



Newsletter No. 1 | February 2015

Dear Parents

Welcome to the beginning of Springbank School's 20th year!

We welcome 27 new students and a few staffing changes. Cam McNicol is teaching Middle School ICT, Max Hittle is teaching Year 4 and Middle School Physical Education and Music, and Jess Van Weerd has moved from Preschool to Headstart. We also have several new families entering Springbank Preschool and two new staff members. Carrie Carr-Smith and Marilyn Ruwhiu have already made an outstanding contribution to Preschool and we look forward to many fun, interactive Preschool days.

We have received our 2014 CIE results and we have celebrated some massive achievements, including a Top in New Zealand award. You can read more about this on Page 2.

All of our students have now been on their annual camps, and we have all camp reports in this edition. It is jam packed with great camp adventures! Thank you to each staff team who organised and ran their camps and a huge thank you to the masses of parents who made our camps such special events. They simply would not be the same without you.

I am looking forward to Springbank's 20th year, which will be the best year yet! We have some exciting developments on the horizon. These include extensions to our Preschool, allowing us to accommodate under 2 year olds and we will be undertaking the construction of an equestrian arena. Watch this space.

2015 Term Dates

Term One

27 January to 2 April

Term Two

20 April to 3 July

Term Three

20 July to 25 September

Term Four

12 October to 3 December

Upcoming Events

18th Feb Senior Art trip to Sydney

24th Feb Elgregoe Show for Headstart - Year 6

17th March St Patricks Day & school photos

25th March Athletics Day

TBA – CIE Parent Information Evening



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Springbank Tops New Zealand!

Our 2014 Cambridge International Examinations saw many of our students achieve some outstanding results.

Top scholar Taiyo Serge (Year 11) gained the highest raw score in New Zealand for IGCSE ICT, with a score of 97%. Paul McFadden, Taiyo's ICT teacher, and Deputy Principal Phil Webb, will accompany Taiyo to attend a special New Zealand high achievers ceremony in Auckland this coming week. Out of the six years that Springbank School has offered Cambridge International Examinations, this is our fourth Top in New Zealand accolade.



Taiyo achieved several other outstanding results, including 5 A*s (90% or over), one A (between 80% and 90%) and he also achieved a phenomenal 93% at A Level Mathematics, which is a university entrance course.

17% of our IGCSE (Year 11) papers achieved A* grades and a further 20% achieved A grades. Therefore 37% of papers sat at Year 11 achieved an A grade or above. 89% of all IGCSE papers sat were passed. Given that CIE is a challenging curriculum, we are thrilled with these results, which prove that Cambridge is achievable for any student who puts their mind to it.

Many of our Year 12 students are well on their way to attaining University Entrance, with 15% of them having already achieved it a year in advance. 100% of Year 13 attained University Entrance (Melissa!).

Our younger students also follow the CIE curriculum from Year 1 and sit external examinations in English, Science and Mathematics at Year 6 and Year 9. Their results were very impressive overall with many students scoring at the highest possible level of 6.0 (on a scale from 0.0 to 6.0).

We are proud to follow the prestigious Cambridge International Examinations as the curriculum is well structured and easy to follow, CIE has high credibility, is globally recognised, and independently marked and moderated.

2015 School-wide Focus: **CONNECT**

We are social beings. Whatever path our students choose to take in their careers, they will undoubtedly have to work and interact with others. Our students will endeavour to form long lasting and close-knit relationships, hopefully finding their chosen long term partner and sharing a life together.

Connect, our School-wide Focus, is all about tips and challenges for building strong relationships and connecting with others in a positive, meaningful way.

Term 1: Look Out(wards)

Building strong relationships.

Term 2: Look Right

Do what is right by learning some good old fashioned social etiquette.

Term 3: Look Up and Beyond

Look up from your device and take a break from the modern forms of communication.

Look Beyond your immediate friends and family by connecting with the wider community and the rest of the world.

Term 4: Round-up & Re-visit

We will pick a few of our favourites and re-visit them.



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Friends of Springbank

Need YOU!

A belated Happy New Year to all Springbank families and friends. I am sure as with most of you, Christmas and the holidays seem a distant memory, but take heart at the time of writing this, there are only 315 days left to go!



