It is a wet and windy day as we publish this edition of our newsletter. As always, the safety of our students and staff is the highest priority when there is a significant weather event, such as a cyclone. In situations where the safety of students and/or staff is of concern, many processes are set in place to effectively manage the risk of harm. My sincere thanks to our parent community in appreciating and supporting us in ensuring that our students and staff can arrive at school and return home safely.

Last week saw the presentation of annual parent information sessions, giving parents the opportunity to hear directly from their child’s teacher if you do have any comments or questions.

Playgroup continues to be held each fortnight on a Monday morning and it is fantastic to see it continuing to grow! The beauty of playgroup is that it provides the opportunity for non-school age children and their families to use our facilities and resources in an educational and social way, and for those children to be exposed to quality pre-literacy and pre-numeracy activities. Our school provides playgroup as a no-cost, free for participants service for our community and we look forward to its continued growth and success. The next date for playgroup is Monday 2nd March. Please invite your friends and neighbours with young children to join us.

Finally, an enormous thank you to all members of our community members who supported our P&C association at the recent state election. With the sales of sausages, donated Springbrook grown bananas, muffins, cakes, herbs and produce from the school gardens, in excess of $600 was raised for our students to benefit from. Thank you!

Sarah Jane Ash
Principal

Welcome Mr Shelton

A welcome from the NEW Music Teacher – Josh Shelton

“I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the Springbrook State School community for welcoming me as their new Music Teacher. I began playing the guitar and singing when I was 6 years old, studying and playing in ensembles throughout my primary and secondary education. In 1999, I was accepted to study at the QLD conservatorium where I completed a Bachelor of Music Technology and then on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Music education. I have been an active member of the Australian Music Industry for over 15 years as a Songwriter, Band leader, busker as well, as a touring and studio musician. I’m passionate about Music and the creative, independent, collaborative and expressive outcomes that can be achieved by working with it. I look forward to working with you and your children in Music.”

Josh Shelton
**Things to Remember**

**Bring library bags on Mondays for library borrowing. Students are unable to borrow books without a library bag.**

**Bring a hat everyday**

**NO HAT=NO PLAY**

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**JUNIOR ROOM NEWS**

It is wonderful to start our day with huge smiles and enthusiasm to learn. A big thank you to all the parents who came to the parent information session. For those who couldn’t attend, some information will be explained below to clarify our expectations for homework.

**Homework**  
This year your child will be sent home a bundle of readers for their homework. Each child will have an amount based on their individual reading abilities. All readers will be changed on Friday morning so it is essential that homework pouches are at school for this to happen. Homework will be sent home on Friday with the option of completing it on the weekend with your child. To keep it safe we have asked that their homework books are to be kept in the homework pouch when it is brought to and from school. It is expected that your child will complete sight word or spelling word practice daily. Preps are expected to practice their sounds daily and recognise sight words. Preps are not required to spell their sight words. I hope homework is enjoyable and seen as an opportunity to share the learning journey with your child.

**English**  
We have been busy working on our pencil grip, sight words practice and 3 ways to read books. Decoding strategies such as: eagle eye (picture clues) and lips the fish (mouth around the first sound of a word), Comprehension strategies: predicting panda (clues to predict what might happen) and Checkin’ Chicken (stop and check you understand the text). We are also looking at emotions displayed in books and we are beginning to form opinions about story characters.

**Math**

- **Preps** – recognising and counting numbers to 10, identifying numbers in the environment, order and sequencing events.
- **Year 1** - ordering days of the week and months of the year, counting to 100 in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s, partitioning numbers to 10.
- **Year 2** - ordering days of the week and months of the year, counting to 100 in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s, locating numbers on a number line and recording different representations of 2-digit numbers.

**Ideas to help at home:**

- Pencil grip - in the front of your child’s homework book are the lyrics for our pencil grip song.
- Letter formation and practice writing names – spend some time with your child to help them learn to write their name
- Recognise letters and numbers and revise sounds – eg. I spy games, actions
- Read every night – listen, read to, read together. Look for sight word or tricky words.
- Prep: Counting in 1’s to and from 20. Counting on from any starting number to 20. Read and write numerals, name and quantities, including zero.
- Year 1: Counts to and from 100, starting from any given number. Skip counting in 2, 5, 10 from any starting point to and from. Simple addition and subtraction.
- Year 2: Counts to and from 1000, starting from any given number. Reads, writes, models and orders numbers up to and beyond 1000. Counting in 2, 3, 5, 10 forward and backwards – odds and evens. Simple addition and subtraction using mental and written strategies.

