



Newsletter No. 6 | August 2014

Dear Parents

What is the purpose to life? Whatever our culture, background, religious beliefs or political views, most of us would agree that we just want to be happy. However because we are all hard-wired to find happiness in different ways, there is no golden rule when pursuing our quest for happiness.

Even amongst our teachers, there is a varying array of factors contributing to their happiness, including:

- Teaching a second generation – Children of children I have already taught!
- Achieving success
- Cooking and baking
- When my children tell me they love me
- Motorbike riding (Mrs A!)
- Sailing (I wonder who that is)
- Reading (I wonder who that is)
- Being with family
- When a student finally “gets” it
- Being found by long lost but loved friends through Facebook
- Sitting around the dining room table chatting with my family
- Sunrises and Sunsets

This term our focus is on mental wellbeing. We are sharing some ideas about what it means to be in a positive state of mental wellbeing, e.g. being happy. I am offering up weekly challenges for our students and their families to spark their positive emotions. These vary between personal challenges such as cooking the family meal, selfless challenges such as performing good deeds for others and challenges associated with simply taking the time out of their day to notice the little things, to smell the roses.

My challenges are accompanied by each staff member’s Thought for the Week and we post these on Springbank’s Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/springbankschool. Get cracking, because they are guaranteed to boost your personal happiness factor (PHF) by 3.14%, which is around the same amount as a pie.



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Tech Shed

The Tech Shed has gotten off to a flying start at the beginning of Term 3 with maximum student capacity in both motor mechanics and woodworking.

The motor mechanic students have been stripping down a V6 Holden engine plus building an exact model engine which shows all the internal working parts. The woodworking students have been learning about hand tools and have started drawing plans for their go-karts!



The Tech Shed Parents (TSPs) and students would like to say a really big thank you to all parents, grandparents, friends and Friends of Springbank



who have kindly donated tools, engines, technical books and even a ride-on lawnmower! However the Tech Shed still desperately needs timber, exterior paint, pram wheels and old engines. Please contact

Ian Sizer if you have anything available as all donations are kindly welcome. Ian Sizer: takouriver@xtra.co.nz

Headstart

This term in Headstart, the children have been reinforcing their literacy and numeracy knowledge by participating in interactive games on the laptop. They are becoming quite the computer experts! It has been great to see their problem solving skills emerging as well as the children persisting with difficulty and challenges.



Yoga for Youngies!

Kimberly Williams, a local 16 year old girl who has experience working in after school and holiday programs with young children, will be running yoga for 4 – 6 year olds at Springbank. Her aim is to create an environment in which children are taught about the flow of movement and the correct breathing methods as the flow of poses are completed. The sequence of the poses also teaches children to have control over their bodies, and studies show that this has a positive impact on their development. By creating themes such as animals, the poses are taught in such a way that the children enjoy learning them.

The sessions will run after school on Tuesdays and the cost will be \$5 per session. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact Kimberly directly on 027 546 7821.

Calendar of Events

Just a quick note regarding our school calendar of events. Our calendar is online at <http://www.springbank.school.nz/newsevents/calendar/>.

Please view the calendar regularly to be fully informed about when we will be running particular events.



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Education Review Office (ERO) Report

Last term ERO visited Springbank for their triennial review. The report is now published! We are pleased that they captured the philosophy and culture of Springbank and we subsequently received a very positive report. A snapshot of their findings is below:

Springbank School is a small, independent, family operated school that provides a positive and inclusive learning environment for students from Year 1 to 13. Students are actively engaged in a broad curriculum that includes academic and entrepreneurial studies and has a growing emphasis on education outside the classroom.

The school is set in 14 hectares of attractive, well managed farmland in rural Kerikeri, in Northland. The school has had positive ERO reports throughout its 18 year history.

The school's founding philosophy of 'learning for life' is now expressed as the three values of developing student's confidence, character and capability. These values underpin the goals and priorities identified in the school strategic plan.

Classrooms are well equipped and well resourced. High speed wireless has been installed and is providing students with access to a more global world perspective to enhance their learning. Staff expertise has contributed to progress in this area and is also promoting the increased staff and student use of digital devices.

The development of outdoor education and the digital infrastructure are a part of the directors' vision for students to access challenging and relevant learning opportunities within and beyond the school. A further aim of this approach is to enhance students' positive connection to people, places and communities to strengthen their sense of belonging and contribution.

