



### Newsletter No. 1 | February 2016

## Dear Parents

Welcome back to all of our current families and a very warm welcome to our new Springbank families; we have had over 30 students start this term, from Headstart to Year 13.

We have already made a cracker start to 2016! We received our Primary and Secondary 1 Checkpoint early in the New Year. Our Middle School students performed especially well, with many of the class's external results illustrating vast improvements over the course of the year. A Level results were released 13<sup>th</sup> January, and wow, did they blow us away! As university entrance courses, A Levels are justifiably challenging. Therefore it was great to see so many of our students exceeding expectations. Our Year 11 students had to wait one more nail biting week to receive their IGCSE results on 19<sup>th</sup> January. On the whole, they need not have destroyed their nails, as the vast majority of our students performed exceptionally well.

Please read the breakdowns of results in this newsletter, as we are very impressed with our students attaining some of the best results since moving over to the Cambridge curriculum.

We've also made a fun start to 2016! In the few weeks that we have been back, there have been three amazing school camps, which have been relished by staff, students and parents alike. Camps are what memories are made of, and challenging activities push students outside their comfort zones, provide opportunities to form strong bonds with classmates and, most importantly, build absolute confidence.

## Aspire Scholarships

New Zealand's Ministry of Education Aspire Scholarships are available for Year 9 students to attend Springbank School in 2017.

Scholarships cover Springbank's full tuition fees, and up to \$1,500 of course related costs, each year for up to five years.

If you or someone you know currently has a Year 8 child and a gross income of up to \$56K p.a., a full scholarship to attend Springbank School can be applied for.

Applications for 2017 must be received in hard copy to the Ministry of National Offices by 5pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

For full terms of eligibility and the application process visit [this link](#) or contact [Mike Warren](#).



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## Excellent CIE Results

We are thrilled with our 2015 Cambridge examination results, as they are very impressive indeed. In fact they are some of the best Springbank has had since first offering the Cambridge curriculum in 2008.



13% of Springbank School's IGCSE (Year 11) papers achieved A\* grades (>90%) and a further 21% achieved A grades. Therefore 34% of papers sat at Year 11 achieved an A grade or above. Amazingly, 63% of all papers sat achieved B grades (>70%) or above. 94% of all IGCSE papers sat were passed.

Our Year 12 and 13 students also performed extremely well in their University Entrance A Level exams. Of all the A Level papers sat, 18% were A grades and 83% gained pass grades or above. Many of our Year 12 students are well on their way to attaining University Entrance, with 50% of them having already achieved it one year before expected, which is an amazing feat.

Our students and teachers have worked hard to earn these results. The most pleasing aspect is that all of our classes have a range of academic abilities, yet many of our students are gaining results that exceed expectations. These results prove once and for all that success in the top quality, highly respected Cambridge education, is not out of reach for the vast majority of students.

Springbank School's 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. Our Year 6 group received mixed results, however several received commendable results based on individual ability.

Our Year 9 results were very impressive overall with many students in Year 9 scoring at the highest possible level and several more exceeding expectations to gain pleasing results. Now that many of our senior students have been studying the Cambridge International curriculum for several years, we are able to witness the positive effect that the Cambridge Primary and Intermediate programmes have had in contributing to these fine results at senior level.

Congratulations to all of our teachers and students who worked hard to gain excellent individual results in a highly respected, rigorous curriculum. I am very proud to head a school of such inspirational people.

## Communication

Management and staff value the positive communication we have with parents. We invite parents to communicate on any issues concerning your child. Often small problems are quickly solved and larger problems are avoided, by gaining the wide and inclusive perspective of both teacher and child. The outcome is a view that is factual, realistic and balanced.

For classroom matters, contact the teacher concerned. For administrative or wider curriculum matters, please make an appointment with one of the Deputy Principals in the Junior, Middle or Senior School, or with the Principal. Email is our primary form of communication. There is a list of teachers' email addresses on the second page of your child's planner.

If you would like to communicate verbally, please phone the school on (09) 407 5236 and either schedule a meeting or phone conversation.

We are focused on maintaining our settled, positive and happy social environment for your child and we work hard to ensure their academic success.

We look forward to partnering with you to achieve this and believe that open communication is crucial.



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## ***Middle Camp – The Farm!***

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, our Year 7-9 students boarded a bus for the adventurous journey to The Farm in Whangaruru. The bus went on the Fullers Ferry from Opuia to Okaito Point and then weaved its way around numerous curves and beautiful scenery to reach its final destination.

The students settled in establishing their camp sites and camp groups, then the fun began. The enthusiastic, energetic camp instructors led house groups around the activities and ensured learning, full participation and a sense of achievement was obtained from each session. Activities included horse-riding, motorcross, the kayak challenge, raft-building and the waterslide.

The Shoe Monster was a highlight on the kayak challenge and defied the Springbank bog as the number one mudhole.