**Parent Volunteers**

Please let me know if you able to help out in the classroom… if you are able to help for about half an hour to an hour in the mornings from Monday to Thursday, I would love to have you. This is our literacy rotation time and you could help at a literacy station or listen to students read with you one-on-one. Please see me and let me know if you are interested in helping out in the classroom.

Have a fantastic fortnight!
SENIOR ROOM NEWS

Students in the senior class have continued their excellent start to the year with focus, drive and determination. All of our students are displaying their ‘Be A Learner’ qualities and are earning many Gotcha slips for the weekly raffle drawn on Assembly.

This week we commenced the new Show’n Share roster and all rostered students were ready and keen to present their item. All students have been given a paper copy of the roster and it was emailed home to parents as well. It is expected that all students will be prepared and practiced, ready to present on their rostered day. If a student is absent, they must be prepared to present the following week. Being ready to present on their allocated day shows responsibility for learning!

Library borrowing has recommenced for the year and all students borrow on Monday. Please remind your child/children to bring their library bags to school on Monday for borrowing. Students in our class last year painted their own bags but almost any bag, including a grocery or shopping bag will do!

There are a few excursions and events planned for senior class this term, so please check your emails and calendar dates as forms will be coming home over the next few weeks. Students will be happy to know that the Ashmore Bike Safety Centre has been booked for August!

As always, come and see us with any questions or concerns. Our door is always open!

Welcome Mrs Thomson

Dear Parents,

I am the new Special Education Program Teacher visiting Springbrook every Monday working with students who require additional support and adjustments according to their learning needs. I have been teaching for almost 15 years starting as a classroom teacher of the early years P-3, before transferring to teach Students with Disabilities. I look forward to being a part of the school and getting to know the community and families more. Please come and introduce yourself and say hi!

See you soon,
Sheree Thomson
Sensei’s Corner

Konnichi wa! Welcome to Sensei’s corner 2015. Remember everyone from Grades Prep to 6 is welcome to enter.

Term One

Q1. ANSWER: Japan is made up of 4 main islands: Hokkaido, Honshuu, Shikoku and Kyuushuu.
QUIZ WINNER: Aidan. Well done!

Q2. True or False:
Mount Fuji, the tallest mountain in Japan, is an active volcano?

Activity of the week: Check out the live cam for Mt Fuji:
http://www.fujigoko.tv/english/

Hint: For informative information on Mt Fuji try
http://www.volcanodiscovery.com/fuji.html

Japanese Award Winner:
Week 3: Elvis
Week 4: Grace

Japanese Quiz Winner:
Aidan

Upcoming Dates

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>23/02/15</td>
<td>M-Fest meeting</td>
<td>19/03/15</td>
<td>Somerset Celebration of Literature</td>
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<td>01/03/15</td>
<td>Landcare Working Bee in the</td>
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<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Butterfly Vines Garden</td>
<td>27/03/15</td>
<td>Robina SHS Experience Day (for year 6 students)</td>
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<td>05/03/15</td>
<td>Robina SHS enrolment</td>
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<td>Cross Country (with Numinbah Valley)</td>
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<td>information evening for 2016</td>
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<td>Easter Morning Tea</td>
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<td>06/03/15</td>
<td>Miss Matterson’s last day at</td>
<td>02/04/15</td>
<td>Good Friday and school holidays</td>
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<td>Springbrook SS</td>
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<td>16/03/15</td>
<td>P&amp;C Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>03/04/15</td>
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<td>16/03/15</td>
<td>Leadership Excursion</td>
<td>20/04/15</td>
<td>Term 2 begins</td>
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Student Awards - Term 1, Weeks 3 and 4

Students of the Week

Ethan: for always following school rules in all situations.
Cole: for being a learner and producing fantastic homework.
Emerald: for being a learner and always trying your best.
Arky: for outstanding learning behaviour, completing all tasks to an excellent standard.

