



Newsletter No. 2 | March 2016

### Dear Parents

I would like to pay tribute to some amazing people. Louise Huett has been the Chairperson of Friends of Springbank for many years. Throughout her tenure, Friends has initiated some great events and has raised thousands of dollars for our students. There is a long list of the facilities and resources that Friends' dollars have purchased, and trips and school events that Friends have subsidised. All this time, Debbie Sutcliffe has been working alongside Louise as the Friends' treasurer, never afraid of giving her time to help organise or run a Friends event. Several years ago, when Louise was desperately trying to establish an affordable community fireworks event and had all but given up, Harry Irwin made it known that he was a licenced pyrotechnic and he would provide his services to Friends at no cost. From that moment on there was no separating this terrific trio.



The annual Friends of Springbank community fireworks event is a momentous occasion, not solely because of the money that is raised. In fact the real value of this event comes from bringing the Springbank community together as many of our families pitch in to help out (and actually tend to enjoy themselves in the process!), and having the wider Far North community descend on our school for one evening every year, putting on a show that they will never forget.

As they step down from the Friends of Springbank, I would like to thank Louise, Debbie and Harry for their years of service; it is very much appreciated by all.

I would also like to pay tribute to the parents who have stepped up to take their place. Tawnya Badger has been elected Chairperson, Danica Wells as Secretary and Maree Nugteren as treasurer. I would like to thank each of these ladies for putting their hands up to take Friends of Springbank into the future. We look forward to Friends continuing to evolve and know that it is in good hands.

*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart."*



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## 2016 Prefects Appointed

Springbank's 2016 Prefects have been announced. These aspiring young leaders have been through a rigorous application process to be selected for the esteemed Prefect role. This year, we had 15 highly capable applicants from Year 12 and 13, which made the decision making process a challenging one. In addition to the application letters and interviews, staff and students also cast votes, which were carefully considered. It is awe-inspiring conducting the interviews, having the pleasure of sharing in our students' aspirations for leading and supporting our younger students, and their plans for helping the wider community. I am not only proud of our students who gained the Prefect role, but also our other hard working Senior Leaders who are also top role models.

Springbank School's 2016 Prefects are as follows:

Head Prefect	Noah Atchison-Darby
Deputy Head Prefects	Kimberley Knight Timothy Richardson
	Taiyo Serge
Prefects	Sara Finch Aimee Larkan Anita Pasquale Georgia Sheard Aliesha Whitehead



## Hospice Youth Ambassadors

Springbank is partnering with Hospice this year to launch their Youth Ambassador Programme for the Far North. The Youth Ambassador Programme is running successfully in other parts of New Zealand, and Far North Hospice felt that our senior students would be perfect candidates for piloting this programme in Northland.

After presenting the concept to our senior students, we were thrilled when several of them applied for the positions. We have selected the following students:

Noah Atchison-Darby  
Tim Richardson  
Kimberley Knight  
Nikki Chapman

These youth ambassadors will work closely with Hospice representatives, identifying ways in which they, and other young people, will be able to support Hospice and the great work they do for our community. I know that these students will represent Springbank well through this programme and I thank them in advance for generously giving their time for such a good cause.

I look forward to sharing their progress and achievements over the coming months. Watch this space!



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## Athletics Day

Athletics Day came around fast this year. It's well known that time and Sport Northland wait for no man, and as such, the school year started in a flurry of running, jumping and throwing as our students contemplated not only the bragging rights for the first house competition of 2016 but also the chance to compete at the Northland Secondary Schools Track and Field Championships.

For the Year 7-11 students, PE lessons provided a chance to hone their skills. For the Year 12 & 13s there was only YouTube, adrenaline and the memories of Athletics Day 2015.



In the days leading up to the main event, the sprint heats and middle-distance finals took place at lunch times, building a buzz that carried



through to Big Wednesday when Springbank was bathed in the house colours of orange, red, green and blue. Kicking off the day, our students marched, chanting and singing out to the field, cheered on their way by the Junior

School.

Once Mr. Horgan had given final instructions and Mr. Webb had laid down the law, the competition began in earnest. With our high-calibre staff team in place, things were running like clock-work. Mr. Haydock's passion and vigour brought the best out of our discus throwers, Mr. Bertelink kept a cool head as things started to heat up at the high jump mat, and Mrs. Druery's powers of delegation at the shot put were awesome to behold.



## Football Boots

Our new PE teacher extraordinaire, Mr Adam Horgan, is putting together a Springbank Middle School football team. We are on the lookout for football boots for some of the students. If you happen to have any football boots that you would like to donate to the team, in sizes 6 – 9, could you please contact Adam ([adam.horgan@springbank.nz](mailto:adam.horgan@springbank.nz)).