The night game of Wolfpack on the first night was enjoyed by all and challenged the students to work as a team to find and capture the other team, in blackout, gorse-covered, mountainous conditions.

The milking of the cows early each morning was a new experience for some and a bathing experience for others as a vat exploded, giving Harry and Ian Sizer and others an unexpected milk dowsing.

The campfire night was amazing. The students were divided into eight groups, and survivor-style, had to create a campfire on their own merits and keep it alight in order for them to cook their own hamburger dinner with dampers for dessert. A main campfire was then erected to serve as centre point for the campfire 'sing-a-long' with a difference.



## ***A student point of view:***

I have to say, I really enjoyed everything; motor biking, raft building, Wolfpack, even right down to milking, especially when someone got drenched in milk. But what I really enjoyed most was really getting to know everyone.

I hear a lot that starting a new school is tough making new friends and getting used to the new school, but from the first day, I absolutely loved it. Going to camp made it even better. At the camp I got to know everyone a lot more and they made me feel as if I had always been at Springbank. Kind, funny, crazy and awesome; that's what everyone is like here at Springbank and I think I fit in quite well, especially the crazy category!

Anyway, I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone, including the parents and teachers. Without them I don't think it would have been as amazing as the camp was. Thank you so much.

Alisha Tahere – Year 9



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The camp was voted 'the best ever' by students and parents alike.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated, hardworking parents who came along and made the most of the experience too. Your children were excited to be able to make memories with you. Your teamwork, positivity and willingness to dig in was appreciated.

Lastly, a special thank you goes out to the owners Mike and Ellen Bennett, their children and their staff. Thank-you for making us feel welcome and valued, and we look forward to visiting you again in 2018.

Michelle Chapman



### *Helping Hospice*

Each year Springbank School chooses a charity as our key target for support. For the past two years we have supported the great work that Debbie Sutcliffe does with Foster Hope, as they provide much-needed clothing and essentials for children going into foster care.

This year we have chosen to support Hospice. Hospice is a charity that focuses on supporting people living with a life limiting condition – e.g. heart failure, motor neurone disease, MS or cancer, to live every moment of their last days in whatever way is important to them.

What does it mean for Hospice to be a key charity for Springbank to support? Essentially, our students who usually donate Market Day profits to charities of their choice, are strongly encouraged to donate to Hospice. We would also work with Hospice to determine how our students could help, therefore targeting community projects towards those particular needs.

We will also have some senior students represent Springbank as we partner with Hospice to launch their Youth Ambassador Programme.

Watch this space!



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## Headstart

As Headstart has entered themselves in the 5+a day challenge, we decided to have an 'Edible Fruit and Vegetable Creations Party'! On 11th February our Headstart children harvested many delicious vegetables from their class vegetable gardens.

The next day our children arrived carrying a vast array of donated fruit and vegetables. As they entered the room they were surprised to see it decorated with balloons and streamers. Later in the day they each wrote a story about what they hoped to create using healthy ingredients. During lunch the vast array of healthy food was set up on tables; our children's eyes were popping out of their heads and many just had to taste test!



After lunch Miss Van Weerd, Miss Palmer and Laila Klaui (Lian and Ayshas Mum) assisted the children to make dolphins, monsters, turtles and other shapes, which involved lots of cutting, team work and tasting of course. We also had Harriet's Mum, Nicola, and Rio's Mum, Toni, assist.

A very big thank you to all our families for their generous donations of food and we look forward to entering our event in the 5+a day challenge.



## Staff vs Students B-Ball

In Weeks 2 & 3, a selection of (extremely fit and nimble, not to mention amazingly talented) teachers went head to head against our senior students in the first two staff vs students basketball games of 2016.



The first game was a cracker, with the staff team of Mr Horgan (our new secret weapon!), Mr Warren, Ms Dorans, Mr McFadden, Mr Vigil and Mr Bertelink, who brought the heat to the students. End result 18 – 8 to the staff.

The second game was more hotly contested, as there was a spark of redemption in the air. The first goal went to the students and the much of the game was goal for goal. However, the staff team managed to pull a victory by the final whistle: 17 – 12.

Both games saw the gym packed with students cheering on the players. It was a great atmosphere, one we hope to have again once the school production is over and the staging removed. It will be hotly anticipated!

Thank you to Max Hittle for organising and refereeing, and thank you to Phil Webb for being our (honest!) score-keeper.



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## Senior Camp – Spirits Bay Muggy Melting Moments

During the long drive to Spirits Bay I enjoyed the company of Year 13s Anita, Tim and Noah. We arrived in sun but soon had misty rain sweeping across the camp, so the Year 12 and 13 students hastily set up their tents while the Y10s and 11s waited for final preparations by staff before heading for Pandora. For we trampers, the misty showers were perfect for walking in and did a great job keeping us cool. The 'Weather Gods' smiled on us again as the rain cleared on our arrival at Pandora enabling us all to pitch camp in clear weather.



