PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

ANZAC Day continues to be a most significant event. The commemoration each year by people of all ages is testament to the culture of recognising self-sacrifice that has developed since the landing at Gallipoli 99 years ago. I applaud all who took part in the assembly at school last Thursday and especially recognise those who presented including Jeff Stephan and Major Mick Doonican.

There were many services and marches across the Gold Coast last Thursday. Many of our students attended these events throughout the day with their families. At the sunset service at Mudgeeraba there were six students this year in our group. Other students proudly represented other organisations includes scouts and guides. As the majority of the population of students now comes from north and east of our school, I propose that next year we participate in the morning march at Nerang. If in the lead up to ANZAC Day it becomes apparent that there is sufficient support to warrant both options I will make the necessary arrangements to accommodate the support.

Volunteers continue to be a significant feature of our school. Their actions add value to the overall learning opportunities and conditions we enjoy. I salute each and every volunteer for their contribution and encourage those of you yet to join the ranks to find your way of making a contribution. It just so happens that this Sunday there is an opportunity to make a mark. Our working bee will be focused on mulching our gardens and, support permitting, dressing some feature walls with a coat of paint. If you can spare a few hours, please come along and join the team and stay afterwards for a barbecue and cool beverages.

The “Enrolling Families” project has led to early identification of the students for next year and consequently we have been able to communicate with families and make arrangements that will support a smooth transition into school next year. Again, I encourage those serious in securing a placement to express interest as soon as possible so you can be part of the programs that will be offered this year. These include the Positive Parenting Program, the first round of which has been booked out. At last check more than 90 students’ names appear on the list for Prep next year with eight already registered for 2016.

On 12 May, our Assistant Regional Director will be visiting Gilston to monitor progress against our agenda. Sam will be visiting classrooms and speaking with teachers as part of her...
visit. I will be proud to have her meeting our dedicated staff and students.

Gilston is a proud part of the Nerang Alliance of Schools that includes: Numinbah Valley, Numinbah Valley Environmental Education Centre, Beechmont, Canungra, Nerang, Nerang SHS, William Duncan and Worongary. We have collaborated for many years to enrich each of the participating schools through staff development and resource sharing. This Sunday and Monday I will be attending the annual strategic planning event (The Retreat) for the Alliance at the Numinbah Environmental Education Centre with my colleagues from the other schools. Consequently I will not be on site until late Monday afternoon.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Believe in your own thought, believe in what is true for you: that is that it’s never too late to be whatever you dream to become. We call a person a genius when all they have done is believe in themselves and give their idea its best shot. However the difference between being a genius or not could simply be the degree of belief in yourself and the degree of ‘best’ that you show in yourself.

Around the School

Over the break our champion dirt track motor bike rider, Bray Bowden (year three), successfully competed in the 2014 Australian Championships, coming third overall. This is four places up on last year’s effort from memory and is a fine example of ‘giving your dream its best shot’. Well done Bray.

Nerang State High School Visit

Yesterday we saw this in action as students from Nerang High came to give Gilston students a glimpse of what they could achieve through the NSS Signature Programs. It was great to see the past students of Gilston coming back to show us what they are doing now and inspiring present Gilston students in the future.

The Comets Academic Signature Program is for academically inclined and goal driven students to unlock their potential. The Comets Program is specifically designed to provide an education experience based around 3Cs sought after by universities and employers: Creativity, Collaboration and Critical Thinking.

A number of our students took home forms to apply for the Signature Programs. If you wish to apply for a position in the Programs please complete an application form and return it to the office before 10 May. Forms can also be downloaded from the Nerang High School website, https://nerangshs.eq.edu.au or telephone (07) 5503 7888. Email: admin@nerangshs.eq.edu.au

An open night will be held at Nerang High Hall on 15 May at 5.30pm for families wishing for more information about any aspect of the school.

P&C NEWS

Reality hit at Monday night’s P & C meeting, our finite human resources are now overstretched. Please be aware the P & C and Gilston Club teams choose to volunteer their time and each of us is keen and willing to keep doing so when we can. This is not a complaint, there is just more to do than we can personally achieve. What you may not know is for the past several years the coordination (before an event leg work) has been attended to by the same 5 to 7 people. This might sound like a reasonable number of people, however if you consider annually the volunteer P & C and Gilston Club organise and participate in: Student Banking, crossing supervisors, discos, Mother's day & Father’s day stalls, fete, fundraising raffles, cross country, sports days tea and coffee, trivia night, arts night, presentation evening, market night, working bees, spelling bees, community grants for infrastructure improvements, coordinating the actual infrastructure improvements, community movies in the park, plus manage the 2 businesses operated by the P & C – the uniform shop and the tuckshop. As you can imagine these activities take considerable time. The ongoing reduction of new volunteers over the past few years sadly means we are forced to make some changes.

