



Newsletter No. 1 | January 2014

Dear Parents

Welcome to another new academic year and a particular welcome to our new staff and students. We have three new teachers, who introduce themselves later in this newsletter. Welcome also to our thirty five new students who started at Springbank School this term! We are thrilled to have so many new students beginning their Springbank career and we know that you will have a fantastic time with us.

I also welcome all of our new children and families to Springbank Preschool. We have over twenty new children at Preschool and they are currently settling in well. We have recruited two new staff members to Preschool: Kelsey Evans, who is a full time teacher, and Laura Collings, who is a part time support person. They are already both doing a fabulous job!

2014 has started very well with our students receiving very impressive CIE results. They are testament to the hard work and dedication that our students have given to their studies.

We also began the year with some great school camps. In the first week of term the Middle School headed down to Marsden Cove and participated in some exciting outdoor activities, and the Senior School ventured up to Spirits Bay to challenge themselves physically. Our most junior students, Rooms 1 & 2, also had a great two day camp at Coopers Beach.

I am looking forward to 2014 and the challenges and celebrations that this year will bring. I wish our students all the very best for their success.

2014 Term Dates

Term One

28 January to 17 April

Term Two

5 May to 4 July

Term Three

21 July to 26 September

Term Four

13 October to 5 December

Justice of the Peace

On 5 February, Springbank co-founder and former Principal Sophia Warren was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace. It has been 200 years since the first JP arrived in New Zealand and Sophia is the first JP to be sworn in for the next 200 years!

If you need copies of official documents witnessed, you now know who to go to!



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New Staff Members

Henk Bertelink

Hi, my name is Henk Bertelink and I flew all the way from the Netherlands to teach here at Springbank School. I love to hike, solve maths puzzles and participate in fitness activities. I'm married to my wife Tineke and we have 2 boys, Joshua and Aaron. Our family just arrived in New Zealand a few weeks ago, but we already feel at home here. I am teaching mathematics (which is of course the most interesting subject in the whole universe) at Middle and Senior School, which I really enjoy. I have been teaching maths in the Netherlands for 15 years and I realised that teaching this subject is a real passion for me. I hope my students will get the same enthusiasm as I have for this magnificent subject! Any fan-mail can be sent to henk.bertelink@springbank.school.nz



Paul McFadden and Clare Dorans

Hi, our names are Paul McFadden (ICT and Year 8 Maths) and Clare Dorans (Year 7 and 8 Science). We live in Opuia with our two boys, Coll, 5 and Ronan, 3. Paul is originally Scottish and Clare is English but we are all Kiwis now! Before arriving at Springbank Paul taught at Bay of Islands College for 7 years, recently taking some time out to complete Postgraduate study in E-learning. Before that he worked in ICT for 12 years mostly in Software



Development and Project Management, in London and Madrid. For the last six years Clare has been a full-time mum, before which she also taught at Bay of Islands College. Clare has been teaching science and biology since 1995 at schools here, in the UK and in Madrid. We are

both excited to be teaching at Springbank and want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful welcome.

A Few Developments

As you may have noticed, we have undertaken some landscaping work on the near field. Due to periodic flooding, we have been instructed to modify the gradient at which our land slopes toward the river. We have removed both the beach volleyball court and the obstacle course and we will be grading the fields to create a larger playing space. In the not too distant future, we hope to build some new outdoor facilities in place of those that we have removed.

We will also be moving the long jump pit to the back field and building an all-weather run-up track, which will double for sprint training.

The BMX track has been removed. In time we may be creating an equestrian facility. Exciting stuff!

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



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2013 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 – 98%! Our best A Level result to date. 45 out of 46 papers were passed.

Every one of our Year 13 students attained University Entrance. Also congratulations to Isabella Francis, Jack Thurston and Megan Bramley, who sat AS Level Mathematics one year early.

IGCSE (Year 11)

Pass rate – 86%

Top Scholar – Isabella Francis (4 A* grades and 2 A grades, plus an A grade for AS Level Mathematics)

Special congratulations to the following students who, as Year 10 students, sat IGCSE Mathematics one year early and achieved outstanding results: Taiyo Serge (98%), Holly Sutcliffe (95%), Tim Richardson (90%), Emily Derrick (88%) and Georgia Sheard (87%).

Secondary 1 Checkpoint (Year 9)

Subject	Students achieving an Excellence or Very Good grade (4-6)	Students achieving Average or Above grade (3-6)
Mathematics	71%	93%
English	20%	67%
Science	86%	93%

Primary Checkpoint (Year 6)

Subject	Students achieving an Excellence or Very Good grade (4-6)	Students achieving Average or Above grade (3-6)
Mathematics	83%	96%
English	70%	91%
Science	91%	96%

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.

