Welcome back for the last term of 2016! It’s so lovely for me to be back working at Springbrook SS after my visit to Currumbin Valley SS. A big thank you goes to Mrs Unwin for capably managing everything in my absence. It’s only a short ten weeks now until the school year is over and Christmas holidays are upon us. Please take note of the diary dates in all of the newsletters as the end of the term becomes busy and there are lots of things happening.

Enrolments for 2017 in all year levels are now being taken! It assists us with our planning if we are able to accurately predict the numbers of students we will have at the start of the year. If you are intending on enrolling a child or know of someone else who is intending on enrolling a child, I’d encourage you to make contact with our school office as soon as possible to complete the paperwork.

Attending Prep is now compulsory! From 2017, it will be compulsory for all Queensland children to undertake the Prep Year, prior to commencing Year 1. To minimise disruption to schools and families, the new requirement will not apply to children already enrolled in Year 1 for 2017. Since Prep started in 2007, there have been noticeable improvements to learning outcomes for children who participate in Prep. The vast majority of Queensland parents already choose to enrol their child in Prep when they reach the eligible age. Making Prep compulsory ensures all children develop the knowledge and skills provided by the Prep Year that form the foundation for future learning.

From 2014 to 2017, the Australian Government has made available, an additional $794 million in Students First initiative funding to Queensland for state schooling. In 2014 and 2015, $131 million and $183 million from this initiative was provided to state schools through the Great Results Guarantee. The remaining $480 million in additional Students First funding is available across 2016 and 2017. Allocation of the remaining funding in 2016 and 2017 will build on the needs-based method to better direct funding to students and schools requiring the most support. This change in allocative method is reflected in a change in name to “Investing for Success” (I4S). Springbrook State School was allocated $14,180 to support students, particularly those most in need, to achieve improved outcomes at all levels of schooling.

Through this funding, we have been able to: invest in early literacy and numeracy through the provision of an oral language program and Early Start assessments; develop staff skills and expertise with the Australian Curriculum; refine our pedagogical framework based on ‘The Art and Science of Teaching’; establish a coaching and feedback model within our school for ongoing pedagogical improvements of practice; and purchase a significant number of new literacy resources to specifically support our work within reading. All of these initiatives together, provide the foundation for a continued and sustained
improvement of student learning outcomes, not only reflected in our NAPLAN results, but in all areas of student learning.

Earlier this week, information and permission forms for our annual swimming lessons program were distributed. One of the payment options available for all families is BPOINT and BPOINT is now the preferred method of payment. Paying via BPOINT is a simple four-step process that you can access 24 hours a day!

SAVE TIME – USE THESE 4 EASY STEPS TO MAKE A BPOINT PAYMENT

Use this link http://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete

1. Enter the CRN e.g. 0481000000000 (on the bottom left hand side of the invoice)
2. Enter the invoice number e.g. 12345 (also listed on the bottom left hand side of the invoice)
3. Enter the student’s name
4. Enter the Amount and follow the prompts with your payment details.

BPOINT payments are automatically matched to the student’s account and a BPOINT receipt can be requested on-line and emailed once payment has been completed.

Thank you to all those parents who have already registered for QParents. Every registered parent now has the opportunity to access to their children’s student records at their fingertips, anytime, anywhere. Parents who have registered are able to view and manage information such as report cards, invoices and your children’s timetables. If you are interested but aren’t sure that QParents is for you, I will be running an information session this Thursday afternoon, October 13th from 3:00pm in the senior classroom where parents will be able to register there and then. If you are looking for further information, videos and FAQs on QParents, please visit https://qparents.qld.edu.au.

Lastly, at Assembly on Monday afternoon, we will be presenting our Term 3 attendance awards to students with an attendance rate of 95% or greater for the term. Congratulations to: Abigail, Arky, Ryka, Will, Maddison, Zavier, Scarlett, Charlie, Jimi, Isabelle, Britt and Tarelle!

