Welcome back to all students and families for the new school year! This year we extend a big welcome to our new students and families joining the Springbrook community: Hunter (prep), Georgia (prep), Grace (prep), Micah (year 1) and Kyla (year 4). Our effective student enrolment is currently sitting at 34 students and this is a slight increase from the end of last year.

2016 Staffing
We are currently waiting for our staffing allocations to be finalised this year but very little change is anticipated. We were very fortunate to retain almost all of last year’s staff into this year and all are listed below:

- Sarah Jane Ash: Teaching Principal (on class Mon/Tues/Wed)
- Joyce Boura: P-2 class teacher
- Tracey Unwin: Yrs 3-6 teacher (Thursday/Friday)
- Joanne Fullerton: Japanese Teacher (Wednesday)
- Susan Smith: P.E. Specialist Teacher (Wednesday)
- Josh Shelton: Music Specialist Teacher (Friday)
- Sheree Thomson: Special Education Teacher (alternate Thursdays)
- Kate O’Rourke: Guidance Officer (alternate Mondays)
- TBA: Office Administrator (Thursday/Friday)
- Nerida Williams: Teacher Aide
- Sue Northam: Teacher Aide
- Teena Magree: Teacher Aide
- Karen Hill: Teacher Aide (Monday only)
- Dianne Cavanagh: Cleaner
- Andrew Marshall: Groundsman (Wednesday)

Evacuation and Lock Down Procedures
You may have read in the press recently that a number of schools have received hoax bomb threats. The procedure in all schools is to get the children to safety first of all and then wait for the authorities to advise when we can move back into classrooms. At all times in our evacuations, whether it be fire or bomb threats, it is the safety of the students that is first and foremost. We do not send immediate messages home to parents. In fact during evacuation procedures, the school is locked down and no one is allowed to enter. It is pointless coming to the school as you cannot enter to collect children. If you did
enter the school during evacuation procedures you would be jeopardising your own safety and the safety of the students and staff. As you may already be aware, our school holds both evacuation and lock down drills each term to ensure that all staff and students are familiar with the processes. If there ever was a need for a ‘real’ evacuation or lock down, parents would most likely be informed after student and staff safety was assured and any immediate threat was over.

**Parent Teacher Information Sessions**

Parent Teacher Information Sessions in both classrooms are scheduled this coming week and I encourage all parents to come along. This is the ideal opportunity to become familiar with the teacher your child is working with and to clarify any questions regarding behaviour management, homework and other areas of interest.

- Wednesday 3:15pm - Mrs Boura in the P-2 classroom
- Thursday 3:15pm - Mrs Ash and Mrs Unwin in the Years 3-6 classroom

**Student Cards**

Student Cards were sent home last week listing all of the information currently of file for each of our students. If you are yet to return yours, please do so as soon as possible as up-to-date and correct information is necessary should we need to contact you in a hurry for your child. Many thanks to those parents who have returned theirs already!

**School Uniforms**

School uniform items are now in stock at school and are available for purchase. These are supplied by LW Reid and include the logo on school shirts and jumpers. There is a new style hat which is microfiber with an adjustable elastic in the brim instead of having a neck chord. The prices are as follows:

- Green Polo shirt (with logo) $17.50
- Maroon Short $14.00
- Green Bucket Hat $10.00
- Fleece Jumper (with logo) $24.50
- Maroon Skort $14.00
- Checked Dress (limited sizes) $15.00

**School Communication**

Please check you email inboxes regularly as the majority of all school communication comes via email. Additionally, if you are on Facebook, please search for Springbrook State School and ‘like’ our page for all quick reminders and additional posts as well. You can find us at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Springbrook-State-School/333056463456054

Sarah Jane Ash
Principal 😊

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<tr>
<th>Upcoming Dates</th>
<th>11/02/16</th>
<th>14/03/16</th>
<th>24/03/16</th>
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<th>26/03/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23/02/16</td>
<td>9:00am Yrs 3-6 Writing Workshop</td>
<td>Lock Down Drill</td>
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<td>24/02/16</td>
<td>3:15pm P-2 Parent Teacher information session</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>25/02/16</td>
<td>3:15pm Yrs 3-6 Parent Teacher information session</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>26/02/16</td>
<td>Evacuation Drill</td>
<td>Cross Country at Numinbah Valley State School</td>
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<td>10/03/16</td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 Somerset Celebration of Literature Excursion</td>
<td>10:30am Easter Hat Parade and Morning Tea</td>
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Student Awards

Student of the Week

**Ethan** - for a great start to the year by displaying ‘Be respectful’ behaviours during class at all times!

**Ryka** - for a fantastic start to the year with excellent ‘Be a Learner’ behaviours!

**Abigail** - for a great week displaying ‘Be a Learner’ and ‘Be Respectful’ behaviours in class!

**Arky** - for displaying excellent ‘Be a Learner’ behaviours in the classroom at all times!

**Literacy Planet Leaderboard Leaders**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>29/01/16</td>
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<td>79</td>
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<td>05/02/16</td>
<td>Angus</td>
<td>220</td>
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<td>12/02/16</td>
<td>Zavier</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Angus</td>
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**Mathletics Awards**

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<tr>
<td>29/01/16</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12/02/16</td>
<td>Arky</td>
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<td>Bronze Certificate</td>
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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Robina State High School**

**ENROL FOR 2017!**

Join us for our first enrolment information evening for students entering Yr 7 in 2017.

**Tuesday, 8 March 2016**

5.30 – 7.00pm

Performing Arts Centre

All prospective students and parents are welcome to attend this information evening to hear about our school, our curriculum, signature programs and our unique approach to Junior Secondary Education.

Applications for Scholarships and our Signature Academic and Sporting Programs will also open on this evening.

For more information contact our Head of Junior Secondary – Mr Ben Weeks Twitter@robinshs2016

**Support one of our Year 4 students, Grace, as she fundraises for the Leukaemia Foundation.** Her sponsorship donations go towards research which is needed urgently to find better treatments and cures for blood cancers such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Donations can be dropped off at the school office.
When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever. It begged the question: “What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction? I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills; getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours.