

Newsletter No.1 – 8th February 2011

Dear Parents

Welcome back everyone to the beginning of our 2011 academic year at Springbank. A very warm welcome to our new students and their parents, who have joined the Springbank community. We are pleased to have an increased student roll.

I spoke to many excited students on the first day, all raring to go. It's going to be a great year!

Springbank Parents' Breakfast

Next Monday 14 February at 9am, our parent-group Friends of Springbank are hosting 'Coffee, Cake and Chat' straight after school assembly. If you have any queries, contact parent Louise Huett on 09 4017299 or 021 11176984. Drop your children off to school, stay and watch assembly, then join in to meet friends, welcome new parents and discuss the year ahead. I look forward to talking to you all and answering any questions you may have.

This term I am re-introducing the Principal's Coffee and Chat at Redwoods Cafe. Come along any Wednesday between 10.30am and 11am and I will be there to talk with you about any aspect of Springbank.

The school camps are well underway. I attended the Senior Camp at Kaihu Motor Camp near the Kai Iwi Lakes. What fantastic young adults. I was blown away by their support of each other, their inclusiveness, their sense of fun and their ability to give everything a go. Our new German student Valentina has many "firsts" – first on a jetski, first on a ski-biscuit and first time walking to the wild West Coast.

2011 Calendar of Events; Roles and Responsibilities

Term One's outline is included with this newsletter.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities are also outlined.

Examination Results CIE

We are delighted to report that Patrick Deely has been awarded Top in New Zealand for Year 12 AS English Language. Patrick's raw score was the stand-alone highest score, and was graded as 100%. Outstanding! Congratulations also to his teacher Andrea Druery for all of her superb teaching.

We are very pleased with our results as follows:

AS 79% pass rate
21% A grades
18% B grades

IGCSE 98% pass rate
27% A grades
28% B grades

Checkpoint (Year 9)

16% of students gained an Excellence grade
54% of students gained a grade above average
79% of students gained grades average or above

CIPP Year 6 Achievement Test

The percentage of students who achieved 6_5 or 6_6 (the two top grades):

Science – 86%

Maths – 40%

English – 43%

Our choice to move to the International Cambridge Examinations and curriculum has been a very positive decision. I see so much student growth during the senior years. Their persistence, energy and commitment is amazing. They are so proud of their results, achieved after genuine hard work and they stand tall against international standards. It is a tough world out there and our students need to be capable and competitive.

NCEA

Last year was our final year of NCEA, except for some students who will continue to have the opportunity to study foreign languages and subjects like Graphics and Design. These subjects stand alone and can not be counted as part of CIE. However this is an opportunity for a small number of students to follow their passion and talent.

**NCEA Level 3 - 12% Excellence grades
45% Merit grades**

New Developments

During the holidays Bob painted the Headstart building, which looks fresh and inviting. I spent considerable time formalising the licence for Headstart and completing all of the MOE paperwork to re-licence Springbank Preschool (all preschools in NZ, licenced before 2008 must be re-licenced according to new criteria). I am pleased to report that both licences came through on 1 February.

2011 School Focus

Our focus this year underpins the Springbank triangle and our mantra, "Attitude is Everything."



CAN DO: Having strong, unshakeable self-belief.

Having others believe in you and your capabilities.

Acknowledging multiple attempts: "I can't...yet."

DARE TO: Dream and imagine possibilities, take measured risks, set goals that stretch, be excited and enthusiastic, show leadership and initiative, be flexible and break beyond your comfort zone.

WILL DO: Be focussed, committed, organised, persistent and action-oriented. Work well in a team, self-manage, achieve and acknowledge success, reflect, evaluate and ask "Where to next?"

We look forward to this year being full of challenge and the satisfaction of personal growth and achievement in all aspects – personal, sporting, cultural and academic.

Springbank Multi-Sport Club

This starts up next Wednesday 16 February with our first early evening walk and swim. If you'd like to be included in the "What's happening" email, please email mike.warren@springbank.school.nz.

We had a really good time together last year; and it's great to see families being active and having fun around the Bay of Islands.

Contact details

If your address, phone numbers or email have changed, please let Sally know.

Visiting the School

We welcome your active interest in your child's education. If you would like to talk with staff, feel free to keep in touch informally before or after school. If you would like to talk about your child's progress and achievement, please contact the class teacher either by email or phone to arrange a time to suit you both. All parents coming into the school during class time must check in with the office first. Please do not disturb class teachers, who are focused on teaching their students.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday 11 February - Middle School Family BBQ at the Community Pool 6.30pm-8.30pm, \$4.00 each, covers sausage sizzle and pool entry
- Monday 14 February – Friends of Springbank Parents Get-Together @ 9am

Thought for the Week

Week 1: Practise the Art of Possibility. Throw out negative, downward-spiral thinking for open, outward, possibility thinking.

Have a great week.

Kind regards

Sophia Warren
Principal