Friends had a good year in 2014 but it was with a heavy heart that we said "goodbye" to our wonderful secretary, Celia Prichard, who has gone to the greener pastures of Cambridge.

So now to pick up the reins for 2015! The good news is we have some money to spend! Therefore any ideas would be gratefully received.

We have already made a donation to the Senior Art Trip to Australia. They have done a fantastic job in fundraising for themselves and we thought they deserved a little extra.

Now to the not so good news. Friends NEEDS new members, or we cannot continue! According to our constitution we need two committee members, and four others at every meeting in order for us to proceed.

We plan to meet every second Monday of the month at 1.30pm in the staff room (coffee provided) starting Monday 9th March. Our meetings are not too formal and our discussions often cover a wide range of topics!

Throughout the year we do things like a few lunchtime discos, cook sausages etc at Cross Country, provide refreshments at school events and manage the community fireworks night. Friends aim is to raise funds for our children, to enrich their education even more.

We hope to see you on the 9th! Please come along or contact me if you are interested but cannot attend the first meeting.

Louise Huett (09 4017229, 0211176984)

Vaccinations

Very soon the Public Health Nurse will be coming to school to talk with the Year 7 students about the Boostrix vaccination. This vaccine covers tetanus, whooping cough & diphtheria in a single vaccine dose. The Public Health Nurses will be at school to give your child this vaccine in Term 2 with your written consent. When the consent form comes home please complete the **blue** section if you wish your child to have this vaccine or complete the **red** section if your child has already had the vaccination or you would prefer they do not have it at school.

The Public Health Nurse will also be at school to talk with the Year 8 girls about the HPV vaccination. This covers the human papilloma virus requiring 3 doses of vaccine: 1 in March/April, the second about 8 weeks later and the 3rd dose 13 weeks after the second. The Public Health Nurses will be at school to give this vaccination with your written consent. Further information about this will be available at school and on the first 2 pages of the consent form, which can be torn off and retained. On Pages 3 and 4 is the consent. Fill out the **orange** section if you wish your daughter to receive this vaccine, otherwise complete the **purple** section and return it to school.



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Year 2 - 3 Camp: Coopers Beach

Another camp has come and gone, and what a camp it was! At first, the weather was not very good but although it was raining, thankfully it wasn't cold. We still managed to go for a swim in the sea and complete our amazing sand sculptures despite the wet weather (Gosh, there are some talented - and competitive - sand artists among us!). The water slide was once again a hit, and again this year, we're not sure who had more fun on it, the adults or the children! It rained heavily on Wednesday night but Thursday brought an amazing morning of sunshine and we were able to



complete an interesting treasure hunt on the beach. The waterslide was opened for a second time and was just as much fun as before. Camp would not be the same without the incredible support of our parents and we had so many of you helping at camp. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts – we appreciated all you did. And a special thanks has to go to Debbie Sutcliffe for organising all the catering. We certainly ate like kings! Camp was a great opportunity for us to all get to



know each other and we hope you found it as much fun as we did.

- Bridget Foster and Jacqui Larkan



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Year 4 – 6 Camp: Manaia

Our camp at Manaia was a very exciting affair. All of the students were fantastic, extra enthusiastic and amazing to be with. Max Hittle, Maria Zivkovich and I would like to extend a huge thank you to Sue Vujcich, Inga Renner & Roger Austin for their extra help with the catering. Plus, 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 up the 1057 steps to the top of Mount Manaia. Swimming and paddle boarding followed with much excitement and hilarity.

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 Survivor Challenge was fiercely contested with students eating dry weetbix, apple bobbing and answering very tricky trivia questions in three of the events.

The second day hike to Smugglers Cove culminated in a massive pirate treasure hunt led by Max Hittle and his band of booty-losing scoundrels. Fun was had by all

once the treasure was found and dug up.



Spotlight was a very dark affair! Luckily we had a whistle to blow to indicate the returning time. Some students were extremely good at hiding and making no noise. Maybe you should try this game at home! I hid in the ultimate of ant infested hiding spots, and was not found but had to evacuate when the pouring rain started!



Our special thanks go to the Whangarei Baptist Church for the creation and maintenance of the fantastic camp facilities.

- Lynne Alexander



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Middle School Camp: Mangawhai

The Middle School Camp was held this year at the Campbell Park Christian Camp, Mangawhai Heads.