The Disco planned for 12 May has been CANCELLED. Whilst parent help on the night is always readily available and appreciated, it is the before the event preparation which can’t be done for this one. There is a disco planned in September and we would be grateful for one or two parents to help coordinate to enable it to go ahead.

Student Banking – is at a volunteer critical low. A minimum of 1 extra volunteer each Friday morning for an hour or so is needed if we are to continue to offer this service to the students. (you count, tick and stamp). If you are available please call Mel on 041608689.

Uniform Shop – We may need to close on Tuesday afternoons. We have been fortunate that Kirsty, for the past 14 or so years, has volunteered every Tuesday afternoon but her work commitments are restricting her availability. Without volunteers the shop cannot stay open on a Tuesday and Flexi Schools online plus the Friday shop will only be offered if no one else is available. Be aware every second Friday we are also short a volunteer. If you can help in the Uniform Shop would you contact Christene on 0432275195.

Tuckshop – no it’s not closing, but without extra sandwich makers for first break it is struggling. The tuckshop only turns a nominal profit as it is designed as a service to the students and families. If we need to engage additional paid labour the prices will increase – not a desirable thing for anyone. Are you available for 1 hour every other week, just to make sandwiches?

The 2014 Great Gilston Fete has been CANCELLED. This event takes considerable planning, and a team is needed. To have a Fete in 2015, it will need more than the 1 parent who volunteered to help for 2014. Again, help on the day is great, but the organization before the event is what makes it all possible.
Crossing Supervisors – you may have observed there are many days where the crossing is unsupervised. It is the little extra safety that we would love to offer, but someone needs to hold the lollipop. Could this be you? It is around a 20 minute task.

These decisions were not made lightly, and it is fully accepted that not all members of the community can or wish to volunteer. As well as many who will not be happy about the decisions taken, we are open to suggestions but reality remains it is your time alone that will resolve this shortfall. If you can and would be available to commit to an hour a week volunteering, it would be great to hear from you.

On a brighter note:

**Working Bee IS ON - 4 May - 8.30-11.30am - Yes, it is ON!!!!** The gardens are calling. All hands available and children are most welcome. If you have gloves, rakes or a barrow or trailer please bring along. We are very grateful to Damon Harris who again will be bringing some excavation machinery (Men Tonka Truck Stuff) to make short work of transferring the mulch, and save a heap of back breaking shovelling. Trailers and barrows are needed to then disperse mulch around the gardens. If we have some extra hands this Sunday, we would like to undertake some painting. Just putting it out there. Hope you can make it. Oh and the BBQ will be running to feed the hungry workers.

Kind regards,
Narelle Reed - P & C President Tel: 0403046920.

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**
Thursday 1 May – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 2 May – Alex, Brenda.
Ice Blocks – Kamilla Bestmann
Monday 5 May - Dannie
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Tuesday 6 May – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Wednesday 7 May - Stacey
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Thursday 8 May – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 9 May – Alex
Ice Blocks - Kamila

**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](http://www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au)

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Bookclub Issue 3**
Bookclub Issue 3 went home with students last week. Could all book orders please be made either on-line or by phone and the student order form returned to the school library by the end of Week 3, Friday 9 May. Books will be delivered to students by Week 5.

May is National Family Reading Month. Please take the opportunity to read with your children. Activities in our school library will be held over the next month to support and encourage family reading. Stay tuned.

Kathy Stone / Shelley Batson

[www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au](http://www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au)
MOTHERS DAY STALL
Wednesday 7th April – Prep-Year 3
Thursday 8th April – Years 4-7

Nothing over $7.00
Please give your child a plastic bag to put their gift in.

FUN RUN

$6684.10 was raised – WELL DONE!!
After costs, our profit is $4491.11

Congratulations to PREP N for raising $855.00 and also to 6N for raising $338.45.
They get PE classes with Mr. Langes and/or Mr. Weatherburn participating with them.

Also congratulations to Hayden Gold in Prep W for raising the highest amount – a huge $223.00. An MP3 player is coming your way Hayden! Well done!!

The prizes will be distributed this Friday.

FIJI RAFFLE

Books will be coming out next week. All sold books and money need to go into the brown box in the office. Do not hand them to your teachers. All unsold books must also be returned in order for other families to sell these tickets. If you do not want a book, please fill in the form that went home or email me at gilstonclub@gilstonss.eq.edu.au

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

These are for sale online or via the form that went home. The digital membership is great if you don’t like lugging the book around with you. Email me for further details. There is a book in the office if you would like to have a look through.

Remember, for all things Gilston Club, call/text me on 0414912217 or email us at gilstonclub@gilstonss.eq.edu.au