



Newsletter No. 6 | August 2015

Dear Parents

Over the last 20 years, we at Springbank School have had the pleasure of teaching amazing students, we have gotten to know so many inspirational families, and we have enjoyed helping to shape your children during their developing years.

Whether you have been a teacher, a student of Springbank or a supporting family, we each have some great memories. On the afternoon of **Saturday 19th December 2015**, we will be holding a special 20th birthday celebration for every past and present teacher, student and family of Springbank School, where we will come together to share these memories, to reflect on the *good old days* and to compare to the *good new days* and to take a journey through Springbank's 20 year history.

Please share in our celebration by registering. For more details and to register, please head to <http://www.springbank.school.nz/20th-celebration-registration/>.

An event like this is a once-in-a-twenty-year opportunity, and we would love to see you all there!



Springbank's entire school in 1996 - Mr Warren's head next to the "K"

Upcoming Events

Our school calendar of events 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.

This year, Market Day is Sunday 20th September (11am – 2pm).

Sports Shirts

Do you have any Springbank sports shirts at home? We have many sports shirts unaccounted for. Could you and your children please have a good hunt around your house, and if you find one, please drop off to reception. Thank you very much.



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ICAS Science

Every year, Springbank School students have the opportunity to sit the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) in English, Maths and Science. Out of the 16 Springbank students who entered the 2015 ICAS Science assessment, 10 received distinguished awards. Most notably, four students received Distinction, which puts them in the top 10% of New Zealand, and one student, Jack Hittle (Year 7), received a High Distinction award for being in the top 1%.

Student	Grade	NZ Percentile
Jack Hittle	High Dist	99
Taiyo Serge	Distinction	98
Max Hittle	Distinction	97
Luke Bramley	Distinction	94
Sam Sutcliffe	Distinction	90
Megan Bramley	Credit	83
Lauren Harrell	Credit	82
Zach Kingsford	Credit	75
Paris Shepherd	Credit	66
Joshua Traas	Merit	58

Congratulations to all of our hard-working young scientists. It is remarkable to witness our strong science programme enabling our students to produce consistently excellent results from year to year in an internationally standardised assessment such as ICAS.

ICAS are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for primary and secondary school students. This Science exam was sat in June 2015, and compiled and marked by the University of New South Wales, who also supply comparisons of student and school performance from year to year. Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually.

Term 3 Focus & Facewall

Term 3's focus is all about "looking up" and "looking beyond": Looking up from our devices that we rely on so extensively these days, revisiting what it is like to send and receive good old fashioned snail mail, or making a phone call to a grandparent. Looking Beyond is all about searching beyond our immediate friends and family, looking to connect with members of our wider community and possibly establish connections with schools in other countries.

The first challenge of this term is for each class to create a Facewall, which is a collection of photos of students and teachers posing with their friends and/or family, visually depicting special moments to cherish.

So far there are some fantastic Facewalls, including the Year 13's common room, which at this rate will literally take up an entire wall!

Rockquest

You will already be aware that the very talented Elsa Meier, our Deputy Head Girl, won the Far North regional Smokefree RockQuest for best solo/duo performance. Unfortunately she has not been selected for the top 9 to move onto the national final, however she may still get there with your help.

There is a special People's Choice admission to the national final, which is based on public votes. Voting is easy, just txt *elsameier* to 422. Texts cost 20c and you can only vote once (per phone). Voting closes 28th August, so do it now! Thank you very much for your support.

Check out Elsa's music video submission:
<https://youtu.be/J8gfNAxOt48>



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All Go in Room 2!

Because of the variety of cultures represented in Room 2, we decided to look at the different places in the world where everyone in our class comes from. Parents came in each week and talked about the country that their family was from.

We learned where each country is on the map, what the flag looks like, how to greet in the different languages, how to count in the languages, and some interesting things about each country. We have found that we can easily identify places on the world map now and we have remembered so many fascinating facts.

The learning culminated in a dress up day and a shared international lunch at the Lupis' home.



Room 2 would also like to thank the Friends of Springbank for purchasing two sets of Jenga for us. These are seriously sized Jenga sets, which have been a great deal of fun for us.



Get2go

On Tuesday 28th July Mr Warren took eight Year 9 & 10 students down to Whangarei to compete in the Hillary Outdoors Get2Go Challenge. The team of eight competed in several sporting codes; orienteering, mountain biking, kayaking, Stand-Up Paddleboarding and problem solving challenges.



