Great Results Guarantee
This week, our school lodged its submission regarding the Great Results Guarantee Funding. This funding is targeted to support improvement in Numeracy and Literacy for all students with a particular focus on the early years from Prep to Year 2. In our school, this includes all students in our junior class. Education Qld has earmarked $5,410.00 for our school to use to improve standards and achievements in literacy and numeracy and our plan includes the following strategies:

• Explicitly implement a metalinguistics and phonics program in the P-2 class
• Implement whole school guided reading sessions based around teaching the specific strategies necessary for successful comprehension
• Implement a whole school number facts program where number facts and mental computations are explicitly taught and assessed in all classes
• Implement four weekly data cycles to monitor student progress and achievement

We look forward to this journey being particularly productive for our students.

Technology at Springbrook State School
Our school endeavours to use technology to support the learning process in all curriculum areas. While there is often a focus on learning how to use a particular piece of technology, our aim is to maximise the technology to add value to the learning processes within classrooms to benefit students. Through this process, students will develop skills and understandings, preparing them for the technological environment at high school and beyond.

Our investment in technology is considerable. Funds are dedicated to licences, to internet access for the whole school, expanding wireless capability and for ensuring our devices (desktop, laptops and iPads) are current and serving their purpose. Plans for this year include purchasing up to 15 new iPads and additional laptop computers – some to replace older models and others to extend our capabilities.

‘Mathletics’ and ‘Reading Eggs/Reading Express’ are two programs which are very valuable to support students’ growth in literacy and numeracy. Mathletics programs are organised by teachers for both individual students and groups of students to ensure all students are able to access a suitable level of challenge as well as drill and practice. Reading Eggs provides an opportunity for students to read and develop comprehension skills through challenging activities. Both programs are available “online”, 24 hours a day, meaning that they can be accessed both at school and at home. Every student has their username and password to use both of these at school and at home and we encourage them to do so frequently.

P&C Annual General Meeting
The Annual General Meeting of the P&C Association will be held on Monday 17th March in the senior classroom, starting at 3:15pm. All parents are invited and welcome to attend. At the AGM, all positions on the executive are declared vacant and office bearers for 2014 will then be appointed. Nominations for these positions are invited and I urge you to consider becoming involved.

Sarah Jane Ash
Principal
In The Junior Room

Last week we had a fun time doing our first ‘field study’ for science. Students were scientists and had to observe and draw different types of plants. We used our senses to observe plants: sight, touch, hear and smell. However, we did leave our sense of taste out of this one!

In history, students listened to a poem called – ‘I love you forever’, written and performed by Robert Munsch. They all enjoyed it so much and it made them laugh hearing the different life stages through the eyes of a mother. Life stages included baby to toddler to student to teenager to adult to senior.

Last Friday was also our first rostered show and tell. It was a huge success! The children had presented some very interesting and thoughtful topics. I am also so happy that they have transferred their learning in our English unit to their show and tell. Students used opening statements and closing statements when presenting their speeches. I’m so proud of them!

Next week in English, children are to speak about their favourite picture book. All the children will need to bring their favourite picture book to class for the week to work on their spoken task. If they are unable to bring a book from home, they will choose a book that we have read in class. Year 2 students will need to bring in 2 picture books, as they need to compare and state an opinion of the books.

Joyce Boura.

Remember.....

Wednesday is school banking day!
Handy Tips for beginning the School Year

Communication

Starting school or heading back to school brings the excitement of learning to read and improving reading skills. Building the foundations of this skill began happening from birth through talking, listening and sharing books in the home. Starting school does not mean you stop these activities or hand over learning to the teacher. Parents play a big part in maintaining a child's interest in learning and they should:

- Keep sharing the fun story books. Don't replace them with readers as these two types of books have different purposes and both contribute to the learning to read process. A trip to the local library together can be a great adventure for child and parent.
- Talk about school by asking open questions. Ask questions like “What was the best thing that happened today?”, “What is your favourite thing about school?” or “Tell me about a game you played today.”
- Share something about how you spent your day. By doing this you are modelling the type of talking and language you want your children to use in conversation.
- Stay in touch with your child's teacher through email or by arranging a meeting time to chat about how he or she is going. Don't leave it until formal parent/teacher interviews to find out if there is some thing you can be working on at home to improve school outcomes.

Morning Routine and Organisation

- Encourage your child to pack their homework in their bag as soon as it is finished. It is not your job to run homework up to school if it has been forgotten.
- Don't forget (particularly in the early years) to encourage your child to carry their own bag to and from school. This builds independence and a sense of purpose for your child.

Choose lunches which are healthy, cost effective and appealing for the kids. It is best to try to limit packaged foods for special treats so that excessive sugar and preservatives aren't being consumed during the school day. Little brains and bodies need extra nutrients and fresh foods to give them stamina to concentrate and make it through a busy day. Some suggestions are:

- Leftover pasta or rice dishes. Try spaghetti bolognaise, risotto, fried rice or couscous.
- Dry cereals such as fruity bix or mini wheats. Please try to limit the amount of dry noodles your child eats at school. They are empty calories which do not provide the important nutrients kids need during the day.
- A variety of fruit options which could include fresh, tinned, frozen or dried. Aim to include at least one serve of fruit in the lunch box each day.
- A milk popper, yoghurt or cheese sticks to provide much needed calcium.
- Adding salad to a sandwich, including a container of cherry tomatoes or providing crunchy vegetable sticks in the lunchbox are all ways to increase vegetable intake.
- A slice or two of cold meat, an egg or small can of baked beans can provide protein and energy.

Tasty and nutritious food, regular routine, supportive parents and positive conversations help to make school a rewarding and enjoyable experience for all children despite their level of academic achievement. Do you know what your child’s favourite school activity is or who they are playing with regularly? Put aside 5 or 10 minutes on a regular basis to check in with your child and learn about their world at school.

Carla Loughnane
Guidance Officer
Our ‘Design a Package’ technology challenge last Thursday was a huge success! The students did an incredible job at designing, creating, marketing, and baking cookies to go in their packages, and the results were outstanding. Thank you to all parents and community members who supported our students and made a purchase – we were overwhelmed by your support!

Homework:
Just a gentle reminder that all homework must be fully completed [including spelling/times tables], and handed in by 9am each Friday morning. Students who do not hand in their completed homework at this time will be required to stay in at breaks to complete the work. If any student is experiencing trouble completing the set tasks, please encourage them to come visit Mrs Ash or Miss Matterson before/after school during the week. We are always here to help!

Thank you again for all your continued support and encouragement in the Senior Classroom – your participation and feedback is greatly valued!

Shanny Matterson
Senior Class Teacher [Thurs/Fri]
**Student of the Week**

Tennille for consistently producing high quality work across all subjects, including homework tasks.

Ethan for putting his best effort into his work and consistently displaying pride in all he does.

Elvis for displaying focus and dedication in English lessons to create an excellent creative writing sample.

Aimee for always being respectful and ready to learn in the classroom.

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**Mathletics**

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**Community Noticeboard**

The Kokoda Barracks Family Association (KBFA) hosts a Kids Club on the first Friday of each month at Kokoda House, Canungra from 4.30-7.30pm. The next one for this year is this Friday 4th April.

It’s a chance for Defence Force children of all ages to get together in a social environment and enjoy both indoor and outdoor activities. The cost is $5 per child which includes dinner - all children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If you would like to come along, please call Rachel Mathers on 0412 967 258 to RSVP.