EVERYDAY COUNTS
“Everyday Counts” is an ongoing initiative of the Queensland Government.

Everyday counts...because children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day. Everyday counts...because going to school means getting a better chance at life. Everyday counts...because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience. Everyday counts...because going to school is a legal requirement.

What the law says: Under the law, you must make sure your child is enrolled and attends school on all school days unless you have a reasonable excuse. Parents must not keep a child away from school for minor reasons. Students are expected to attend school every day. Absences should be only for genuine reasons eg illness, serious family circumstances, unavoidable appointments etc. Taking a day off for birthdays, to go shopping, because visitors are arriving etc are not reasonable reasons.

Absence interrupts students’ learning and often restricts the progressive learning of other students. Let’s make every day really count!

P&C AGM
The Annual General Meeting of the P&C Association will be held on Monday 17th March in the senior classroom. All parents are welcome to attend. At this meeting, office bearers for 2014 will be appointed. There is also a change to the constitution to be confirmed, as required by EQ and P&C Qld. The P&C plays an important role within the school. It adds to the life of students at school, raises funds to support the school and provide advice to the principals on key issues relating to the school and community. Our school has relied on a small group of parents who have accepted the responsibility to be parent leaders and done an exceptional job in recent years. At the AGM, all positions on the executive are declared vacant. Office bearers for 2014 will then be appointed. Please consider becoming involved in your P&C!

PARENT – TEACHER MEETINGS
Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Parent Information sessions held last week. These meetings are very valuable in establishing a supportive network between parents and teachers, to support our students. Also, thanks to our teachers for their efforts in sharing information about how the class functions and expectations for the year, with parents. If you were unable to attend, you are always welcome to contact the teachers for an overview of what was presented.

YEAR 6 AND 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL
At the end of 2014, both Year 6 and Year 7 students will progress to high school. Traditionally, the majority of our students have progressed to Robina and Merrimac State High Schools. As time passes, high schools are increasingly limiting enrolment to students who live in their catchment area, due to enrolment pressures. This may limit the choices that are available to our students, resulting in access to the school of their choice only through excellence programs (a competitive process). In some cases, when an older sibling attends a school, remaining family members are accepted as well. Parents are encouraged to begin their research into their child’s secondary placement as soon as is practical. Each school will have its own processes for informing the parents of new students and their parents of their programs. Parents are encouraged to read each school’s website. The school’s catchment area will be able to be accessed. Contact the school if you have any questions. Please do not leave this process until the end of the year as your choices may be limited.

Sarah Jane Ash
Principal
Senior Room News

Technology Challenge Takes Over the Senior Room!

The Senior Class has been busy completing their first technology challenge for the term: designing packaging for a new range of Springbrook State School Cookies!

Working in pairs, students designed, crafted, and marketed their own packaging creations, following the rules of design:
- Functionality - Is it easy to use?
- Affordability - Did the costs of the packaging exceed the cost of the product?
- Durability - Is the packaging suitable for the product [e.g. protection]?
- Visually appealing - Is it enticing to customers?

Students also had to create an advertisement - either a poster/print or a scripted TV commercial - to market and sell the features of their product.

In next Thursday’s lesson [Week 5], we will be baking the delicious cookies to be packaged in our creations, and will be evaluating the final product. That afternoon, from 2:50pm till 3:10pm, our fabulous creations will be for sale for $4 per box, at the front school gate from 2:50 till 3:10pm. Our wonderfully creative advertisements will also be on display.

Hope to see you there!
Shanny Matterson
Senior Class Teacher [Thursday/Friday]

Japanese

Konnichi-wa. My name is Jackie Mikami and I will be teaching LOTE Japanese to the 5/6/7 students every Wednesday. I am very excited to share all my knowledge about Japan and the language with the students. We will be learning how to introduce ourselves this term in Japanese. Students will also be learning and practicing one of the four Japanese scripts called Hiragana.