## Holiday Writing Camp

For the enthusiastic young writer (10 – 14 years) who would enjoy spending three days with likeminded children at a peaceful setting 5 minutes from Kerikeri town centre. Up to 10 young writers will receive professional 1 to 1 tuition by an experienced English teacher combined with fun and games.

When: 20th – 22nd April 2016, from from 10.00am to 3.00pm (including a 1 hour lunch-break)

Cost: \$99 for 3 days

For more information contact Birgit Michaux on 021 119 41 66 or e-mail [birgit@michaux.co.nz](mailto:birgit@michaux.co.nz)



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## Athletics Day (continued)

In amongst the sound and fury was our greatest resource, our Springbank parents, measuring, recording, marshalling, coaching and cheering the



kids on. Of special note was the number of parents who gave their time at the long jump pit. Whether their presence was due to Mr. McFadden's charisma, or to their own reservations about his impartiality has yet to be

confirmed. What is in no doubt was that they and all our other helpers created a fantastic family atmosphere that helped our young athletes thrive.

As the day wore on and the Orcas literally ran away with the points, a rain shower threatened to halt proceedings. While some members of the team huddled inside Mr. Webb's truck, others looked to the heavens and were soon rewarded with sunshine, sprinting and a climactic relay race. Due to time constraints the parent & teacher hundred-yard dash was unfortunately postponed leaving only time to thank our referee, starter and athletics guru Mr. John Hunt who does so much to promote and develop athletics at our school. With John at the helm and such an enthusiastic group of students, athletics is alive and thriving at Springbank.

### Memorable Moments:

- Lucy Sizer breaking Springbank records for Under 12 Girls' 200m, 800m & 1500m.
- Our Head Boy and Stingray Noah Atchison Darby winning the under 19 boys' high jump in spectacular fashion.
- The amazing Taiyo Serge who not only spent hours before and after the event planning, organising, recording and collating but also went out there on the day and smashed it, leading Orcas to a huge win and qualifying for the Northland Secondary Schools in the 100m & discus.

- Adam Horgan



## Athletics Records Set

Congratulations to the following athletes, who have broken Springbank records, dating back to 2010:

- U12 Boys 200m: Joshua Traas (30.88)
- U12 Girls 200m: Lucy Sizer (33.03)
- U12 Girls 800m: Lucy Sizer (3.10.40)
- U14 Boys 800m: Jai Dawson (2.24.00)
- U12 Girls 1500m: Lucy Sizer (6.18.00)
- U14 Girls 1500m: Lucy Blakeman (6.48.00)
- U19 Boys Discus: Taiyo Serge (32.24m)
- U19 Boys Shotput: Billy Robb (11.81m)

## NSS Athletics Success

Several of our students qualified for the Northland Secondary Schools Track & Field Athletics Championships, held the week after our Athletics Day.

- Mya Napier won a silver medal in high jump.
- Taiyo Serge won a bronze in discus.

Jai Dawson ran the 800m and 1500m and completely blitzed the field, far ahead of the other competitors in both races. However Jai was disqualified on a controversial technicality. This is because the NSS Athletics Champs is for Year 9 – 13 students... and Jai is only Year 8!

Oh well, no pressure, but we are expecting big things next year, Jai!



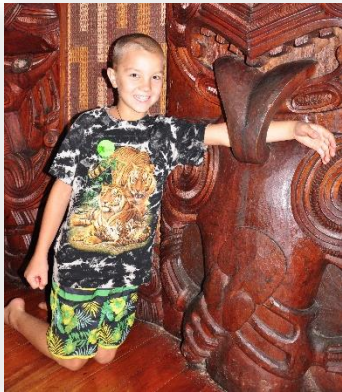
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## Waitangi Taster

Our Year 4-6 students, plus eighteen parents, had a great cultural trip to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds recently. Educator Derek Miller coordinated a great day. The experience began with a live Kapa Haka performance in the whare runanga (meeting house) followed by familiarisation with Maori carvings, Tukutuku and Kowhaiwhai art works.

The group then went on to learn the history of the Treaty House, the Treaty of Waitangi, the arrival of the British to the Bay of Islands, the national flags



and the building and paddling of the mighty waka, Ngatokimatawhaorua. The day finished with a visit to the new Museum, which was modern, interactive and very well designed. We could have stayed much longer!