Classrooms are characterised by teachers' high expectations for learning and students' high levels of engagement. Teachers' relationships with students are positive, encouraging and focused on student outcomes. Programmes are based on the Cambridge junior and senior curriculum and also reflect the values of building confidence, character and capability.

Teachers show high levels of commitment to their students and the school philosophy. They know students and their families very well and are able to plan longer term for students' on-going learning and development.

To read the full report, please visit the ERO website:

<http://www.ero.govt.nz/Early-Childhood-School-Reports/School-Reports/Springbank-School-19-06-2014>

Market Day – Sunday 21st September 2014

This year all staff and students will be actively contributing to Market Day. We have always appreciated input and help from parents and if you wish to assist your child, that would be fantastic. Please do not feel any pressure to help however, as we will have plenty of senior students and staff members available to assist our juniors if they require it.

Because we consider Market Day an official school day, school will be closed on Monday 22nd September.

Garage Sale

As a fundraiser to complete their community project for the Kerikeri Archery Club, Jake, Sophie and Michael from Year 9 are holding a Garage Sale on Saturday 16th August from 10am - 2pm on Klinac Lane, Waipapa (Next to the Man Cave).

If you have any preloved items that you would like to donate to help with these students' fundraising venture, please drop them into the Office by Friday.

Don't forget to come and grab a bargain on Saturday. See you there!



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Friends of Springbank Update

Friends are already planning this year's Fireworks Extravaganza, to be held on Saturday 1st November. This year we are looking for a business or businesses to sponsor this event. This is our 4th Fireworks night, and has become a must-do community event both locally and further afield, catering for over 2000 people. Sponsorship will include signage in and around Kerikeri, newspaper notices, radio promotion, and signage and promotion during the night. For more details contact Louise Huett 4017229 or 0211176984.

Also related to this event we are now looking to build the bonfire, so any burnable garden waste is welcome. Could you please ensure that there is no treated wood or items with non-burnables such as nails. You may add to the pile in the field below the car park.

We are having a food court during the evening. If anyone would like to have a food stall please contact Louise as above. As in the past this event can only happen with lots of family support from the Springbank community. If you are able to help beforehand and especially on the night please get in touch.

Next year's diaries are already being planned. Next year we are offering an advertising package, including adverts in the diaries. The cost will be \$400. For this amount you get the following:

- Adverts for half of a diary page (A6), one advert to be included in each term section (The school prints approximately 300 diaries)
- Advertising on the school newsletter (approximately 10 per year) these can be web site linked
- A permanent display of our sponsors on the noticeboard by the school office
- Extra advertising at school events

If you sign up for this fabulous deal now you will get a free advert on the remaining school newsletters for 2014.

Kids 4 Kids Concert

Thank you to our Year 4-6 students for their outstanding performance on stage at the Turner Centre, performing with the Kids For Kids choir and supporting World Vision. Also to the teachers Lynne Alexander & Maria Zivkovich who taught and rehearsed the sixteen New Zealand hits from the 80's. Including music by Dave Dobbyn, Fred Dagg, Split Endz, Patea Maori Club and many more. The concert night was amazing and parents in the audience had a fabulous time.



The opportunity to work with professional singer Jackie Clarke and musical director Chris Lam Sam, plus their outstanding sound team was a once in a lifetime treat, which the students will remember forever.



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ICAS Science

Several of our student opted to sit the ICAS Science exam last term and our results are in. Congratulations to the following students, who scored at Merit Level or above. A particular accolade goes to Luke Bramley and Taiyo Serge, who gained High Distinction grades by scoring in the top 1% of New Zealand.

Year	Student	Grade	NZ Percentile
Yr 6	Jack Hittle	Credit	81
Yr7	Ishmael Strevens	Credit	75
Yr8	Ruben Birch	Credit	72
	Max Hittle	Credit	82
	Sam Sutcliffe	Credit	77
Yr9	Ella Birch	Merit	55
	Michael Horsman	Credit	84
	Levi Whitehead	Distinction	93
	Luke Bramley	High Dist.	99
Yr10	Aliesha	Merit	59
	Whitehead	Distinction	91
	Lauren Harrell		
Yr11	Taiyo Serge	High Dist.	99
Yr12	Megan Bramley	Credit	88

Springbank Café

After several years in the Springbank Café, Liz Baxter has decided to hang up her apron. She will be finishing up at the end of this year and is looking to sell the business. This is a great opportunity for someone to own and run their very own business with low overheads and the most well-mannered and polite customers ever! Ultimately we would prefer a Springbank parent running it, so if you are interested in taking over the Springbank Café, please contact Liz for more information on 0211490941 or parmz@actrix.co.nz.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Liz and her team for providing our students with a variety of very reasonably priced, healthy and tasty meals. Also, the introduction of the coffee machine has been a hit with staff and parents. Thank you Liz.

