Principal’s Report

I celebrated our choir’s success in Wednesday’s newsletter last week unaware that the news would get better before the week’s end. On Friday we received notification that our choir had not only won their section but had been declared the most outstanding primary school choir for the Gold Coast Eisteddfod. Given this latest award, our students will be performing in the Eisteddfod “Musicale” concert on Sunday 12 October along with other overall winners. Tickets are available from the Gold Coast Arts Centre box office. Again, I extend my congratulations to all the students and to Alison and Marg for their support.

On a similar theme I am pleased to share that the Instrumental Music Program will be extended down to include Year 4 in 2015. Attached to this newsletter is a letter explaining the details.

Electronic NAPLAN results have been returned to schools earlier than in previous years. Along with local data we will utilise these results to celebrate progress and inform future program planning for student learning. Individual student reports are in transit to schools and these will be distributed upon arrival.

The Canberra tourists and Lake Ainsworth campers have sent positive reports of their experiences so far. I am proud to share that passengers from the plane on which our students were flying took the time to provide some very positive feedback about their conduct.

As a “bush kid” it wouldn’t be right not to mention the beautiful rain that fell on the weekend. Our school gardens have already begun to respond. I trust your spaces did likewise. I am still seeking to replenish our stockpile of mulch and seek your help by suggesting to tree loppers operating in your area that they may wish to support our school.

The excitement is building as the Book Character Parade draws closer. The staff has been discussing their costumes for weeks and I know from my conversations with some boys and girls that many mums and dads are busily preparing outfits for the day. The parade will be a culmination of a range of Book Week activities that have been coordinated by Kathy and Shelley in the library. As always, parents are welcome at this
special celebration of literature.

As part of their ongoing professional development, our teachers will be participating in a Nerang Alliance professional learning afternoon with teachers from other schools next Wednesday. To ensure they are on time all teachers will be leaving as soon as they can after 3.00pm. Please help them be punctual by collecting your children promptly.

In closing, a reminder that next Friday (29 August) is a public holiday for the Gold Coast Show. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Gilston State School Choir win Best Primary School Choir at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod

A very well deserved “Well done” to all the members of our Choir; you did a magnificent job and truly deserve the accolades that are directed to you. Our sincere thanks go to Mrs Miller and Mrs Edgelow who have worked tirelessly to get our children to where they are today. They didn’t just teach them to sing; they taught them to believe they could achieve a dream and instilled a degree of confidence that will transgress to any context and memories that will be with them for many years to come.

Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.

Often we need a clearer understanding of life in order to overcome our fears. With our desire and need to be ‘educated’, the statement “knowledge is power”, has never been more pertinent. Today with the state of the world that we live and will grow in, this has never been more true and important. If you want to be successful at school and in life, you must think strategically and plan ahead with the knowledge necessary to enable you to perform at your best. Plan, Practice, Perform!

Bringing NAPLAN home: The results and your child.

“As parents and carers, we all take great interest in our children and their paths in life. We know it is really important that they develop key skills such as literacy and numeracy to help them through school, work and life.

NAPLAN (the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) is a national test undertaken by all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students, designed to provide information on your child’s literacy and numeracy achievements. This year NAPLAN was taken on 13, 14 and 15 May.

NAPLAN results provide additional information, which can be used along with school assessment and testing. It allows you to compare your child’s achievement with other children across Australia. By itself, NAPLAN does not improve the quality of education, but it gives us a national snapshot of how our children are doing in those important skills of literacy and numeracy.

NAPLAN is important to your child as it provides information for school authorities and schools to review the effectiveness of their programs and to address any areas requiring improvement. It is important that you know as early as possible about your child’s strengths or if your child needs assistance. NAPLAN helps with this.

Sometime in August and September you will receive your son or daughter’s NAPLAN report. I encourage you to read the report in the context of what you already know about your child’s academic performance and in conjunction with other assessment information and reports you may already have received from your child’s school. Further information on how to read the report is found on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/student-reports.html

Your son or daughter’s results will be reported against six levels of achievement. Your child’s results will be indicated by a black dot. The black triangle shows the national average for children in that year level.

This means you can compare your child’s performance to children in the same year level. As with all tests, small differences between students’ NAPLAN scores do not reflect real achievement differences.

Using this information, you can then take the time to celebrate the success that you see and/or identify areas for improvement. You should talk to your child’s teacher about what you should do next if you see areas that need improvement.

If your child is concerned with their results, remind them that NAPLAN isn’t a pass or fail test and there are no rewards or penalties for the result your child achieves. Rather, the NAPLAN student report is a point in time snapshot of your child’s achievements in the important areas of literacy and numeracy. This snapshot gives an indication of how your child compares with students across Australia.

ACARA is committed to improving learning for all young Australians through world-class curriculum, assessment and reporting. This year, we are aiming for NAPLAN results to be returned to you more quickly than in previous years.

