



Newsletter No. 5 | June 2015

Dear Parents

Our three-way partnership with teachers, parents and students is a real strength of Springbank. Having similarly high expectations for achievement is important, and we appreciate the contribution and exchange made in our recent parent teacher interviews. At the heart of this communication is our passion and belief in what's possible for our children given an exceptional educational environment. I know that many of you found the interviews worthwhile. Whether simply confirming that your child is performing to their potential, or discussing strategies to raise them to where they should be, it is always a positive experience for staff to meet with parents in a face-to-face setting.

At the heart of a great school is a rigorous academic programme, however this edition of our newsletter also showcases many achievements by our students outside of the classroom. It is great to see students performing at the highest level in music and several physical pursuits. It proves that our students aspire to be the absolute best in all endeavours and follow through with hard work, desire to succeed and a never give up attitude.

And here is a photo of a school principal wearing his pyjamas to school.



Pyjama Day

For anyone who visited Springbank on Friday 19th June, they surely would have got the impression that we were some sort of mad house! There were pyjamas and slippers galore, worn by students, parents and teachers.

The Friends of Springbank held a special Pyjama Disco at lunchtime, which had two entry requirements: students had to wear pyjamas and they had to bring a gold coin or a new pair of pyjamas to donate to Foster Hope.

The disco was recorded by a film crew who were making a video for Z Service Stations, promoting Foster Hope as a great charity. Parent Debbie Sutcliffe, who runs Foster Hope, was really impressed by the number of students who made the effort to raise funds for a much needed cause.



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Springbank is TOUGH!

After 20 years, Friday 26th June 2015 marked the day that Springbank finally gained the official recognition that we have been waiting for. We are officially “tough”!

It was an early start for Mr Warren, thirty three students and several parents who made the journey to Auckland for the annual Tough Guy and Girl Challenge. Excitement was in the air as challenges were set; some students were promised rewards if they beat Mr Warren’s previous (one must say, exceptional) time. It was certainly a running start for the students who travelled in the school van. Arriving a few minutes before the starting gun, we were practically out of the door and onto the starting line!

Many of our students and parents were entered for a fun, mucky challenge, but there was also a serious contingent present. Paces varied but all shared the experience of a series of obstacles, both natural and man-made. Thick mud pits, barbed wire, tunnels and muddy plunge pools were only some of the feast on offer. All participants had a ripper of a good time, however several of our students pushed themselves to the limit of physical and mental endurance and were handsomely rewarded with outstanding results. Out of the many hundreds of competitors, these students achieved the following places:

Paul Stutzle – 1st in 12k under 16 yrs
Mike Warren – 1st parent/teacher in 6k
Zach Kingsford – 2nd in 6k under 16 yrs
Kurtis Foster – 3rd in 12k over 16 yrs
Levi Whitehead – 4th in 6k under 16 yrs
Megan Bramley – 4th in 12k over 16 yrs
Luke Bramley – 5th in 12k under 16 yrs
Mya Napier – 6th in 12k under 16 yrs
Sophia Gmeur-Hornell – 7th in 12k u16 yrs

When it came to the most prestigious award, the Toughest School, we couldn’t believe our ears when it was announced that Springbank had won! What this means is that, in the boys’ category, out of every school who competed on the day, Springbank had the best overall results! What is also amazing, is that our girls came home with 3rd Toughest School in the girls’ category!

It was an awesome experience and there was one very proud, and very tired, principal on the journey home. Well done, team!



Smokefree RockQuest

The Far North Regional Finals for this year’s Smokefree RockQuest were held recently at the Turner Centre in Kerikeri. Elsa Meier (Year 13) won first place in the Solo/Duo category!



Opening a night capped with nearly a dozen acts vying for the top spot, Elsa gave a natural, yet polished performance onstage with her two original songs, Headlights and Railroads. Elsa won a prize of \$250 worth of musical equipment from the New Zealand Rockshops and she has an opportunity to be selected as a national finalist.

