All students, staff and parents are welcomed back to the new term. This term again promises to be exceptionally busy – with a short week 1, parent teacher meetings, Naplan, and report cards.

Reflecting on term 1, parents would be well aware of the excellent work of our teachers and teacher aides, in supporting our children’s growth and development. They have established positive learning environments in classrooms and work well with the range of students in their classrooms.

Despite this success, we are constantly searching for improved strategies and processes to improve our service and delivery of improved student learning outcomes. Our current focus on the teaching of reading is a refinement of the many successful programs, processes and strategies teachers have been using, and by working together, we can ensure higher levels of success for all students. Our whole school reading groups are scheduled to begin in week 2 and they will continue the dedicated focus on improved reading skills.

ANZAC CEREMONY: Last week our students attended and assisted in the delivery of an Anzac ceremony around our school flagpole. A big thank you to the parents who were able to join us for this service, and to Mr Bowthorpe for being our special guest and answering a host of questions posed by the years 3-7 students. This was followed up by a fantastic student representation at the community march on Friday morning. We had 76% of our students in their uniforms, marching with pride to support our local community with the ceremony at the Springbrook cenotaph. The P&C did an amazing job with the provision of the gunfire breakfast after the dawn service and many community members shared in the meal together.

NAPLAN 2014: Each year, all Australian school students participate in the national assessment of literacy and numeracy program, referred to as Naplan. Naplan is held for all Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students and all students are expected to participate. In special circumstances some students may be exempt. Students will undertake assessments in Numeracy, Reading, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and Writing. Naplan is held in week 4 of this term, 12th to 16th May. Our school does not strongly engage in specific preparation for the assessment program. Rather, students are prepared through their regular class program, with some selected activities so that students are familiar with the assessment format. Students are not able to ‘study’ for these assessments as they are a point-in-time sample of a student’s performance and the data that is gained through the Naplan program is valuable feedback on effective teaching strategies and programs in classrooms. If you have any specific concerns regarding your child and the Naplan program, please speak with the classroom teachers as soon as possible.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS: Parent teacher interviews will be conducted for all students in week 3, starting Monday 5th May. This is an invaluable opportunity to speak with the teachers and discuss the individual plan prepared for each and every student. Interviews will be available both before and after school and it is sincerely hoped that all families will take advantage of the opportunity to talk with the teachers. A productive working relationship between school and home is pivotal in establishing a partnership to support our students. Effective communication between school and home is an essential part of that. Forms to book an interview time/s will be distributed in the coming days.

ATTENDANCE: Everyday counts for students to be able to learn and develop their skills and knowledge effectively. Term 1 Attendance Awards will be distributed at our next school assembly and a big congratulations goes to the eighteen students who had a term 1 attendance rate of greater than 95%. This includes six students with perfect attendance for term 1! Well done!

Sarah Jane Ash, Principal
Junior Classroom News

First of all, we would like to give a warm welcome Grace. Grace is our new Year 2 student and we are all very excited to have her joining us in the junior room. We know that you love it here at Springbrook State School.

We are zooming through our Jolly Phonics program and by the end of this term the students will be exposed to the 42 sounds which will help them read and spell. This is a great way to learn our sounds as it teaches the students through song and actions.

We now have printed home readers for some of our students. Although the books may not be as attractive as our usual books, students should be able to use their sound knowledge to read the words. The books are grouped in a developing order based on the order of sounds introduced in the Jolly Phonics early literacy program. Each book also has suggestions at the front on how parents can get the most out of the book.

After some feedback, I have decided to put a regular reader into their homework folder as well as the printed Jolly phonics booklet. Allow your child to choose 1 reader to read, of course if they want to read both that is fine. Let’s keep reading fun! If they are feeling too overwhelmed with the book, stop and try another night.

Our class had a fun morning baking banana muffins with Miss Nerida and Miss Teena. Lots of teamwork was involved and they came out perfectly! We gobbled them up at 2nd break. They were delicious!

