



Newsletter No.4 | May 2013

Dear Parents

We are now well into the swing of Term 2! This term is jam packed with extracurricular activities including Shakespeare Festival, Otago Problem Challenge, First Aid courses, Springbank and Interschool Cross Country races, Smokefree Rockquest, the \$5 Challenge, the Middle School Ball, the Senior Ball, College Sports Day and Science Fair. Winter sports have also kicked off and a great number of our students are training hard for their respective sports codes. Please refer to our website (<http://www.springbank.school.nz/newsevents/calendar/>) for a full term's calendar of events.

Thank you very much to teachers, parents and senior leaders who are providing these opportunities for our students; whether you are a competition facilitator, a coach of a sports team, or simply supporting your child on the side line – we value your support!

As you know, we set our 2013 term dates to give us one extra week in the summer holidays (school commenced at the end of January rather than three weeks in) and one week less in the winter holidays (two weeks instead of three). We have decided to set our 2014 term dates in a similar fashion.

We understand that in the past, several families appreciated the extra week during winter so that they could travel to the northern hemisphere and get a significant amount of time away, without having to take time off school. Other families appreciated the extra week during the summer holidays.

After your experience with this year's two week winter holiday, please provide feedback regarding how you have found 2013's term dates. This will assist our decision with regard to setting term dates for 2015 onwards.

2014 Term Dates

2014 term dates have been set as follows:

Term 1
28 January to 17 April (12 weeks)

Term 2
5 May to 4 July (9 weeks)

Term 3
21 July to 26 September (10 weeks)

Term 4
13 October to 5 December (8 weeks)

2013 Market Day

Please lock Sunday 22nd September, 11am – 2pm into your diary for our Market Day. As we expect all students to be actively involved in Market Day, we have decided that this year, Market Day will essentially be a school day. Monday 23rd September will be a Teacher Only Day and not an official school day (Headstart and Preschool will remain open). Teachers will undertake professional development with regard to teaching and learning using ICT.



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Springbank Multi Trail

You may or may not be aware that Bob Warren (aka Mr Warren Senior) has been busy down the back of the school property developing a major fitness trail, which will extend several kilometres around the wider school property and farm. His objective is to create a trail that can be used for walking, running and cycling, including jumps for bikes and fitness stations. His vision is a park-like setting, in which the entire trail will be planted in native trees and have multiple trails to explore.

This has already been a huge undertaking over the past year, as Bob has been re-fencing the farm, re-developing the land with bridges and getting the trail ready to be laid.

At this point, he has enlisted the help of Lynne Alexander's Year 6 class. They are currently helping in the planning, designing and development of the trail. The students have divided into three groups: engineers, designers and botanists. They are taking a hands-on approach and really enjoying spending time learning in action. In the future, a small group of botanists hope to travel with DOC to Ihumatea Bay on Urupukapuka Island to gain first-hand knowledge of tree planting techniques and suitable varieties to attract native bird species.

This is the vision for the trail and projected outcomes over a two to three year period:

- To provide a series of all-weather low maintenance walking / running / cycling tracks with regular distance markers. These will be designed to be used by the Springbank School, Headstart and Preschool community members and their families to enhance their fitness and recreational enjoyment. The major bonus to users will be that there will be no requirement to climb over fences or pass through gates.
- To enhance the track by planting trees along both sides as well as having larger planted areas to reduce nitrogen run off into the stream. Consideration will be given to allowing sunlight onto the track in the colder winter months as well as increased shading of the stream.
- To enhance the health of the stream and water clarity for swimming at the waterhole.
- To encourage bird life by planting appropriate species, while also controlling pests and weeds.
- To make allowance for activities such as displaying sculptures, Science exploration, BMX jumps, mountain biking, rest and recreation and bird watching.
- Possible introduction of beehives to provide sufficient hives per hectare for pollination of trees and grasses.

Bob is currently completing culverts and forming the new track. We expect to have the track formed and trees planted by this coming spring.

Staff Changes

We would like to inform you that Caroline de Kock, who has been teaching at Springbank for the past five years, has accepted a position at an international school in Singapore. Caroline will be leaving us at the end of Term 2.

We would like to acknowledge Caroline's positive contribution to Springbank School, in particular her students' outstanding academic results in Business Studies, ICT and Economics. One of Caroline's students gained Top in New Zealand for IGCSE ICT, which is a reflection of her high expectations and rigorous academic programmes.