The students had a blast but also strove to compete to the best of their ability. The final result was 7th place out of 16 Northland teams. Not bad overall, considering a social team with no practice... and no compasses for orienteering (Buster!).



Thank you to Sue Vujcich and Lester Bramley for transporting and supporting throughout the day.



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Year 11 Geography Field Trip Report

The Year 11 Geography class were away for their field trip last week, heading south to Waihi and Rotorua. The trip down to Waihi took in stops at Omaha Beach sand spit and Mount Eden in Auckland to work on the students' field skills, before a quick tour of parts of south Auckland taking in some of the city's urban settlement patterns.

We were up early the next morning and off to Waihi Gold Mine as guests of Newmont at their Education Centre. Our focus was on efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of mining. After this we headed to Rotorua with a stop at the Karangahake Gorge, looking at river processes.



The next day was really packed with an early visit to Te Puia where our focus was on the sustainability of tourism followed by a dash west taking in the Aratiatia Rapids and the Huka Falls (more river processes), then Taupo and back to the Buried Village at Tarawera where we looked at plate tectonics and the effects of volcanic eruptions.

We had a slightly longer lie-in the next morning before the second part of our sustainable tourism study at the Skyline Gondola with some hands-on tourism experiences on the luge, and then the long trip back home with a chance to experience first-hand Auckland's traffic infrastructure problems on the way north!



Overall, it was a great trip and we would like to thank Newmont Mining, the Rotorua Education Network and Friends of Springbank for their financial contribution to helping with expenses.

- Paul McFadden

Dry Ice Fun

Late last term, one of our parents, Annette Richardson, bought in approximately 20kg of dry ice for us. I taught the Year 11 Science students a few fun science experiments they could do, then sent them around the primary classes to conduct and share these experiments. The primary students loved it and the Year 11s learnt a lot through the process of being demonstrators!

- Phil Webb



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Logan Takes Top Honours

Logan Alexander (Head Boy) was named the winner of the Trustpower Youth Community Spirit Award for his efforts to volunteer in the school setting and out in the community.

The Trustpower Youth Community Spirit Award celebrates the work young people do to enrich their community, and is open to all students who have given service to school or community projects, treated others with care and respect and been a good ambassador for the school and the Far North district. Logan received a trophy, framed certificate and \$500 prize money, with \$250 being given to a community group or organisation of his choice (Bay of Islands Coastguard).



Logan Alexander pictured with Maureen Calkin from Coastguard, Logan's chosen charity.

Logan outshone some tough competition to gain this award and it is very well deserved. Logan has solely organised and ran our afterschool badminton club, acting as coach and mentor. He fundraises for various charities, uses his technical skills to volunteer for the Turner Centre and the Be Free concert, and he is an active member of the Bay of Islands Coastguard. He is Head of Technical Support at Springbank; a role which sees him coordinate audio support for school events ranging from drama productions to firework displays, all the while mentoring younger students to develop their audio-visual skills. On top of this, he represents us at a number of events and helps organise numerous charity events.

Preschool

Preschool has purchased some exciting new equipment lately, including four balance bikes, a Geo Dome and some new trucks for the sandpit. All of these offer some wonderful gross motor skill experiences. Getting those bigger muscles moving has so many great benefits. It helps children gain confidence in their abilities, and supports growing bodies and their development. We all know that children love to channel their energy into movement and now we have more on offer for all that energy!



Preschool would also like to add a dinghy to their outdoor play space. If you or somebody you know has an unwanted dinghy, please contact Annie and the team on (09) 4079898 or email preschool@springbank.nz. Thanks a bunch!



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Time For a Spruce-Up

You may have noticed that much of the school has had a bright new feel to it in the form of some fresh coats of paint. Thanks to our painter, Mr Chang, whose work is of a very high standard. If you require a reliable, competitively priced painter, we would highly recommend Mr Chang. Feel free to contact us for his details.



Athletics 5 Star System and Academy

Christian Pera and all-round good bloke, Coach John Hunt run an Athletics Academy after school on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Monday's session is open to all Middle and Senior School students, after prior arrangement with Mr Pera. Focus is on developing year-round training habits and fostering enjoyment of training. It is also an opportunity to improve 5 star scores. All we ask is that once students commit, that they turn up week in, week out.

Wednesday is training with Coach and is only for athletes who he has selected based on their performance or development in the Monday squad. It is not possible to simply join that group without prior experience as most of what they do takes a few years to master in terms of skills, physical conditioning and drills. There is also the possibility of improving 5 star scores here.