Elsa has been showcasing her talent at a variety of events held lately and has also been working closely with local singer songwriter, Jo Slack, to help perfect her craft. She cites the English indie-folk band, Daughter as a major influence to her songwriting and she has nearly amassed enough material for an EP. Elsa definitely wants to pursue a future in the music industry, and the Smokefree RockQuest has helped her get one step closer to achieving that goal.

- Max Hittle



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Preschool

As many of you may be aware, we have recently had several staffing changes at Preschool. After many years at Springbank Preschool, Head Teacher Debbie Anderson resigned earlier this year. We thank her very much for the great contribution that she has made during her time at Preschool and wish her all the very best.

After a short stay with family in Korea, Mira Lee will move to Christchurch. Mira had her last day at Preschool on 19th June and we were able to celebrate in style by giving her a special jump-off. Mira has been a wonderful addition to the Preschool team over the past two years and she will be sorely missed by colleagues, children and families. We wish her, Don and Na Yeon all the very best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

We recently welcomed Annie Tikaram (Head Teacher) and Paula Gravatt as our newest teachers at Preschool. Together, Annie and Paula join Marilyn Ruwhiu and Carrie Carr-Smith to make the dream team! All teachers are extremely warm, caring people and they are super enthusiastic about making Springbank Preschool the best place that it can be. In the few weeks that they have been together, our new team has already shaped Preschool into a more exciting place to learn, with new initiatives, events and field trips taking place. Our children have visited and donated money to the SPCA, they have been to the Kiwi Moon production at the Turner Centre, we have had a wacky Rainbow Day and have celebrated Matariki with a traditional hangi, waiata performed by the children and had Kerikeri High School's Kapa Haka group perform for us. At the time of writing, Farmer Bob is busy delivering tons of mud to Preschool, as they prepare to celebrate International Mud Day! There are also many more events and initiatives planned, and we look forward to witnessing the continued development of our preschool programme with the best team ever at the helm.



Children perform waiata and parents tuck into a beautiful hangi feast!

Calf Club

In Term Four we will be holding a calf, lamb and goat morning for the whole school. Students will be able to rear either a calf, lamb or goat then bring it to school and show off their leading and rearing abilities as well as a fancy dress outfit.



It will not matter whether you have raised and trained a calf, lamb or goat before. This will be your opportunity to give it a go. From the beginning of Term Three there will be an interest sheet available from the office and upon return, an information sheet on raising your pet.

Thank you to Kimberley Knight (Year 12 Senior Leader) for spearheading this event. Please see Kimberley if you would like to know more at this stage.



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Northland Secondary Schools Cross Country

After a number of years of participation, Springbank School has had its most successful set of results from NSS Cross Country Champs to date.

Top spot, not only in our set of results, but also overall went to Jai Dawson in Year 7. Jai blitzed the Junior Boys' field in an impressive showing, with his pace and persistence proving just too much for even the next best, a good 200m behind. What is even more impressive about this achievement is the fact that he still has another year in this age group.

Not to be outdone, in the same race both Harry Sizer (4th place) and Orlando Tyson (16th place) ran very mature and composed races in a field of 41 competitors – this is clearly a strong age group for Springbank! The junior girls also put their mark on matters, with Nathalie Hull (5th place) and Lucy Blakeman (18th place) posting great efforts in their first year at this meet, in a field of 49 runners.



Zach Kingsford ran another superb race, 4th in his division. He is now a seasoned campaigner and a regular in the top five of any event he enters. He did well to compete on the back of some illness and his determination was an example to others. In the same race, Levi Whitehead showed that he has come on in leaps and bounds with a 10th place finish. He is a man to watch next year as he is only beginning to hit his straps. The same can be said of the rapidly growing talent that is Mya Napier (11th place). She looked very strong and composed in her race and I am sure that in her senior years she is going to be a force to be reckoned with!

Amongst the seniors, Kurtis Foster ran a heroic race after a number of disruptions and he should be extremely proud of his gritty performance in this, his first year amongst the senior boys. The age gap was evident, but there is no doubt in my mind that this talented runner will soon be coming in amongst the top 20. Megan Bramley also ran a very competitive race and it was fantastic to see her back out there after an injury-marred 2014.

