PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Tempting as the views from Q1 last week were last week, all eyes were fixed on the performances of the choirs and the strings ensemble that entertained the crowd within the room. Some of our girls and boys performed alongside students from other schools from across the Gold Coast at the top of the Q1 while another group joined their counterparts on the beach. Music: Count Us In (MCUI) is Australia’s biggest school initiative, with more than 500,000 participating students from over 2,100 schools nationwide. Music education has been proven to improve students’ literacy, numeracy, school attendance and confidence. Music: Count Us In brings teachers, parents, students and the music industry together in celebration, as more than half a million people unite to sing the same song at the same time, right across the country.

Next Tuesday, November 11 is Remembrance Day. Although it is a special day to Australians, there is less understanding about the reason for this occasion than for ANZAC day. The following information provides more context of its relevance to us. Please make the relevance of the day a topic in your house.

At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919 two minutes’ silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two
minutes on the hour of the armistice "which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom". The two minutes' silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations on Armistice Day.

On the second anniversary of the armistice in 1920 the commemoration was given added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an unknown soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. The entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the Unknown Soldier's tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead.

In Australia on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993 Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention. The remains of an unknown Australian soldier, exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Memorial's Hall of Memory. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11 am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence. This ceremony, which touched a chord across the Australian nation, re-established Remembrance Day as a significant day of commemoration.

Four years later, in 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute's silence at 11 am on 11 November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

During the last two weeks I have had the opportunity to speak with the students in Years 6 and 7 as I taught in their classrooms. One of the main topics of discussion has been the expectations of them during the last weeks of their primary school and looking forward to what high school will bring to their lives. I have been impressed with the maturity exhibited by the students as they recognised the importance of continuing to set a positive role model through until the last day of school. For most this was an intrinsic desire to do what was right. Perhaps for a small minority it was the conversation about the privileges that may be lost should the standards slip that provided motivation. Irrespective of the inspiration, I know that if all students commit to their pledges, the final weeks will be memorable for all the right reasons.

On the topic of high school I encourage parents of students in years 4 and 5 this year to consider the scholarships that are available in our local high schools. Recently some of our Year 6 and 7 students were presented with scholarships for 2015. These scholarships can assist recipients financially as they complete their studies. For more information of what is available, please visit the school websites or contact their office staff.

Gilston tuckshop provides a high quality service for our students and staff. The success of this service hinges on the skills and dedication of the convenors and volunteers. This Friday is Tuckshop Day, a chance to recognise the efforts of the tuckshop team, especially our convenors, Nicole and Tanya. On behalf of a grateful Gilston State School community I thank our tuckshop team.

To ensure that safety is maintained in our car park and on the surrounding roads in the afternoon, I ask that you delay your arrival so as to avoid queuing that inevitably backs up onto Worongary Road. The collection zone has a two minute loading limit at this time and is not a place to park and wait. I, or another staff member, will continue to supervise students in the afternoon in the collection zone until 3:30 pm to heighten safety further.

Throughout the world different cultures perform rituals and ceremonies to effect change in the weather. As our gardens continue to suffer in the heat I ask you to adopt your preferred method to see if we can tempt some rain. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

P & C NEWS

Trivia Night this Saturday evening. Have you booked your table? See the Gilston Club for information.

Volunteers for the uniform shop and the tuckshop are always welcome, just drop by if you have 30 minutes to spare. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Attending Nerang High in 2015?

Nerang State High School will open their Uniform Shop on Saturday 22 November from 9.00 am – 12 noon.

Uniforms can be tried on for size for purchase or layby.

Get in early to avoid the rush in January.

Normal hours are Tuesday–Thursday 8.15 am–11.00 am.

January trading hours are Monday 20 January – Saturday 24 January .9.00 am-12 noon.

Any queries contact the Uniform shop at Nerang on 5578 0333, ushman3@nerangshs.eq.edu.au or pandc@nerangshs.eq.edu.au

Have a great week, regards,

Narelle Reed P&C President Tel: 0403046920

GILSTON CLUB NEWS

Trivia Night Details: Trivia Night will be held in the hall this Saturday at 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start. See your Table Captain for theme as there is a prize for the best themed/dressed table & participants. BYO nibbles (please note there are no heating facilities on the night and food is not available to purchase). Once again, you may want to liaise with your table captain for ideas. If you have not paid – please note that tables will not be reserved without payments; however, payments for extra people on the night will be taken at the door. There is no need to bring your own chairs! Alcohol will be served: Beer, wine, spirits and soft drinks. EFTPOS will be available for purchases (no cash out). Any Questions please call/text me on 0414912217. It will be a great night!

Lisa - Chairperson

LIBRARY NEWS

The Book Fair starts this Monday. Please feel free to visit the library over the two weeks while it is on from 10 November to 24 November. Books make wonderful gifts for children for Christmas and reading helps occupy them during the long summer holidays.

