



*Newsletter No.7 | August 2013*

### *Dear Parents*

Term 3 is now well underway and we are very pleased to welcome nineteen new students ranging from Headstart to Year 13. We know that the new students and their families will enjoy being part of our fantastic Springbank community.

Our students are working hard towards their end of year assessments. Our senior students are now revising for mock exams, which begin in Week 6.

Our senior teachers have kindly offered up their afternoons and will be running after school revision tuition throughout Term 3. These sessions are a fantastic opportunity for senior students to fill in knowledge gaps or consolidate the year's work so far. If your child is in Year 11, 12 or 13, please encourage them to attend as many of the revision sessions as possible, as it will inevitably lead to greater academic success for them!

### *Dates for the diary:*

#### **30<sup>th</sup> August**

Senior course options due

#### **4 – 11<sup>th</sup> September**

Year 9 & 11 – 13 Mock Exams

#### **14<sup>th</sup> September**

Auction of Promises

#### **20<sup>th</sup> September**

Young Leaders Day

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Market Day



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## Maggi Kitchen Showdown

A recent exciting episode of the Erin Simpson Show has confirmed that Springbank School's Year 8 team The Burrito Bandits are the Upper North Island regional winners!

The judges' comments:

"Well done to Springbank School for making it through to the National Final! Their MAGGI Mexican Snapper Burritos were absolutely delicious."

"Congratulations to all the team. You all did a great job."



Year 8 students Michael Horsman, Zach Kingsford, Kate Hewitt and Andrew Knight competed fiercely against 11 other teams including Buckland's Beach Intermediate, Melville Intermediate, Te Awamutu Intermediate and Pukekohe Intermediate, for the title of Upper North Island Regional Winner for the Maggi Intermediate School's Kitchen Showdown. Representing the Upper North Island, Springbank's Burrito Bandits will compete against the Lower North Island team and the South Island team in the New Zealand final on 21st August in Christchurch.

A big thank you to Chris Owen from Ake Ake Restaurant for the mentorship and training sessions he has held with the team.

## Headstart

Headstart has welcomed six new boys this term. It has been wonderful to see how well they have settled in. Headstart is almost ready to field its own rugby team!



## Half Marathon Challenge!

With the Kerikeri Half Marathon fast approaching on Saturday 16th November, I have put out a challenge to our students and staff. For each of them who beat me on the day, I will give them \$100 cash! As you can expect, this has motivated me to get off the couch as I don't particularly want to go bankrupt!

The Kerikeri Half Marathon is always a fun event and I would love to see as many Springbank families participating as possible. To you speedster parents out there, please note that my offer does not extend to Springbank parents, as I am not completely insane and I already stand to lose quite a bit of money at the rate that my training is currently going!

## CIE June Re-sits

Year 13 students who were disappointed with their November 2012 CIE exam results have the opportunity to re-sit. In June, several of our Year 13 senior students re-sat some of their AS Level papers in order to gain better results than last year's grades. We are delighted with some of the results, as several students had an increase of two whole grades (e.g. from a C grade to an A grade). Congratulations to George Anson, Danielle Briggs, Eamonn Joyce and Cody Baker.



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## ICAS Science results

ICAS is a voluntary international academic examination. This is not based on our New Zealand or International Cambridge Curriculum, however it is an opportunity for capable students to challenge their application of knowledge at a high level. The ICAS examinations are pitched at students from Year 4 to Year 13 who are deemed to be of above average to high ability in knowledge analysis and critical thinking. We are very happy with the results of our 2013 ICAS Science. Of the 34 entries, we received one High Distinction (in the top 1% in New Zealand), five Distinction (within the next 10% in New Zealand) and eleven Credit (within the top 25% in New Zealand). Congratulations to the students who are listed below:

Name	Year Level
<b>High Distinction (Top 1% in NZ)</b>	
Taiyo Serge	10
<b>Distinction (Top 10% in NZ)</b>	
Jack Hittle	5
Luke Bramley	8
Taran Kern	9
Jack Thurston	11
Megan Bramley	11
<b>Credit (Top 25% in NZ)</b>	
Kit Kinghan	5
Ishamel Strevens	6
Callum Prichard	6
Sam Sutcliffe	7
Mya Napier	7
Max Hittle	7
Levi Whitehead	8
Aimee Larkan	9
Lauren Harrell	9
Timothy Richardson	10
Isabella Francis	11

## Friends of Springbank Yummy Stickers for Sports Gear Promotion

Please can you keep collecting your yummy stickers off individual apples and labels off the plastic bags. Sticker/label sheets are available from Sally in the office. You have until Friday 20th September to bring them in, completed or otherwise! Last year we received nearly \$300 worth of sports equipment from the promotion, so let's see what we can do this year!

