



*Newsletter No. 4 | May 2014*

### *Dear Parents*

I am so incredibly grateful in my role as Principal at Springbank School. The last few weeks have been particularly challenging for me, but as I like to say, "It's better to be busy than bored!"

Leading up to our Education Review Office visit (my first school ERO review) involved collating truckloads of paperwork and ensuring that all of our ducks were in a row, in order to showcase Springbank in the most accurate (and of course, positive) light possible. Knowing that the due date of my second-born child was to be on the exact date that the ERO officers were to visit, was particularly daunting! Fortunately, for the three days of the ERO review, baby was quite considerate and decided to stay put (or more likely, Ange was willing it to!).

Just enough time to catch my breath, then on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 9:34pm, Frank Brew Warren came into this world at a chubby 3.54kg (or 7lb 13). It is an emotional time for any parent to have a child, and we were ecstatic that he was healthy and gorgeous.

Thank you to parents and students for your kind words of congratulations and jests of impending sleep deprivation, which I can assure you that even on the second time around, is still debilitating.

I am especially appreciative of the entire staff at Springbank School. Like me they also had a busy few weeks and a nerve-wracking few days last week, however they took the time to award me "Staff Member of the Week" and also surprised me with a special celebratory staff meeting. They are the most supportive, compassionate, yet fun and energetic people, and it is an absolute pleasure to work alongside them.

Pictured is young Frank with his big brother Mason.



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## Fish Forever

Lynne Alexander and our Year 6 students have recently enjoyed two snorkel days with the Experiencing Marine Reserves team, at Matauri Bay and the Poor Knights Marine Reserve. They all made written submissions supporting the Fish Forever Marine Reserve in the Bay of Islands. Noortje Nederlof was lucky enough to win another snorkel trip to the Poor Knights judged on her written submission.



Fish Forever have uploaded some of the submissions to their Facebook page – check them out:

<https://www.facebook.com/fishforever.northland>

For those of you who are not particularly Facebook savvy, here is a link to the letters posted on their website:

<http://fishforever.org.nz/fish-forever/198-springbank-school-kids-go-snorkelling.html>

## Headstart

Headstart has welcomed Jahrell, Lucas, Fenix, Leif and Imogen this term. It has been exciting to watch them settle in and see the progress they have made so far. We are lucky to have such a caring bunch of children who have enjoyed learning with their new friends.



## Preschool

Springbank Preschool said goodbye to Jude at the beginning of the term. She gave so much to Preschool in so many different ways. Her inspiration, expertise and sense of humour will be missed by all of us. The teachers and children will especially miss her playing the guitar and singing every day. (We will of course endeavour to keep it up). She also contributed the richness of her bi-cultural heritage to the centre in so many ways. Arohanui Jude - from the bottom of our hearts.

We welcome Patrick Boyle who comes with many years teaching experience, passion and enthusiasm. Patrick has a wealth of knowledge and is a dedicated teacher. He received a NEiTA National Excellence teaching award in 2012. We are all excited to have him join our teaching team.



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## Strategic Plan



In the last edition of our newsletter, I began by sharing Springbank School's core values, vision and learning framework, which forms the basis of our strategic direction. In this edition, I reveal the next section of our strategic plan, involving two groups who are key to the success of the school: teachers and students. We must ensure that our teaching staff share in our vision and the students themselves embed traits that will be key to their personal success. Our expectations of our staff and students are as follows:

### Staff Expectations

- Being passionate about teaching and enjoying what you do
- Providing challenging and engaging lessons within a supportive, respectful environment
- Having consistently high expectations for all students leading to impressive results
- Professional development: Continual improvement of practice. Actively using new resources and implementing effective educational initiatives
- Providing opportunities for students to excel internally, regionally and nationally in Springbank School's six key learning framework areas

### Student Expectations

- Believe in yourself – practise being confident and capable
- Practise self-responsibility – if it's to be, it's up to me
- Practise integrity – do the right thing at the right time for the right reason
- Attitude is Everything – have a positive attitude to life and to all that you do
- Strive for your own individual best effort in all endeavours
- Be persistent – focus and effort lead to success
- Be efficient – manage your time effectively
- Plan, prioritise and set goals, and evaluate your progress
- Celebrate your successes, be proud of your achievements

I look forward to sharing our strategic goals with you in the next edition of the newsletter.

### ANZAC Day

Two of our prefects, Logan Alexander and Elsa Meier represented us to the highest standard at this year's ANZAC Day Dawn Service commemoration. Elsa, our Head Girl, shared a heartfelt account of what ANZAC Day means to her. I would like to share a letter that we received from Frank Lewis JP, RSA President:

*On behalf of the Kerikeri RSA, would you please convey to Elsa Meier our thanks for her contribution to our ANZAC Day Service. She was a credit to your school and you should be very proud of her. Thank you.*

### 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.

As we live in the Bay of Islands, we do not believe that there is a need to wear beanies. On particularly cold days, we will allow students to wear beanies before school, however once class has begun, they must be stowed in bags for the remainder of the school day.

