



Newsletter No. 9 | December 2015

Dear Parents

And just like that, Term 4 has concluded and the 2015 school year is over!

Term 4 has yet again been a rapid one. Our senior students were straight into exams, which began on the first day of term and ran through to Week 6. Our Year 6 and 9 students also sat their Cambridge Primary Checkpoint and Secondary 1 Checkpoint exams respectively. We look forward to receiving all Cambridge exam results and celebrating with our students in the New Year.

Term 4 has also been a lot of fun, with excursions for Middle School Options and Big Days Out. These EOTC experiences are a great way to round off an academically rigorous year, and are a highlight for many of our staff and students. I certainly enjoy my share of the fun, throwing students off ski biscuits at a relatively *moderate* speed!

At the beginning of 2015, I was looking forward to Springbank's 20th year being the best ever, and in many ways it was. I am proud of our teachers for working hard to create the best possible learning outcomes for our students; not just academically, but learning outcomes in the broadest sense. Our teachers are brilliant people and they model strong values to demonstrate to our students what it looks like to be a person of good character. I am equally as proud of our students, who each contribute to Springbank's exceptional environment by putting these values into practice, working hard and looking out for one another. I truly believe our learning environment right throughout the school is the most positive that I have experienced to date.

2015 Springbank Staff Video

For the fourth year in a row, the Springbank staff got together to create a music video and had a bit of fun towards the end of the year. Judge for yourself whether you think that this year's video is the best one yet.

Click on the link below to find the video on YouTube and enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYwr05k7g9k>



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Oldies Day

To celebrate the momentous occasion of Mr Webb reaching his prime years (65th birthday), we held a special Oldie's Day on Thursday 30th October. This outstanding young man was running rings around all of the tired old folk, who at least managed to haul themselves out of the retirement home for the day.

There's plenty of years left yet in this sprightly young individual!



Kids 4 Kids

Our Year 4-6 students sang in the Kids for Kids Slice of Heaven Concert on Tuesday 20th October 2015. Kids for Kids is a unique opportunity for children to participate in an inspirational mass choir performance that not only celebrates their musical achievements, but also encourages them, their whānau and school communities to make a difference in the lives of children around the globe. Our students spent time and effort learning the 17 songs and their lyrics. Ms Alexander & Mr Hittle also enjoyed learning the songs too! The children performed with Nathan King, a high achieving NZ singer & songwriter. In fact, they performed his soon to be released song 'Original Fire'.



The concerts have been running for 20 years and are held at a wide range of venues nationwide. Kids for Kids also aims to promote the cause of World Vision through child sponsorship.

It's brilliant to be able to assist our Springbank students to participate in these type of combined school events. These are the types of experiences that they will remember forever.



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Agri-Pets Day

On Friday 6th November, Springbank had its first ever Agri-Pets Day. Students were encouraged to participate in this fun day by entering a lamb, goat or calf into the competition. In addition to showing off their pet, they were judged on their bond, how well they led their pet through our obstacle course and rearing (how well the pet has been cared for).



A huge thank you goes to Kimberley Knight, who initiated this event and organised it from start to finish. Kimberley also designed the certificates and generated sponsorship from local businesses for the prizes. Well done, Kimberley! It would be great to make this an annual event for the years to come.



Artist in Residence

The art department has been fortunate to have Mr Mike Nettmann as our artist-in-residence for the last 4 weeks. The students have been able to watch him paint and have been keen to see how his paintings have progressed in this time. Hopefully they will be encouraged to use some of his techniques in their own work. It has been a privilege having someone of Mike's calibre working in the department.

Win Stringer



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The Biggest Little Circus in the World

In Week 7, our school was treated to a wonderful exhibition from the Biggest Little Circus in the World. Three professional street performers from Wellington performed an outstanding array of acrobatic feats and kept the audience highly entertained with their humorous jokes and acts. They cajoled audience members to partake in the fun. Samantha Lupi was the first star, handing the pins to be juggled. A hilarious chest pump from Te Aroha Whareaitu was followed by Mr. Hittle, providing the backing music by beat boxing. Mr. Berkelink, Mr. Webb, Paris Shepherd, Clay Blakeman and Te Aroha Whareaitu assisted the acrobats towering above on their unicycle juggling act.