We wish Caroline well and we will formally farewell her towards the end of the term.

All of Caroline's senior students will have mostly completed their course content coverage by the end of this term. In Term 3, leading-up to Cambridge senior examinations in November, Business Studies course content and revision will be completed by Michelle Chapman. Ben Hilliam will teach the remainder of the ICT courses and undertake revision ready for the November exams.

We will employ a part time Economics teacher to complete their course delivery and revision.



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Pick-ups and Drop-offs

There have been a few recent incidences in the school car park that have blocked up other cars and caused a queue, which extends out to the main road.

In order to ensure a smooth flow of traffic, could you please ensure that you do not park anywhere that could potentially block other cars. Also, please do not park in the bus bay or right at the bottom of the car park. The buses need to swing wide into that area to get around. Thank you very much in advance for showing great car park etiquette!

Social Enterprise

The Year 9 students have undertaken a huge project of renovating the Social Centre at the Kerikeri Retirement Village as their BP Community Project for 2013.

To fundraise to complete this worthy project, the Year 9's will be holding an Auction of Promises evening on July 4th. If any parents or members of the wider community would like to donate a 'promise', please contact Michelle Chapman: michelle.chapman@springbank.school.nz.

Examples might include a free 3 hour babysitting voucher, or a Thai dinner for 4 people etc.

ANZAC Poster Competition

What excitement last week when we heard that Sam Sutcliffe (Year7) had won first prize in the Defence Force ANZAC DAY poster competition. The theme was 'What ANZAC Day means to you' and was open to all year 7 and 8 students.

Sam will be flown to Wellington on the 24th May to receive his prize and at a later date will spend a day at the Waiouru army base. His poster was a tribute to his great, great, great uncle who died at the age of 21 in France during the 1st world war.



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Shakespeare Festival 2013

Our Drama students took the plunge this year, with one group representing Springbank at the regional Shakespeare Festival competition.

Students had limited time to rehearse, however they put in a sterling effort in converting a portion of Richard III (one of the Bard's more intense plays) to a modern day talk show scandal. I was amazed by the creativity of students in taking on their characters. On Thursday 18th April, we travelled down to Kamo High School to perform.

Unexpectedly we had to perform first, as another group was delayed! The students took it in their stride and delivered a fantastic and entertaining performance.

All the groups there were made up of older students studying drama as a subject for NCEA and the team that took out the prize in our category gave one of the best performances I've ever seen. Although no placings were announced, I can safely say that our group was close to the top. The organiser was blown away when she realised how young our performers were! It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to be inspired to an even higher level.

This week, our non-competitive group performed at Pompallier College. They delivered a modern take on a fight scene between the Montagues and Capulets from Romeo and Juliet. I was impressed with the behaviour of our students. They really set an example in showing consideration for other performers on the day.

Thank you to all the students for your hard work. And, of course, to the parents who offered transport and support along the way - we're so appreciative!

-Andrea Druery



Student Attendance

It is a Ministry of Education requirement that students attend school regularly. Please report any absence due to illness to Reception as soon as possible, as we must report the absence reason to the Ministry. If you plan on taking a holiday with your children, please try to fit it into the school holiday breaks, as it can be difficult for students to catch up after missing a significant period of school.

Winter attire

It is becoming increasingly clear that we are heading into winter. As we do, I would like to remind you of acceptable winter attire for your children.

As we live in the Bay of Islands, we do not believe that there is a need to wear beanies. On particularly cold days over the winter months, we will allow students to wear beanies before school, if they are worn appropriately. However once class has begun, they must be stowed in bags for the remainder of the school day. As usual, hats are not to be worn inside.

Students may wear tracksuit pants during fitness and PE and they may also wear tracksuit tops during warm-ups. Once warm, students are to be dressed in sports shorts and either a long sleeved or short sleeved t-shirt. Sports shoes are encouraged during those frosty mornings!



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Year 12/13 Business Trip to Auckland

Towards the end of last term, ten senior students, Ms de Kock and Erwin Krause (a Springbank parent) spent two days visiting various companies around Auckland. The trip started on Thursday 11th April with a visit to the Tip Top factory in Mt Wellington. There wasn't much production happening when we visited, but students were given a guided tour of the factory and were able to see the machinery that is used in the manufacture and storage of ice cream. At the end of the tour we watched a short video about the history of Tip Top whilst eating a delicious ice cream!