As teachers and parents continue on with the rest of 2014, I urge you to keep NAPLAN student reports in context. Don’t stop any activities your child enjoys; don’t focus your child only on literacy and numeracy. Evidence shows that a well-rounded education, including the pursuit of other activities such as sport and art, contributes to the development of literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills. All activities are crucial to the school program and contribute to developing informed, happy children who are confident in their own abilities.”

Robert Randall Chief Executive Officer, ACARA

DENTAL VAN NEWS

Students in Years 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 &1 have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card to take home. If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above or are new to the school and did not receive an examination card and would like to arrange for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre 1300 300 850. Monday to Friday 8.00am–4.30pm excluding Public Holidays.

If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au
LIBRARY NEWS

Book Display - Book Week is this week. We have a wonderful display of all the 2014 short-listed books in our library and we invite all parents and children to visit the library and look at them. The theme for 2014 Book Week is “Connect to Reading/Reading to Connect”. We are hosting activities to connect children to reading. On Thursday, the Eve Pownall information books will be discussed. On Friday, it is the Book Parade in the morning. This will be followed by a visit from our local council librarians who will be running activities about the book week books for the rest of the day for students to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you at our library this week and at our Book Week Parade.

Book Club Issue 6 has been sent home this week. Please return all completed orders to our library by Thursday 28 August.

The Great Book Swap – on Wednesday 3 September our school will be holding this event in our library to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation or ILF. If your child has a book they have grown out of and no longer reads, they can bring it to our library and swap it for a different book. All that is required is a gold coin donation please. This is a great chance to clear out your bookcases of books your children have outgrown and they have a chance to get some new books for a cheap price! It is a worthy cause to support remote communities and our donation will help them support reading. The Library will take books from 1 September (Monday morning at 8.00am). Thank you. Kathy Stone & Shelley Batson / Librarians

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Thursday 21 August – Tanya
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 22 August – Kristy Griffin/Theresa Evans
Ice Blocks – Kamila
Monday 25 August – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Janette Green
Tuesday 26 August – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Tanya K
Wednesday 27 August – Erinna
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Thursday 28 August - Tanya
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 29 August – Gold Coast Show Holiday
We still have a couple of Senior Shirts, both year 6 and 7 at $10.00 each.
Mini Bites will be coming off the menu.
If anyone has any suggestions or wants to help out, please come and see Nicole in the tuckshop. Thanks once again to all my volunteers.
Have a great week. Nicole Meesen

COMMUNITY NOTICES

A FASHION PARADE of pre-loved clothing will be held at the Mudgeeraba Uniting Church, 89 Franklin Drive, on Saturday 23 August at 1.30pm. Admission is $6 for adults and $3 for students which include a delicious afternoon tea. There'll be lucky door prizes and a Craft and Jam Stall. Enquiries phone 5525 1309.

CURRUMBIN VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL - Sunday 14 September, 9.30am–2.00pm. Live Music, Market Stalls, Rock Climbing, Farmyard Feeding, Jumping Castle, Games, Arts & Craft, Food, Deck Bar & More! Stall Holders Wanted – From $10. 1226 Currimbink Creek Road, Currimbin Valley. Ph: 5533 0312 info@currimbinfarmschool.eq.edu.au

NERANG SCOUT GROUP GARAGE SALE – 3 Hope Street, Nerang, Saturday 23/8/14, 7.30am-3.00pm. Enquiries Danielle 0402 562 093 or email perangscouts1@bigpond.com www.nerang.baseball.com.au or phone 0419 865 993.

ROBINA SHS ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING – Thursday 21/8/14 – 5.30-7.00pm – Performing Arts Centre. Enrolment packs are available on our school website or from reception – info@robinashs.eq.edu.au

SURFERS PARADISE SLSC NIPPERS SIGN ON 24/8/14, 31/8/14, 14/9/14 - Nerang Pool 7.00am. Contact admin@surfersparadiseslsc.com.au or 5531 5966 for info.


BURLEIGH HEADS MOWBRAY PARK SLSC NIPPER SIGN ON Sunday 31/8/14 8.30am-12.00pm, 14/9/14 8.30-10.30am. For more information junior nominations@burleighslsc.com.au

KIRRA SLSC NIPPERS SIGN ON Sunday 24/8/14 and 14/9/14 Oasis Pool Club Banora, 9.00-11.00am. Further information at www.kirrasurfclub.com.au

ASHMORE LITTLE ATHLETICS SIGN ON – Boys & girls 5-16 years – 30/8/14 & 6/9/14, 12.00-3.00pm, Brian Johnston Athletics Track, Currimburra Road, Ashmore. More information at www.ashmorelittleladies.com.au

TENNIS COACHING – classes conducted on Monday mornings from 8.00am. Cost is $17 per lesson, discounts for 3 or more children. All enquiries Rowan Hollands, Gold Coast Tennis Coaching 0411 867 971, rowan@gctenniscoaching.com.au or www.gctenniscoaching.com.au.

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au