



## Newsletter No. 2 | March 2017

### *Dear Parents*

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 shall go down in history as one of the greatest days of all time! Ok, it's possible that I'm being dramatic, but hey, it sure was a great afternoon hosting our inaugural annual "Last Chance Summer BBQ"! With 200-250 participants, the sausages were flying off the barbeques and onto bread, and the three deep fryers were working overtime cranking out hot chips.

It was great to see everyone in their house colours, and we had some great fun with some good old fashioned sack races and egg & spoon races. There were also several parents putting their bodies on the line in the hotly contested football match!

It really was a great family atmosphere and much fun was had. The Dolphins House took out bragging rights with the highest total house points for the evening.

Thank you to all of our wonderful teachers who helped feed everybody and run the various games and competitions, and thank you everyone for being such enthusiastic participants!

We've got a couple of ideas for next year, and we're already looking forward to hosting this event again. One thing I will always commit to is ensuring that this is a FREE evening for families; there shall never be a need to bring your wallet. If you have any suggestions on how we could make this event spectacular, please let us know.



### Student Absences from school

It goes without saying that students benefit most from direct interaction with their teacher and peers. Even if a student is working through exercises to keep pace with the rest of the class while they are away, there is still potential of having a detrimental impact on learning outcomes.

In saying this, we can appreciate that there are various legitimate reasons for families wishing to take their children out of school from time to time, such as a special overseas family experience.

If you plan to remove your child from school for any length of time, you must inform Principal Mike Warren in writing (email is fine), who will then give permission. We would appreciate you providing as much notice in advance as possible.

In the case of daily absences such as illness, we also require you to contact reception that same morning via phone or email, so that we are aware of the absence reason.

We thank you in advance for your support.



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## Prefects Report

Every Tuesday lunch time the prefects gather with Mr Webb and Mr Haydock. In this weekly meeting, we discuss upcoming events, and brainstorm new ideas and initiatives for our prefects to initiate this year.

Our enthusiastic team is currently working on:

- ✓ Saint Patrick's Day-World Vision Youth Conference
- ✓ International day
- ✓ Supporting Mr Horgan prepare for Athletics day

Several of our senior students have been participating weekly in Junior Fitness to support, motivate and encourage the younger students. However, this goes both ways, with the Juniors motivating the seniors as well!



Lunchtime games have kicked off with Volleyball and Badminton being great successes!

- Wednesday Volleyball with Jess
- Friday Badminton with Phoebe

## Library Report

This year's library books are already exploding into the system! We have a huge variety of new books for all ages and interests, and I am up to my eyeballs with processing them and getting them onto the shelves.

Recent book promotions in assembly were:

- ❑ Chicken Big by Keith Graves. His heart is as big as he is, and the chickens aren't sure that he's one of them.....
- ❑ Tease by Amanda Maciel – a gripping YA novel about bullying, written from the bully's point of view: challenging but rewarding.
- ❑ Before Your Teenagers Drive You Crazy, Read This – Nigel Latta's take on teen-wrangling. A must for parents!
- ❑ How Long is Now? A New Scientist book of answers to 191 mind-boggling questions.
- ❑ A Bee in a Cathedral – a stunning mix of scientific analogies by Joel Levy.
- ❑ Crisp Study Skills Strategies by Uelaine Lengefeld –if you learn even one technique, it's worth getting this book out.
- ❑ Stepping Stones by Magriet Ruurs and Nizar Ali Badr. This inspirational book cleverly shows the refugees' journey towards safety.

Parents and families, you are very welcome to come in to the library at any time to browse and enjoy the books.

**LOVE**  
the **LIBRARY**



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## International Adventures

Wow – Week 7 and what an amazing time our International Students have had!

They have all fitted into life at Springbank School so seamlessly, one would almost think they have spent their entire lives here.

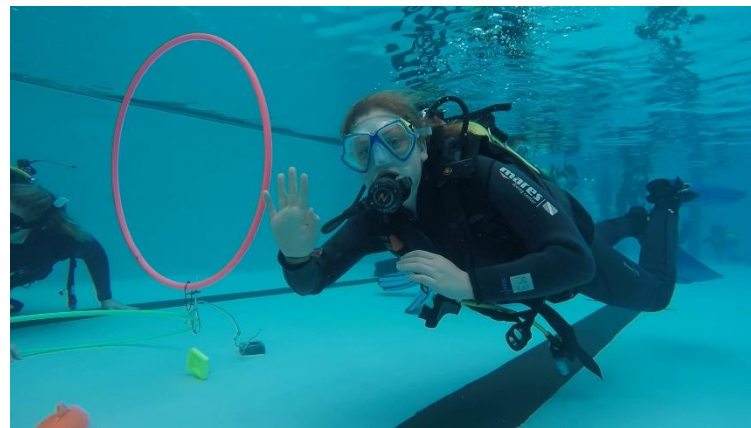
Our teachers are very impressed with their dedication, determination, hard work and diligence, and many of our senior students have added responsibilities such as Form Class support. Yui Urushidani also helps out with the Friday Badminton group.

