



Newsletter No. 5 | August 2016

Dear Parents

The 2016 Rio Olympics have now drawn to a close, which have been our most successful ever, the All Blacks have just annihilated The Wallabies in their first Bledisloe test, and it is once again time to sit back and be proud to be a New Zealander. It is also a time to consider what our top athletes must go through to be the absolute best in the world.

Never has an athlete accidentally found themselves atop the dais, receiving a medal and thinking, "Well, that was easy!" The reason it is such an emotional spot to be standing, is because as God Defend New Zealand plays and our flag is raised, they reflect. They realise that the last four years of pre-dawn training sessions, pain and sweat, and family sacrifices have all led to this point... and as the elation sets in, all of this effort has been worth it!

What makes a champion? Of course their natural ability and physical prowess plays a crucial role. However, these athletes, now at the top of their game, initially had to have the desire to be the best. They aspired to win gold, they set goals, and they trained tirelessly. No doubt many of them suffered through injury setbacks and losses along the way, and they would have needed an unwavering resolve and resilience.

In order to succeed in many facets in life, the path will not always be full of fun and excitement. Sure, we must enjoy the journey and relish the good times, but we should not be afraid to make sacrifices to reach an end goal, and we certainly must not be afraid of some hard work. Because as these athletes reflect, they may realise that all of that hard work and overcoming challenges was just as enjoyable as the end goal itself!

Upcoming Events & Dates to remember

Daffodil Day incl. Wheels Day

26th August

Regional Science Fair

29th – 31st August

Mock Exams (Year 11-13)

1st – 9th September

Market Day

- Official School Day

11th September

Spring Break Monday

- School Closed

12th September

Year 7-10 Disco

16th September



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Schoolwide Focus: Term 3 – Boost Your Character!

Each one of us has a unique character, but what exactly is character? Our character is a set of moral qualities distinctive to each one of us. It's our personality, our nature. It's how we react in certain situations.

So what are these moral qualities? There are a myriad of positive (and not-so-positive) character traits that make up each one of us. Here are some that we feel are important to practise:

Integrity: Can you be trusted to do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason? If you find a wallet full of money, knowing that money would be yours if you kept it; would you keep it, or would you hand it in?

Resilience: Are you strong in the face of adversity?

When faced with a challenge, do you give up or do you grit your teeth and fight to overcome it?

Manners and etiquette: Do you use please and thank you? Do you proactively say good morning to friends and colleagues when you see them? Do you open doors for others, letting them in front of you?



There are plenty of other positive character traits, like being generous, sympathetic, reliable, hard-working, energetic, ambitious, decisive, optimistic and determined.

We are all born with unique genes, which will begin to form our own positive and negative character traits. But can we influence character, or are we just *who we are*?

Character is shaped by a combination of genetics and your environment. As parents, you have a huge influence on your children's character. Not only will your children be similar to you in many ways because they inherited their genes directly from you, you will have had a major influence on shaping their character as they grow up.

Over the years, friends have an impact on shaping our students' character. How often have you heard, "Oh, Johnny was a great kid, but lately he's got into a bad crowd and he's heading downhill". So who do our students choose to associate with? Because if they surround themselves with positive and successful people, it has a massive positive influence on them.

Taiyo Aces Uni Maths!

Taiyo Serge, Deputy Head Prefect, has achieved an A+ Grade in Mathematics from the University of Auckland for Semester 1, 2016, while still studying full time at school! Taiyo had already achieved an A* result of 94% in Cambridge A Level Mathematics in his Year 12 year, so he naturally aspired to study at university level in Year 13.



Obtaining such a high grade is a sign of exceptional ability, and he was presented with a Certificate of Merit from the Department of Mathematics to reflect this.

Springbank's philosophy is to provide an environment in which our students can excel at the highest level in their chosen fields. Taiyo is an example of such a student who sets his sights high and works very hard to achieve success.

The University of Auckland Mathematics department extended a special invitation for Taiyo to study Mathematics further at this prestigious institution.



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Mathex

On Friday 12th August the annual Mathex competition took place in Whangarei, where 'whiz-kids' needed to solve as many of the 20 maths questions/puzzles as they could, within 30 minutes. The maximum score that could be gained was 100 points. This year there were around 200 teams of Y5 – Y10 students from all schools around Northland.

Springbank was represented by 7 groups of 4 students. Most groups only had one 'veteran', so most students were there for the first time. I can proudly say that all groups did particularly well and each team gave their absolute best. It was amazing to see that every group could answer most of the questions, which indicates that our students can perform well in maths at a high level. These students have made me, and the school, really proud.