Mrs. Foster laughed so hard that one of the performers joked that she may have needed medical help because he was afraid she might have stopped breathing! Towering high above was the female performer who wowed us with her flexibility and talent as she performed using silks and swinging from a hoop. The hall was filled with a loud applause and laughter throughout the whole performance. It was fantastic and we highly recommend them!

Friends of Springbank Fireworks Go Off With a BANG!

Thank you to the Friends of Springbank for putting on the best fireworks show yet! They had a record turnout on Saturday 7th November, with approximately 2500 attending, and the atmosphere was just awesome!



*Photo courtesy of Chris Pegman,
Soliloquy Photography*

There are plenty of thank yous, as there were many people and organisations who gave resources, time or expertise at no charge to ensure that this community event was as successful as possible. To everyone who contributed, in whatever way you did, we are so grateful. Without you, this event would simply not go ahead.

As this was Louise Huett and Debbie Sutcliffe's last Fireworks event, to you we shout, "Bravo!" You have worked hard to build something special for the Mid North community and we will be forever thankful.



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Room 3 Robot Winners

Room 3 recently won 2nd place in a recycling competition held by North Shore Resource Centre. Traditional homework was replaced for two weeks, and instead, our students created the robots from recycled materials. The results were incredibly creative. Items such as old computers, vacuum cleaners, farm spray and animal drenching containers, lampshades, shells, driftwood, old lights, and many more items were used to build fabulous robots.



Our artist model was Martin Horspool (www.buggyrobot.com) and we were thrilled when we received a personalised card and gifts from Martin. He was very impressed by our creations and honoured we had used his art as an inspiration for our own. We are proud of our sculptures. To come 2nd in a competition and also have the artist write to us was the 'cherry on the top'. Special mention was made of Cole Bulkeley's robot, by the competition organisers. Many parents have said that this was a very special project. Items used such as Hunter's grandfather's tools or Caitlin's grandfather's bottles gave the sculptures special meaning. We are never too young or too old to use our imagination to create something spectacular.



Room 3 – Lego Stars

Many students mention free choosing as one of their favourite things to do at school. Free choosing equals creativity. One of our favourite free choosing activities in Room 3 is to use our creative mind and imagination using Lego. We created these Christmas stars for a Lego competition. Our stars had to have the concepts of balance and symmetry, a theme and colour palette. Heidi was particularly proud of her star, as it was the first time she had made a Lego creation from scratch without instructions. Small achievements make lasting memories.

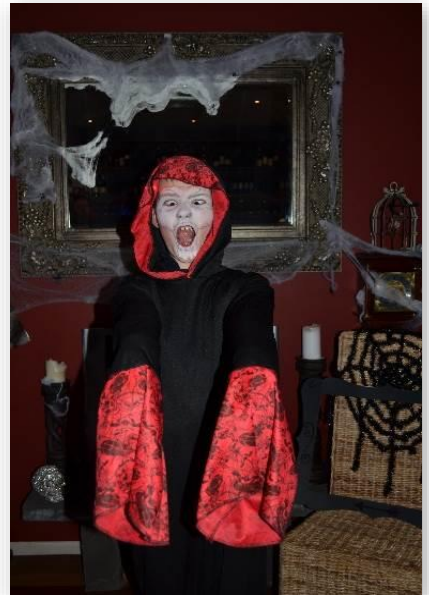


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Middle School Disco

The Middle School disco was once again a highlight of the year. The theme of Friday 13th, allowed the students to be creative in their costumes and added vibrancy to the atmosphere. Best costume awards went to Ashley Badger and Sam Sutcliffe. Mr Haydock and his devil's outfit was also a hit. Ake Ake Restaurant was a superb venue and provided a tasty supper of burgers, American hotdogs and homemade pizza. Music was provided by DJAngelz and ensured that everyone was up on their feet for the whole night. The students voted on King and Queen and the outcome was King: Max Hittle, Queen: Mya Napier, Princess: Sophia Gmuer-Hornell and Prince: Kodi Chamberlain. The highlight for staff was inclusiveness throughout the evening and how students befriended others from different form classes, which ensured that all students were invited to dance and were looked after. Thanks to the number of staff who also attended and especially to Tawnya Badger who organised the decorations and gathered a crew together to decorate in the afternoon and pack-up at the end of the evening.



