It is great to see everyone back safely from the school holidays, and to have Mrs. Duggan back with us after her leave. I had a very enjoyable time away, and my holiday was topped off with the news I had been given the opportunity to stay at Pilton State School until the end of the year. Mr. Fuller has taken on the Acting Principal roll at Cherbourg State School for the rest of the year and we wish him all the best for the semester ahead. I would like to thank Mrs Heaton, Miss Stewart, Mrs Bazley, Mrs Bell, Mrs Kylie Ballard and Mrs Collette Johnston for all their endeavours while Mrs. Duggan and I were away.

Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews
This week students will be bringing home their Semester One report cards. Please take the time to go through these with your student as they represent a great amount of effort that students and staff have put into the learning journey that has happened in the first half of the year. As we have the privilege of having a connected school community, our staff are all available for an interview to discuss your student’s report if desired. Please contact us at school to arrange a convenient time. On this note, please be aware that we are more than happy to have parents come up to discuss student learning at any time of the year, not just at reporting time, and value the close connection that we can have with parents at Pilton State School.

Be a Bucket Filler
We have started the term with a strong emphasis in classrooms and the playground on making good choices about the way we interact at school. We are very fortunate to have students that are able to do this so well, and wanted to reinforce the way that we expect students to behave at our school. We have been consistently teaching and expecting students to be able to talk to each other in the first instance of something making them upset. This could be as simple as saying, “Please stop that, I don’t like it.” In the rare occasion that this doesn’t solve the problem, we have been very encouraging of students telling a teacher straight away so we can ‘nip the problem in the bud’. I have been very impressed with the way that students at Pilton State School have generally behaved in my time here and am confident that the bucket filler approach continues to be a powerful motivator.

Trees for Schools Day
On Wednesday next week we will be planting a number of trees on Wednesday morning at the start of the day. This is a part of a school program to highlight the importance of trees in our world, and keep our schools great environments for learning. If there are any parents or volunteers who would like to assist students with planting a tree on this day, that would be great.

Read Every Day
Being over half way through the year, we have not taken the pedal off our desire to help students be the best readers they can be. Please keep up the great work with reading home readers and signing off on the Accelerated Reader titles on the upper class homework sheets (starting again on Monday). Please keep in mind that all students have been entered in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, and they will be eligible for a certificate from the Premier of Queensland if they reach their reading target on the Reading Log that was sent home last term.

If you need another copy of this please let us know and we still have plenty of time to complete the details of books that students have read, as the Premier’s Reading Challenge is open until the 28th of August.

France – Australia BRIDGE School Program
I had expressed interest with the French Embassy in being involved in the France – Australia BRIDGE School Program which links schools in France and Australia in order to develop cross-cultural and language opportunities for students. As we have a strong French language program in place at Pilton I was keen to see if we could get connected to a French school and create a mutually beneficial relationship to help build student cultural awareness and create a context for the language learning that is undertaken at our school. I was very fortunate in being given the chance to approach a school in a rural area of Normandy and after they accepted the offer to partner with them in the program, I had the opportunity to visit them while in Europe recently. It was great to meet these students and sit in on an English lesson. Their school principal and I have been in touch a number of times since and are hoping to initiate student ‘pen-pal’ arrangements through school in order to practice our language skills, and would love to share experiences of cultural significance between our school and theirs. I am very much looking forward to seeing where this exciting opportunity will lead for our students.

All the Best Mrs Bell
Finally, I would like to wish Mrs Madonna Bell all the best for her leave during Term 3 and thank her very much for helping me so much with getting through the first six months of school administration. Thanks also to Mrs Debbie Bruntflet for agreeing to help us at school by taking on some of the school administration roll in Madonna’s absence.

I hope everyone has a great couple of weeks despite the cold and look forward to a wonderful Term 3,

Jon Robertson
A reminder for Family Contributions to the P&C. Please contact me if you are unsure if you have paid your fees for 2015: $125 for one child; $160 for 2 or more children. These fees assist the P&C to provide the end of year picnic, excursions, bus transportation, ICT use in the school and contributions towards school camp and school resources.

Pie Drive orders are in, and we will have the Pies back next Friday 24th July. Thank you to everyone who ordered, and helping us to get closer to achieving our Fundraising goal for this year.

Thank you to everyone who bought a number in our 5 week Lottery. The Draw will start this Saturday night, with the 1st number drawn in the Gold Lotto Draw. The weekly winner will receive $45. Good Luck!

Bek Turkington

Next P&C General Meeting Monday 3rd August, 2015 at 6pm.

Here is our Draw:

1. Brady Family
2. Bek Turkington
3. Robert Parkinson
4. Duggan Family
5. Amy Tait
6. Simon Gill
7. John Beard
8. Janette Frahm
9. Cameron Cooke
10. Adam Summers
11. Brady Family
12. Robbie Dewar
13. Duggan Family
15. Graham Dau
16. Sternbeck Family
17. Sally Shine
18. Jan Ward
19. Leanne Heaton
20. Duggan Family
21. Ken Gill
22. Brady Family
23. Russell Turkington
24. Trevor and Jan Ward
25. Brooke Stepanoff
26. Sternbeck Family
27. Brett Turkington
28. Deb Stewart
29. Caldwell Family
30. Des Dessaix
31. Kellie Saville
32. John Heaton
33. Stuart Fuller
34. Brady Family
35. Duggan Family
36. Madonna Bell
37. Sarah Summers
38. Cathy
39. Trevor Ward
40. Gary Wormington
41. Duggan Family
42. Maureen Gill
43. Samantha Flanagan
44. Jacqui Gill

Please make cheques payable to:

Pilton State School P&C

For EFT payments:
BSB: 084 610
Account Name: Pilton State School P&C
Account Number: 508 683 666
Action from the Emu Creek Athletics Days

Georgie competing at an all School Equestrian event at Texas.
Book Club orders are due back by Friday 31st July.

Australia Day Awards

Nominations now open!

Do you know someone in your community who would be worthy of a Citizen, Sports or Community Group/Event Award?

Nominate them for a 2016 Australia Day Award!

Nomination forms can be found:
- Clifton Service Centre
- Clifton Library
- By contacting Meghan on 0474 700 197 or meghan.cox@toowoombarc.qld.gov.au

Nominations close on the 31st October, 2015

DMA 5070615