



Newsletter No.9 | October 2012

Dear Parents

We begin this newsletter by officially announcing that Sophia will be stepping aside as Principal of Springbank School at the conclusion of this year.

Sophia, along with her husband Bob, founded Springbank School in 1996 and she has been Principal for 15 years. Sophia has led the school through its foundation years and established Springbank as a strong school with an excellent reputation. We welcome Mike into the role of Principal starting in 2013.

We will be holding a special ceremony, celebrating Sophia's tenure as Principal on Thursday 29th November at 2:00pm.

Please bring a plate of food if you wish to stay for afternoon tea. We will be providing tea and coffee. If you have any queries regarding this event, or wish to contribute some memories or kind words, please contact Lynne Alexander (lynne.alexander@springbank.school.nz).



Term 4 is well underway and students are hard at work. They are either sitting Progressive Tests or internationally marked and moderated examinations for Year 6, Year 9 and Years 11-13. This is the culmination of a full year's work and we look forward to pleasing academic results.

We have received several sets of national competition results and we congratulate our outstanding achievers for the recent ICAS competitions.

Dates for the Diary

- **27 November**
Yr 11-13 Presentation Dinner at Ake Ake, 7pm
- **28 November**
Gift Giving Ceremony at 2.30pm
- **29 November**
Sophia Warren Official Farewell – 2pm.
- **30 November**
Certificate Assemblies – all parents welcome
Year 1-6 students – 9am
Year 7-10 students – 1pm
Reports issued
- **5 December**
Springbank School Prizegiving.
All students are expected to attend this end of year celebration and all families are invited. We are honoured to have the Executive Director of Independent Schools of New Zealand (ISNZ) Deborah James, as our guest speaker.



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ICAS Competition Results

ICAS MATHEMATICS	ICAS ENGLISH
High Distinction (Top 1% in NZ)	High Distinction (Top 1% in NZ)
Isaac Chandler	Isaac Chandler
	Isabella Francis
Distinction (Top 11% in NZ)	Distinction (Top 11% in NZ)
Sam Sutcliffe	Luke Bramley
Taran Kern	
Timothy Richardson	
Taiyo Serge	
Jack Thurston	
Credit (Top 30% in NZ)	Credit (Top 30% in NZ)
Eli Chandler	Eli Chandler
Fleur Nederlof	Georgie Ludbrook
Callum Prichard	Noortje Nederlof
Paris Shepherd	Evangelia Sfakakis
Max Hittle	Callum Prichard
Blake Vujcich	Max Hittle
Jake Dawson	Acima Mabidikama
Lauren Harrell	Sam Sutcliffe
Jamie Hardcastle	Taran Kern
Georgia Sheard	Lauren Harrell
Holly Sutcliffe	Megan Bramley
Megan Bramley	Holly Sutcliffe
Isabella Francis	Sophie Piesse
	Tim Richardson
	Lewis Kidman
	Callum Hadlow
	Emily Derrick

As in our previous newsletter, we reiterate that ICAS is a voluntary international academic competition designed for New Zealand's top students. It is not based on our New Zealand or International Cambridge Curriculum, but provides an opportunity for very capable students to be challenged. Our exceptional student achievement is admirable.

ASB NZ Maths Challenge

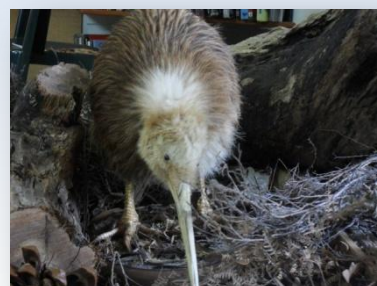
Pictured below is Maths Teacher Chris Wallis accepting the 3rd Place award of sports equipment in the ASB NZ Maths Challenge from Mr Robert Groome (ASB Kerikeri).



The BP Community Enterprise Challenge

This year the Springbank School community enterprise team, Aroha Island Conservation Project was awarded Merit, being one of five Merit winners in New Zealand, and in the top eight out of 50 entries. Congratulations to Nikki Chapman, Alex Ough-Dealy and Maddison Moa who will be given \$500 from Enterprise New Zealand Trust towards their project.

The Riding for the Disabled team of Leah Stewart and Charlotte Stanley-Scott were placed in the Top 12 in New Zealand.



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Regional Council Youth Summit

Recently, Eloise Thynne, Lauren Harrell and Aimee Larkan had the opportunity to travel down to the Onerahi Yacht Club in Whangarei, to participate in the Regional Council Youth Summit 2012. Over the course of the day they learned about catchments and Coastal Care Northland; and each school came up with an action plan of how to keep Northland's coast and environment cleaner and healthier. They also did some activities, including a game called Who Dirtied the Water and a role play of a court case concerning the Opuia Marina. All in all the day was a fun way to learn outside the classroom and meet new people. It got them thinking about their future and made them think outside the square. The three students are planning on possibly putting their plan into action next year as a community project. They would definitely recommend the Year 7 and 8's to attend the Summit next year if given the opportunity.