Room 1 and 2 Big Day Out

Rooms 1 and 2 went to Paihia Beach for their Big Day Out. Although the day started out drizzly and overcast, that did not dampen our enthusiasm. Everyone had a great time playing on the beach, in the water and on the playground. Thank you to the parents for their wonderful support.



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Room 3's Big Day Out

We had our Big Day Out on the last day of school. The weather was beautiful. Playing mini-golf was an absolute blast, with loud cheers when someone achieved a Hole In One or when Ruben finally sunk the ball after 19 shots! Mr. Hittle and Ms. Zivkovich were a formidable team (thanks to Mr. Hittle's expert hitting) and won the competition by one shot, with Ryan and Oliver coming second with an impressive score of 55. The parents Mr Wells, Mrs. Vujcich and Mrs. Kistemaker were wonderful, encouraging the students to play their best shot and advice such as, 'Don't hit it so hard' as the ball went flying into the garden! Mrs. Blakeman and Mrs. Houry joined Mr. Hittle and the other parents to walk the Rainbow Falls Track. A fantastic adventure, as statements such as, 'We made it' and, 'I have never walked that far EVER!' demonstrated a great sense of achievement. After lunch we finished discussing our school wide focus of Connect and in particular 'looking back' to reflect on the past. We visited the rock wall that Ms. Zivkovich's grandfather built back in the late 1920's, when he first arrived from Croatia. Finally we finished the day with the awesome water fight held back at school. What a great day!



Middle School Big Day Out

After a dicey weather start, the Middle School Big Day Out turned out to be one of the best days yet. The students gained the opportunity to start the day off with a movie and popcorn and were then transported by the parent volunteers to the beautiful Matauri Bay.

Students had time to mix and mingle with their friends, swim, paddle board and ski biscuit behind Ian Blakeman's boat. They also trekked to the Rainbow Warrior Memorial, dragging parents with them, played hold rugby in the campground and made sandcastles. A BBQ lunch was provided and cooked on-site by Harry Irwin and Sarah Atchison, which was enjoyed by all – well done to our chefs extraordinaire.

"The biscuiting was thrilling and the food was awesome" - Nathalie Hull

"The best day ever" - Poppy Lenton

"It was fabulous, worth braving the weather for and a day to remember" - Mya Napier



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Options Report – R Tucker Thompson Sailing

On Day One of the options programme, our students were fortunate enough to have had a day out sailing on the R Tucker Thompson!

As is tradition on “The Good Ship”, a serene motoring out to sea was accompanied by freshly baked scones and toasty coffee or tea. However, before too long the peace was interrupted by dolphins off the starboard bow! The supremely experienced skipper seemed to know just how to entice them closer for a look and as a result, all of the crew were treated to the day’s first close range sighting.

Next, the major temptation was shimmying up the rigging and every one of the students harnessed up for the long road to the top of the main mast. The view was absolutely breath-taking, with the Bay relatively still and sunny.

We anchored up in Paradise Bay for the morning, swimming, lounging and enjoying the odd walk around the island or simply down the beach. Anyone who has been on a Tucker sailing before will be able to attest to the fact that the food is fabulous and because of the relatively small crowd, we all got to know each other quite well by the end of the day.

The trip ended with another dolphin encounter – the best I have experienced in the Bay – so there was a great deal of hooting and hollering for most of the voyage home.

We cannot thank the Tucker team enough and would recommend the experience to anyone!

Options Report- Fishing

Five of our Students were privileged enough to have a day on-board ‘Target’, a 36 foot fishing vessel supervised by Skipper Trent.

