The element of surprise was a feature in many households last week. Children were wide-eyed throughout the country as they searched for eggs left overnight. The faces of delight were again replicated yesterday when they arrived at school to see the new playground surface. This installation is most welcome and along with substantial concreting works and painting, was among a range of projects completed during the break. I wish to recognise the often unseen efforts of our Business Services Manager Jan for the coordination of these projects. It’s now your turn to help at our working bee next Sunday (4 May). “Mulching Madness” is an appropriate title for the morning as we attempt to cover as many garden beds as possible in a few hours. Again we will have the services of Damon and his machinery to load trailers and utes making our task significantly easier. This opportunity to contribute to our school is, whilst sweat-raising, an enjoyable time that makes a significant difference to our school. The mulching madness commences at 8.30am and will conclude with a sausage sizzle at 11.30am. An additional project that may be undertaken, if we have sufficient skills and talents nominated prior to the day, is the painting of the outside of some of the classrooms. If we are able to undertake this task it will release notional funds (held outside the school) to be expended in the maintenance of other areas. If you have an interest and skills with painting please nominate your availability with the office staff.

ANZAC Day is one of the most significant commemorations on the Australian calendar. All students at Gilston will attend our ANZAC assembly this Thursday at 9:15am as a culminating activity to the learning that is occurring on the topic within the classroom. Parents are welcome at this event. In addition to our assembly I invite students to join us at the Mudgeeraba ANZAC March and Sunset Service on Friday. The march assembles at Elsie Laver Park, Railway Street Mudgeeraba at 3:30pm. Participating students are to be dressed in full school uniform.

The three explicit improvement agenda items you see in the left column of the newsletter remain front and centre this term. After significant progress in term 1, practices have already been modified and refined with more precision anticipated this term. Again, I commend our staff for their commitment to the agenda and their respective inputs.

Within the student population at Gilston we have 37 students with a verified disability. Based on their respective needs,
teachers make adjustments to ensure access to, and success with, the curriculum. Of this group some students have been diagnosed with Autism, a lifelong developmental disability which impacts on every aspect of a person’s family and community life. April is Autism Awareness Month and later in this newsletter there is more information about this disability to help us all gain a more detailed understanding of what autism is.

**Attainment of targets for an organisation requires the commitment of all.** So it is with our attendance target. Many students achieved close to 100% attendance in term 1 helping to bolster the overall result. These results offset the unavoidable illness absences that are part of every term. As we start term 2, I seek your continued commitment to ensuring your child is at school on time every day. We have some ground to make up if we are to be successful with our 95% target.

The Positive Parenting Program emanating from our first Enrolling Families information will commence next Thursday. Parenting is arguably the most important job we undertake. At times it is also the most challenging. I applaud the program participants for their proactivity in enrolling in the course. If you want to know more about the PPP program contact our office staff.

Gilston has adopted an Enrolment Management Plan the details of which can be located on the EQ website. The plan makes reference to a catchment map that is utilised to determine whether a residence is within or outside the catchment. I have been advised that these equidistant catchment boundaries are being reviewed for all schools by our department and will be active for the start of semester 2 in readiness for the 2015 enrolment process. I do not expect significant change to our boundary given that there are no new schools in our general area. Parents keen to know whether you reside in the boundary should visit the “address guide” on our website.

With the installation of the new surface in the playground, it is timely to remind everyone that there is no staff supervision of the children before and after school. Only students whose parents are in attendance are permitted on this area prior to and after school. Your adherence to this direction will avoid the total closure of the spaces at this time.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**Term Two, Semester One 2014**

Welcome back everyone to term two and the start of the end of the first semester. This period will see students being given reports of their progress in learning in their respective year levels. I’ll take this time to remind all students that genius is nothing but labour and diligence. You will achieve greatly if you apply these traits to your every day at school. An Australian cricketer, Glen McGrath, once said that his way of achieving greatness was to focus on doing the difficult things that other bowlers don’t do in order to become successful. Also, a golfer, Gary Player, when asked why he was so successful replied, “The harder I work, the luckier I get.” If ever you wanted to know the secret ingredient in why people become super successful, then these examples show you. So every day when you’re engaging in your lessons, remind yourself – We Are Learning to do what? It is a reinterpretation of the teachers lesson objectives (or learning intentions), phrased in a way that students can easily understand. Ask yourself about What I’m Looking For, to explain to you the lesson outcomes in terms that you can understand. By the end of the lesson your work will reflect the amount of labour and diligence you’ve put in and the success you’ve gained.