A short impression of the results:

Y5/6: Top half (40 points)

Y7: 4th place (85 points)

Y8: Top ten (75 and 70 points)

Y9: Top half (60 points)

Y10: 4th place (70 and 45 points)

A big thanks to our teachers Mr Webb, Mr Hittle, and Mrs Alexander, and to all parents who drove down to support our students. I am sure our students will perform at a high level again next year.

- Henk Bertelink



MUNA

On Thursday 26 May, Noah Atchison-Darby, Tim Richardson and Holly Sutcliffe travelled to Auckland in Ms Hatherly's tiny yellow car, as MUNA ambassadors representing Spain at the Model United Nations Assembly.

With about 80 teams from more than 50 schools, this annual conference is run on the principles and structure of the United Nations. Every year I am delighted by the way our students rise to the occasion and speak confidently and intelligently on real-world issues, currently including climate change, the refugee crisis, the Zika virus, the withdrawal of Britain from the EU, and the aggressive policies of North Korea. The speeches and debates were powerful, instructive and entertaining, and the team had a great taste of central Auckland culture, including a night out on Friday with their billets. This is such a brilliant opportunity for senior students to gain an understanding of big issues in the outside world, as well as being tremendous fun.

Springbank's MUNA team is generously supported each year by the Waipapa Rotary Club, and we are very thankful for their sponsorship. Thanks are also due to Mr Warren for allowing us the opportunity to join MUNA. We look forward to next year!

- Jill Hatherly



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Outward Bound 2016

Listening to Megan speak about her Outward Bound experience last year sparked a feeling of excitement within me. I was fortunate enough to be offered a Scholarship to attend an Outward Bound course over the winter holidays. Even though I had heard some things about the experience, I still arrived at Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds excited, but nervous, for what was to happen over the next 21 days. Initially we were split into 'Watch' groups of 12-14 people each, named after a famous explorer. I was placed into Scott Watch, named after the Antarctic explorer Robert Scott. My expectations of a peaceful introduction into the course were shattered as we were jumping into the cold water of the Queen Charlotte Sounds within a few hours of arriving.

During the three weeks we were continually on edge, with activities being announced at short notice resulting in a development of very efficient packing skills by the end of the trip. Even though none of us knew each other before this, we became close as a group due to the challenges thrust upon us. We were just getting used to life at Anakiwa when, on the second day, we left for a three-day white water kayaking expedition. Being from Northland, the most difficult part was not the kayaking itself but rather the feeling of jumping into the cold southern rivers!

My highlight of the trip was the sailing scheme. On the first day of sailing the winds were light, so it consisted of more rowing than sailing. We were grateful for this as it meant that we didn't get rained on while sleeping on the deck of the



cutter. However, things were different on the second day, as a storm front passed through, accompanied by gusts nearing 40 knots! This made for difficult sailing conditions, especially as very few people in our watch had any sailing experience and our instructors had decided to jump ship to a chase boat.

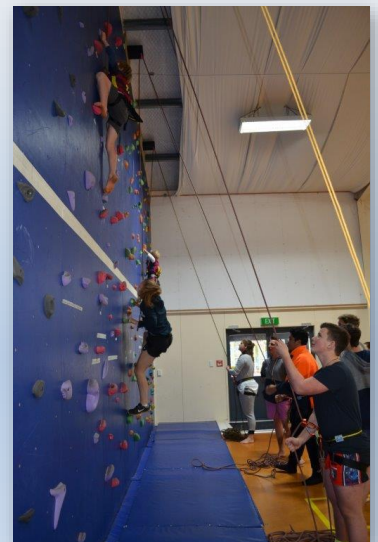
These three weeks included some of the best experiences in my life, as well as the most challenging. It was exactly this challenge which allowed me to find out more about myself, and learn more about who I really was. I would recommend anyone who is offered the opportunity to attend a course in the future give it a go, as the learnings and experiences during the course are priceless.

- Taiyo Serge

Climbing Club

This term Mr Horgan has started a climbing club on Wednesday lunchtimes, and boy, it is proving to be popular indeed! We have had students as young as 6 years old harnessed, clipped in, and climbing right up to the top of the wall.

A huge thanks goes out to our Year 11 students, who have been fantastic leaders during these sessions, and have safely belayed our juniors to vertical success.



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Tough Guy and Gal Challenge

On Thursday 30th June, a large group of Springbank Students competed in the annual Tough Guy and Girl Challenge. Competitors had an early start, with 37 students and a few parents leaving Springbank at 8 am to travel down to Woodhill Sands near Auckland. Unlike previous years, the Springbank contingent managed to arrive early, with time to spare for a photo before heading to the starting line. The competitors were both excited and nervous as they contemplated the goals they had set themselves, whether it be to finish the course or to win their categories.