25 Gotcha Awards: Christopher, Emerald, Emma, Ethan, Robbie

Gotcha Raffle Draw: Abigail, Arwen, Elvis, Ethan, Mika, Robbie, Taijahna, Will.
Parenting Ideas by Michael Grose
“5 Golden Rules for Parenting Success in 2015”

The requirements for effective parenting are changing rapidly, just as the profile of parents is changing. If you add to this mix that children are growing up at the speed of light, information technology can make parents seem redundant, and increasingly parents claim lack of time is their biggest impediment to effective parenting. So what is a parent to do?

Here are 5 golden rules to guide you along your parenting journey in 2015:

1. **Build confidence**
   With so many parents reporting that they have a child experiencing anxiety it would seem that we are currently experiencing a crisis in children’s confidence. It would also seem that we have somehow forgotten how to absorb children’s fears, insecurities and anxieties, and instill a sense of confidence that these can be overcome. Using a mixture of coaxing, coaching and cajoling parents need to find a way to impart in children a sense of courage to put themselves in new or potentially awkward social situations; to have a go at activities where failure is a real option; and to contribute to the wellbeing of others, which reduces anxiousness and fear.

2. **Build developmental knowledge**
   Many challenges parents experience with their children are due to a developmental mismatch. That is, parents raising their ten year old as if they are eight. The nuances of parenting are age-related, yet due to inexperience we so often don’t read the cues. Recently, I witnessed a mum and dad tearing their hair out trying to communicate with their nine-year-old son. For the first time he was saying no to them. They thought him stubborn and disobedient. I thought him normal, as nine can be a problematic age, where usually malleable children suddenly start changing. Puberty is stirring. When this couple’s second child turns nine she will experience the benefits of her elder brother paving the way and breaking her parents in for her.

3. **Swim against the tide**
   Listen to talkback radio, read the headlines of a newspaper or watch a current affairs TV program and you’ll realise that, right now, we live in an incredibly judgemental society. Parents are harshly judged as well. Allow your kids to walk to school and you risk being judged as negligent. Drive your kids to school and you risk being told that you are spoiling them and neglecting their physical wellbeing. It takes a strong parent to swim against the tide of popular opinion. It also takes a strong parent to deny her child say a mobile phone when every other child has one. It helps to say “This is the way we do it in our family.”

4. **Be brave**
   Perhaps the biggest challenge facing parents, and their children, is the ability to let go of their parental reigns and give kids the freedom they need to develop autonomy. It’s relatively easy to develop children’s independence at home as the stakes aren’t as high. If they can’t cook a meal then you just have to do it for them. However, developing children’s independence outside the home is a different story. Granting kids freedom has an element of risk; that’s why parents need to be brave. Having the courage to let go is a basic requirement of parenting. It won’t stop you worrying, but that’s part of the game.

5. **Add emotional intelligence to your parenting mix**
   With kids experiencing mental health challenges at a depressingly high rate it’s time to add some emotional intelligence to the parenting mix. While many schools are now introducing emotional and social programs on the curriculum, it’s important that parents develop a deep understanding of how emotions work: how emotions can be recognised; how they can work for us and against us; how we can regulate our emotions so they don’t overwhelm us; and how to recognise and respond to the emotions of others. These sound like life-changing skills that if learned, are capable of impacting significantly and positively on future generations.
**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**Gold Coast Health Oral Health (Dental) Services**

Gold Coast Oral Health Services are offering free dental check-ups to the students of Springbrook State School. This service will be provided off-site by Child and Adolescent Oral Health Services through Mobile Dental clinic 185 located at Mudgeeraba Creek State School.

To arrange an appointment for your child telephone:

- The Oral Health Client Service Centre
- ☎ **1300 300 850**
- Monday – Friday 8.00 am – 4.30 pm
- Excluding Public Holidays

Child Dental Benefit Schedule Vouchers are accepted. When your child’s $1000 cap is reached, there will be no out-of-pocket expenses provided your child meets *eligibility criteria.*

* Eligibility – All Queensland resident children aged four years or older who have not completed year 10 of secondary school.

Further information on public funded oral health services can be accessed via URL: [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/)

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**M-FEST**

M-Fest is happening again on Springbrook Mountain.

We are calling for all those who are interested in having a stall on the day.

**Date:** Saturday, May 9th, 2015

**Where:** Springbrook State School

**Cost:** $30

Book your stall early to avoid disappointment.

Homemade, handmade and home grown are welcome.

If this is you please contact Gina Winter on **55335061** to book your stall.

We have another opportunity to celebrate this wonderful place in which we live and visit!