**NAPLAN**

Tuesday 13 May through to Thursday 15 May are the testing days for years three, five, seven and nine across Australia (week 4). Over the years there’s been a lot of media coverage about the event which has caused a lot of angst for all concerned and I dare say it’ll be on again shortly. Can I say that I believe this sort of coverage is the cause of the anxiety students feel and is misleading. The true purpose of the testing is to guide future teaching practice of the students concerned. It gives a ‘point in time’ summative account of how any particular child performed when they sat the test, and that information used with other formative data gives schools/teachers a holistic, quantifiable account of where a child is performing. On its own it is not a true indicator of a child’s academic prowess. To do that would give credence to the nay sayers and derogatory media coverage. It would also be irresponsible of educators to use NAPLAN data in such a way. So to those involved, students and families, be positive and give your best each day while you’re here at school. Labour and Diligence every day will do it for you.

**P&C NEWS**

Welcome back to term 2. Monday 28 April is the P & C meeting 7.00m in the Staff room. We welcome and encourage you to attend, this is a great forum to have a say on what and how things are done. Diversity of opinion is a good thing and helps achieve the best possible outcome for all.

**Working Bee – 4 May - 8.30–11.30am** - Time for some garden mulching and a general tidy up. All hands available would be greatly appreciated, children most welcome. If you have gloves, rakes or a barrow please bring along. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**Uniform Shop** - Arrival and delivery of all ordered and all replacement senior shirts has been completed. Should you have any questions or queries please contact me. Yes finally those elusive size 8 dresses are in stock and orders have been delivered.

**Volunteers needed** - You may have noticed we have days when the crossing is not supervised. If you are free for 20 minutes to assist in this area, you would be providing that extra level of safety for the children. Please call me should you have some time available.

Extra help in the uniform shop is also needed. If you can help out would you contact Christene on 0432275195.

**Nerang Market day – Postponed** - This event was to be held on the 3 May but has since been postponed.

**Country Paradise Parklands – Saturday 31 May**

**Community Notice Board** - Supporting the school community and keeping it local are good things. The P & C provides the community notice board for community events no cost, and advertising space at a small cost per term. If you have a community event you wish shared or would like to place an advertisement, please contact Trent Firmin on trivermel@bigpond.com. When walking past, check out some of the advertisers from businesses within our community: Gourmet coffee lovers, free samples contact Natasha 0420824101, Mermaid pool fencing, 58752772; Rent4Keeps 0401712976 (with a special iPad offer for Gilston Families).

Have a great week, kind regards, Narelle Reed – P & C President Tel: 0403046920.
GILSTON CLUB NEWS
Welcome back to Term 2 – I hope everyone had a great break! We’re straight into this term with the Fiji Raffle getting up and running in the next 2 weeks. All families will receive a letter this week with the details including a tear-off which you can fill out if you do NOT want a raffle book to be sold. If this is the case, you can also email me at gilstonclub@gilstonss.eq.edu.au with the relevant details.
This raffle has the ability to raise about $12,000 if all tickets are sold, so for little effort, a lot can be gained. Don’t forget Entertainment Books are available on-line. Contact me if you need the details.
Our next Gilston Club meeting will be held next Wednesday 30 April at 9.30am at the Tallai Golf Club (cnr Worongary Road & The Panorama) – we hope to see you there.
Regards, Lisa - Chairperson

LIBRARY NEWS
Any students with overdue books will receive a letter in the next week notifying parents of the title and details of the book. Please return these books to our library. If you cannot locate the book/s in the next 2 weeks, the book will be deemed lost and an invoice for the cost of replacing the book will be forwarded to you.
The Readers’ Cup Competition challenges students to read widely, work as a team, and continue to develop a love of reading. During Week 10 of last term, our school finals in the Readers’ Cup were held in the hall. Sixteen students were chosen to represent their classes in the finals and all received a certificate of recognition. Congratulations to Gilston’s Readers’ Cup team, Alissa Lott, Anna Yamada, Angel Faulkner, Lachlan Doonican and Evan Lecaille. They will go on to represent our school on Wednesday 11 June at Hillcrest Christian College in the Gold Coast Regional Readers’ Cup Competition. Many thanks to Mr. Preston for his hard work in organizing the Year 6 and 7 class finals. Thanks also to the Year 6 and 7 class teachers and all the students involved who helped to make the Readers’ Cup a success.
Librarians Kathy Stone & Shelley Batson