All scheduled training is during term time, as well as holiday training prescribed by Coach for the senior squad.

The Five Star Programme allows all students to post their best results across a range of disciplines throughout the year in PE lessons, Monday trainings (open to all) and Wednesdays after school for the senior squad. The idea being that over the course of the year, and including Athletics Day, all students have as many opportunities as possible to post their best performances across runs, throws and jumps. Students "star" rankings are based on their ability across the board in runs, jumps and throws.



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Market Day – Sunday 20th September 2015

Enterprise is one of Springbank School's key learning framework areas, as we deem this subject to be an integral part of a student's holistic development.

Market Day is a unique experience in student entrepreneurship. At our school Market Day the students are involved with the hands-on planning, organisation and implementation of their own community projects and businesses. Market Day is an opportunity for students to showcase their entrepreneurial flair in a real market environment with the intention of making a real profit. With an ethos of helping our community, students are required to give 25% of their profits to a charity organisation of their choice.

As we are now well into the planning and development of products and services, it is a pertinent time to highlight why we deem Market Day to be such an important part of Springbank's curriculum:

- Our students to develop the skills of leadership, team work, creativity, problem solving, decision-making, time management, planning and organisation, financial literacy, budgeting, communication (oral and written), resourcefulness and self-responsibility. This wide range of skills and attributes will not only be valuable for students who do become self employed, but are also highly sought-after by employers and will give Springbank students a cutting edge, whatever career path they may choose.
- To make learning authentic in a 'real life' setting.
- For the students to be able to showcase their businesses, gain financial reward for their endeavours and give back to the community by donating part of their profits to a charity of their choice.
- To help students realise that wealth creation is up to them. Self-employment and entrepreneurship can be personally and financially rewarding, whilst creating employment for others and contributing to the wider economy.



Roles of teachers, students and parents

Teachers: In the lead-up to Market Day, Michelle Chapman and the Junior School teachers are working with their classes to best prepare them for a successful experience with their business ventures. They cover general knowledge of entrepreneurship, financial literacy skills, production methods, pricing structures, product promotion, packaging, cash handling and stall displays. Year 7 & 8 students also create a comprehensive business plan.

(Continued next page...)

Megan's Outward Bound

I was lucky enough to receive funding from Ronaki Ltd to attend a 21 day Outward Bound course in July. I was very excited and not quite sure what to expect as I arrived in Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds along with around 100 others, all of us about to embark on the same journey.

I was placed in Kupe along with 12 others who I had never met before but was now going to spend the next three weeks with, mostly within very close proximity!



Outward Bound likes to challenge you and get you to remove your mask to be yourself. Heading out on a three day tramp through the bush on the second afternoon certainly achieved this and we quickly got to know one another. By the end, after struggling to cook dinner in the dark and rain while it was close to 0°C, it was as if we had known each other for years. And it didn't get any easier after that. We then went on to sail the cutter, which involved a lot more rowing than sailing. Sleeping 13 people on board a 10m boat isn't without its challenges either, especially when you only have sails to make your shelter with. (Continued...)



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Market Day (...continued)

Students: We have high expectations of our students to ensure that their enterprise is a success and that they are great ambassadors for Springbank. These include:

- Provide original, innovative and interesting products
- Take full ownership of their business, ensuring they are well-planned, organised, implemented and evaluated.
- Attend Market Day with enthusiasm and professionalism
- Be responsible for setup, dismantling and clean-up of stalls
- All of our senior students also take an active role in Market Day through a combination of these roles:
- Senior Leaders supporting their form class with lead-up preparation
- Mentoring younger students and actively helping them during Market Day
- Acting in support roles such as promotion, parking and welcoming guests



Parents: As a parent, how can you ensure that your child gets the most out of this experience?

We appreciate the support that parents have given to make previous Market Days successful and welcome any support that parents are willing to give. For your child to effectively develop the essential enterprise skills, a degree of independence is required. This is very much dependent on your child's age. Considering this, these are some suggestions of ways in which you, as parents, can assist your child:

- Encourage self-responsibility and independence - your child should be the driving force behind the business.
- Support your child in the early stages of product development by asking thought provoking questions such as, "Who is your target market?" and "What makes your product unique?"
- Practical suggestions such as, "How will you keep the ice-cream frozen?" and "What safety precautions will you have to put in place for your pony rides?"
- Attend Market Day. Use this opportunity to get to know other Springbank families. Promote Market Day to friends, family and neighbours.
- Assist when your child is unable to perform a task safely, such as loading heavy items and providing transport to pick up supplies.

