Principal: Bruce Langes  
Deputy Principal: Graeme Weatherburn

Edition: 13/2014  
Date: 7 May, 2014

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
I open this week with an expression of gratitude to all those who attended the working bee on the weekend. In excess of 40 people gave freely of their time and talents resulting in a major facelift for the Prep and Year 1 block and the surrounding gardens. Again we are indebted to Damon for his time and machinery that made the loading process a breeze. Grant will continue from where the brush and roller crew left off with the painting project to complete both buildings. If you can offer Grant any further assistance please let me know so I can make the arrangements. On the mulching front, I need to replenish our stockpile - all that we had was spread during the working bee. If you know of an organisation or business that can replenish our mulch stocks, please let them know we are keen to hear from them.

The Nerang Alliance of Schools is a key component in the development of strategic direction in our local schools. I spent Sunday afternoon and Monday with the Principals from these schools formulating strategies to maximise the impact of the collective expertise in our schools. One of the key agenda items was refining the transition for students from primary to secondary school. I will share more about this throughout the year however I can advise that the planned open night for Nerang SHS will be held on Wednesday 14 May beginning at 5.30pm.

On Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, as it is commonly known. Skills that will be tested include: reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. These tests are undertaken here at school and are considered just another part of the curriculum.

It is important for you and your child to know that NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy against National Standards and compared with student peers throughout Australia. NAPLAN is not something for which students can study and they are not expected to do so. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that it is just a routine part of their school program, and to urge them to do the best they can on the day. A good night’s sleep is also very beneficial. On the test days the P & C will be providing students a simple breakfast (If you can assist please let us know).

Later in the year we will send parents an individual student

FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>8 May</th>
<th>Mother’s Day Stall Year 4 - 7</th>
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| Friday   | 9 May | Last day payment Year 5 Camp Deposit  
|          |       | Last day Bookclub orders |

2014 Explicit Improvement Agenda
- Reading and Spelling
- 21st Century Learning
- Consistent and Positive Behaviour Management

Gilston Expectations
- Be a Learner
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

Current Attendance Levels

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<th>P</th>
<th>1</th>
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NAPLAN report that you can use to view and monitor how your child is progressing.

Vehicle access to the school grounds is restricted for a range of reasons including the maintenance of a safe environment. To assist with this direction, parking permits have been distributed to all authorised vehicles/drivers. Drivers of vehicles entering the grounds without a permit will be directed to comply with the directions advertised. Failing to follow a staff direction may lead to prosecution.

To maintain the safety of pedestrians I remind everyone that access to the school is limited to the two pedestrian gates; one near the rotunda and the second near Prep. There is no pedestrian access through vehicular entries.

Saverplus is an opportunity to offset the cost of schooling up to $500. If you want to know more read the poster in the school notice board, visit saverplus@bsl.org.au or SMS your name and postcode to 1300 610 355.

I spoke to several classes last week about mastery learning. In short it is the development of long-term memory of a concept or skill. This type of learning applies to many of the building blocks of learning at school and indeed in life. Our spelling approach is based on mastery learning and teachers seek evidence of automaticity of the learning before moving students up levels. The same principle applies to many of the elements within the key learning areas.

In closing this week I suggest that, if you or your child has lost reading glasses lately, you visit the ladies in the office as our “found” collections is growing.

Stay safe and keep smiling.
Bruce

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Working Bee
They say that many hands make light work and I believe this to be true as the school was positively glowing on Sunday. A profound thank you to all those who hepled out on Sunday, the place looks great because of your collective efforts.

This isn't work, this is fun

Pretty as a picture.

A final word on NAPLAN - 13-15 May 2014 Parent/Carer Support
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. To provide an overview of the format of the tests, a full set of example tests is available.

Information specifically for parents and carers can be found in the 2014 NAPLAN information brochure for parents and carers.

Perhaps we can reassure our children at this time if we tell them to shoot for the moon. Even if they miss they’ll land among the stars. NAPLAN is a point in time; effort and reward are life-long endeavours.

GILSTON CLUB NEWS
Hi everyone... There is a lot going on at the moment so please take a moment to read the attached flyer for all updates. Should you have any queries/requests/complaints about any fundraising event, do not ask the ladies in the office. Email us at gilstonclub@gilstonss.eq.edu.au or ring one of our fantastic committee members (see flyer for all contact numbers).

All emails will be replied to so it’s a good way to get your questions answered or suggestions/complaints heard. Thanks.
Lisa - Chairperson

GPAC – Gilston Performing Arts Competition
Entry forms are now available for our annual talent competition. See Mrs Miller in the music room. Auditions start on Monday 2 June. The competition takes place on Friday 20 June.

LIBRARY NEWS
As mentioned last week May is National Family Reading Month.

Next week (Week 4) the school library will be displaying and discussing the best selection of books to read to students in the early years (P-2).