Come along, browse, buy and support our school library in this fundraiser.

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au
A big thank you to all the parents who have kindly returned overdue library books over the past two weeks. There are still some books that have not been returned. Please keep looking and if you cannot find the book, please settle the account with the librarians in the next 2 weeks.

Thank you. Shelley Batson & Kathy Stone - Librarians

CHAPPY’S SPACE
A Blended Family is made when two people decide to get married or live together, and one or both of them already has children - sometimes blended families are called Step Families.

Getting used to your new family
It can be quite tricky getting used to living with people that you haven’t lived with before. Everybody has different ways of doing things and it takes time, and lots of sorting out, to get things right, and, to get things to a place where everyone is feeling comfortable with the way that the new blended family is working.

Some questions that kids might have are:
What will I call my new Step Mum /Step Dad? Will the rules stay the same? Or will we have new ones? Will I still get time with my Mum or Dad by myself? Do I have to do what my Step Dad or Step Mum tells me? What will happen on my birthday or at Christmas - will that all stay the same? Will I have to share a room? Will my ‘real’ Mum or Dad (the one that I don't live with) still be able to come over to visit? If I like my new Step Parent, will that make my parent I don’t live with, angry? What if I really don’t get on with my new Step mum or dad?

These are all good questions and ones that should be talked over with a trusted adult. Some kids might want to talk to their parent alone, or it might be that they will be happy to talk the questions through with everyone in the family. Can you think of any other questions that might be important to think about? To Read More

APPLICATIONS FOR 2015 BUS PASSES ARE DUE NOW

All New Passengers For 2015
To ensure timely distribution of bus passes in the New Year, please submit your application before the end of November 2014.

Important Information For Existing Bus Pass Holders
At the end of each school year, please ensure that the current pass is retained to be used in the new school year until the new pass is issued.

Students with an existing bus pass need only re-apply for a 2015 bus pass if your child

- is moving from Primary to Secondary School
- is repeating a grade
- is changing their home address or school

Eligibility And Application Forms

http://www.suqld.org.au/camps
You can access the Chaplaincy service at Gilston via Mrs Clark or by contacting Chappy Sami at samanthab@chappy.org.au. All referrals however, need to go through our admin SNaC committee as per Mrs Clark. You can start this process through your class teacher.

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800, Beyond Blue 1300 224 636, Lifeline 131 114, Cancer Council support line 131 120, Commonwealth Carelink Centre 1900 0520222 Juice 107.3 Careline 55 283 555

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 6 November - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Friday 7 November – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Friday 14 November – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Thursday 13 November - Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen

It has come to our attention that a number of parents who order their child’s lunch over flexischools are ordering all the food for first and second break to be ready at first break. The food for second break is then sitting in the child’s bag until second break. This then raises concerns regarding food safety practices.

If your child needs food from the tuckshop for both breaks, please order the food in the appropriate break options on flexischools. This will ensure your child is receiving freshly prepared food for each break and food safety protocols are not being breached and putting your child at risk of illness.

We appreciate your co-operation in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Nicole and Tanya in the tuckshop.

Have a great week. Nicole – Tuckshop Convener

FOOD PARCELS FOR EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF
Newlife Uniting Church Robina 55782932
Mosaic Family Baptist Church 07 5525 2477

SUNDAY NIGHT KIDS CLUB - ‘Kids Roc’ 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month put on by United City Church held in William Duncan School Hall. Enquiries - Sue 0421664466 www.kidscents.com.au

FOOD HAMPERS FOR ANYONE - Cost $15 with $50 or more value. Pick up is at New Street Nerang. For further information call Nathan 0402227575

CYC HOLIDAY CAMPS Burleigh - Spring camp registrations open now. Get in quick to not miss out. For grades 4-7 only. For information on upcoming school holiday camps visit http://www.cycburleigh.com.au or

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au
Please Return Completed Applications To
Surfside Buslines
PO Box 3036
ROBINA
Q 4230
Email schools@tagroup.net.au or Fax 5571 6556

Applications will be processed over the Christmas school holidays. Once applications are approved, bus passes are sent to school for collection. Please allow 10-15 working days from the start of Term One 2015.

Prior to Government approval of bus travel assistance, all students can travel by bus to school using a TransLink gocard.

Reminder
A valid bus pass must be produced TO THE DRIVER or the relevant fare paid via cash or gocard. Information on fares, go cards, zones and bus timetables is available from TransLink http://translink.com.au/ or phone 13 12 30.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
MERRIMAC SHS ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING for Parents of students entering Year 7 and Year 8 in 2015 is on Wednesday 5 November, 2014 and will be held in our School Library from 5.30pm – 6.30pm for Year 7 and 6.30pm – 7.30pm for Year 8.

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@qctenniscoaching.com.au or www.qctenniscoaching.com.au.

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au