We very much look forward to another brilliant Market Day on Sunday 20th September, from 11am – 2pm. See you there!

...continued

With a white-water kayaking trip, day of service to help the community, rock climbing, high ropes, the dreaded two night solo, a half marathon to run on the second to last day as well as PT (a run and jump in the sea) to wake up to at 6:00am every morning, the adventure never stopped.



Outward Bound was one of the best experiences of my life. You learn so much about yourself and how much more you're capable of, make amazing friendships and develop teamwork skills all while experiencing one of the most beautiful places in New Zealand. I would definitely recommend OB to anyone of any age as it's a life changing experience that you'll never forget. They say no one understands what you've been through unless you've completed a course and I completely agree. Three weeks doesn't fit in a few hundred words, but there's no amount of stories and pictures that can accurately describe what you go through. I know that if I had another opportunity I would be back there in a second.

- Megan Bramley (Prefect, Year 13)



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Headstart

Recently, Leone Cooper came and relieved at Headstart. She introduced us to a wonderful new game titled 'Dice Beetle'. This game really challenged our children to have their 'listening ears' on, nurtured their fine motor skills and focused on turn taking, identifying the number rolled on the dice and following instructions. What a fun, imaginative game to add to our toolbox.



During Maori Language Week we were very fortunate to have Marigold Paquay (Karena's mum) come in and share with us her whanau's Maori culture. Each session we learnt new Maori words



and phrases, as well as participated in an activity with her. One particular day, Marigold brought in her whanau korowai (cloak), which she shared with the class, taught them about what it is and what it is used for, and allowed our children to wear it. She then worked alongside Rosie and Jess to create paper korowai with the tamariki (children). Later in the afternoon she also taught us the haka, which we practiced and then put on a performance for our parents. A heartfelt thank you for sharing your knowledge with us, and we look forward to learning more from you as the term progresses.

Preschool Literacy

At present, our preschool focus is literacy. During our group times we are getting the children familiar with print and letter formation. For the younger children, learning about literacy is done in a fun and interactive way, where their interests are followed.

Early literacy emphasises the importance of a print-rich and resource-rich environment, and meaningful and socially-constructed play and conversations in literacy learning and development. Play, games, make-believe storytelling, and songs are important to literacy learning, enabling children to make choices about their learning

Why is literacy important in ECE?

- Reading and writing skills serve as the major avenue for achieving the essential learning areas of Primary School curricula and are the foundation for learning in all subjects studied at school.
- If children do not learn to read at an early stage, their general knowledge, spelling, writing and vocabulary development suffer.
- The National Early Literacy Panel Report (2009) identified some critical literacy understandings children need to develop to become literate at school, which include knowledge of the alphabet, phonological awareness (being aware of sounds in words), the ability to rapidly name letters, numbers, objects and colours, the ability to write their own name and to be able to remember spoken information for a short period of time.
- In addition, children need to understand print conventions and concepts, have strong oral language and the ability to match and discriminate visual symbols.



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Tech Shed

Throughout this year I have been working with a small group of students building a 3D printer. It is a painstaking process with the team having to be as meticulous as possible. We hope to have our 3D printer fully complete and operational by the end of this term.

We have an exciting Tech Shed project lined up for Term 4: robotics! We are really looking forward to seeing what our students can create, and hopefully enter into national (and potentially international) robotics competitions. Motor mechanics and wood-working will start up early 2016.

We are looking for parent helpers to assist us with our Tech Shed projects, especially in the areas of motor mechanics and wood-working, which we will only be capable of running if we have parent support. We have traditionally run these sessions at lunchtime, but could also look to run after school sessions.

I wish our senior students all the best for their upcoming mock exams.

Regards

Mike Warren

Principal

Thought for the week:

Week 1

If tomorrow will be the end of the world, I will spend my today by looking at the pictures of my past.

— Mehmet Muratildan
Courtesy of Mike Warren

Week 2

Phone calls and emails are ephemeral. Your letter will be treasured forever.

Courtesy of Jill Hatherly

Week 3

To give anything less than your best, is to sacrifice the gift.

— Steve Prefontaine
Courtesy of Andrea Druery

Week 4

Technology Free Day:

Thursday 13th August 2015

Will **you** survive?

Courtesy of Paul McFadden

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

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