The course was tough, with relentless, sticky mud in the valleys and slippery slopes preventing any uphill movement. As if these natural obstacles were not enough, there were also man-made obstacles in the form of barbed wire, fences to leap over, and tunnels to crawl through. At the finish line all students were exhausted, covered in mud, but still smiling, especially when it came to the hot showers after the event. Of the 900 competitors to finish, Luke Bramley finished 3rd in 12km Under 16 Years, with Levi Whitehead finishing 5th in the same division.

All the students thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the mud run, with great comradery and encouragement shown by all students. Looking forward to seeing you all competing again next year!

- Taiyo Serge

Young Leader Award

Sir Peter Blake believed in the incredible potential of young kiwis to achieve great things. He knew that inspiring leaders of any age could be found in every corner of New Zealand. Sir Peter showed all of us there are leaders and there are dreamers.

The Young Leader Award is presented to students from Year 5-8 who show leadership and/or leadership potential in their school. Springbank School's Young Leader for 2016 is Jack Hittle.

Jack is a natural leader. He always thinks positively and is an active participant in all aspects of school life. He is a great academic role model, who enjoys challenges. He works well with others and ensures that any group he is working in runs effectively so that tasks get done. Jack's classmates describe him as fun and fair, they recognise him as a good coach in PE and sports teams, and appreciate his willingness to help others towards their goals. Jack approaches all aspects of school life; academic, sporting, and social, with 100% enthusiasm and commitment.

Jack was awarded the Young Leaders Award certificate and prize pack from Tracey Tutin, Manager of Westpac Kerikeri.

Well done, Jack, for inspiring your peers!



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Market Day – Sunday 11th September 2016

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:

- 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

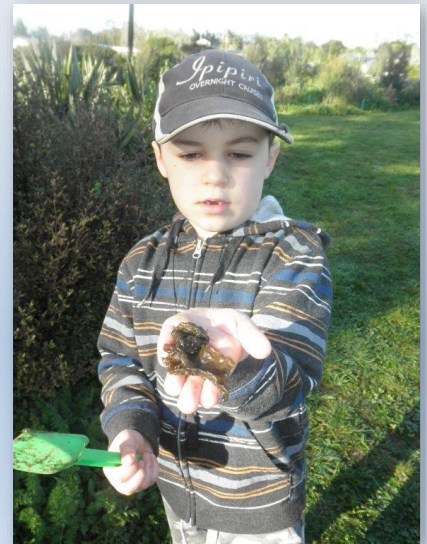
Teachers: In the lead-up to Market Day, Michelle Chapman and the Junior School teachers are working with their classes to best prepare them for a successful experience with their business ventures. They cover general knowledge of entrepreneurship, financial literacy skills, production methods, pricing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

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Headstart Forest Walk

At Headstart, we are very fortunate to take part in a Forest Walk on Springbank's native tree multi-sport trail every Friday morning.

Dependent on what we are hoping to discover or learn each week, we will use our special Discovery books, which were carefully developed by Miss Palmer. They include scavenger hunts looking for habitats, specific insects, or bugs.



We are currently participating in a national competition with the Department of Conservation called 'Habitat Heroes', which allows us to carry out a scientific investigation in a local area, then share our findings.

We have tested the health of our school creek, using water bugs as a bio indicator. Stay tuned for our report regarding our next steps.

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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. Our students:

- 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 11th September, from 11am – 2pm. See you there!

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Our weekly Forest Walks give our students the chance to take responsibility for our environment, including picking up rubbish / eliminating rubbish and learning about pollution.



Our students and teachers also challenge themselves, push and test our comfort levels and set new fitness goals each and every week.



Lastly, they are a part of an environment where their health and wellbeing are being promoted and nurtured.

- Jess Van Weerd and Rosie Palmer



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Preschool

The Preschool have recently revamped what was the former teacher's office into a exciting new Discovery Room. This new exploration area will give the children more opportunity to participate in more sustained and focussed learning.



The children are loving coming in and having this quiet time to investigate areas of interest in a relaxed and calming environment.

All the best to our senior students, who will be sitting their mock exams in two weeks' time. Thank you to the senior teachers who have been running afterschool revision classes. The general uptake from students has been positive. Well done, students, on making the most of a great opportunity.

Enjoy the rest of this term, and I look forward to seeing you all at Market Day – Sunday 11th September, 11am – 2pm.

Regards

Mike Warren
Principal

Goings On:

Karate

If there is enough interest, there will be the opportunity for a karate club to operate each week in the Springbank gym. The karate lessons will be very reasonably priced as we will not be charging the club to rent our gym. They will also be open to all ages from 7 years, including adults.

For those interested, please contact reception.

Riverview Bazaar

The Riverview School Bazaar will be taking place on Sunday 18 September, 11am to 3pm.

The Bazaar is always a popular event, with plenty of rides and activities, silent auction, raffles, pre-loved items, plants, entertainment, food stalls, and much more.



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