by 31 March to win a Kobo e-reader valued at $129. To join or find out more contact Sarah on 0407 735 440 or sarah.chad@bigpond.com.

* FREE Cambooya FOODcents - Book into the next FREE, 6-week FOODcents course to learn about nutrition and health, and how to prepare low-cost, tasty and healthy meals for you, your friends and your family. Each 2hr session includes cooking a healthy meal and eating together, and everyone who completes a course receives a free healthy cookbook! The Cambooya course will start on Friday 13 February at the Cambooya Bowls Club. To book or find out more contact Chris on 0467 773 328 or csteel@redcross.org.au.

* FREE Healthy Living Videos & Win a Fitbit - looking for ways to keep healthy in 2015? Check out the new healthy living videos at www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/change for some healthy living hints and tips. Got some helpful healthy living tips to share? Email them with your name and suburb to change@toowoombarc.qld.gov.au by Friday 27 February to go into the draw to win a Fitbit activity tracker valued at $120.
On Friday we all worked on our vegetable gardens. We took out all the weeds and turned the soil over. Some of the plants that were there from last year had to be pruned or taken out. Everyone helped to water and mulch the gardens. By Leon and Casee

Former Pilton students = 2 wins in the Clifton Show Girl comp. Leanna Dau had some very strong competition in the Junior Show Girl and Rachael Bell was the only entry in the show princess. Michaela Groombridge represented Pilton in the Miss Teen comp (a big field) and also spoke very well.

This year our Hermitage competition is about Photosynthesis. Our experiment is to grow radish seeds in different environments and to find out if they are a ‘Sad or Happy Radish’. So far we have each planted radish seeds in a pot of potting mix and we will water them everyday. By William and Madhava.
Hi all,

I hope everyone has settled back into the routine of school and making the dreaded lunches.

The P & C AGM will be held on Monday the 23rd of February commencing at 6 pm. This involves electing the Executive for the coming year, so it would be great to get a good representation of parents there. On this night, plans for the coming year will be discussed, including how best to distribute funds and what fundraising is required. Not only are the meetings a great way of being informed of things happening now and in the future for the school, they are a great forum to give suggestions about how best to support the school in providing our kids with resources and opportunities that will be positive for their learning.

The commitment is not onerous. Last year we had 5 meetings for the year. There will be some fundraising activities but the old saying ‘many hands make light work’ really does apply. I understand everyone is busy, but if we all do our bit, it is easily done, and builds a strong community within the school.

There seems like such a lovely atmosphere at the school with all those little preppies running around. A big thank you to the staff for helping the kids to settle in so well. I would also like to thank our community volunteers who are already back doing reading with the children, it is much appreciated.

Thank you and I hope to see you on the 23rd.

Jacqui