2014 Staff Roles and Responsibilities

A list of all 2014 staff and their responsibilities can be found on our website using the following link:

<http://www.springbank.school.nz/our-school/2014-staff-list/>

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

2014 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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2014 School-wide Focus: Wellbeing

It goes without saying that schools should prepare students for their future by providing rigorous academic programmes; preparing them for further study and/or future careers. However it is equally important that students learn strategies to focus their emotions, to be resilient in the face of challenges and to actively practise positive psychology to make life more fulfilling.

Wellbeing describes the way we think and feel about ourselves and others, our confidence, and our ability to control things in our life. It is our social, economic, psychological, spiritual or medical state.

Every one of us is in the pursuit of happiness. Everything that we do, without even realising it, we do because we just want to be happy. Unfortunately, it is easy to become caught up in the hustle and bustle of life and miss what is truly important: our happiness and wellbeing.

Each term we will have a new focus on a particular area of wellbeing. Term One's focus is Gratitude. All staff and students are keeping a gratitude diary, which is a simple way for us to appreciate all of the good things in our lives. This helps to balance out negative emotions and reminds us that we are pretty fortunate indeed. I challenge parents to start a gratitude diary. At the end of each day, in a notebook simply write three things that you are grateful for. It is easy to do and many of us have already noticed a positive change in disposition as a result. Give it a go!

Headstart

This term Headstart has been discussing the school wide focus of gratitude. Although, at the end of each day the children sit in a sharing circle and share their favourite part of the day, this term we have introduced the world gratitude. It has been heart-warming to hear the children express their gratitude for so many beautiful things from the new pile of sand in the sandpit to the special things their parents do for them on a daily basis.



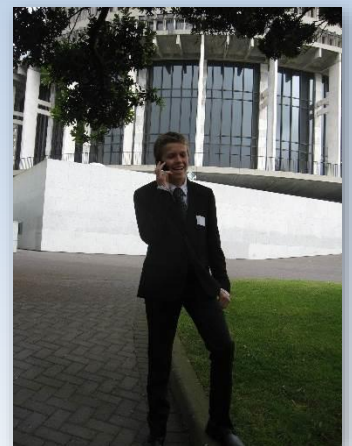
Come and see our beautiful gratitude display!

Young Enterprise

After meeting Noah Atchison-Darby and Nikki Chapman at the YES Awards and learning about their product and the benefits to the people of Mozambique, Bill English (Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Finance) was keen to purchase some of their cashew nut butter. The students were invited to The Beehive to complete the sale.



In December 2013, Noah and Nikki won a national award for assisting a third-world country with their Young Enterprise product.



Noah closing a business deal outside of The Beehive, Wellington



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2014 Prefects appointed

This year there were 13 applicants for the positions of Springbank Prefect. Mike Warren (Principal), Phil Webb (Deputy Principal) and John Haydock (TIC Senior Leadership) were very impressed with the candidates, who submitted well thought out and detailed written applications, were confident throughout the interview process and proposed some brilliant fresh ideas and initiatives for 2014.

It was a particularly challenging job selecting the final prefects, as all applicants were of a high calibre. Student and staff votes were thoroughly considered and the selection committee spent a substantial amount of time making the final decision. It certainly wasn't easy and to quote Phil Webb directly, "In the past, we've thought 'wow, these kids are good', but these kids are excellent!"

Springbank School's 2014 Prefects are as follows:

Head Prefect Elsa Meier

Prefects Logan Alexander
Megan Bramley
Melissa Chapman
Kirsten Foster
Sarah Kingsford
Pamela Makene-Dodd
Kimberley Rear



Pictured left to right: Mike Warren (Principal), Elsa Meier, Kimberley Rear, Megan Bramley, Pamela Makene-Dodd, Kirsten Foster, Logan Alexander, Sarah Kingsford, Phil Webb (Deputy Principal). Melissa Chapman – absent.

Preschool

The Preschool welcomes all its new families and two new teachers, Kelsey Evans joins our team and Laura Collings in a teacher support role. It is exciting to be back and see the children so involved and having fun.



Today we ventured out on a farm excursion. For some of the children it was their first experience tramping across the farm. What a lot of fun we all had. We are all looking forward to an exciting and fun filled term.



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Senior Camp

Spirits Bay, wow what a magical piece of New Zealand! Holding the camp at this piece of paradise was an enjoyable experience for us all. The weather was perfect, if a little breezy at times, and while it was 'real' camping, the showers were very refreshing and toilets fine.

Immediately after arrival and a quick lunch, Y10 and Y11 hoisted their overnight packs onto their backs and headed for Pandora. Pandora is a second DOC campsite at the western end of Spirits Bay. Facilities are limited to two composting toilets, a permanent gazebo to cook in and a supply of fresh water.