We travelled to the camp by coach and arrived at lunchtime. After consuming a pre-packed lunch and a brief period of manic unpacking, students were engaged in activities organized by instructors from the Marine Education and Recreation Centre (MERC).



We were then treated to an amazing evening meal (the first of many similar banquets) catered by Springbank parents Louise Huett and Debbie Sutcliffe.

Some of our group enjoyed a dip in the sea before we were all entertained by the students and the House skits they had prepared. The Camp had a hall complete with stage, which allowed the students to showcase their talents. Some interesting and entertaining sketches were presented and the contest was eventually won by Stingrays, despite the inclusion of a surreal pirate ship skit, with Orcas placing a very close second.

Day two began with a hearty breakfast and then MERC continued to involve the students in a range of activities that included paddle-boarding, slingshot, survival skills, team building activities, a confidence course and flying fox.



spotlight that was organised by the super-efficient Mya.

Once again, at the end of a very busy day, some students enjoyed a swim in the sheltered bay before another excellent meal was enjoyed by all. Students ended their final evening with a choice of a movie night, board games or outside activities that included the king of sports, soccer, followed by a game of



The final morning involved a coastal walk complete with a sand ball competition and then a return to camp for a final clean up before departure.

Many thanks to the staff and parents who attended camp. Their contributions played an important role in the success of the trip. 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. Lastly, a special thank you to Michelle Chapman for doing a great job of organising our Middle School Camp.

- John Haydock



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Senior Camp: Urupukapuka Island

The great trek to Urupukapuka Island is always a highlight for our senior students. Our new Year Tens spend the journey there mulling over the legends of bygone camps, some with excitement, others with dread - the ever-daunting Cape Brett tramp and composting long-drops dominating the imagination.



It was a surprise arriving to a rather populated campground, but Mr Warren quickly made the call and we settled in a new position ready to set up camp – a few locals were seen swiftly moving their tents elsewhere... As usual there was a great sense of teamwork, with students,

parents and teachers mucking in to put up tents, some with greater success than others – chez Druery looking more like a stricken rubbish bag on sticks, but who cares when the view from your front door is a beach?!



Year 10 and 11 soon mounted up for their first expedition around the island, with stalwart pro, Mr Webb at the helm. Back at camp Year 12 and 13 enjoyed some beach time and then got stuck into preparing team-building games for Wednesday evening, directed by Mr Pera. From spider soccer, to maze crawling and blind obstacle courses, the



evening turned out to be a blast with the famous sundown tramp and a game of spotlight.



Meal times saw some excellent culinary skills come to the fore, thanks to Mrs Atchison-Darby and Mr Bertelink. Although some students certainly need to master a few more dishes than noodles and sausages, there were a few scrummy meals to be seen. Camp staff and parents were also spoiled with a delicious trove of scallops retrieved by Mr Warren and Mr Hornell...



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Senior Camp (continued)

A big day on Thursday took off with the Cape Brett tramp, and was completed in record time by some Year 10 boys and despite some injuries, all students made it back to camp in high spirits, if not slightly chafed and blistered. Well done!

Year 12 and 13 set off for their ice-cream box challenge, heading off to camp in the open with nothing but the clothes on their backs (looking more like a polar expedition) and minimal survival provisions. Unfortunately not all of them made it through the night, but those that did came back all the better for having mastered their fears. A rainy



evening of stalking-the-lantern meant

Year 10 and 11 were knackered and ready for bed!

Friday rolled around way too soon and students enjoyed a taxing inter-house biathlon which included portaging a dinghy and obstacle-tag. Before we knew it, we were clearing the campsite, taking down tents, and waving good-bye to another fantastic camp on Urupuk.

A huge thank you to all the teachers and parents who came along, helped with tramps and activities, pitching tents, provided support to students and gave up their time to ferry us to the island. Well done to Springbank seniors for doing us proud – we were often approached by other campers who were blown away by the behaviour of our students.

Thank you also to Mr Webb and Mr Pera for your great organisation of this memorable camp!

- Andrea Druery



Junior Mathematics Competition

The organising committee of the University of Otago Junior Mathematics Competition would like to invite students in Years 9, 10 and 11 to take part again this year. The competition will be held on Wednesday 18 March 2015 and lasts for one hour. If you wish your child to participate please let us know before 24 February. The entry fee will be \$5 per student.