## Breakfast of Champions

A parent has informed us that Weet-bix have a competition underway at the moment where schools can win sports packs. There are rugby collector cards inside each box of Weet-bix with special codes. Children can register online at [www.weet-bix.co.nz](http://www.weet-bix.co.nz), enter the codes and select Springbank School to enter the draw. How many can you do???

## Teacher Only Day

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we expect all Springbank School students to attend Market Day on Sunday 22nd September, therefore Monday 23rd September (the day after Market Day) will be a teacher only day. Staff will be working on our strategic plan and BYOD professional development. Headstart and Preschool will remain open.



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## ***Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)***

### ***Parent Survey Feedback and Progress Update***



Thank you very much for taking part in our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) survey that we issued in Term 2. We were very happy with the feedback, which was very supportive and constructive. We have considered all of your responses in our decision to implement a BYOD policy at Springbank School, and these will help guide our policies.

There were a wide range of opinions regarding the introduction of a BYOD programme. I would like to give you a list of the more common responses from families, so I have condensed the majority of responses into the following lists:

#### **Families' reasons to support BYOD (condensed)**

- Opportunity for deeper thinking / inquiry into a topic of interest anytime, anywhere
- Teaching and learning can take on a new dimension as there is increased opportunity for student driven learning given the pedagogy to support this is in place
- Great for continuation of work from school to home
- It's good to see the school moving with the times to acknowledge that it is a technological world now. Students are constantly using technology out of school so bringing it onto campus is a great alignment with their real world.
- Being able to use these devices safely and easily and to their full potential is vital in today's world.
- More flexible learning environment
- Having access to their instruction at school would help to connect better with what is going on and be able to interact with their education better (my son tends to find most things not that important to pass on to mum & dad)

Additional to families' reasons to support a Bring Your Own Device policy, we believe it will also bring the following benefits:

- Better opportunities for individual extension activities, or to assist as an individual support tool
- By owning their own device, students will learn to:
  - be more self-responsible by ensuring that their device does not get lost or broken
  - know when is the right time for work and for play
  - be excited by producing their own style of work using the device of their choice
- Learn real-world digital skills that students are likely to find in the workplace (such as professional email communication)
- Potential for lessons to become more engaging and interactive, therefore sparking interest in learning



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### *...Bring Your Own Device (continued)*

- Allow students to become more responsible for their own learning:
  - spontaneous research and investigation
  - opportunity for more child-led projects
  - explore various pieces of software to create unique pieces of work
- Make teaching and learning more efficient:
  - teachers can edit students' work on the spot
  - homework can be submitted online and at a glance teachers will be able to potentially see who has completed homework, when it was completed, how long it took and quickly ascertain in which areas particular students need extra extension or support.
  - teachers are able to record lessons to post online – students are able to access in their own time to re-visit and revise topics, or simply to catch up
  - in some cases, whole topics can be completed at individual pace, and the teacher is simply acting as a tutor when students get stuck. This is currently in practise in one of our senior Mathematics classes and the students are able to get through content much more quickly, while still working at their own pace
  - sharing files online will enable students to collaborate on group projects and allow teachers to critique and support remotely
  - find information wherever they are and whatever time of the day that students need it (not have to wait until their class is “booked into” the computer room)
- Students will learn to be good digital citizens:
  - be safe online by not exposing personal information
  - install antivirus software and perform regular software updates to prevent attacks
  - act morally (e.g. no illegal downloads)
  - act professionally (e.g. emails from school accounts will be proof-read and written in a professional manner)
  - know which websites are to be avoided
- Students will learn to independently assess, compare and decipher information, to expose fact from fiction and not necessarily trust a particular source of information. This is a vital skill to have in the current age of readily available information (whether it be true or false)



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## *...Bring Your Own Device (continued)*