- Lynne Alexander

## Year 7 art trip to Wharepuke Sculpture Park

On Friday 18th March the Year 7 art class went off on an adventure. The first stop was the Wharepuke Sculpture Trail, where they viewed around 40 sculptures scattered through the wonderful subtropical gardens. Even in the two hours we had at the venue we were not able to do all exhibits justice.

After a quick lunch by the pond we were off to Kaan Zamann to see Valerie Hunton's Exhibition. Valerie and Rex were there to meet us and explain the paintings and to tell stories of their life in remote parts of the Pacific that were the inspiration for her work.

- Win Stringer



## Preschool

What an amazing visit we had to the Honey Shop in town.



The children have been saving the bees at Preschool and shown a great interest in the life cycle of bees. This trip has enabled us to extend on this interest as we learnt that bees not only produce honey but also pollinate plants and this leads to the production of the fruit we eat, and seeds that will create more plants. Pollination begins with flowers.



We also learnt that the queen bee wears a crown and the life cycle of worker bees is only six weeks. It was a wonderful experience for everyone and we would like to thank our amazing parent helpers for always making themselves available for these trips.



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## Room 1 and 2 EOTC in Adventure Forest

On Friday 18th March, Rooms 1 and 2 had an amazing opportunity to visit the Adventure Forest in Whangarei.

After a thorough briefing by Francois and Francoise and some practice using the equipment and continuous lifeline system, everyone was ready to experience the rope courses in the trees for themselves. Some of the students were a bit nervous to begin with but all were quite excited and eager to get going.



The courses graduated in difficulty levels and the children were able to go on each course more than once if they wanted to. Every course finished with a zip line and these seemed to be a highlight.



It was so good to watch the children processing as they were problem-solving, to see the team work as they offered each other support and assistance, and to see the confidence building as they each overcame various

challenges or fears.

The two and a half hours we spent in the trees climbing was more than enough time for the children and they were definitely ready for lunch and the trip home when the time came.

We want to extend a huge thank you to the parents who came along on the trip. Your support and assistance on the day was tremendously appreciated.



- Bridget Foster and Jacqui Larkan

## Giant Pumpkins!

Late last year, Billie and Pipi Flintoff entered into the Bay of Islands Farmers Market's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual pumpkin growing competition. They cared for their pumpkin plants through summer, and on 20<sup>th</sup> March, somehow managed to transport their HUGE pumpkins to the Farmers Market for them to be entered into the competition.



Unbeknownst to the girls, there was \$200 in prize money up for grabs for the heaviest pumpkin... which they won! They were thrilled to see their hard work paying off, and pumpkin soup is on the menu for the next 6 months!

The event was also a charity fundraiser and this year they raised \$525 for Far North Search and Rescue with market-goers guessing the weight of a Giant Pumpkin and stallholders donating tasty pumpkin food.



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## AS Art Trip to Whangarei

On Monday 7th March, Mrs Hatherly, Mrs Stringer and the AS Art class boarded the van and headed south to the Sculpture Symposium in Whangarei. 20 artists had been creating sculptures for a week so when we got there they were getting close to finishing their works. The students were able to watch the artists working as well as being able to talk to them and in some cases assist in the making. Most of the works were created out of Oamaru Stone or wood, local stone, drift wood and various metals

The group also visited Chris Booth's sculpture 'Waka and Wave', the Whangarei Art Museum and the Ngapuhi exhibition at Kawakawa.

The day was inspirational for us all and also lots of fun.



- Win Stringer

As we approach the end of Term 1, I am impressed with the exceptionally positive atmosphere that our staff and students have set so far this year. Our teachers are continuing to set high academic standards, and our students have set clear goals and are working hard to achieve them. I am particularly impressed with our senior leadership team. Our Prefects and Senior Leaders have thrown themselves into several major events and initiatives, and I am in awe of the standard they have set and what they have achieved to date. I congratulate them and look forward to witnessing their progress over the coming months.

Regards

Mike Warren

Principal

## Look Out, Speedsters!

With our lives being busy, having to drop the kids off before rushing off to work, it is easy to forget to take it easy in our car park. Having recently seen the odd rocket ship, I am mindful of some of our youngest children who manage to make a break from their parents and run out onto our car park.

We will be installing some speed humps and a new speed limit sign over the holiday break, but in the meantime could I please urge drivers to keep below 10kph in our car park and be vigilant at all times.

Let's keep our kids safe!

## Dates To Remember

Last Day of Term 1:

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

We are also holding the **Springbank Talent Show** on this day, from **1pm – 3pm**. Please come along and check out Springbank's Talented students!

First Day of Term 2:

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

School Production "Sheer-Luck Holmes":

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May**



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