After the tramp, a drink and snack soon revitalised us for a much-needed swim or soak in Pandora's natural cool spa! Then dinner! After we had eaten, we all went down to the beach where we played 'capture the flag' then spotlight. During these games, staff supervising looked like highly animated robots as we sought to fend off the squadrons of mosquitos that constantly buzzed us looking for any square millimetre of unprotected flesh to hone in on for their turn at dinner! The first thirty minutes in our tents we spent hunting down these dreaded biters before turning in for a much-needed night's sleep.



Thursday morning dawned fine and hot, a perfect January dawn. Breakfast was followed by some low key beach challenges in anticipation of a tough tramp back to Spirits Bay camp. The rock tower and sand sculptures revealed some interesting results. Best was that these students work so well together to produce brilliant outcomes, some of which also had strong elements of humour!

## 2016 School-Wide Focus

This year our School-Wide Focus is "BOOST!" Boost is all about dreaming big and aspiring to be the best we can be by setting clear goals and boosting our efforts to achieve them. We will also be boosting independence and character.

### Term 1: Boost Your Dreams!

- Students set long, medium and short term clear, specific goals.
- We stress the importance of not only having a plan, but breaking it down into mini-goals, constantly reviewing them and working hard to reach targets.

### Term 2: Boost Your Independence!

- We will encourage our students to use initiative, be proactive and take advantage of leadership opportunities.

### Term 3: Boost Your Character!

- For many of our students, Term 3 is leading into exams and it is important to demonstrate resilience and to stay focused on original goals.
- We will also discuss the underlying importance of displaying good character in the form of integrity, manners and etiquette.

### Term 4: Celebrate Your Boosts!

- Goals will be summarised and students will acknowledge the accomplishments that they have made, and are on the way to making.



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The tramp was a test of resilience, fortitude and support by peers. It was hot, some students found it pretty testing but everyone completed it. The group that Mr Horgan took ahead so they could come back and help deserve a mention, as their effort was selfless and very commendable. Adversity certainly brings out the best in some people.



Amazingly, after pitching their tents and gobbling more food, these Year 10s and 11 were soon up and playing those well thought-out games planned by our seniors. Watching all of our seniors work and play together on Thursday evening was an amazingly gratifying experience. It was a fun, rewarding and most impressive performance by all senior students.



On Friday morning, another lovely summer dawn, we had the usual round of house based tabloid sports. This year we started with a warm up team builder shuffling the team over a distance on sacks. Then the real deal and how these students compete!

What an outstanding group of young people to take outdoors. Many thanks to Lynnette Knight, Gary Larkan and Paula Beck for your help. Your time and expertise is most appreciated. Sincere thanks to John Haydock and Henk Bertelink for the amazing work you did with the Year 12s and 13s. To Paul McFadden and Adam Horgan, sincere thanks for the extra effort you made with this group on the tramp and at Pandora.

Phil Webb



### Kodi Flying High

Kodi Chamberlain (Year 9) recently won the Training Pony Division of the Northland Summer Show Jumping Series, which was run over 4 months. Riders accumulate points over the series and Kodi was delighted to discover that he was leading. This is a huge achievement for his first season. Riding his horse Kaimanawa Spirit, Kodi maintained that lead and was awarded that afternoon with a huge trophy, rosettes, prizes and cash. He also won the most first places won in 80cm classes over the season.



Kodi has also represented Northland at the North Island Show Jumping champs, held at Leemington PC grounds in Cambridge over Waitangi Weekend. For further inspiration he is also attending Horse of the Year to support Northland riders in the first week of March.



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## Preschool

After more than 18 months of planning, resource and building consent processes and building, we are excited to finally announce the opening of our new infant & toddler room! We welcome everyone to come along and have a look around our brand new space and meet our brilliant teachers, Jenna Pille and Paula Gravatt,

with support person Kayla Gravatt.

Our infant and toddler room is a specialised space for our very youngest, aged from 3 months up to 3 years. If you know of anyone expecting, or with young children looking for the best care possible, please recommend Springbank Preschool and encourage them to pay us a visit.



Regards

Mike Warren  
Principal

## She's Foiled Again

Late last year we received an invitation from the Marwin Racing Team to select two of our students to be awarded the Marwin Excellence Scholarship, allowing them to join the racing team and sail the impressive GC32 vessel for a day during the school holidays. We chose Logan Alexander and Rebecca Gmuer-Hornell. They each had a great day out and learnt so much about this special yacht.



Rebecca was subsequently selected to be part of an all-female time trial team, as they set out to set a new speed record aboard the GC32. Rebecca also competed in the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron Youth Training Week alongside three other Opua sailors. Her team comfortably won.



Rebecca also recently gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the IRC Nationals during the Bay of Islands Sailing Week. We look forward to celebrating future accomplishments from this talented young woman.



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