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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## ***Springbank Middle-Senior production – A Magical Delight!***

In Terms One and Two our Middle-Senior Drama students put in hours and hours of time after school to rehearse for the school production – 1001 Arabian Nights....and a Matinee. We had 25 students involved in total, from actors, to choreographers and technical crew. The culmination of their efforts was a string of performances in Week 3 which included: a free matinee performance for Springbank and Riverview primary schools, the main performance on Friday night and a second matinee on Saturday.

Our students' hard work paid off, with each person up on stage or in the wings showing growth in character and enthusiasm as the shows approached. The shows were highly entertaining and a great success. Our students were articulate and funny, and we were even blown away by some amazing singing talent. We received fantastic feedback from many people who came to watch, on the quality of the performances, the set and of course the fantastic costumes which were made by our own Debbie Sutcliffe.

We are so fortunate to have a group of passionate students who commit themselves to producing something spectacular in their spare time. We are also so grateful for such amazing parents who give of themselves to make these opportunities possible.

Bravo!

- Andrea Druery

## ***School-wide Focus – Term 2: Physical Wellbeing***

Continuing our school-wide focus of Wellbeing, we continue practising gratitude by making entries into our gratitude diaries and we add another dimension to our overall wellbeing: the physical.

In addition to our Thoughts for the Week, which all relate to physical wellbeing and challenges, your children are keeping a daily checklist. The simple checklist is pasted into their homework diary and is a personal daily review to reflect on their food intake, physical activity, water intake and their sleep.

Mine is off to a rough start, as funnily enough due to a certain new-born baby, my checkbox for "sleep" seems to receive continual crosses!



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## Year 11 PE – Cape Brett Tramp

It was that time again – the early morning “all aboard” from our salty skipper, bags packed, code names settled and another Bay of Islands dawn greeting us from the east. I was elated to have the company and guidance of the wayward “Weka”, or the mathematics teacher formerly known as Mr Wallis!

As usual there were push ups a plenty for those who were slow in picking up code names, though the Capitan had long since learnt to keep a low profile and remained shielded from the frightful breeze alongside the skipper.

Signs were ominous from the outset, with the noble Ark slowed to a crawl through the uncharacteristic sea fog cloaking all of the familiar landmarks. The extra time spent on the water would later prove costly!

We set off merrily up the first hill some time later with the crew taking frequent opportunities to check their maps and acquire a feel for the lay of the land. Mercifully the fog had lifted and the views were characteristically spectacular.



As with all endurance challenges, the pace soon settled and idle chatter was replaced by dogged focus as each person faced their own highs and lows. This was a truly inspirational group in terms of their commitment to the cause and each other – not once was there talk of separating or complaint from any of the fleeter of foot, despite the varying levels of comfort! By the time we had reached the Deep Water Cove path, serious calculations were



underway and the unanimous decision was to bivouac there, rather than approach and negotiate the final ridge in darkness. Not since the Capitan's time in the Warren Legion had he been so proud to see a group stand up for each other and make the right choice for the right reasons.

It was a dark night for some in more ways than one, but by the next morning the battle hardened group were in top form, allowing Le Capitan and Weka to disappear ahead in order to spy on their charges. The group was to radio

in their position every 30min – without fail! This they did and at all of the intervals that we regarded them from concealment, we witnessed a tight group observing the strictest of safe hiking protocols. Saying that they were quick learners would be an understatement! The pace was picking up...



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### ...continued

Safe arrival at the Cape was a fitting finish to a much more workmanlike day and we were treated to a rare (and somewhat lazy) show by some seals who deigned to a moment or two in our presence. Feasting was efficient and by the morning of the third day this business of hiking was old hat. Once again the commanding officers disappeared into the bush to ruminate at intervals on the general unfairness of the universe – cursing them with days on end of life in the wilderness – while the crew found their own way home. The radio communications became increasingly cheeky, with our position religiously requested!

After reclining in a brief rain shower back at Deep Water Cove, we saw our saviour in the shape of the other Mr Warren approaching at a rate of knots. We were whisked home in a matter of minutes, in time for well-earned hot chocolate.

Thanks to the crew for their phenomenal teamwork and to all of the adult staff who make this trip one of the highlights of the Capitan's year – bring on next year!

Your Ob't Sv't

- Capt. Fi Fi Le Bouff (Christian Pera)

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Thank you to the grandparents who came to witness their grandchildren in action for the annual Grandparents' Day. We appreciate all of the support that our grandparents give to the Springbank School community and of course to your next generation of amazing people. We look forward to seeing you again on Cross Country postponement day; fingers crossed for fine weather and bring your running shoes!

Regards

Mike Warren

Principal

### Thought for the week:

#### Week 1

Just Do It!

– Nike

Courtesy of Mike Warren

#### Week 2

To ensure good health:

Eat lightly, breathe deeply, live moderately, cultivate cheerfulness and maintain an interest in life

– William Londen

Courtesy of Win Stringer

#### Week 3

Pain is just weakness leaving the body!

– General Lewis B. Puller,  
US Marine Corps

Courtesy of Jin Pho-Hayhurst

#### Week 4

There are really only two requirements when it comes to exercise. One is that you do it. The other is that you continue to do it. eates a vision for tomorrow

– The New Glucose Revolution  
for Diabetes

Courtesy of Michelle Chapman



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