Overall, the tremendous work put in by all of the runners was superb and a huge debt of gratitude is owed to "Coach" John Hunt for his continued commitment to our runners.

- Christian Pera

Psychology Field Trip

The Year 12 & 13 Psychology students travelled to the centre of Kerikeri ("a bustling local township" as described by one of the participants!) to undertake field work and observe the behaviour expressed by individuals in different situations. Their social experiments included dropping a wallet and seeing what bystanders would do, and walking directly at strangers to record their reaction (interesting that the boys copped flack for this, but not the girls!).

The students worked methodically and effectively and completed all set tasks with an almost professional outlook! The time passed quickly and it seemed that we were on our way back to school before we had arrived!

Some student observations:

"It was fun to see how much work goes into an experiment and how many factors you have to consider".



"It was interesting to use the theoretical background to conduct our own experiments. The field trip was a great addition to our normal lessons".



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Kerikeri Districts Interschool Cross Country

On Tuesday 23rd June, the Kerikeri Districts Interschool Cross Country was held at Takou Bay Farms and we had sent a strong team to compete. It was a bone-chilling day, with an icy southerly blowing through. Our athletes had to run on unfamiliar terrain comprising steep, unforgiving hills. We are very proud with the following placings that they gained:

Lucy Sizer – 1st in 10 year old girls

Harry Sizer – 1st in 11 year old boys

Max Hittle – 1st in 12 year old boys



Nathalie Hull – 2nd in 11 year old girls

Dean Parker – 3rd in 11 year old boys

Orlando Tyson – 4th in 11 year old boys

Malindi Reihana-Ruka – 5th in 10 year old girls

Cameron Ireland – 5th in 8 year old boys

Many other students gained top 10 placings. Well done to all of our students who pushed their bodies to the limit to gain the best time possible.



Dan the Soccer Man

Dan is a fun, energetic soccer coach, who has ran many sessions for our students over the last few years. He will be running a football programme for 7-11 years olds during the school holidays. Everyone is welcome!

What

Fun football games for all abilities

Where

Kerikeri Football Club

When

15th – 17th July

Time

9.30am - 12.30pm

Who

Girls and Boys aged between 7 – 11 years old

Cost

\$24 per day for 1st child, \$16 per day for 2nd or 3rd child. Bring a friend to all 3 days and both receive one free day!

Contact

Dan.johnston@nff.org.nz for more info.



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IGCSE PE Cape Brett Tramp

This year's group were certainly one of the more, shall we say, interesting that we have taken away into the wilderness in the last four years. Sadly, Capitan Fifi LeBouf (Mr Pera) was indisposed this year and his place fell (fabulously) to the magnificent Madam Lebouf (Mr Pera)! That turned out to be a lucky thing as there was a real risk of a severe gender imbalance in favour of the masculine persuasion. The Madam need not have worried though, as evidence will show, there was ample femininity on display throughout...

The happy group of wanderers were off in the crisp dark of Wednesday morning in their noble chariot, the ever reliable Springbank Wakaroo. Parking and other formalities dispensed with, the group gathered in front of the path up to Oke Bay for the traditional nicknaming ceremony - Pollo (Paul Stutzle), Motty (Matt Foster), Gypsy (Anna Gradl), Meat Man (Billy Robb) and Son (Kurtis Foster) effortlessly assumed their alter egos (well, almost) and accompanied (the fabulous!) Madam Le Bouf up the first, soul destroying hill.



The furiously glowing (though still fabulous) Madam soon realised that this crew were different, with an electrifying pace being set early on. Fortunately, the folly of youth told eventually and she was able to assume a more familiar shade of pink as the pace slowed. Some navigation practice and communications scenarios brought the day speedily to its climax at the base of the final Cape Brett ridge. Deep breaths were drawn and the Madam's now tired-but-tough crew soldiered over to the hut and took a well-earned break.