In Week 5 we will be focusing on the middle years (3-5), by displaying and discussing great books for this age group.

The focus for Week 6 will be the senior students, Year 6-7, and there will be a book display and discussion about what books this age group could enjoy.

During the next three weeks the Librarian, Mrs Stone, will be here on Monday and Tuesday between 8.00-9.00am to speak to parents about choosing books for their children. The Librarian, Mrs Batson, will be speaking to the students during the week about good books for them to read.

Foremen in the making, in the foreground.

www.gilstonss.eq.edu.au
A reminder that Book Club Issue 3 orders are due back by this Friday 9 May. Please pay by on phone or on-line and return the student order form with the payment receipt number to the library. There is a Book Club order box on the front desk to put your completed forms in.

**Overdue Books** — a big thank you to all the parents and children who have returned late books over the last week. We have had a good response to the overdue notes that were sent home recently. There are still books that have not been returned, so I would ask parents to please follow this up.

**CHAPPY’S SPACE**

BREAKFAST CLUB URGENTLY REQUIRES ADULT VOLUNTEERS IN ORDER TO KEEP THIS COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL EVENT PART OF OUR SCHOOL PROGRAM. If you believe breakfast club is a great idea and you would not like to see it end, we need people to put their hand up to help keep it open. We are no longer allowed to have children working in the kitchen and we need at least 4 adults each week. If you are happy to go on a roster to help once per month/fortnight or weekly I would love to hear from you samanthab@chappy.org.au

**KidsMatter - Making Good Choices** — It can be more than a little frustrating for adults when kids don’t think through the consequences of their decisions, say, when they ‘forget’ to do their homework or ‘accidentally’ hurt their younger sibling playing too roughly. The younger the child is, the more likely they are to focus on satisfying their immediate wants (i.e. eating lollies just before bed) and the less likely they are to consider the outcome (i.e. the inevitable sugar-high preventing a proper night’s sleep). Rather than telling them what they should do, you can step children through the process of making good decisions so they can master this important life skill. Here are some expert strategies.

**Little kids** - Consequences need to be simple for young children, but early childhood is non-problem solving. Little kids can master this important life skill. Here are some expert strategies.

- **Give them chances to make simple decisions** "Would you like to wear your red jeans or your spotty skirt today? Which is better for climbing trees?"
- **Encourage problem-solving** "Oh no, we’ve run out of bread for sandwiches! What else could we have for lunch?"
- **Allow them to make mistakes** "It’s nice that you wanted to make a cake for Daddy, but next time you need a grown-up to help you, okay?"
- **Tell stories about good and bad decision-making** "Do you think Goldilocks did the right thing going into the bears’ house without being invited?"

**Older kids** - School-age children are better able to see other viewpoints and anticipate consequences.

- **Step them through the decision-making process** "Okay, this is the issue, now what are our options? Which is the best choice? Why? Alright, let’s give it a go and see what happens!"
- **Praise them for taking responsibility** "You know we have a ‘no skateboarding in the house’ rule, but I’m happy to see you cleaning up the mess you made."
- **Set goals together** "If you get your homework out of the way now, you will have the rest of the afternoon to play."
- **Support them to stay on track** "I know it is hard practicing piano while your sister is crying. Why don’t I take her for a walk and give you some peace?"

You may also be interested in the [KidsMatter resources on decision-making](https://www.kidsmatter.org.au/deciding)

**Prayer For Our Families** - 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 5578322, Mosaic Family Baptist Church 07 5525 2477

**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 Chappy 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 8 May – Help needed
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 9 May – Alex McCarthy
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann
Monday 12 May – Dannie Faulkner
Ice Blocks – Janette Green
Tuesday 13 May – Erina Lake
Ice Blocks – Help needed
Wednesday 14 May – Stacey Gardner
Ice Blocks – Grant Patching
Thursday 15 May – Tanya
Ice Blocks – Karen
Friday 16 May – Alex McCarthy
Ice Blocks – Kamila Bestmann

Keep your eye on some menu changes in the upcoming weeks.

**Don’t forget Sushi Tuesdays.**

We are currently seeking volunteers urgently. To continue the service of tuckshop 5 days per week, your help is needed. 1 or 2 hours per week/fortnight/month would be greatly appreciated and help immensely. If you are available to offer some of your time, please come and see me in the tuckshop or contact by email. Our preferred method of ordering lunches and uniforms is online at [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au)

To **contact** the tuckshop phone 55012333 or email [gilston@tuckshop@gmail.com](mailto:gilston@tuckshop@gmail.com)

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped out last week – Alex, Stacey, Jemma, Brenda and Mel. Also thank you to the two new ladies who have offered their time to help – Erina and Tanya.

Have a great week.

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@gttenniscoaching.com.au or [www.gttenniscoaching.com.au](http://www.gttenniscoaching.com.au)

**Weatherburn or by contacting Chappy Sami at samanthab@chappy.org.au**

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