Blake, Tae Eun, Sam, Jan and Jimin headed out from Paihia for five hours’ worth of expert fishing guidance and were thrilled with their catch, apparently too much for the large chilly-bin to handle! Blake caught numerous snapper, while Tae Eun caught a 58 cm snapper, which she snaphatched back to Korea.



Options Report - Jet Skiing

Mr Warren with Phil Wilson (Day 1) and Ben Warren (Day 2), took groups of over-excited teens to Ake Ake Bay for a day’s jet skiing and sea-biscuiting. Conditions were perfect for big fun, and after a safety briefing, students climbed aboard and took off at an amazing rate. Interestingly, the only part of the safety instructions that the students remembered was the thumbs-up or ‘go faster’ code! World records were broken and students, teachers and parents all had an excellent adventure. Roll on 2016!



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Options Report – Jet Skiing, a Student's Perspective

This year, I chose jet skiing as one of my options. We got into our cars and all travelled to Opito Bay, in the Kerikeri Inlet. On our arrival, we realised that another beach would suit our needs better. Once we had all settled into Doves Bay, the two Mr Warrens got started and took the first two groups out on their respective biscuits. Eventually it came to my turn, with James, Nakul and Harrison. We all crammed ourselves onto a 'three man' biscuit, and we were off. Along the way we figured out that kneeling was much more effective than lying down, and that you have to lean the opposite direction you're turning so you don't fall off; both of which we learned the hard way. As the day went on, we passed some time by building a hut on the beach and making that our home base. Once we got back in the water, we had gotten some strategies together as to how to not fall; sadly it was not enough. I went down, then James, then Harrison and Nakul with him. The jet ski left a trail of floundering Year 9s! We all loved it however, and we would like to thank the parents and teachers who allowed this to happen. Can't wait for next year! – Max Hittle, Year 9



Give a Little Hope

We welcomed Santa with a big cheer as he arrived to collect a huge contribution of children's clothes, toys and toiletries. Gift-giving is an annual event at Springbank and this year the students once again gave gifts to the Northland branch of Foster Hope. This organisation, run by Debbie Sutcliffe, provides backpacks filled with essential items to children who are displaced from their family, often in an emergency situation.

After the gift-giving, we put our dancing shoes on and boogied down at the Christmas Disco, which was organised by The Friends of Springbank. Such fun!



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Preschool

We had a special Christmas party on Friday 4th December. The children performed a concert, singing several Christmas songs that they have been learning. We also had Christmas fairies arriving in a special big red sleigh (fire truck) to pass on presents on behalf of Santa. Thank you to our parents and grandparents for sharing our special day. Merry Christmas!



Headstart

What fun we had on our Big Day Out this year! The weather didn't put a dampener on our jumping, tumbling, hooping, rolling and spinning at Rhythm 'n Jump.



The day didn't stop there, as our exhausted troopers then continued their climbing and sliding at McDonald's playground where we all enjoyed a well-deserved treat!



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Bring on 2016!

Thank you to everybody who helped make 2015 a very successful year at Springbank. I leave you with a few shots of our traditional last-hour-of-the-year water fight. Sometimes I don't know who has more fun – the students or the teachers!



Enjoy spending some quality time with your children over the summer holidays. It is easy to forget that we live in one of the most beautiful places on earth, so make sure you get out and about and enjoy what the Bay of Islands has to offer.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year.

Regards

Mike Warren

Principal



Prize-Giving

This year's prize-giving was a special affair, as three of our graduates made Springbank history as the first to complete thirteen years at Springbank, right from Year 1 to 13. To recognise this achievement and their parents' commitment, we have given each of them a \$1,000 scholarship towards tertiary study costs.

Our graduates delivered impressive speeches, some exceptionally insightful and inspirational. Congratulations to all of our graduates and we wish you all the best for your future.

Congratulations to all of our 2015 prize winners. Please refer to our Yearbook for the full list of award winners.

A special congratulations to Taiyo Serge for achieving Dux in Year 12 and to Megan Bramley (pictured), who won Springbank's supreme Outstanding Student award (in addition to other trophies!).



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