Dinner was by no means a formality as our culinary crusaders produced prime steak that was exquisitely sizzled and handed out with minimal fuss. Content with her posse's progress, the (now solo, but still fabulous) Madam departed early and only had sporadic, giggle-riddled radio and safety checks with her flock for the rest of day two. Few details have come to light regarding the events of that day – though quite ominously, the Madam was greeted by cheeky smiles on the ridge above Whangamumu...

The evening was not complete until Meat Man had force fed the mob a mauled piece of birthday cake and accepted a lovingly carried rock as a gift from Son – so sweet! A beautiful evening, with a brief ignition provided by Motty ensued, before even the pugnacious Pollo was in bed. The most Spartan shelter had to be the arrangement constructed by Gypsy – though clearly, that is her thing!

Day Three was all business – the poor Madam Le Bouf was roused at the uncivilised hour of 0500 (just barely clinging to her fabulousity!) and to her considerable consternation (no morning coffee!) they were underway by 0700. After beasting the final kilometres, there was a not so hasty, though quite smelly search for ice cream before the Madam reluctantly turned the Wakaroo's bow towards Springbank to re-join the real world!

- Christian Pera



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Senior Ball

On the eve of Saturday 20th June, students and staff from our Senior School took a step back in time for the Great Gatsby themed ball. It was a marvellous affair, clearly requiring a significant amount of preparation from Phil Webb and the team of prefects.

As teachers, it is during events such as the Senior Ball when we reflect on how fortunate we really are. When you can cut shapes on the floor and boogie with your students without feeling like an absolute flop, something special exists. We also have a huge amount of respect for our senior students for being a group of responsible, level-headed, mature individuals.

Lastly, Phil Webb is a machine. For a man of a somewhat more *mature* generation, the amount of energy and enthusiasm Phil brings to every Senior Ball is an inspiration.



The Maggi Kitchen Showdown is Back!

Michelle Chapman is once again facilitating an entry into the Maggi Kitchen Showdown national competition, of which we were national champions in 2013.

Congratulations to the following students:

Maisie Atchison-Darby (Y8)
Annabel Wood (Y8)
Orlando Tyson (Y8)
Max Hittle (Y9)

These Middle School students won places on the team to represent Springbank by creating delicious dishes that were sampled by our chief judge, Chris Owen. Chris is head chef and manager of Ake Ake Restaurant and will be once again coaching our team to assist them throughout this competition.

Our team has already developed their signature dish: Salmon & Spinach Cannelloni with Crunchy Winter Salad and Garlic Butter Flatbreads.



It looks and sounds delicious, however surely it must make its way to the principal's office for an official sign-off? Guys?



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Speech Finals

Selected Middle and Senior School students participated in our annual Springbank School Speech Competition. We were informed, motivated and entertained by a wonderful variety of topics and speaking styles and were impressed by the excellent structure and well-supported content of the speeches. Our adjudicators, Sophia Warren and Lynne Alexander, both seasoned Toastmasters, had a tough task picking the winners. The winners were as follows:

Year 7 and 8: Faraday Haydock (Y8) – Crazy Careers

Year 9 and 10: Max Hittle (Y9) – What I Live For

Year 11 and 12: Tim Richardson (Y12) – Fun and Games : Sport Through the Ages



Thank you to everyone, and especially our amazing teachers, for making Term 2 an enjoyable and productive one. I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday break and look forward to Term 3 – Monday 20th July.

Mike Warren – Principal

Thought for the week:

Week 7

Interrupting is very disrupting.
Don't start squawking when someone else is talking.

Courtesy of Lynne Alexander

Week 8

Respect your elders!

Courtesy of Maria Zivkovich

Week 9

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. - Aesop

Courtesy of Zoe Botton

Week 10

A relationship is a balance between two people – both give and take.

Courtesy of Mrs Stringer

Week 11

Life's most urgent question is, what are you going to do for others?

– Martin Luther King

Courtesy of Ms Chapman

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

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Butcher
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