



Newsletter No. 2 | March 2014

Dear Parents

At a recent Independent Schools New Zealand conference that I attended, we were presented with some astounding information. The latest Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) data shows that while New Zealand state school results have slipped in reading, maths and science to 15th, 19th and 17th in the world respectively, New Zealand independent school results are amongst the top in the entire world.

Compared to independent schools across the globe, New Zealand independent schools' results in reading, maths and science are 2nd, 3rd and 2nd in the world respectively. Considering that globally, independent schools scored approximately 10% higher than their state school counterparts, means that for us to rank amongst the top of that group is simply outstanding.

Also, New Zealand independent schools' results compared to those of New Zealand state schools were revealed to be a great deal higher. In maths our schools' mean scores were 17.6% higher than NZ State schools, in reading 16.5% higher and 15.7% higher in science.

These results prove that as a sector, New Zealand independent schools are performing incredibly well. As is typical, this sort of information isn't celebrated in the media, so share it with your family and friends and let's get the message out there!

Y7 – 13 Interim reports (attitude report)

These have just been issued last Friday 14th March. Staff will contact parents to arrange a special meeting if they have concerns about any of their children. Official parent interviews will be held in conjunction with Mid-Year Reports, Week 9 of Term 2. If there are any academic or attitudinal concerns between now and interviews in Term 2, teachers will be proactive in contacting parents personally.

Congratulations to all of our students who scored perfect attitude scores; namely, they gained all "1"s across every single subject. You are evidence that "Attitude is Everything."



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Mrs A loves teaching Outdoor Education!

The Year 4, 5 & 6 camp at Tauranga Bay was a very exciting affair. All of the students were fantastic, extra enthusiastic and amazing to be with. Maria Zivkovich and I would like to extend a huge thank you to Louise Huett for her coordination of the catering. Thank you also to all of the parents who helped us to create a fabulous experience outside the classroom for the students.

The adventure started with a hike at Mahineapua. Each group had an extra member to look after for the day in the form of a raw egg. Four out of six returned intact, while two met their fate along the track. There were plenty of hills, a few valleys and astounding ocean views.

Swimming and boogie boarding was full of excitement. There were lots of wipe outs and many children would have stayed in the water all day.

The adults were entertained with the group drama presentations, all of which were witty, innovative and very entertaining. We are sure to see some students on the big screen in the future.



The group sand sculptures were amazing creations, all depicting the group names and themes. Some very obliging campers were our secret judges. They thoroughly enjoyed watching from the comfort of their deckchairs and then nominating the winners. They commented that our students and parents were the best they had ever seen come through the camp.

Spotlight was a very dark affair! Luckily we had a whistle to blow to indicate returning time. Some students were extremely good at hiding and making no noise. Maybe you should try this game at home!

Our special thanks to Maeanne Hona, manager of Tauranga Bay Holiday Park. Maeanne is so supportive of Springbank, nothing is ever too much trouble. If you can, head up and stay a while to support this great facility.

Lynne Alexander

A student point of view:

As soon as my dad and I got to Tauranga Bay camp, I put my stuff inside the cabin and set it out. When everyone else got to camp we all got ready to go on the hike at Mahineapua. Everyone got a hat, sunblock and good hiking clothes and shoes.

Ms Zivkovich gave us our egg. Our team called him George and his nickname was Georgie Pie. On one corner of the hike Anika was holding George and unfortunately she tripped and George dropped to the ground and splatted everywhere! The rest of the way I was getting really hot and tired. Luckily we had our drink bottles, yay! At the top of the walk Mrs A took photos of us and we had a rest. During our journey back we saw our broken egg and took a photo of deceased George! We had lunch at Mahineapua. Mine was tasty and delicious.

That night it was our drama time. Yay, I love drama! Every team was given one sheet each that said what we had to include in our skit and we had one hour to prepare.

They were really funny. Our group was not really ready, I was kind of nervous, but in the end it was really cool. Mrs A was videoing all the skits. I enjoyed Drama, especially watching them when we got back.

Khalila Strevens, Year 6



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Friends of Springbank

The Friends of Springbank would like to invite everyone to a family evening/picnic on Friday 28th March, from 5pm onwards at the Stone Store Basin. Bring your own picnic hamper, or goodies to BBQ (bearing in mind that it will be a busy BBQ!), chairs, blankets and togs if you fancy a dip in the basin. There will be games, and hopefully if someone brings some guitars, live music. This will be a great way to catch up with friends and maybe meet some new families.

