



Newsletter No.1 | February 2013

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the start of 2013! A very big welcome to our new students and their families.

Last week I visited the Middle School Year 7-9 camp at the MERC Centre at Long Bay, Auckland and was really pleased with the positive tone and the enthusiastic involvement of students in all of the activities. Their willingness to give things a go is awesome.

I also spent a couple of days at Kai Iwi Lakes with the Senior School and I was particularly impressed with the leadership senior students showed. They interacted so well with the younger students and students new to Springbank. Certainly our new international students would have enjoyed a great introduction to our hospitality. All in all it was good to see staff, students and parents getting along so well together.

New Developments

The school has had a bit of a make-over, with several classrooms and offices being re-painted giving everything a fresh, new look. We have created a new carpeted senior classroom, Room 17, situated in between Mr Webb's and Mr Hilliam's classrooms in the Turf Block. New overhead projectors were installed in Preschool, Headstart and Room 3.

The Preschool has had some exciting new outdoor development, with a new sand area, a riverbed area of riverstones and boulders and a tree-trunk stepping-stone area; all providing a natural environment for play and discovery.

2013 Term Dates:

Term One

29 January to 19 April

Term Two

6 May to 12 July

Term Three

29 July to 27 September

Term Four

14 October to 5 December

Dates to Remember:

18th February

Prefects announced at Assembly

20-22nd February

Year 5/6 Camp

27th February

Athletics Day

Attendance

Please ensure your child is at school on time. The school bell rings at 8.35am and we expect all students to be at school before this time. Please note that Preschool and Headstart begin at 8.30am and finish at 3pm.



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2013 School-Wide Focus

In today's complex world it is important that we equip our students with the ability to not only survive, but to thrive – to have the capability to think well and to employ strategies that will enable them to pursue successful careers and fulfilling relationships.

Educational research (in particular by Prof. Guy Claxton) has identified four key areas that are crucial to students being better learners at school and capable, confident adults throughout life.

Our focus this year is on Capability, with emphasis on the 4 R's:

- **Resilience** Able to lock onto learning
- **Resourcefulness** Able to learn in different ways
- **Reflectiveness** Able to be strategic about learning
- **Reciprocity** Able to function well, alone and with others, productively, enjoyably and responsibly.

Staff will be discussing, modelling and acknowledging the skills, dispositions and attitudes that students need to develop to be capable learners who are 'learning-fit'. Each term, we will focus on one of these Rs; and each week at Assembly, I will talk about specific skills and attitudes students can work on.

Examination Results

Our International Cambridge Examination results for Year 6 CIP, Year 9 Secondary 1 Checkpoint, Year 11 IGCSE and Years 12 and 13 A Levels are as follows:

A Levels (Years 12 and 13)

Pass rate – 85%

Top Scholar – Leah Claus (pictured right)



As well as the Year 13 students attaining University Entrance, six of our Year 12 students gained University Entrance. Congratulations to George Anson, Danielle Briggs, Jessica Cadenhead, Leah Claus, Abigail Foster and Eamonn Joyce.

IGCSE (Year 11)

Pass rate – 84%

Top Scholar – Melissa Chapman



Special congratulations to Jack Thurston and Megan Bramley who, as Year 10 students, sat IGCSE Mathematics a year early and both achieved As.

New Staff

Welcome to Jin Pho-Hayhurst who joins us to teach Year 3-6 Science. Jin is a qualified teacher who has a Bachelor of Engineering degree majoring in Chemical Engineering.

Student Absence

If your child is to be absent for any reason, please phone Sally at reception and let her know why, by 8.30am on the absence day.

Contact Details

If your postal address, email or phone numbers have changed, please email Sally to let her know – reception@springbank.school.nz

Parent Feedback on Uniforms

Thank you to everyone who responded to our questionnaire regarding whether we should have a school uniform or not. There were many in-depth responses with some valid points on both sides.

The results were 19 against uniforms, 12 for uniforms. This continues to be a hot topic of discussion but at this stage we will not be pursuing a formal uniform at Springbank. We do however, have Springbank School sports gear with our logo, which all students wear when representing our school. Prefects and students at formal occasions also wear our Springbank School blazers. We may, in future, consider a range of school logo clothing.



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Examination Results (Continued)

Secondary 1 Checkpoint

Subject	Students achieving an Excellence or Very Good grade (4-6)	Students achieving Average or Above grade (3-6)
Mathematics	70%	75%
English	30%	70%
Science	85%	90%

Top Scholars:

English: Taiyo Serge
Science: Taiyo Serge
Mathematics: Holly Sutcliffe

CIP Year 6 Achievement Test

Subject	Students achieving an Excellence or Very Good grade (4-6)	Students achieving Average or Above grade (3-6)
Mathematics	77%	85%
English	54%	85%
Science	54%	77%

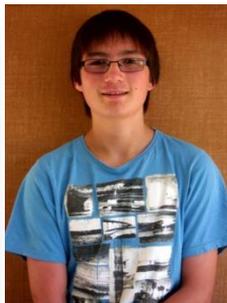
Top Scholars:

English: Acima Mabidikama
Science: Isaac Chandler
Mathematics: Max Hittle

Overall there are some outstanding individual results and our congratulations go to those students who worked hard, strived for excellence and achieved their goals. You stand tall against rigorous international academic standards.



Max Hittle



Taiyo Serge



Holly Sutcliffe

Visiting the School

We welcome your interest and involvement throughout this year. If you would like to talk about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher either by email or phone to arrange a time to meet that suits you both. All parents coming into the school during class time must check in directly with Reception. Please do not disturb class teachers during class time as they are focused on teaching their students.

2013 Staff Roles and Responsibilities

A list of all 2013 staff and their responsibilities can be found on our website using the following link:

<http://www.springbank.school.nz/our-school/2013-staff-list/>

You can email an individual staff member directly using the following email address: firstname.lastname@springbank.school.nz

2013 Calendar of Events

You can keep informed on upcoming events and key dates by viewing our School Calendar online at the following page:

<http://www.springbank.school.nz/newsevents/calendar/>



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Science Accolade

Pictured is Tim Richardson with New Zealand's Governor General, during his Realise the Dream experience. Tim excelled at the Northland Regional Science Fair and was one of only 20 students nationwide (and also one of the youngest) chosen to attend the national Realise the Dream Science Fair.



I wish all of our students and staff a successful year and I am looking forward to the challenges, the excitement and the highs that come from hard work and striving for excellence. Be resilient, resourceful, reflective and contribute to positive relationships!

Regards

Mike Warren
Principal

Friends of Springbank

Friends of Springbank are holding a baking stall at the Waipapa Lions Fun Day on Saturday 16 February. They would appreciate donations of home baking – big or small.

Please contact Louise Huett Ph:
401 7229 or email
louise.huett@gmail.com

Community Notices

Dance Body Language

After School Dance Classes for Junior School, Middle School and Senior School. Each class is subject to numbers before commencement. Dance Teachers include **Leona Burrell** (Hip Hop, Latin Dance, Cheerleading), Zumba & Bokwa Fitness) and **Suzel Daglinckx Avila** (Ballet – Jazz)

www.dancebodylanguage.co.nz

For further inquiries please
Contact: Leona Burrell
021 02245306 09 407-1582
leona@dancebodylanguage.co.nz

Thought for the week

Week 1: “Aim high, work hard, enjoy the journey and celebrate your achievements”
– Mike Warren 2013

Week 2: Resilience (Managing Distractions)

Notice if there are any distractions around you. What are they? What can you do to reduce them? What can you do to get back on task?



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