April is Autism Awareness Month.
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong complex developmental disability which impacts on every aspect of a person’s family and community life. Individuals diagnosed with ASD display severe difficulties in three areas: communication, social interaction, and flexible thinking and behaviour. In addition, some individuals with ASD also have significant sensory processing difficulties. The unusual perception of sounds, sights, smell, touch and taste, can lead to distinctive behavioural responses. Once rare, now 1:100 school age children in Australia are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, with ASD being 4 times more prevalent in boys than girls. Every person is a unique individual. We all come from our own unique family; have distinctive personalities and a particular sense of humour. A diagnosis of ASD doesn’t change the uniqueness of an individual. The term ASD describes a specific cluster of difficulties someone is experiencing; it does not define the whole person.
The difficulties faced by individuals on the spectrum and their families can be lessened when peers and community come together to support and understand Autism Spectrum Disorder and become more aware of the diversity in our school community. All people have talents and abilities, and it is through our community interactions that we model how we care for and nurture people with diverse ranges of ability, from different cultural and religious backgrounds, and with disabilities.

CHAPPY SPACE
Welcome back to school and my apologies to all those who have been missing breakfast club due to my absence the last two weeks of term 1. I am especially disappointed we didn’t get to serve Easter buns but we will make sure it happens next year!
As from term 2, Chappy days will be Thursday and Fridays.
Programs running in term 2:
Kid’s with Courage - Year 5, Bella Girls - Year 7, G.R.I.T.T. - Year 7
Chappy week celebrations - May Breakfast club is held every THURSDAY by the hall from 8.15-8.50am. We usually serve toast and fruit cordial and on occasion pancakes and more regularly baked beans or cereal. Any parent/ grandparent/carer is welcome to come in and help. We are normally packed up by 9.15am. Thank you to our regular volunteers though you are few. A special reminder for our Student Council/Year 7 leaders that you are now valuable breakfast club helpers. See you Thursday.
If there are any families in our community who wish to send prayer requests to our School Chaplain, no need to go into detail, you can access this community service via chappy’s email samanthab@chappy.org.au
Food Parcels For Emergency Food Relief - Newlife Uniting Church Robina 55789322. Mosaic Family Baptist Church 07 5525 2477
Saturday Night Kids Club - 'Kids Roc' 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month put on by Harvest City Church held in William Duncan School Hall. Enquiries - Sue 0421664466 www.kidsroc.com.au
You can access the Chaplaincy service at Gilston via Mr. Weatherburn or by contacting Chapley Sami at samanthab@chappy.org.au. All referrals however, need to go through our admin SNaC committee as per Mr. Weatherburn.
Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800, Beyond Blue 1300 224 636, Lifeline 131 114, Cancer Council support line 131 120
Commonwealth Carelink Centre 1800 0520222

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Thursday 24 April – Help Needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Monday 28 April – Dannie
Ice Blocks – Janette Green
Tuesday 29 April – Help needed. Senior Helpers
Ice Blocks – Irene Nicholson
Wednesday 30 April – Stacey
Ice Blocks – Grant Patching
Thursday 1 May – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 2 May – Alex, Brenda.
Ice Blocks – Kamilla Bestmann

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a wonderful, relaxed break.
We are introducing NEW MENU ITEMS this term:
Tuna Pasta $4.50, Potato & Ham Bake $4.50, Corn on the Cob $1.00, Mini Rice Bites (original, cheesy & chicken) $1.50, Mini Quiche $1.50, Pikelets 20 cents.
Also Quench spring fruits now replaces all Aroonas and we are trialing Glee in place of LOL.
Don’t forget SUSHI TUESDAYS.
Our preferred method of ordering is only at www.flexischools.com.au.
I would like to mention to all parents and students that if by any chance someone receives an incorrect order, e.g. wrong item/missing items, please ask for permission from the teacher to bring the order with the bag straight to the tuckshop so we can correct the problem right away. If we have replaced an item with something different (because we may have run out) read the bag for replacement option. If you are unhappy with item please come and see us (we will only give until the next day to replace/refund the item).

Could all children be sure to only take the type and flavor drink ordered from the tuckshop bags. You are welcome to swap if you wish but bring the one ordered with you to the tuckshop.

Parents, please let your children know this information. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Mandy 0404 038 313 or email gilston­tuckshop@gmail.com.

Thank you and have a wonderful long weekend.

Mandy & Nicole

COMMUNITY NOTICES
NERANG STATE HIGH SCHOOL 2015 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING - Wednesday 14 May & Tuesday 16 September - 5:30-6:30pm - School Hall. All children welcome
MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING Tuesday 20 May – school library. Year 7 in 2015 at 5.30pm, Year 8 in 2015 at 6.30pm. For more information phone 5595 8666.

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