Sayonara,
Mikami Sensei.
Parents often worry about brothers and sisters quarrelling. A certain amount of quarrelling is normal for children in families. It is one of the ways that they learn how to get on with other people. Quarrelling can be positive. Sometimes, however, you will need to step in when tempers become frayed and you can see that things are getting out of control.

What causes quarrelling?

Learning to get on with others
Arguments between brothers and sisters are one of the ways that children learn to respect other people’s belongings and feelings. It is one of the ways children learn to solve problems. Learning to argue fairly and without hurting each other will help them get on with others.

Parents’ attention
Children in families also fight about parents’ love and attention. To children love means time and attention. Young children do require more attention, but allocating time to an older child is just as important and will make for better relationships all round.

Health
When feeling unwell resistance can be low for coping with adversity. We may be more sensitive to comments and less able to manage our own emotions.

What parents can do
Here are some steps you can take to help lessen quarrels.

- Protect the needs of each child, for example prevent older children’s activities from being interfered with by younger children and vice versa.
- Spend special time with each child on a regular basis.
- Allow each child to own some special things of their own that they don’t have to share. For younger children, see that there are more than one of the same toys, such as matchbox cars, so that they can play together without having to share. Two second hand tricycles are often better fun than one new one that has to be shared. If you have three children make sure that the same one is not left out every time.
- Invite other children over – children learn social skills through exposure and practise
- Children need their own bit of space which will not be interfered with by others, even if it is only a drawer.
- Try not to compare children with each other - this always leads to bad feelings.
- Be generous with hugs and affection to all your children.
- Make ground rules. Get your children to help you make some rules about what behaviour is not allowed in your home, for example name calling or hitting. Then if you have to step in, you do so because someone has broken a rule, not to take sides.
- When you can see that children are feeling upset, help them to find ways to express their feelings by talking about feelings. Play that helps with feelings includes water play, painting and playdough. For older children and adolescents it may be something like going for a run or playing their music. Talk with them about what helps.

Maintain good health - Healthy active children may exhibit greater tolerance / resilience and manage their emotions more appropriately when needed

Children need adults to teach them how to solve problems, and while squabbles may be annoying and stressful they also may be the means of teaching resilience as well as developing skills for managing relationships throughout our lives.

Adapted from `Parenting SA’,
Government of South Australia

Carla Loughnane
Guidance Officer
From the Junior Room

We’ve started our writer’s workshop. It’s great to see that so many students are “giving it a go” with their writing! We are focussing on communicating an idea through pictures and words, just like an author does.

Year 2 students have started working on sizzling starts and learning to use ‘four-reads’ for editing.

Well done to all the children that remember to change their home readers every day!

Don’t forget: Library is on Monday! Remember to return your library books every Monday so that you can borrow another book and also earn stickers.

Special Education News – Karen Cavaye

What a vibrant start to 2014 with our increased roll and our eager new faces both staff and student alike! I feel very privileged to return as your Special Education Teacher to continue supporting the unique school community that is Springbrook State School.

This year I will be attending on Wednesdays where I will be working across both Junior and Senior classes to not only support students that have met the Education Queensland criteria for a disability but also students requiring a range of strategies to assist them to access the school curriculum, assessment and social understanding. The role of the Special Education Teacher is varied. The primary focus is to liaise with families and staff regarding the needs and challenged that face our young people with a disability assisting with data collection and developing programs to best support their learning while also working closely with their peers to promote and maintain a positive social environment.

With the range of learning approaches and technologies utilised in schools today, our learning opportunities and also learning styles have become quite diverse. Working alongside staff to utilise varying approaches and strategies that are easily incorporated into daily programs and assisting with providing resources to encourage opportunities is very valuable.