### **Families' concerns / points to consider (condensed)**

- I don't want my child ending up on these devices all their waking hours.
- Should they be allowed unsupervised access?
- I would expect that a thorough cyber safety programme runs across the whole school and could be shared with the parents.
- I am worried about security. If my son has his own computer he can access social networking websites or any other dangerous websites. There is also the real chance that kids will be swapping inappropriate internet material with each other.
- I would not like to see them used to play games during morning tea or lunch breaks, to deter students from descending into a 'video game' playground.
- Damaging or losing the device – not old enough to look after it properly. We don't think it should start earlier than Year 3 or Year 4, mainly because of the responsibility of taking care of expensive computers.
- Viruses
- There might be a bit of competition regarding type, whose is best etc, which may leave some feeling disadvantaged.
- Will we get to choose what device we buy or will the school mandate a certain kind?
- What will happen to the kids that can't afford to buy one?
- How will students cope with taking laptops to different classes?
- Bulk buying – can the school negotiate a special deal?
- Once policy is drawn up, will you give parents the ability to comment on it?

### **Where to from here?**

We will continue to research and develop our policies to fall in line with our expectations and considering parent feedback above.

We will introduce a trial BYOD programme in Term 4 (non-compulsory), from Year 5 to Year 13. Depending on the outcome of Term 4's trial, we may continue with a non-compulsory programme, or we may introduce a full compulsory BYOD programme from Term 1, 2014.

Within the next month we will advise parents on specific policies including our expectations for appropriate student use, online safety guidelines, minimum system requirements for devices and types of devices that we could recommend for each school level.

We may also run an information evening for parents towards the end of this term.



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## ***NRC Environmental Curriculum Award***

Susan Botting from NRC presented the Year 6 class with their winning cheque for \$690 at assembly. It is an award for learning about the Environmental Curriculum.



The students are currently monitoring and identifying the pests and weeds surrounding the Springbank Multi Trail, then they will use the money to source native trees to plant along the Riparian river strips next to the trail. It is an amazing learning opportunity for the students. Helen O'Dealy from DOC has been most helpful as a local expert in tree species to attract bird and insect life to the planting area. Springbank parents also have a wealth of knowledge and are assisting the students with the planting plan. All Springbank students and families will be able to use the trail.

## ***Preschool***

On Wednesdays the Preschool children and teachers head out to explore the 36 rural acres that surround Springbank School. The Preschool children enjoy their weekly forest walks where they are involved in taking risks and active exploration.



Our walks are inspired by the Forest Kindergartens of Europe where children are encouraged to explore, discover and learn amongst the natural environment. Our Wednesday Forest Walks have many advantages for children's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. The children have many opportunities to learn about conservation and respecting the planet and develop dispositions such as curiosity, perseverance and resilience. Most importantly they have fun!



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## Term Dates and Winter holidays

As mentioned in Newsletter #3, we have set our 2014 term dates to reflect a similar two week winter holiday break to this year.

Thank you to those of you who have already fed back to me about how they felt about our recent two week winter break. All feedback is helpful for us to make decisions on our term dates from 2015 onwards. Unlike state schools, we can be flexible with term dates, so we are in a position to change them if it suits the vast majority of our families.

The rationale behind our current (and 2014) term dates is as follows:

We try to maximise the amount of time at school before the final exams, as it is important that the students get as much time as possible to prepare for exams.

Currently, we start school in the last week of January. It is possible to start one week earlier (around 21st January) and add that extra week to our winter holiday, however there can be issues associated with starting school so early. Cambridge results come out late January and some students need to plan their courses based on their previous year's results. If we were to commence the school year from 21st January, the previous year's results would come out after school had already started.

We won't be in favour of extending the winter holiday break to three weeks by adding the extra week of tuition to the end of Term 4, as exams will have finished and many of our senior students will already be away on exam leave.

We understand that some families prefer the three week winter break, as they use that time to travel overseas to visit relatives in the (warm!) northern hemisphere. Whatever your family's situation may be, please feel free to give us your feedback, which we will consider when setting 2015 term dates.

**2014 term dates** will be 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)

Don't forget, spring is just around the corner!

Regards

Mike Warren, Principal

## Thought for the week:

### Week 1 – Planning:

If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!

- Benjamin Franklin

### Week 2 – Revising:

The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft algey (The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry)

- Robbie Burns

### Week 3 – Reflectiveness:

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift, which is why we call it the present.

- Bil Keane

### Week 4 – Distilling:

Look at what key skills you are learning in all of your lessons. Are you able to isolate the essential features of those learning skills? How can you carry them forward to use in other areas?



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