After our Tip Top visit we headed off to Sutton Group in Airport Oaks. Sutton Group contract manufacture a range of products for local and export markets such as baby milk formula and Moccona coffee. They also manufacture their own cans for use with the baby milk formula. We had a tour of the manufacturing facility and were able to see baby milk formula and Moccona coffee sachets being produced. They had a huge warehouse for storage of raw materials and finished stock. We were also able to see cans being manufactured in a separate factory across the road which was very interesting. All the students were fascinated by all the machinery and the processes in this factory.

After our tour of Sutton Group we drove to our accommodation for the night – Avondale Motor Park in New Windsor. Once settled in we then headed out for some serious shopping at Silvia Park! On the way to Silvia Park Ms dK and our driver, Erwin Krause, told us not to eat anything as they had a special surprise lined up for us! Abi's comment of "what, so we can't have McDonald's then?" was legendary!

After a couple of hours of frantic shopping we drove to our surprise dinner which turned out to be an "eat as much as you can" buffet dinner in the Sky Lounge at the top of Sky Tower – all arranged and paid for by Erwin! What an amazing assortment of food there was up there; and the view was pretty good too! Cody did us proud by making six return trips to the buffet bar! After a very satisfying dinner in the Sky Lounge, we then went up to the viewing platform to see Auckland city by night. The evening ended after we'd spent some time watching the gambling in the casino – an eye opening experience for some of us! Thanks to Erwin for shouting us dinner. We had an awesome time and it was definitely one of the highlights of the trip.

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Preschool

At the end of term we said goodbye to Bridgett Wilson and her two lovely girls, with a shared afternoon tea at Preschool.



Bridgett was much loved by our Preschool families and it was lovely to see so many people share in her farewell. Bridgett and her family have relocated to Auckland and we wish her all the very best. She was an amazing teacher and brought so much to Preschool. We will miss her lots and the wonderful contribution she gave to Preschool during her time with us.

We are pleased to welcome Mira Lee who will be joining our teaching team. Mira is originally from South Korea and has spent the last four years in Christchurch. She brings with her a rich tapestry of culture which includes languages, music and art. We look forward to Mira being part of our team.



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Year 12/13 Business Trip to Auckland (continued)

On Friday 12th April we set off for our first visit of the day which was to a small food processing company called Pure Delish based in St John's. This company produces a range of healthy cereals, snack bars, slabs and biscuits all made by hand, by a team of 10 staff. We got to taste one of their delicious award winning snack bars during our tour. At the end of our tour we were each given a snack bar to take away with us.

After this trip we found ourselves with a few hours to spare, so not wanting to waste any time, we headed off to Albany Mall for lunch and yet more shopping!

Our last visit of the day was to a company called Pauling Industries in Northcote. This company contract manufactures a range of cosmetic and household products for various companies. We were able to see a new and experimental toothpaste being produced using honey as well as some face creams and concealers being packaged. The young owner of this company told us an inspirational story about how he came to own Pauling Industries and this made us believe that we too could own our own companies one day.

Overall the students really enjoyed the trip and a fun time was had by all. According to George Anson, it was "another classic, crazy fun trip that also proved to be very enlightening and educational. The trip had an excellent balance of work and play!" Thanks to Ms dK for arranging all the company visits and to Erwin for driving us everywhere and organising the Sky Tower trip.

- A Level Business Studies Students

Radio Interviews

On the first Wednesday of every month at 7:40am, I will be taking part in live interviews on More FM Bay of Islands with Pete Gentil. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to let the wider community know about what we are getting up to. Please feel free to tune into 92.0FM, so that you can keep up to date and be mesmerized by my amazing radio voice!

Kind regards,

Mike Warren
Principal

Quotes:

Perseverance

Success is a little like wrestling a gorilla. You don't quit when you're tired.

You quit when the gorilla is tired! — **Robert Strauss**

Questioning

Be curious, enjoy asking questions to find out "why?", "how?" and "what if?" Know it's important to ask questions to deepen your understanding.

Making Links

Look for meaning, make links between what you know now and new knowledge. See how things fit together. How is this pattern, system, or idea similar to something I already know? "What's it like?" (able to see similar examples)



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