FROM THE PRINCIPAL.....

Over the last week, we've been very excited to see some deliveries arriving in school. These have included the Woolies Earn and Learn resources that were ordered from the 2015 program. Thanks to the generous support of our school community, we were able to select a variety of Maths resources specifically to support the teaching and learning of time. These resources are already in use in classrooms and are being enjoyed greatly!

As reported in the last newsletter, the maintenance of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Garden project is well underway. The next afternoon session is scheduled for this coming Friday, March 11th starting at 3:15pm. All students and their families and all community members are invited to work with Springbrook Landcare representatives to maintain the project. The last session was both productive and successful and hope that this week’s will be even more so!

Playgroup is continuing to be offered and provided free-of-charge to all children in the Springbrook area who are below school-age. Regardless of the future school destination, playgroup is for any family to connect with others in the community and participate in planned and organised early literacy and numeracy activities. Playgroup is available every Monday morning from 9:30am and is based in our Music room. If you know of anyone in the area with young children, please encourage them to come along and join in all the fun!

The senior class (years 3-6) students are counting down the days until next Thursday when they will attend the Celebration of Literature hosted by Somerset College. Our students participated in a writing project with senior wordsmiths from Somerset College and prepared an entry for the Division 9 Writing Competition run in collaboration with Celebration. We will be participating in three author workshops and are looking forward to the bus trip up and down the mountain. If you are yet to return your permission slip, please do so as soon as possible.

All of our year six students have been invited to participate in a Leadership
Summit being hosted by Robina State High School this Friday morning. Dr Pete Stebbins in the keynote speaker for the breakfast summit and our students will have the opportunity to work with other student leaders from schools within the Greenheart Cluster of schools. I’m looking forward to sharing the morning with our students and discussing the leadership messages that they take away from the session.

School Photos are scheduled from this coming Monday, March 14th. All students will sit for an individual photo and will be included in the class and whole school photo, regardless of any photo orders that are placed. Please ensure that all students are in full school uniform including black socks and black shoes for the photos on Monday. We’d appreciate some happy thoughts for fine weather so that the class/group photos can be taken outside!

Also happening on Monday, is the P&C Annual General Meeting. All families are cordially invited to take part in the festivities of the AGM which will be followed by a general meeting. Many hands make light work and this is especially in the P&C of a small school. Please consider putting your hand up to be involved and support the fundraising efforts of our dedicated parents and citizens. The AGM will start at 3:15pm and I hope to see you there.

Our school will be a polling booth for the upcoming local election on March 19th, 2016. Our P&C will be fundraising on the day and you are able to be involved in several ways: bbq volunteer, bake stall volunteer and donator of baked goods. All baked goods can be brought in on Saturday morning from 7:30am and are required to be pre-packaged with a sign/label listing all of the ingredients. It is eagerly anticipated that all families will be involved and help support the fundraising on the day and P&C thank you very much for your support.

The scheduled evacuation drill has been held with much success! All staff and students were safely evacuated from all buildings and assembled on the school oval in less than three minutes! This is a fine example of good practice and preparation in action. Next week, we will be participating in a lockdown drill to ensure that the procedures and processes for lockdown are as clearly understood and able to be implemented safely should they ever need to be. I’d like to thank our staff and students for taking these drills seriously to ensure ongoing safety at school for all. Our evacuation and lockdown procedures apply to all staff, students, parents, visitors and contractors on school grounds.

Our school has three rules: Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be A Learner. Each week, there is a focus behaviour that is taught and reinforced on Assembly and in the classrooms/playground over the course of the week. This week’s focus was: Be Safe: enter and exit the classroom in an orderly manner. Well done to all of our students in being able to demonstrate this in action over the week.

Sarah Jane Ash
Principal ☺

### Upcoming Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/03</td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 Somerset Celebration of Literature Excursion</td>
<td>14/03</td>
<td>P&amp;C Annual General Meeting</td>
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<td>11/03</td>
<td>Lock Down Drill</td>
<td>18/03</td>
<td>Cross Country at Numinbah Valley State School</td>
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<td>11/03</td>
<td>7:15am Year 6 Leadership Summit at Robina SHS</td>
<td>24/03</td>
<td>10:30am Easter Hat Parade and Morning Tea</td>
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<td>11/03</td>
<td>3:15pm Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Garden working bee</td>
<td>25/03</td>
<td>Good Friday public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>14/03</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>26/03</td>
<td>School holidays begin</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>11/04</td>
<td>Welcome back for Term 2!</td>
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**Student Awards**

**Student of the Week**

*Hunter* - for being an active participant in class and an excellent attitude towards learning!

*Mika* - for displaying excellent dedication to her learning at all times!

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**Literacy Planet Leaderboard Leaders**

<table>
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<th>Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zavier</td>
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<td>Ryka</td>
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**Mathletics Awards**

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<td>5040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aimée</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>1030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethan</td>
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**Gotcha Raffle Draw**

Yrs P-2 class: Emma and Abigail

Yrs 3-6 class: Arky and Lashae

**Dojo Points Recognition**

Ethan 100 Dojo points

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**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**TRAFFIC ALERT**

Motorists are advised of roadworks at multiple locations on Gold Coast-Springbrook Road:

- **slope works between Polly's Kitchen and the Pine Creek Road intersection until 14 March 2016**

- **installation of guardrail, rubrail and signage about three kilometres before the Pine Creek Road intersection until mid-2016.**

Expect lane closures and other changed traffic conditions through the work zones.
Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Social skills for children

School brings different types of learning, including social interactions and how to make friends. Parents can lay the foundations at home by teaching their kids these 7 important social skills.

Children who are able to form friendships when they start school are happier at school and also learn better.

More significantly, positive friendships have long-term implications for social and indirectly academic success.

Friendships skills are generally developmental, but they don’t develop in isolation. Kids acquire these skills when they play with their siblings and interact with children and adults outside their family.

Today’s children grow up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago.

Parents can help kids develop important social competencies by teaching them sociable behaviours at home, being good role models and providing opportunities for kids to play with each other in a variety of situations.

Here are 7 Important social skills to help children to develop:

1. Ask for what you want

Help children ask for what they want. It means they don’t throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what’s on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. Good manners

Teach kids good manners, in particular the three ‘power words’. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people’s defences. These three words are: your name; please; thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

3. Sharing

Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing and forming relationships with others. Other children love to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

4. Holding a conversation

Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

Children within conversations need to learn to ask good or interesting questions; to take turns when speaking and show you are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.

5. Winning and losing well

Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses.

more on page 2

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my PAM weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
... Social skills for children ...

Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make kids feel bad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

5 Approaching and joining a group
The ability to approach strangers in social situations is a valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

7 Handling fights and disagreements
Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don’t lead to the breakdown of friendships. It’s important to get across to kids that having an argument or disagreement doesn’t mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships.

The results of a number of studies indicate that children can be taught friendships skills. The strategies are simple and revolve around teaching children a range of friendly behaviours such as: talking with others while playing, showing an interest in others, smiling, offering help and encouragement when needed, a willingness to share and learning how to enter a game or social situation.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and quite easily neglect the development of important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and wellbeing.

Michael Grose