Great Parenting Courses

The Parenting Place will be running three positive, practical and fun parenting courses over six weeks, starting very soon:

The Early Years: 0 – 6 years

The Middle Years: 6 – 12 years

Tweens and Teens: 13 – 18 years

There is a small cost of \$75 per person or \$110 per couple for each six week course. Our very own Jacqui Larkan is a trained course facilitator, so please contact her for further details. Pop in to school to have a chat (Room 2), or email her jacqui.larkan@springbank.school.nz.



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Strategic



Continuing to take a peek into our strategic plan, in this issue we cover the areas of information technology and leadership.

Information Technology

Goal: Students to demonstrate growing skills in IT use and integration with learning.

Rationale: Staff and students keep abreast of technological advances and opportunities to engage with each other with confidence and competence.

Action Steps: To review IT use in classrooms by students and staff with a view to potentially implementing BYOD across the school from Yr5-Y13. Identify areas of weakness (to address) and areas of strength (to share). Look for professional development opportunities to assist with successful IT integration within the classroom.

Leadership

Goal 1: To strengthen leadership opportunities at Springbank across all age levels to develop identifiable personal leadership skills.

Rationale: To give students a consistent leadership pathway so they can develop cumulative leadership skills throughout their time at Springbank.

Action steps: Junior, Middle & Senior schools to develop a coherent and consistent leadership programme for Springbank, liaising between each area of the school, implementing leadership programmes each year and evaluating and refining for subsequent years.

Goal 2: To investigate the possibility of a cross-curricular multi-level Springbank challenge programme.

Rationale: To build capability, character and confidence (personal leadership capacity).

Action Steps: Research other challenge programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award. Follow, adapt to suit, or create our own.

THE Challenge

It's on again! Last year I challenged all Springbank students and staff to a race at the Kerikeri Half Marathon. For each and every student or teacher who beat me, they would receive \$100. Unfortunately for me, some international students convinced me to show off (ok fine, I admit I was showing off on my own accord) on a ski biscuit two days before the race. The body is certainly not what it used to be and I tore an ACL ligament in my knee, forcing me to be a spectator at the Half Marathon. The two students who participated each came away \$100 richer.

I have been pressured into re-hashing my Kerikeri Half Marathon challenge for 2014. Any student or teacher who bests me in this year's race will receive \$100 cash. I suppose I'd better get training!

Market Day request

Room 2 is looking for plastic bottles to use for Market Day products. If you have any round bottles such as coke, lemonade, water bottles etc that would otherwise be put into recycling, could you please drop them off at Room 2. We'd really appreciate it!



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Preschool - Wacky Wednesday!

The Preschool children recently enjoyed a day of everything weird and wacky. Upside down, sideways, back to front - green hair, green beards, undies on heads and pyjamas. It was a wonderful wacky fun filled day.



Strong Community Spirit

Congratulations to Melissa Chapman, Year 13, who came Runner Up at the recent Trustpower Far North Youth Community Spirit Awards.

Melissa was nominated for her caring nature with a strong drive and desire to support and contribute to her school and community, to which she dedicates many hours of her time. She is one of Springbank School's academic, mentoring and charity leaders, which sees her organise charity events and fundraisers such as the annual Valentine's Day event, which raised money for the Heart Foundation. She was part of the school ball committee, coached two netball teams and organised activities and events that lifted school spirit, such as the middle school disco that she had helped organise for the past two years.

Melissa has volunteered at the Hospice Shop in Kerikeri, she has participated in the 40-hour famine since she was eight, raising big sums for this great cause, and she is currently in the process of developing an application that will help teenagers in combating depression.

Well done, Melissa. You deserve it!

Regards

Mike Warren

Principal

Thought for the week:

Week 1

"Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions."

— Dalai Lama XIV

Courtesy of Mike Warren

Week 2

"It is only possible to live happily ever after on a daily basis."

— Margart Bonanno

Courtesy of Mike Warren

Week 3

Laughter is the best medicine

Courtesy of John Haydock

Week 4

"Try to be a rainbow in somebody's cloud"

— Maya Angelou

Courtesy of Sally Collings



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