Thank you to our community for supporting our school's display at M-Fest on the weekend. It was wonderful to see so many of our students and their families enjoying the Mother's Day weekend. It was a pleasure to meet many new families and have the opportunity to talk about Springbrook SS and what we do here. A highlight was the drawing of the Mother’s Day raffle at M-Fest where all three prizes were won by members of our school community.

NAPLAN is on this week for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and it is especially important that all students in years 3, 5 and 7 are in attendance at school. Thanks to an anonymous community member, we will be providing breakfast for all students on each of the three NAPLAN days. Breakfast will be available from 8:30am in the undercover area and tomorrow’s menu is bacon and egg rolls!

Every four years Queensland state schools develop a four-year plan (School Plan) to implement the strategic direction of Education Queensland and to drive improved learning outcomes for all students. Our school is due to complete our Quadrennial School Review process to develop the next School Plan for 2014 – 2018. This important review cycle and planning document is required to be completed by the end of 2013, ready for implementation in 2014.

The Quadrennial School Review (QSR) process is enhanced through student, parent and community consultation and feedback. We are seeking parents and community members to participate in the QSR process at Springbrook SS. This will involve meeting as a group to: consider a range of school data, review the school purpose, values and context, and review the school vision statement and help develop key strategies and findings. The process will conclude with the development of a new four year Strategic School Pan. If you can help in this process please contact me through the school office.

Finally, I’d like to share some of the academic benefits of small schools. In a multi-age classroom, teachers work with students for a longer period of time (2-4 years) and in that time, develop a much greater depth of knowledge of each child, their interests and their abilities. The knowledge that they gain is not lost at the end of each year, it carries over into the new year, with the opportunity for teachers to build upon what is already known about a student. Students strive to excel because of the opportunity to undertake more advanced school work if it suits their needs. Additionally, there is a much greater opportunity to support student learning when they are underperforming in a curriculum area. Older students gain reinforcement of their own learning through the use of peer tutoring. Cooperation is encouraged and fear of failure is lessened because students are able to work at their ability level.

Springbrook State School is very proud of its ability to cater to individual student need and the relationships with students that underpin all success.

Sarah Jane Ash
Principal
Lace up and walk safely to school

Parents and students are encouraged to lace up their shoes and take part in Walk Safely to School Day on Friday 24 May. You are invited to get up early on this day and join thousands of other Australians walking all or part of the way to school. For those who live too far to walk, why not try parking the car a few blocks away and walking the rest of the way? The day promotes the important message that active kids are healthy kids. For more information visit the Walk Safely to School website at

Library for the Community

Our school library is continuing to open for our community! This is a great opportunity to borrow and enjoy some of the wonderful resources that are part of our library collection. The benefits of reading to young children and sharing a rich literacy world have been well researched and documented. The library will be open for community borrowing each Monday between 1:00pm and 2:45pm. If you would like to register to use this service, please drop in on Monday to complete a form with the usual contact details and you will be able to start from there. There is no cost for this service but book bags are required!

Enrolments for 2013

We currently have room for new enrolments! Enrolment Packs are available for collection from the school office. The enrolment process will include:

- Completion of the enrolment form by a parent
- Submission of the enrolment form with attached copy of a birth certificate or equivalent (mandatory before enrolment will be accepted)
- An interview with the Principal

Woolworths Earn and Learn

Please keep collecting the Earn and Learn stickers for our school. We are aiming to purchase some new home reading resources with the stickers that are collected.
From the Guidance Officer

Resilience through Problem Solving.

Children with good social and problem-solving skills are more equipped for life. In fact intelligence alone is not enough and it is these skills that lead people to be successful in life. Children who have learnt these skills are comfortable in new situations. They are friendly to others and join in activities. They cooperate and compromise. They trust others and others develop trust in them. They handle conflicts well and respect differences of others. They apologize when they are wrong, but will assert themselves when they believe they are right. They are clear in their thinking and non-threatened nor threatening. They are liked. For children with poor resilience and/or at risk of depression, often these skills are lacking.

