SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

Newsletter 10

Newsletter No.10 | December 2013

Dear Parents

The 2013 academic year has come to an end, and what a year it has been!

Thank you to our staff. You are passionate, deeply committed to your students, and I am very fortunate to have you as colleagues. Each staff member brings their own personality and teaching style, which makes Springbank the great school that it is. Ben Hilliam and Chris Wallis; thank you for being an integral part of Springbank over the past two years. You will be missed by staff and students alike, and you have both made a huge contribution to the academic success of your students.

Thank you to our supportive parents. Friends of Springbank have been as awesome as ever. Thank you to all of our parents who get behind school events. We appreciate everything that you do for Springbank and we are so very fortunate to have your support.

Finally, to our students; ultimately you are the reason we are all here. I am extremely proud to head a school of students who are keen, positive and always ready to learn. Every week I am impressed by the dedication that you put into your school work and the fine standard of work that you have produced this year.

I am excited by our continued roll growth. We will begin 2014 with approximately ten more students than the same time this year and I am looking forward to an even bigger and better year than 2013!

Staff Changes

As Ben and Chris step out, we welcome two new fulltime staff to Springbank in 2014:

Henk Bertelink, who will be moving with his wife and two sons all the way from the Netherlands. Henk will be Head of Mathematics.

Paul McFadden, who is a local teacher living in the Bay of Islands, will be Head of ICT.

We also welcome Clare Dorans, who is also a local Bay of Islands teacher and Paul's wife! Clare will teach Year 7 & 8 Science.

Jill Hatherly has also increased her teaching hours at Springbank and will teach English Grammar and Social Studies to Years 7 – 9.

All of these teachers are passionate about their subjects and extremely competent.

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Year 9 Caving Trip

In mid-November, the students of Year 9 headed to a farm at Okaihau to go into a cave. This required a 30 minute trek across the farm then a scramble up a hill through bush to find the entrance to the cave. The cave features all the structures found in any limestone cave structure anywhere in the world. A rather special feature is seeing a large family of cave wetas near the entrance to the cave. These fantastic creatures have small bodies but the longest legs and feelers imaginable on such a small animal…amazing! Glow worms were visible from the moment we entered the cave, with a good group about half way into the cave. Really cool to turn off all torches and wait in the total darkness for eyes to adjust to see these tiny blue-white lights silently waiting to attract unwary flying midges into the trap set by the dangling sticky lines hanging below the worms' light!

Mr Webb gave a bit of a chat about every native tree we walked passed and poured acid onto a limestone rock outside the cave…bubbled nicely.

After the cave, we all enjoyed sausages cooked by Mr Hornell and enjoyed a swim while Mr Larkan kept tricking us with the tomato sauce on our tee-shirts!!!

- Year 9

Pretty Speleologists

Springbank Troglodytes

Half Marathon Challenge

As you may already know, I recently set a challenge for our staff and students. For each person who was to beat me in the Kerikeri Half Marathon, I would give them $100 cash. Unfortunately for me, I injured my knee two days before the Half while showing off to our students on a ski biscuit; therefore I was unable to compete. Two of our students did compete however, and they gained very respectable times. Congratulations to the following students, who have now made me $200 poorer!

Harry Frederickson – 1.33:17 (76th of 1277 runners)

Megan Bramley – 1.57:57 (166th of 704 Female runners)

2013 Springbank Staff Video

It is fast becoming tradition that the Springbank teachers perform some type of act at the end of year prize-giving. Last year we decided to record a music video to the song "It's Always a Good Time". This year we decided to record a music video again, and 2013's song is "Life in Sunshine", by NZ's own Jamie McDell. She even makes a guest appearance at the end! Check it out…

http://youtu.be/IY3mJxttZYo

International Students' Term 4 Programme

As our senior domestic students go on exam leave for the majority of Term 4, our international students undertake their own programme. In addition to having their own academic timetable, they have gone on many expeditions, exploring the Far North in detail.

The students this term have had the opportunity to try scuba diving at Kawakawa Swimming Pool, with Dinda, Jan, Emilia, Svea and Johannes all deciding that they would like to take this experience to the next level and study to become certified divers. Mr Pera, Mr Webb and Mr Warren decided to conduct some of the students' P.E., English and Science lessons out of the classroom this term so the international students got the opportunity to spend their time developing their bush craft skills, go caving, exploring and snorkelling, as well as jet skiing and wakeboarding!

Outdoor Adventure had our students experiencing a working dairy farm for a day, where they got to unload calf pellets and ride quad bikes! They also learnt that New Zealand's oldest industrial building (Pompallier Mission) is 175 years old, which is basically the same age as some of the homes our international students actually live in back in their home towns!

They spent an entire day travelling to Cape Reinga via Ninety Mile Beach and even got to experience the thrills and spills whilst sand-boarding the mighty sand dunes at Te Paki Stream. The following weekend was spent surfing at Ahipara, where all the students actually rode the renowned wild West Coast waves, and we finished our Term 4 weekly outdoor adventures meeting Tane Mahuta – our mighty kauri tree.