Date for the children: We will be running an Easter Disco on Thursday 16th April at lunchtime. We will be providing hot chips, glow sticks, Easter cakes and treats, all for \$5. Look out for the Easter colouring competition. This will be a gold coin donation with a chance at winning lots of Easter Eggs.

Anyone wishing to advertise on the last page of the school newsletter, please contact Louise Huett (louise.huett@gmail.com). The cost is \$250 for the year (July to June). We are also looking for a sponsor (or sponsors) for this year's Fireworks Fiesta. It will be a great way to advertise to the wider Kerikeri community as we usually have close to 2000 people attending.

Lastly, there has been some recent discussion in our Friends group regarding sun smart programmes and how we might be able to help. We should clarify that Friends of Springbank's purpose is to enhance the children's educational experience through planning, fundraising and catering for extra social events. We do not have a role in policy decision-making or implementation, therefore we suggest that if you would like to discuss queries on Springbank School policies, you chat with Mike directly.



Headstart

Last year several children decided they would like to grow sunflowers. The children planted them around the Headstart gardens before the holidays and returned to find some beautiful sunflowers. The children have been diligently watering them and watching them grow. The children began drawing their own sunflowers using a variety of mediums including dye, paints and water colour pencils after reading *Katie and the Sunflowers*. We have some very talented young artists in Headstart!



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New resources and facilities on the way!

In the near future, Springbank School will be home to the only full-scale rock climbing wall north of Whangarei, as well as the only orienteering course north of Whangarei.

We are scaling up our rock wall to reach the roof of our gymnasium. We will be operating with all of the appropriate safety equipment such as harnesses, helmets, professional grip holds, ropes, cleats and ceiling anchor points. Thank you to the Friends of Springbank, who will be financially contributing half of the total build and equipment cost.

We will also be creating an orienteering course on our wider school grounds, including our farm and great multipurpose track. Friends of Springbank have spearheaded this initiative, having already purchased the required orienteering control points (clipping stations) in 2013. They have also paid for an orienteering map specialist to mark out our property so that it complies as an official course, where we will be able to hold regional (and possibly national) competitions.

We have also just received delivery of three brand new high jump mats. Although this doesn't sound like a particularly big deal, equipment such as this comes at a big deal of a price! We estimate that these high jump mats will cost approximately the same as the entire next stage of the rock wall, including all equipment. Once again, the Friends of Springbank team have committed to funding half of the cost of these high jump mats, which is very much appreciated.

LPs Wanted

Are you one of those people who, even though your record player died decades ago, still can't bear to throw away your favourite records? You proudly display Elton John's Greatest Hits on your mantelpiece, just to take you back to the 70s. However you're living in the past, you have to let go!

One of our Enterprise teams has come up with some innovative ideas to re-use old LPs, so that they may once live again. They are calling for donations of any LPs that you no longer use. If you would like to help out, and when you are ready to cut your emotional ties, please bring them to reception.



So say no to Manilow, goodbye to Air Supply and "lates" to Dire Straits!

Senior Art Trip to Auckland

In Week 5, the 3 senior art students accompanied Mrs Stringer to Auckland.

After a quick stop in Te Hana to visit the Kauri Carving Workshop, we arrived in Auckland to spend time at the City Art Gallery. Our focus was on seeing the contemporary New Zealand section and also to see an exhibition of 'Five Maori Artists'. At 5 o'clock we were asked to leave the gallery as it was closing time. We could easily have spent another two hours there.



On Thursday morning the girls did some quick shopping on K road then we made our way to Auckland Grammar to see The Best of Cambridge Exhibition, which showcased the top New Zealand art students' work.

From there we made our way to Snell's Beach and the Brick Bat Sculpture Trail. We spent a very pleasant 2 hours wandering among the vines and experiencing some amazing sculpture.

- Win Stringer



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The Hundred Club

So far this term our Middle & Senior students have been busy during Fitness sessions, walking and running our new multi-purpose track around the Springbank farm. We've measured a 1 kilometre loop and the students complete a minimum of two laps per session.



Our more keen runners are aiming for the goal of 100 laps over the course of Term 1. This means that they will have to average around four laps each twenty minute session, which is no easy feat!

We have a handful of students on track to join the hundred club. These dedicated runners will be rewarded with an exclusive hundred club hoodie, which they can show off in the cooler winter months.



Well done also to many of our staff members for getting amongst the action. You're looking good!