A large challenge for any SEP Teacher is to help overcome the conceptual and organisational division between general and special education staff and develop a common language based on the curriculum and the needs of students. This is often achieved with co-teaching between SEP and mainstream teaching staff and also serves to assist staff overcome lowered academic expectations regarding students with diverse learning needs. With Springbrook State School’s inclusive nature, this element is not an issue and I am able to work a holistic approach with all student groupings to assist them to achieve their learning goals confidently and competently so all will be working with Miss Karen during some lessons each day.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or require further information regarding Education Queensland processes. I am available on Wednesdays and my email is kcava18@eq.edu.au.
Kaleb: for consistently demonstrating exceptional listening and participation behaviour in class.

Arky: for excellent determination in always doing his best.

Mika: for persisting with her spelling words and receiving a fantastic score in her spelling test.

Emma: for always displaying active listening behaviour and participation in classroom discussions.

School Attendance Awards for 2013

Term 4 2013 - For Attendance 95% or above:
Arky  
Cate  
Tennille  
Aidan  
Aimee  
Samantha  
Angus  
Callum  
Maiki  
Connor  
Britt

2013 - Whole Year Attendance 96% or above:
Arky  
Tennille  
Aidan  
Britt  
Katie  
Maiki  
Aimee

Congratulations to Connor for 100% attendance in 2013!
Dates to Remember

- 25th February 2:30pm Ben Weeks from Robina SHS on Assembly
- 26th February 3:15pm Active After School Sport
- 5th March 3:15pm Active After School Sport
- 6th March 4:00pm M-Fest Meeting in the senior classroom
- 12th March 3:15pm Active After School Sport
- 17th March 3:15pm P&C Annual General Meeting in the senior classroom
- 19th March 3:15pm Active After School Sport
- 20th March 9:00pm Senior class excursion to Somerset Celebration of Literature
- 26th March 3:15pm Active After School Sport
- 28th March Cross Country Carnival at Numinbah Valley SS
- 28th March Robina SHS Experience Day for 2015 prospective Year 7 and 8 students
- 4th April 10:00am Community Easter morning tea

Library

Remember: every Monday is Library Borrowing Day.

So to avoid disappointment, students are asked to bring the book they borrowed the previous week, and return it during the class library visit. This means students are then free to choose another book to borrow.

Remember when you believed in anything and everything?

Researchers from the University of Western Australia are investigating children’s ability to detect and avoid potentially harmful social interactions, such as being easily fooled or tricked into doing something. We are looking to see how this develops in children, and when children outgrow this vulnerability.

We are looking for parents of Kindergarten – Year 6 children across Australia to complete an online survey (15 – 20 minutes). Participants will go into a draw to win one of 10 $50 gift certificates to Coles/Myers.

To participate go to:

http://tinyurl.com/childsvq

Or for more information please contact Rebecca Seward at (08) 6488 4652
Seeking Non-Anxious Children and Adolescents

At Griffith University, we are conducting an exciting study investigating anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. To help us understand how anxiety develops in youth, we need to learn from children and adolescents who are not fearful or anxious. We are seeking parents and their non-anxious children and adolescents (7 - 17 years) to participate in our study. **To thank you for your time and involvement in the study, we will give you gift vouchers to the value of $50.** To find out more about this project, please contact Dr Ella Milliner and Dr Lara Farrell on (07) 567 88317 or email e.milliner@griffith.edu.au.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in Children and Adolescents

Does your child worry excessively about certain things? Does your child engage in senseless and time-consuming habits, routines or rituals? Does your child constantly seek reassurance from you? Your child may be experiencing Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Griffith University can help.

A research team at Griffith University is offering an OCD assessment and treatment service for children and teenagers aged 7 to 18 years. After an initial assessment, eligible children will take part in the OCD BUSTERS Program. This program, held at Griffith University, aims to reduce levels of OCD symptoms in children and youth. For further information, call – (07) 55528317 or email the OCD Busters Team on ocdbustersgc@griffith.edu.au.

Do you have a child in year 4, 5 or 6?

Have you missed out on thousands of dollars?

In 2001, the Government introduced the ‘First Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.

If you have ANY child that was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $1,250 of entitlements.

The government has a 30 June 2014 deadline on this entitlement, so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au today to receive more information.