However it did not stop there. The following week saw our international students join in with our Middle School's Options Programme and they spent two days cooking, surfing, horse riding, jet skiing, wake boarding, overnight tramping, overnight camping, or in photography, art or Minecraft. Big Day Out was either Matauri Bay or sailing the Bay of Islands, so as you can see Term 4 is a pretty fun filled, action packed term and our international students really do get to experience it all!

2013 Prize-giving

Congratulations to all of our students who received an award at our end of year prize-giving. A full list of recipients is in the 2013 yearbook.

Thank you to all of the businesses and individuals who donated monetary prizes to accompany the awards.

We also had the opportunity to say goodbye to all of our Springbank graduates. They are an amazing group of young adults all ready for the next stage of life and we wish you all the very best.

Photos can be viewed & ordered at http://www.aerialvision.co.nz/Springbank2013

Friends of Springbank Report

The Fireworks Extravaganza was another great evening attended by approximately 1700 people. The entertainment was fantastic from Late Night Meat Sandwich and Scarlet Fever. Friends couldn't pull this off without the support of teachers, students and parents. We were blown away by all the support and helpers on the night beforehand and the next day to tidy up! A HUGE thank you to all. Bring on 2nd November 2014!!

Also throughout this term we had an Angel Tree, which was by the office. The idea behind the Angel Tree is that anyone can bring along new or pre-loved gifts for children in foster care in Northland, who otherwise may not get any Christmas presents. Thank you very much to everyone who donated gifts for such a good cause.

Our wonderful Friends!

Later in the term we ran a Christmas disco for the whole school on Friday 22nd November. There was a gold coin donation at the door to raise funds for Foster Hope and Friends provided hot chips, drinks, glow sticks and Christmas chocolates! We had a visit on the day from Santa Claus, and students could have their photo taken with him for $5. Between the gold coin donations and the proceeds from the photos with Santa, we raised $231.10 for Foster Hope. Well done!

Quadcopter Magic!

From the moment Glenn switched on 'hotdog' until Debbie answered the last question we were spellbound.

'Hotdog' is a quad-copter drone with a high resolution video camera attached. The capability of this amazing piece of technology has to be seen to be believed. From take-off into a stable hover, it can zoom to an altitude of 120m or race across the field at 80km/hr. All up 'Hotdog' (this zany name comes from its stretched shape and battery pack resembling the edible version) weighs around 2 kg. It is powered by four electric motors giving Glenn the ability to make it do manoeuvres that defy logic.

To operate these machines, Debbie and Glenn are a real team, with each having critical roles in the safe execution of each flight. When Glenn is flying a drone he wears a pair of goggles showing him what the camera on the machine is viewing. Debbie keeps an eagle eye on the helicopter to make sure that it doesn't overfly people, hit buildings, trees or hills and remains in front of any object liable to block the radio signal between Glenn and the machine. Poetry in motion!

For forty minutes the students in Years 8 and 9, along with Mr Haydock and Mr Webb, pounded Debbie and Glenn with questions and watched the superb high-tec machines in motion. How time *flies* when you are having fun!

Our sincere thanks to Glenn and Debbie from Aerial Vision for their time with us.

Preschool

The Preschool children love having visitors and this day was extra special.

Jo came in and bathed little baby Eddie. The children really enjoyed this and so did Eddie!

Headstart

The children at Headstart decided they would like to make bubble wands. After much discussion they drew their own plans and proceeded to create their own wands. Some children were a little disappointed with the results so we headed back to the drawing board and revaluated. Their perseverance paid off and some magical bubbles were produced!

Springbank gains clean sweep AGAIN in the Primary Enterprise Programme (PrEP)

PrEP is a nationwide competition for students in Years 1 – 8 and is run by the Young Enterprise Trust. PrEP gives students the opportunity to develop their own enterprise community. Our students made products or sold services, which were traded at the Springbank School Market Day.

Last year Springbank students took out all 4 categories. Amazingly, we have done it again this year! Congratulations to these students for gaining the following awards:

Most Innovative Product/Service

Chilli Chompers (Alistair Garland and Zach Kingsford Year 8)

Best PrEP Photo

The Mad Tea Party (Ella Birch, Poppy Prentice and Nayeon Yoon Year 8)

Best Presentation of stall at market

Keep Calm and Eat Cake (Phoebe Huett and Sophie Lee Year 8)

Most Appealing Marketing

Springbank Tales (Connie Salisbury, Chloe Whitehead and Sharnise Candy Year 8)

Middle School Term 4 Options Programme

Sailing

Six intrepid potential sailors headed up to Lake Manuwai with Mr Webb and Mrs de Vries. Derry Godbert, the guru of sailing in this area for the last 30 years, met us and within minutes we were flat out rigging two sabots, four 'plastics' and a Sunburst dinghy. Derry gave us a briefing then we were away.

The light easterly was near perfect for our newbie sailors, though the 'old hands' would have enjoyed a bit more breeze. We headed straight out across the lake to 'Rocky Harbour', which was fun but really tricky to sail out of...whew! With some clever sailing and a bit of advice from Derry we got back out of 'Rocky Harbour' to head for 'One Horse Island' for a second briefing. Reeds and lots of squelchy mud greeted us there. But wow, it was lunch-time already. The only shower had kindly selected lunch time to fall, then we were back on the water for a bit of team racing. Three boats were in each team, with Courtney leading the green team and Rebecca the blue team.