Staff Changes

We welcome Jessica van Weerd to Springbank Preschool. Jessica finishes her ECE Teaching Degree next month and already has a warm and genuine rapport with the children and a passionate interest in their educational growth.

We have accepted the resignation of Science teacher Barry Taylor to take effect at the end of this year. Barry has been teaching at Springbank for 9 years and students have enjoyed his Science and Senior Biology classes featuring his diverse Science stories, dry wit and intellectual depth of knowledge. Barry was involved in our school-wide drama and music productions as drummer extra-ordinaire and he has been a respected Science Department colleague. We have very much appreciated the high standards Barry has set in his teaching and the many exceptional results Barry has achieved from his students.

We thank Barry very much for his significant contribution to Springbank School and for maintaining Science as a strong core subject for our students.

Angela and Mike Warren welcomed their little son, Mason Kojak into the world on 8 October and they would like to thank everyone for their congratulations and gifts. Angela was teaching at our Preschool up until mid-October and we are very appreciative of her commitment and initiative and her warm relationships with the children.



Springbank In Focus: Sunhats

Our Springbank School Diary states our policy as follows: "Students are expected to wear hats in summer and are encouraged to do so at other times of the year when outdoors."

Parents are encouraged to regularly check that their child has a sunhat in their bag. Staff do their best to monitor Springbank's expectation that students wear their hats outside for sun-protection, and teach the importance of protecting our skin with sunscreen, clothing and hats, during health lessons. Our ultimate aim is for students to practice self-responsibility.

Information Technology

With regard to Information Technology, fibre optics will be operational before the year-end. This will increase our current speed by 2000%, which creates huge IT opportunities for Springbank students and staff. We are very keen to look at options like BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) and also to incorporate modern technology into learning. All classrooms have overhead projectors linked to computers and most staff use these as an integral part of their teaching. This year the Maths teachers initiated online interactive Maths teaching programmes Mathletics, Myimaths, and the QKit Software for IGCSE and A Level which have proved to be very useful resources for students and staff.



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Young Enterprise Scheme Awards

The Northland YES Awards were held at the Waitangi Copthorne on Wednesday 31st October. Over 100 people representing the 53 Northland YES teams, gathered for a formal dinner with a number of guest speakers including dignitaries, YES teachers and students reporting on the highlights of the YES year.

The overall winners were announced and we are proud to report that Dr. Gripper, one of the two Springbank teams, received trophies for:

- The Northern Advocate Award for Excellence in Communication
- The Northpower Award for Excellence in Technology
- And the Supreme Award - **Top Energy YES Company of the Year**

Well done to Chance August, Titouan Lamouric, Jamie Plowman, Mathew Carr and Cheyanne Donnelly.

Chance August was also announced as a finalist in the national NZICA Managing Director of the Year Award. He is one of five finalists from around the country.

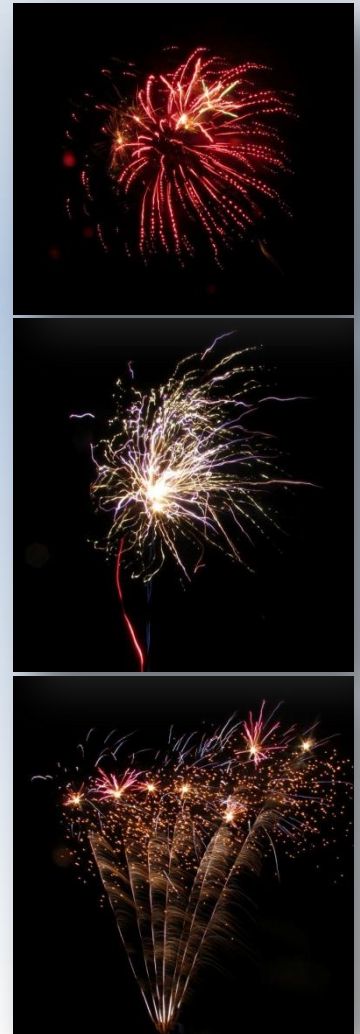
The team will travel to Wellington for the YES National Awards in December and we wish them all the best.



Dr Gripper: Northland Young Enterprise Company of the Year

Community Fireworks Event

Congratulations to the Friends of Springbank parents' team who staged a fantastic Fireworks Night for the Kerikeri community. About 1500 people came from near and far to enjoy a spectacular display. The event was enhanced by great musical entertainment, tasty food and glow-products to light up the night. It was great to see our parents, staff and the wider community come together in a spirit of family fun, with Springbank as a venue we are proud to showcase.