Joyce Boura.

Dates to Remember

⇒ 22nd April: Term 2 Starts
⇒ 24th April: ANZAC Service at Springbrook SS 2.15pm
⇒ 25th April: ANZAC Day Public Holiday
⇒ 5th May: 3:15pm P&C Meeting in the senior classroom
⇒ 7th May: Mother’s Day Stall in undercover area
⇒ 9th May: Cross Country at Numinbah Valley
⇒ 9th May: 4:00pm Raising the mFEST Red Tent
⇒ 10th May: mFEST at Springbrook State School
⇒ 13th May: 14th & 15th May: NAPLAN for Years 3, 5 and 7
⇒ 2nd June: 3:15pm P&C Meeting in the senior classroom
⇒ 9th June: Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
⇒ 23rd June: Report cards distributed
The Senior Class was very lucky to have Mr Dan Fitzgerald from Cooly Dive come in to the classroom to give a talk on life in the ocean, sharks, and scuba diving, as part of the introduction to our new technology design unit, Save the Sea Life.

In response to the recent shark cull events in Western Australia, and as members of the Gold Coast community, the students have been challenged to design a new and better way to protect swimmers on our beaches from sharks, whilst also preserving the lives of sharks and other marine creatures.

Mr Dan shared his extensive knowledge about sharks and their habits with the seniors, whilst dispelling some common myths about these misunderstood creatures. He also showed the students how his dive gear and air tanks operate to allow him to breathe and swim comfortably underwater. Students were even lucky enough to try on Mr Dan’s scuba rig themselves and pretend to be divers!

We are very grateful to Mr Dan for volunteering his time to visit our school for introducing our class to the wonders of the ocean. Stay tuned for news of Mr Dan’s return visit at the end of last term to evaluate the final designs/models created by the students.

Miss Matterson.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Maiki: for showing respect and responsibility when listening in class.
Samantha: for excellent commitment to completing all tasks to the best of her ability.
Isabelle: for working hard at applying her letter sounds to spell words.
Ryka: for excellent commitment and dedication to his learning!
Cole: for being a reflective learner who is able to take feedback on board.
Jimi: For a great improvement in his attitude and effort to learn.
Roy: for displaying fantastic effort and improvement in sounding out words.
Katie: for excellent efforts and dedication during writing tasks!

Mathletics

Cate - Bronze award
Arwen - Bronze award
Callum - Bronze award
Will - Bronze 3830 points
Will - Bronze 2170 points
Cole - Bronze
Arwen - Silver 1510 points
Callum - Silver 2445 points
Cate - Bronze 1077 points
Angus - Bronze 1000 points
Britt - Bronze award
Britt - Bronze 2340 points
Ryka - Bronze
Arky - Bronze 1520 points
Ryka - Silver 1690 points
Elvis - Silver 1284 points
Congratulations Britt - GOLD award!

Reading

Maiki  Connor  Tennille  Britt  Cole
Ethan  Samantha  Aimee  Aidan  Roy

Banking - Bronze certificate for 10 deposits
Mathilda  Roy  Angus  Connor  Aidan  Samantha

25 Nights!
From the Guidance Officer

Food and Healthy Eating

We have always been aware of the importance of food on our physical health, however we often don’t give much thought to our brain and the importance of our food intake on it. Poor nutrition can be associated with reduced academic performance and behavioural problems.

We often hear of what we shouldn’t give our kids and know that excess sugar, food colourings, preservatives and additives can lead towards hyperactivity, anxiety, difficulty concentrating and crankiness but what foods should be high on the list of things to eat?

Essential fatty acids including omega-3 and omega-6 are essential for brain development and the prevention of cognitive decline. The body can only obtain these ‘good fats’ from what we eat. Look out for oily or fatty fish as well as some nuts and vegetables. If your child is resistant to eating these foods, a supplementary dose of quality fish oil will suffice.