During the afternoon we sailed four races, which was pretty amazing considering Jeremiah had never sat in a yacht before; with Mayur and Buster having been in a dinghy only a few times as well. For the record the racing ended with two races won by each team. Jeremiah said, "This was awesome that I learned to sail in one day". These students were a brilliant bunch to take away, helping with all tasks and showing Springbank at its best. Rebecca was a superb leader and helper on the water. Thanks a lot team!

- Phil Webb

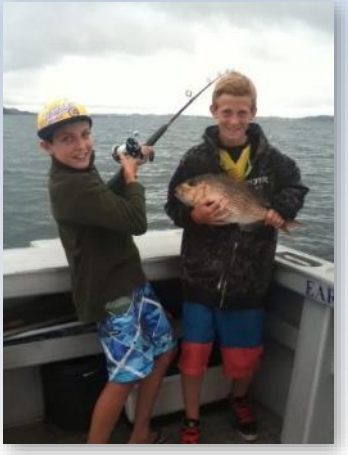
Fishing

Six students and Mr Whitehead had an exciting day out fishing aboard Earl Grey II. The charter boat headed out from Paihia and anchored at a secret location in the Bay right on top of a large school of snapper. As soon as the bait hit the water they were pulling in snapper ranging up to 5kgs. The top fish was caught by Blake Vujcich, and the most exciting catch was a 7ft school shark caught by Troy Vujcich.

"It was an intense and thrilling experience"- Troy Vujcich

"A fun, must-do experience"- Alistair Garland

"I am definitely doing it again next year"- Chloe Whitehead



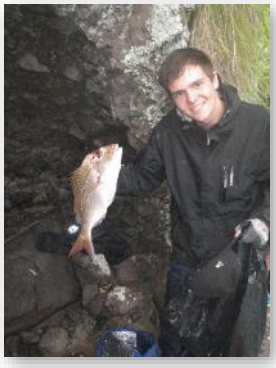
Middle School Term 4 Options Programme

Lane Cove Tramp

A group of 8 intrepid explorers loaded up their rucksacks and headed along the Wairakau Stream Track to Lane Cove. The 6km tramp took about two and a half hours and included two stream crossings and a picnic lunch in the sunshine.

Once at the hut, some of the group opted for swimming and the rest of us headed off for a bit of fishing. To get to the deep water we had to scramble down a steep bank through the trees to a little ledge by a cave. In the couple of hours we spent on the ledge we had several visits from a large stingray that kept swooping along the surface. Johannes caught a good sized snapper on very light tackle and another baby snapper had to be returned to the water.

As the thunder and rain arrived we headed back to the hut for macaroni cheese, Uno and card games. There was a break in the rain long enough for Michael to have a go at filleting the fish and to smoke it over a manuka fire - yummy.



On Thursday we awoke to beautiful sunshine and a calm clear morning. It was decided to attempt an ascent of the Duke's Nose. There were a few shaky legs and nervous smiles, but the students helped each other up the steep rock ramp so everyone was able to enjoy the stunning vista. After a careful descent and quick clean-up of the hut we headed back along the track to Totara North. The group arrived exhausted but happy having successfully conquered the Duke's Nose – a great outing in the bush!

Surfing

On 27th November we travelled to Taupo Bay to catch some waves.

We arrived early in the morning and the weather was not quite as planned, with cold wind and every now and then a bit of rain, but the waves were perfect!

We put on our semi–damp wetsuits and headed for the beach! We had a quick tutorial on the sand learning how to stand up and catch a wave, then we made our way to the water. After a few nose dives and surfboard fins to the stomach, we could finally stand up. Overall it was an amazing experience and we all had lots of fun. The tutors were encouraging and the parents were lots of fun too!

- Kate Hewitt and Ella Birch

Set Painting Option

Whilst many students were out painting the town red and the sea blue, a little group of us remained at school and got a fantastic start on painting the backdrops for next year's production. Students showed great skill at following instructions and painting up the desert scenes. Despite coming away covered in paint and filled with lollies, a great time was had and much accomplished. Melissa Chapman, Courtney De Vries and Harrison Irwin will be very happy not to hear Mrs Druery shouting "BLEND....BLEND....BLEND!"

Thank you everybody who helped make 2013 a very successful year at Springbank.

I leave you with a parting shot of our traditional last-hour-of-the-year water fight. Shooting him while he's down; what a cruel Principal!

Also, check out "Principal-cam" – a hilarious view from my perspective!

http://youtu.be/oNzl5hEpYqU

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Mike Warren

Principal

Thought for the week:

Week 4 – TEAM:

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

Week 5 – Empathy and Listening:

We have two ears and one mouth, so we should listen more than we say

– Diogenes Laërtius

Week 7 – Hard Work & Luck:

I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it

– Thomas Jefferson

Week 8 – It's Over:

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

– Dr. Seuss

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