The walk to Pandora is either along the beach (hard work in the soft sand) or on a track behind the sand dunes. A lovely boardwalk over the estuary keeps your feet nice and dry. Mid-afternoon at the height of summer, this is quite a testing walk, so the sign saying Pandora Bay was very welcome after three and a half hours of tramping. A short breather, then we pitched camp before a small group of our very hardy girls had a swim while Mr Moa and Mr Webb kept an eye out for rogue waves and sea life.

Most of us slept well, mainly because Nikki kindly attracted most of the mosquitos to her tent meaning those dastardly wee beasties left the rest of us in peace.

The return tramp was made a lot easier by Mr Moa's innovative techniques of getting over hurdles and taking our minds off the hard yards! He had us all chanting in tune by the time we got back to camp. It was a tough but very satisfying tramp. Huge thanks to Mr Whitehead, Mr Moa, Jess and Cody Baker for their help.

Meanwhile back in Camp, Mr Haydock and Mr Pera had the Year 12s hard at work preparing games and fun activities for the 10s and 11s on their return. They shared a few moments enjoying swimming, touch rugby, playing night games and some neat challenges such as building bamboo rafts to punt across the estuary. The welcome back that they gave our tramping group was very special; they formed a human arch for us and made it so much more with cheers and claps.

Friday morning dawned fine and clear... just perfect for the usual round of tabloid sports. Poor bleary eyed teens soon turned into innovative, competitive, cheering supportive house teams as they strove to 'beat those others'!!! A great way to wind up the camp.

Thanks everyone. It was brilliant fun and just the best way to start the year!

- Phil Webb



A welcome breather in the cool of the bush.



What's for breakfast Lauren???



Our Internationals at Cape Reinga



Spirits Bay. It doesn't get better than this!!!



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Middle School Camp

Middle School Camp was held this year at the Marsden Bay Christian Camp in One Tree Point, Marsden Cove.

We left Springbank on Wednesday and travelled to Ruakaka to experience a day at the beach and to learn new skills with surfing instructors from O'Neill Surf School and the surf lifesaving programme Beach Ed, with the New Zealand Surf Lifesaving instructors from Auckland. These activities were popular and made use of the excellent resources that Ruakaka beach offered. It was an amazing day, amazing location and amazing instructors!

We arrived at Marsden Bay at 5pm, in time to try out the waterslide, flying fox and cage soccer before dinner.

This year our caterers were Springbank parents Louise Huett and Debbie Sutcliffe. They were hands-down the best caterers of any of the Middle School camps ever! The food was ample and worthy of any restaurant menu. Thanks to these wonderful, dedicated parents!

The night ended with a scavenger hunt and movie evening.

Thursday saw the students rotate around activities including kayaking, fishing, drama, confidence course, frisbee golf and flying fox. The Year 9s provided team building leadership activities in the afternoon and showed their ability to lead activities and events with increased talent and leadership potential.

The night entertainment was supplied by DJ Si from Whangarei, with music and a lighting show that impressed the music lovers amongst the students, staff and parents, but not so much the neighbours!

Having successfully worn out the toughest of campers, lights out was relatively early, some even begging for bed!

Our final morning, comprised of free time activities and a last time for the flying fox or waterslide and then we were all entertained by the students and the House skits they had prepared. Some interesting talent was displayed and the concert is available on our website.

Many thanks to the staff and parents. This camp required everyone to be hands-on and the generosity of the adults' time and energy was extremely valued. They were committed, hard-working, excellent role models and had a wonderful rapport with the students. Thank you so much!

- Michelle Chapman



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Room 1 and 2 Camp at Cooper's Beach

2014 camp at Cooper's Beach has come and gone but what a wonderful time everyone had! With the beautiful sunny weather, well-behaved children, perfect venue and amazing parents, everything ran really smoothly. Highlights for the children were setting up bedding in the dormitories, swimming and boogie-boarding in the surf, whizzing down the steep water-slide to see who could go the furthest, sliding down the grassy banks on boogie boards and participating in the sand-sculpture competition. Highlights for the teachers were seeing how happy the children were as they enjoyed themselves, watching the children displaying courage, independence and friendship, and meeting and getting to know the parents. We would sincerely like to thank the parents for the tremendous amount of assistance they gave us on camp. As we said, we would not be able to do this type of camp without your generous help and support. We truly appreciate you all.

Here's looking forward to camp in 2015!

- Bridget Foster and Jacqui Larkan



Thought for the week:

Week 1

Aim high
Work hard
Enjoy the journey
Celebrate your achievements
- Mike Warren

Week 2

We don't have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness - it's right in front of us if we are paying attention and practicing gratitude

- Brene Brown
Courtesy of Zoe Botton

Week 3

If I am only happy for myself, many fewer chances for happiness.

If I am happy when good things happen to other people, billions more chances to be happy

- Dalai Lama
Courtesy of Jill Hatherly

Week 4

Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

- Marcel Proust
Courtesy of Maria Zivkovich

All the best for 2014!

Regards

Mike Warren, Principal



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