The format of the competition is that the students have to answer several questions, which provide a good opportunity for students to get started, together with some challenge as well. The questions provide opportunity to engage in relational thinking and excellence in abstract thinking. Students are expected to write complete solutions (not simply answers) to the problems which they attempt. Naturally, some of the problems will be reasonably difficult. Well presented work on these problems will often be enough to obtain a Merit Certificate.

If you have any questions regarding the Junior Mathematics Competition please feel free to contact me.

Henk Bertelink
HOD Mathematics

henk.bertelink@springbank.school.nz



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Tech Shed

Following on from the success of the 'Tech Shed' in 2014 the following programmes are being offered during Term 1:

Calling all 3D printer enthusiasts – Mr Warren will be running a Tech Shed unit this term where students will be learning how to use 3D printers and building a new one from scratch. Any students (and parents) interested in joining in with this unit, please register your interest with Mrs Collings at reception.

MOTAT Visit– 27th March - Mr Sizer has organised a visit to the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) on Friday 27th March. This trip is open to all students interested in technology. MOTAT offer a schools programme that allows hands-on and minds-on interactive learning. Students, teachers and parents will travel down to Auckland on Thursday 26th March (leaving Kerikeri after school) and overnight at the Mt Eden Scout Den before attending the MOTAT programme the next day.

Transport will be in the Springbank minibus and parent cars. If you are interested in the MOTAT visit, please register your interest with Mrs Collings at reception.



Recap on the Tech Shed activities

Students will be able to participate in a number of technical projects like carpentry, mechanics, model building, dismantling and reassembling equipment. The exact nature of the projects will be geared towards the age of interested children and depend on the skills, enthusiasm and availability of parent helpers.

The 'Tech Shed' is an optional activity and is open initially during a lunch break on one day per week or after school, if there is sufficient interest. Each session will be supervised by a volunteer Springbank parent and mentored by a Springbank teacher.

To make this happen we need to have commitment from a core of parents (and/or grandparents) who are prepared to donate their time and skills. Equipment will be arranged through the school and donations from the wider community.

If you can offer some practical skills or would just like to help out then please contact Ian Sizer by email: takouriver@xtra.co.nz

Music Tuition

Ruth Simpson is back at Springbank as a private tutor for piano, keyboard or guitar.

Age: 7 years and older.

Group classes for guitar (numbers permitting), or individual tuition.

Age : 10 years and older.

Tuition costs:

Private tuition (30mins): \$25+GST

Private tuition (20 mins): \$17+GST

Group tuition (available if enough students are at the same level)

4 – 6 students: \$8 + GST

2 or 3 students: \$12 + GST

For younger students, tuition is available at Ruth's studio, located at Kingston House, Hone Heke Road, Kerikeri. This course is specifically designed to introduce music to young children. Because of the vital necessary parental involvement, taking this is not possible at Springbank, at this stage.

All enquiries welcome. Phone Ruth:

(09) 4028372

027 3039577



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If you haven't already, head on over to our Facebook page. Even if you are not a Facebook member, you can still check out what we are up to:

<https://www.facebook.com/springbankschool>

We have also started a page for our 20th anniversary celebrations. Throughout this year, we will be stepping back in time to re-visit Springbank's history. This page will also be a hub for our 20th celebration event, which is scheduled for Saturday 19th December 2015. Anyone and everyone who has been a parent, student or teacher at Springbank School is invited, but you will need to register. Details will follow, but the best way to keep up to date is to visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/springbankcelebrating20years>

I look forward to Springbank's 20th year; the best year ever!

Regards

Mike Warren
Principal

Thought for the week:

Week 1

Aim high, work hard, enjoy the journey and celebrate your achievements. – Mike Warren

Week 2

To love oneself is the beginning of a life-long romance.

– Oscar Wilde

Courtesy of Mike Warren

Week 3

The Ripple Effect:

Your every action, good or bad, ripples out into the world.

Courtesy of Jill Hatherly

Week 4

The Golden Rule:

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

Courtesy of Jess Van Weerd

Please support these local businesses, as they support Friends of Springbank:

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