FROM THE PRINCIPAL.....

A very warm Springbrook welcome to our new and returning families. This year we are pleased to welcome Gus, Ethan, Zyah and Vaughan and their families into our school community.

Refurbishment  Over the school holidays, our buildings were hives of activity with a major refurbishment and improvements occurring simultaneously. Our junior classroom has had a full internal repaint and ceiling works completed leaving a clean and bright, beautiful learning space. Our main building, including the senior classroom has benefitted from an internal repaint, new lighting, carpets and cabinetry along with new furniture to create a streamlined and flexible learning space. It’s now a delightful working space and our staff and students are enjoying all of the changes. The costs of the refurbishments and improvements total in excess of $115,000.

2017 Staffing and enrolment numbers
Our effective student enrolment for this year appears to be stable on 33 students, meaning that our staffing allocation will be very similar to 2016 and we are extremely fortunate to have almost zero staffing changes for this year! Our few changes include welcoming Mrs Rebecca McDonald as our Curriculum Implementation Advisor and Miss Rebecca Doyle as a part-time teacher working with Miss Joyce Dorren (Boura) on the years P-2 class. All other teaching and support staff remain the same!

Parent Information sessions
Parent information sessions will be held over the next week or so for all parents to meet the teachers and become familiar with the expectations of your children in their classrooms. We acknowledge that parents and families are our partners in educating children and look forward to establishing and developing a partnership with you. The Years 3-6 session will be on Thursday 2nd February and the Years P-2 session will be on Monday 6th February. Both of these sessions will start at 3:10pm and provide the perfect opportunity to ask questions directly of the people working with your child. If you are unable to make it to the session/s, please make contact with your child’s teacher for a copy of the information.

School Banking
School Banking will again be offered for all of our students and deposits will be processed each Thursday. Any student with a Commonwealth Bank account is able to participate and the school banking program is committed to improving the financial literacy of Australian students. If you are wanting to join in on the fun, please come and see us for the appropriate forms or pop into a branch of the Commonwealth Bank.

Student Resource Scheme
We are again offering a voluntary Student resource Scheme for this year where
for a fee, we will provide all of the usual booklist materials and resources for your child. Payments for this voluntary scheme are being processed now and if you are yet to return your forms or payment, please return them as soon as possible. Payments can be made via direct deposit, cash to the office, BPAY or CentrePay.

**Snake and Spider Safety**
The start to our school year has been very smooth with happy children looking very smart in their Springbrook uniforms. We have been very fortunate however, to see some other Springbrook residents in action during the first week. On Wednesday, we had the privilege of watching a carpet snake eat a ringtail possum! (You can see the photos on our school Facebook page.) This provided the prefect opportunity to reinforce with safety procedures and protocols regarding snakes on grounds with all of our students. On Friday, we removed a frog from a toilet and relocated two rather large spiders, one from the toilet block and one from the staffroom/kitchen. The safety message around spiders will be retold to all students on Assembly on Monday and we ask for your support in reminding students not to touch native wildlife in the school grounds and to inform a staff member should they come across one of concern.

**Communication**
Our school newsletter will be emailed out to all families fortnightly as a minimum, depending on the current events and information to be shared. Please check your inboxes for your copy. Our Assemblies will continue to be held on Monday afternoons starting at 2:30pm in the senior classroom. Parents and caregivers are invited and welcome to join us for our weekly assembly. Updates and information are regularly posted on our school Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Springbrook-State-School and our school website www.springbrookss.eq.edu.au. Please keep informed and read the information that comes home to you.

**Student Absences**
As reported during term 4 last year, we must advise parents of the student absence process, a new directive implemented by Education Queensland. The first roll of the day is marked when the students move into class and by 9:15am teachers must have completed the roll marking. If your child is an *unexplained absence* you will be contacted by either phone call or text message to advise you that your child is not at school. You are required to reply, providing a reason for the absence. If your child arrives late to school, you must complete the Late Arrival Register in the front office or they will be marked as an unexplained absence. Although arriving late is a non-penalty absence, a reason must be provided for the delay. Being on time and in attendance very day is the goal!

Thank you to all students and families for a sensational start to the year!

Sarah Jane Ash
Principal 😊

**Upcoming Dates**

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<td>02/02/17</td>
<td>3:10pm Parent Information Session: senior class</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/02/17</td>
<td>3:10pm Parent Information Session: junior class</td>
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<td>09/02/17</td>
<td>3:15pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>14/02/16</td>
<td>Barobi visit for the 2018 Commonwealth Games</td>
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<td>16/03/17</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting - Annual General followed by General Meeting</td>
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<td>17/03/17</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>21/03/17</td>
<td>Money Smart sessions for students</td>
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<td>30/03/17</td>
<td>10:00am Easter Morning Tea</td>
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<td>21/03/17</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>09/05/17-</td>
<td>NAPLAN - years 3 and 5</td>
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Earning the right and not assuming a sense of entitlement is a life lesson parents, teachers and coaches must instil in children.

On talk-back radio recently I heard a caller tell a timely story about how as a child she was lucky enough to receive riding lessons from a renowned horse expert.

He had one condition. She had to earn the right to be taught to ride a horse. That meant she had to muck out the stables, brush and feed the horse; look after the gear and do everything else required to look after a horse. Only when she’d proved herself could she earn the right to ride a horse under his tutelage.

This caller said this powerful lesson shaped her entire life. It taught her that there were no entitlements in life; to work hard and value her achievements. She never took anything for granted.

Contrast this with the extraordinary sense of entitlement of Australian tennis players Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic who routinely treat the public, players and the game that serves them well, with utter disdain. Their attitude of entitlement is mind-boggling, not to say embarrassing to reasonable-minded, hard-working people.

Our kids should earn the right

The talk-back caller’s earning the right story is a fabulous lesson for all parents and teachers. If we want to raise a generation to appreciate what they have, then we shouldn’t give children or young people everything on a platter. In an era of small families, child pester power and relative affluence it’s tempting to simply give kids what they want.

“Dad, can I have a…?”

“Sure!”

The Rolling Stones were right four decades ago when they sang, “You can’t always get what you want!” Those words form a great child-rearing lesson. That is, just because you can provide something for your kids, doesn’t mean that you do.

They need to earn the right to have something by saving, working for or simply waiting until they are old enough to appreciate it.

Similarly, kids don’t automatically have a right to greater freedoms such as going out at night; those rights need to be earned by proving they are trustworthy.

Also, kids who think they are entitled to use a part of the house such as a living room without cleaning up mess are acting with a false sense of entitlement.

In fact, there are no entitlements, only rights. And rights are earned by being responsible.

A child has a right to use the living room but they also have a responsibility to clean up a rather than leave it a pigsty. A night banished to their room is a reminder that spending time in the living room is not an entitlement. It’s a right that comes with conditions.

Earning the right! A simple phrase with so much complexity.

I suspect it’s a phrase that neither Nick Kyrgios or Bernard Tomic heard much when they were growing up. Maybe their parents thought their prodigious talents excused them from having conditions placed upon them. If so, they did them no favours as good manners, gratitude and graciousness appear to be lacking in their social repertoires.

It usually takes a parent, teacher or coach to remind kids that they have to earn the right to have things, to do things and ultimately to be respected. That’s a lesson that stays for life.