Amino acids are critical for healthy brain development and function. The brain uses amino acids to produce the chemicals involved in regulating mood, sustaining mental clarity, paying attention and boosting energy levels. A diet deficient in amino acids can result in depression and feeling tired or weak. Amino acids can be obtained from animal protein sources such as meat, fish and eggs, soya beans and quinoa (which looks like curly rice).

Despite packaged foods being quick and easy alternatives to ‘throw’ into lunch boxes, many of them are deficient in the vital nutrients children need to get through the day. Simple sandwiches, wholemeal wraps, cheese, yoghurt (without sugar and artificial flavours), fruits and vegies can contain many of the nutrients children need to power through a demanding day at school without running out of fuel.

Carla Loughnane
Guidance Officer
2015 ENROLMENT EVENING

Merrimac State High School Enrolment Information Evening 2015 will be on Tuesday 20 May, 2014 in the school library.

Starting times are as follows:
Students entering Year 7 in 2015 at 3:30pm
Students entering Year 8 in 2015 at 6:30pm

All prospective students and parents are welcome to attend this information evening. Staff will be on hand to provide information on enrolment, curriculum and facilities.

Enrolment packs will be available from Merrimac SHS Admin or @ www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au

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Learn to sew both Babies & Children's Clothing, at the most fun, fashionable, and unique sewing classes on the Gold Coast.

Choose from a selection of 3-hr one-off Beginner sewing classes, including: Baby Blanket, Baby Bloomer, Pillowcase Dress, and Cargo Shorts; all gorgeous styles for your kids this season!

You can even learn to sew something for yourself with the introduction of the Ladies' Kaftan top before the holidays.

GOLD COAST SEWING CLASSES
www.goldcoastsewingclasses.com
A message from Community Child Health Nurses:

Children’s vision and eye health

More than 80% of a child's learning is vision-based. Recent research has found that as many as one in ten Australian children have some form of long-term vision problem which can impact on their ability to learn. Children are often unable to recognise they have a vision problem because it develops over time and they're unable to sense this change. Outward signs of vision problems may include excessive blinking, squinting or rubbing eyes. Children may also demonstrate behaviours such as losing their place when reading; using fingers to follow words in a book (not for a new reader); crooked writing or poor spacing between words; covering or closing one eye to read; holding a book very close; or tilting their head to view things.

The most common vision problems are those affecting children’s ability to see clearly and sharply. Short- and long-sightedness and astigmatism are perhaps the better known conditions, and are usually correctable. Some other problems not so well known include poor eye co-ordination, turned eye, poor hand/eye coordination, eye movement defects, and difficulties focusing. Early detection and treatment is vital, not only to maximise children’s ability to learn but, in some cases, to prevent permanent vision loss.

The Optometrists Association Australia recommends children have their vision assessed at 6 months of age, 3 years of age, again at 5 years of age, and then every two years thereafter. These consultations are covered under Medicare and more than 95% of optometrists bulk-bill. You don’t need a referral to see an optometrist – just telephone for an appointment.

Apart from regular optometrist assessments, here are some tips to support children to maintain their eye health:

- Encourage them to read in a room with good and even lighting and take regular breaks;
- Minimise UV exposure by having them stay out of the sun between 10 am and 3 pm and wear sunglasses and a broad brimmed hat when outdoors;
- When watching TV ensure even room lighting and do not allow them to sit in a completely dark room;
- Limit computer sessions to less than two hours, ensure the top of the monitor is at or slightly below eye level, and encourage them to regularly look away from the computer screen;

For further information about children’s vision or to find your nearest optometrist, please refer to the Optometrists Association Australia website: [http://www.optometrists.asn.au/your-eyes/your-child%27s-eyes/resources-for-parents.aspx](http://www.optometrists.asn.au/your-eyes/your-child%27s-eyes/resources-for-parents.aspx)
mFest.com.au

celebration of motherhood

Saturday 10th May

craft
music
workshops
fun activities...

SPRINGBROOK MOUNTAIN
Free Community Music & Craft Festival