Sarah Jane Ash - Principal 😊

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming Dates</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/10/16</td>
<td>Welcome back to Term 4</td>
<td>07/11/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/10/16</td>
<td>Guidance Officer in attendance</td>
<td>10/11/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/09/16</td>
<td>Robina SHS staff visiting to speak with year 6 students</td>
<td>11/11/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/10/16</td>
<td>7:15pm SMCA meeting in the Springbrook Community Hall</td>
<td>10/11/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>13/10/16</td>
<td>3:00pm QParents information session</td>
<td>14/11/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/10/16</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
<td>25/11/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>20/10/16</td>
<td>3:15pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>29/11/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>21/10/16</td>
<td>3:00pm Parent meeting re: Musical</td>
<td>30/11/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>28/10/16</td>
<td>World Teacher’s Day</td>
<td>01/12/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>28/10/16</td>
<td>National Bandanna Day</td>
<td>02/12/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/10/16</td>
<td>Musical Performance at the Springbrook Community Hall</td>
<td>05/12/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/11/16</td>
<td>SEAT (Spinal Awareness Education Team) presenting</td>
<td>07/12/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/11/16</td>
<td>Whole school excursion to the Gold Coast War Museum - to be confirmed</td>
<td>08/12/16</td>
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Helping kids focus in the age of distraction

As a society we often debate about the ‘right’ amount of screen time, and with the introduction of personal screens over the last decade, to add to TV, laptops and desktops, the focus on a single task has slowly ebbed away. The British Psychological Society found that too much screen time (more than their recommendations of no more than 2 hours per day) could unintentionally cause permanent damage to a child’s still-developing brains. Impacting the capacity to focus, to concentrate and to give attention to tasks.

Distraction is often managed through the delicate art of redirection or encouragement to combat the ‘but I just can’t do it!’ However, has this brave new world of binge watching TV, entertainment on demand and socialisation via hand held devices created kids that always have options for those tasks that require some stubborn determination? If so how might this new way of living and relaxing challenge our kid’s capacity to stick with a difficult task when they have a world of entertainment at their disposal?

Dr. Daniel Goleman, an award-winning psychologist and TED speaker, emphasises the need for people to engage in skills that foster emotional intelligence. Goleman’s belief is that “kids learn best when they can maintain sustained attention, whether to what a teacher is saying, their textbook, or their homework. The root of learning is keen focus; distractions kill comprehension. But the new normal for young people continually interrupts their focus with distractions.”

Neuroscientists tell us that the more a young person can practice keeping focus and resist distraction, the stronger and more richly connected this child becomes. By the same token, the more distracted, the less so. Rebecca, a NSW schoolteacher who is passionate about the topic, finds that the evidence is clear in our own homes and in classrooms ‘we now have young people who are experts at ‘flitting’ from one device to another’ and who refuses to take a defeatist approach because without refocusing those ‘flitters’ to ‘focusers’ who risk the next generations creative or scientific masterminds we risk losing children who are able to sit still and agonise over a task long enough to see it through to its marvellous end’.

Tips for helping kids maintain focus and attention

1. Build your child’s focus

As with all tasks the aim is to start small and build your child’s capacity to master the concept of ‘sticking with it’. Cath, a school counsellor, finds that she can use the same strategies with the teens she works with and her primary school aged children when she gets home: ‘it’s all about breaks and rewards. Set a timer between breaks and then on a break they need to do something active like a push-up. Then there is a little reward for staying on task for a particular amount of time.’

2. Remember it’s all about the journey

Parents and researchers agree that understanding what can be gained from being focused is the key to engaging your ‘flittering’ child. Our solution driven society is often focused on what we receive at the end rather than the process to get there. Teaching your children to tolerate the unexpected can have wonderful benefits, as can sitting with something that may have previously been viewed as unachievable.

3. Keep calm and focus

Use calm methods to engage children who become distracted: breathe, relax and high five each other when working alongside your child or when with a group of children. Talk about what might be achieved at the end and make it a fun process.

Screens, for all their negatives and benefits, are here to stay. Many argue that they provide complexity and new experiences to our children’s world by identifying exciting technologies but they also provide avenues to ‘opt out’ of the hard yards.

Reaching what you thought was unattainable by engaging in a single focus and ‘sticking with it’, can provide lifelong lessons.
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Robina State High School
ENROL IN 2017

A reminder for all incoming Year 7 students in 2017. Enrolment forms should be returned to our school office as soon as possible.

All enrolling students MUST fill out official enrolment documentation and attend an enrolment interview regardless of the primary school they have attended.

For more information or to be sent an enrolment pack please contact Mrs Judy Galbraith.
jgalb2@eq.edu.au

www.robinashs.eq.edu.au

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AND YOU COULD GET UP TO FOUR BONUS BOOKS!

When you buy books from Scholastic Book Club, they help build our classroom resources.
SMCA

presents

A Night of Acoustic Music
“in the round”
at the Springbrook Hall
on
Saturday 15 October
6pm

Bring Your Own Picnic!!!

Featuring
Colin Greatorix, Maryen Cairns, Sani Bolton
Susan McCarter, Micky McIlwain, Francine
Mira Ellen & Scarlett

Entry by Gold Coin Donation