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Springbank Community Projects

Reel Easy -Holly Sutcliffe, Noah Atchison-Darby, Emily Derrick, Anita Pasquale, Tim Richardson. This group worked with the Kerikeri Volunteer Fire Brigade to invent a device that would help firemen wind their hoses up more easily and without the manpower currently involved. They have tested their prototype and are currently having an engineer build the device in aluminium. This invention has the potential to be used by fire departments all over NZ.

The Aroha Island Project -Nikki Chapman, Alex Ough-Dealy and Maddison Moa. The Brown Island Kiwi numbers in NZ have been declining for the last decade and this group has set about helping with the kiwi's protection with the invention of the kiwi nesting boxes for Aroha Island. Four boxes have been built and hope to house four nesting pairs of kiwis. Two of these boxes will be monitored using an infra-red camera and will relay images through to a 32 inch TV screen in the Aroha Island Visitors Centre. This information can be used by organisations like the Department of Conservation (DOC) to monitor kiwi behaviour and nesting patterns which will be vital in the conservation and breeding programmes of the kiwi.



Riding High - Leah Stewart and Charlotte Stanley-Scott. After hearing a representative from Riding for the Disabled speak at school about the organisation and their needs, these excited and motivated girls set to work with Mel Adams from Total Span to design and provide sheltered seating for Riding for the Disabled spectators at the Waimate North Showgrounds. Through negotiation with the girls, Total Span has kindly donated two sets of sheltered seating similar to the Total Span Undercover Bus Shelters. These shelters are currently being erected.

Pizza La Viva - Georgia Sheard and Katie Lee Riddle. Aroha Island has a dis-used and neglected outdoor pizza oven and these girls saw an opportunity to help the Aroha Island Trust by improving their facilities to attract more visitors and help the island remain sustainable as a kiwi sanctuary. Pizza La Viva intend to pave the area around the existing oven, plant a herb garden and install a shade sail to make this picnic area complete and user friendly.

Community Projects

Reconstructing History - Jarrod Bennett, Callum Hadlow, Taiyo Serge and Oliver Sparksman Weber. Rewa's Village is a replica Maori Fishing Village in the Kerikeri Stone Store Basin. This group of history enthusiasts wanted to help the Rewa's Village Trust to rebuild its Pataka (Maori Storage House) This involved collecting toitoi reeds in the upcoming Summer season. The group also hope to create new bi-lingual signage for the village to help the village achieve one of its goals for 2012.

Submerged - Yuong Chaiyaklang, Kimberley Knight, Lewis Kidman, Jamie Hardcastle. This group is passionate about the marine life in the Bay of Islands and the need for marine conservation. Their aim is to increase the use of the Robertson Island Snorkel Trail by replacing the old underwater signage with new vibrant photos and updated information on the sea life in the area.

SPCA - Courtney De Vries. Courtney's love of animals has motivated her to raise as much money as she can for the SPCA. Courtney has sewn numerous door stops which she sold at Market Day and these are also currently on display for sale at the new store Luscious Living. Well done Courtney!



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Parent Forum Feedback

Our Parent Forum provided in-depth discussion on topics of interest and the Springbank Directors have spent considerable time discussing the main issues that Springbank School parents deem to be significant. They have split these issues in to three key areas:

1. Issues that we could provide more information on, so that parents are well informed about what we are already doing:

- Subject choices in Senior School
- Study skills
- Sporting Opportunities
- Market Day and Enterprise (written feedback given to parents in Newsletter No.7)
- Compulsory hats in summer
- Curriculum and meeting individual needs through extension and assistance
- Springbank School Strategic Direction

We will be discussing several of these issues with staff and formulating an information section for parents in the upcoming newsletters called "Springbank in Focus".

2. Suggestions for consideration by management, for possible enhancement to the school's operations:

- Growing the student roll – strategies to consider
- Careers guidance in Years 9 and 10
- Information Technology integration across subjects
- Foreign language teaching in Junior School
- Strong emphasis on the core subjects of English, Science and Mathematics

There are on-going discussions underway with Mike and Sophia, staff and the Directors, and we will feed back developments to parents in the next couple of newsletters.

3. Questions to ask parents in a written survey:

Whether or not to have a school uniform was a hot topic. All parents have been emailed asking them for their response and we will let you know the outcome.

Kind Regards,

Sophia & Mike Warren
Co-Principals

Thought for the week:

Week 1: *"The grass ain't always greener on the other side. It's green where you water it."*

– Big Sean in Justin Bieber's 'As long as you love me'
(Courtesy of Mr Warren)

Week 2: *"Don't tell me the sky's the limit when there are footprints on the moon."*

– Paul Brandt
(Courtesy of Prefect Danielle Briggs)

Week 3: *"You know when you get that deep-seated feeling of self-satisfaction when you're so happy that you've conceived something and then got out there and made it happen; when you get that feeling inside you of inner well-being. I call that my Reward Feeling"*

– Tony Mowbray –
Australian Around the World Sailor



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