Progress and Achievement (PAT) Tests

Each year students from Years 4-10 sit the New Zealand PAT Tests in Reading Comprehension & Vocabulary and Mathematics. This gives us a benchmark at this point in time for your child's ranking according to age and class, compared with national standardised results in Mathematics, Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary. The results are measured in stanines 1-9 (1 being the lowest and 9 being the highest). Teachers use these results as a formative assessment tool, analysing strengths and weaknesses to provide specific teaching programmes to best meet individual needs.

Hockey

Lindvart Park in Kaikohe is in the process of building lights for their hockey turf. Having lights will enable Bay of Islands hockey to run weeknight hockey competitions. This year's senior league will run on Wednesday nights for college and adult players. Anybody who would like to give hockey a go is welcome to our practice at school on Tuesday afternoons from 3.15pm - 4.30pm. All ages welcome (including you, adults!), just bring a pair of sport shoes and a mouth guard.



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Springbank Student Leadership Programme

The role of the student in the life of the school is vital in supporting an ethos of strong community and innovation for all students. There will be a wide range of opportunities for students to contribute to the wellbeing and development of the school. The aim is to offer students a variety of leadership roles and responsibilities, record all aspects of student involvement, make leadership more inclusive, allow students to develop their leadership potential and encourage active participation in a wider range of school activities. Leadership roles will aim to develop the capacity to think, to be imaginative, to work with others, to act decisively, to be accountable and to accept responsibility.

It has been a delight to witness the effort and enthusiasm already demonstrated by our senior students and we look forward to an ever-increasing level of involvement in all aspects of school life.

2014 Student Leadership Roles

This year, we are expecting more of our senior students to take on leadership roles. This means that each leadership area has several leaders and support leaders.

Academic Leaders – Melissa Chapman, Kimberley Rear and Sarah Kingsford

Sports Leaders – Megan Bramley, Kimberley Rear, Kirsten Foster and Sarah Kingsford

Sports Support – Max Cadenhead, Taran Deed, Bailey Urlich-Short, Alex Dawson and Marshall de Vries

Charity Leaders – Elsa Meier, Melissa Chapman and Isabella Francis

Charity Support – Kimberley Rear, Megan Bramley, Kirsten Foster, Sarah Kingsford, Eva Lloyd, Pamela Dodd.

Cultural Leaders – Elsa Meier, Eva Lloyd and Isabella Francis.

Cultural Support – Kimberley Rear, Megan Bramley, Kirsten Foster, Melissa Chapman and Logan Alexander

Mentoring Leaders – Elsa Meier, Pamela Dodd, Logan Alexander, Melissa Chapman and Kirsten Foster

Mentoring Support – Max Cadenhead, Bailey Urlich-Short, Keegan Jones, Gary Walker and Alex Dawson

Technical Leader – Logan Alexander

Some of our Year 9 students will take on areas of responsibility in Middle School this year.

Year 9 Leadership Roles

Class reps – Responsible for birthdays, classroom tidiness, roll and notices reminders: two per term Troy Vujcich, Alistair Garland, Buster Carr, Tosca Pasquale, Ella Birch, Kate Hewitt, Chloe Whitehead

Audio Visual technical support – Michael Horsman

School Bell – Josh Henwood

Assembly speakers – Zach Kingsford, Te Aroha Whareaitu

Room 9 Computer monitors – Levi Whitehead, Caleb Gadsby, Luke Bramley

Year 9 students will also assist our senior students in supporting form group activities



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Preschool

The Preschool children enjoy some Caribbean dancing with Lian's mum, Laila. Everyone got into the swing of the music. A big thank you to Laila for sharing her expertise with us.



Regards

Mike Warren

Principal

Thought for the week:

Week 5

Gratitude makes sense of our past,
brings peace for today and creates a
vision for tomorrow

— Melody Beattie

Courtesy of Bridget Foster

Week 6

It's not happiness that brings us
gratitude, but it's gratitude that
brings us happiness.

Courtesy of Henk Bertelink

Week 7

Be grateful you're not in the forest
in France,
where the average young person
just hasn't a chance,
to escape from the perilous pants
eating plants,
but your pants are safe, you're a
fortunate guy
you ought to be shouting how lucky
am I!

— Dr Seuss

Courtesy of Zoe Botton

Week 8

When it comes to life the critical
thing is whether you take things for
granted or take them with
gratitude.

— Gilbert K. Chesterton

Courtesy of John Haydock



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