When children are young they depend on parents to help them solve problems, but as they grow they will need to learn skills to handle the problems they face. Seligman in his book ‘The Optimistic Child’ provides 5 steps your child needs to follow, in order to solve problems effectively.

1. Slowing Down – STOP before acting impulsively, then start thinking. How we handle a problem depends on what we are thinking. Replace hot thoughts with cool thoughts. Hot thoughts often lead to loss of control. Cool thoughts result in solutions that are non-threatening. **How we think affects how we feel and what we do.**

2. Stand in another’s shoes – understand what the other person was thinking or why they acted the way they did. This is easy to do by meeting with the person, looking at their face, and asking non-threatening questions to get answers (use of technology won’t achieve true understanding). Stay calm.

3. **Set Goals** – If you have a problem how would you like things to end eg. You have a fight with your friend, is your goal to restore friendship or have a stand-off.

   As your child sets a goal, they should list as many ways as possible to reach it.

4. **Choose a Path** – which is the best solution. Look at the pros (any good outcomes that might happen) and the cons (any bad consequences) eg. speaking nicely to someone versus yelling at them.

   How did it go? Did it work – if not then don’t give up. **Pick another solution** and give that a shot.

   Notice that all these steps are about you, the parent, training your child in the art of problem solving. It is not about you finding their solutions nor is it about you rescuing them.

   Our aim as parents, carers and teachers is to have well adjusted, social, and happy children who are equipped to handle life in all its forms.

Adapted from Seligman, M – The Optimistic Child

Carla Loughnane
Guidance Officer

Entertainment Books

A school fundraising activity starting this week is the selling and promotion of ‘Entertainment Books’. These books contain hundreds of valuable offers and are filled with 2-for-1 offers and up to 50% off vouchers, all valid until 1st June, 2014! The books are $55.00 each and you will receive over $15,000.00 worth of valuable offers for your $55 investment. Please contact the school office if you would like to see the book or purchase one. 20% of the sales of ‘Entertainment Books’ goes straight to our school. Please help us if you can.
To the great delight of the students, our annual Mother’s Day Stall was held on Friday at play-time. We hope all the recipients of the crafty goods enjoyed their gifts. Our deep gratitude goes to Michelle Dawson’s mum and her craft group who have once again been amazingly generous donating their time and materials to make dozens of quality gifts so our students have the opportunity to go “shopping” on their own for Mother’s Day. A great big thank you also to Michelle Dawson and Jodie Halliday for giving their time to run the stall.

MFest for the P&C was also a huge success. It was fantastic to see so many of the school’s families there, lending a hand on the drinks stall and selling raffle tickets. Our thanks goes out to everyone who donated items for the hampers, especially Marj Maguire for the beautiful fruit cake, and Maria Cooper for the cosy rug. Altogether, with the Mother’s Day Stall, MFest drinks stall and Mother’s Day raffle, funds raised totalled over $400!!!!

The veggie garden is looking very healthy, with the peas and spinach especially thriving! Some of the produce was used last week when the students participated in their first harvest lunch.

Three purpose-made netting systems have been purchased using the funds from the GCCC Divisional Grant given to us by Glenn Tozer. The netting systems will be installed this week to protect our crops so we’re not sharing our produce with insects and wildlife!
A very big thank you must go out to all of our wonderful mums and family members that participated in our Mother’s Day Pampering Session. Our students were very excited about the afternoon and were very involved with all aspects of the planning and organising of the session - from brainstorming pampering ideas, to listing the items we needed to organise, preparing and cooking the snacks and the organising and decorating of the room. We are hoping that Father’s aren’t feeling too left out – we are already thinking of something special for them for Father’s Day.
Free treatment for children (aged 8 to 12 years) who WORRY a lot

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Parents, is your Child a worrier or a "worry wart"? Does your child worry a lot about Everything like school, family, friends, their health and saying the wrong thing? At Griffith University we are offering a free treatment program for children aged 8 to 12 years who worry a lot. Interested? Contact Dr. Lara Farrell (07) 5552 8317 or Monique Holmes (07) 3735 3305; email noworriesprogram@griffith.edu.au; Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NoWorriesProgram