Our Year 11, 12 and 13 Outdoor Adventure students have begun their training for their end of term Cape Brett Challenge.

It was wonderful to see our Year 10 Outdoor Adventure Students receive their Waka Ama training certificates, and this week they will get to go to Ahipara for their first Learn to Surf experience at Ship Wreck Bay.

Our students are keeping themselves busy with their extra-curricular activities such as;

- Athletics
- Karate
- Horse Riding
- Learning to sing, play the piano, guitar and drums
- Learning to play tennis, volleyball and badminton
- As well as becoming PADI Open Water Divers.



Some have been to Whangarei shopping, whilst others have been camping and fishing, exploring beaches, swimming and paddle boarding, walking and hiking.

So as you can see, our International Students have quickly immersed themselves into our Northland way of life.

## GOLD for Springbank!

Well done to our athletes who represented Springbank at the Northland Secondary Schools Track & Field Athletics Champs last Thursday. Out of our team of 10, we had the following successes:

- Max Hittle & Harry Stanley-Scott both made the finals for the Intermediate 200m and Max also made the final for the 100m.
- Ashley Badger placed 5th in Junior Girls Shotput
- Nathalie Hull: bronze medal in the Junior Girls 800m
- Jordan Wojtulewicz: bronze medal in the Junior Boys 800m
- Mya Napier: silver medal in the Intermediate Girls High Jump

- Jai Dawson: **GOLD** medal in the Junior Boys 1500m and a **GOLD** medal in the Junior Boys 800m. Jai completely annihilated the field in the 800m and broke the NSS record for this event! The 800m record has not been broken since 1976! This is the first time in over 10 years that a Springbank student has broken a Northland Secondary Schools Athletics record. Also, to achieve this off the back of a major injury, this is simply outstanding work, Jai!



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## ***Education in a Fast-Changing World – Springbank's Three C's***

We're constantly researching current educational thinking to see if we can add value to the opportunities we provide for our students at Springbank. One of the buzz-words is "future-proofing". Really? As if we have inside information on where the world will actually be in twenty or indeed fifty years from now and can provide the definitive educational answer for our kids! The world our children will inhabit is unknown. All we do know is that there are currently three major change-drivers that will influence their future daily lives, creating greater complexity, diversity and challenge. Technological advances are tsunami-like, cultural influences are huge with global population growth, political uncertainty & big geographical shifts; and there is considerable concern regarding the unsustainable use of the Earth's resources. How do we best prepare our children for this?

When Springbank School was established over twenty years ago, our motto was, "Learning for Life", long before authentic learning relating to real life outside the classroom became recognised as important. Now, more than ever, we look for ways for our students to keep one step ahead. Developing capability, character and confidence is key to them coping and thriving in the world.

Capability relates most closely to our academic programme. We build a strong and deep foundation in core subjects so students can understand and make sense of their world. Through quality, collaborative teaching and students learning how they learn best, we enable students to develop their cognitive skills. They learn to be curious, to explore, to question and to think for themselves critically and creatively. The diverse range of subjects and their content are in themselves a means to an end. These subjects are a context for developing universal ways of thinking and doing – a toolkit for life. Critical, linear thinking has an important role to play (eg Mathematics, The Sciences, ICT & Computer Science). Students may never use algebra or computer programming in real life, but it is a medium to develop logic. To prepare for the future, we need to put emphasis on the wider intelligence of independent and group creative thinking, and endeavour – the ability to imagine and the process of turning imagination into generating and evaluating new and valued ideas, possibilities and alternatives (eg Enterprise, Science, Language & communication). This type of thinking gives our students the skills to be flexible, innovative and adaptable in a future-changing world. Our exceptional learning environment, coupled with a wide range of learning situations, provide students with opportunities to develop life-long personal passions and aptitudes - to find out what they are good at and what they are capable of.

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## ***Massey University Visit***

In the middle of that fantastic deluge that hit the North Island, the Massey University Liaison Officer for the Far North paid us a visit.

Rebekah presented an overview of the courses taught by Massey, highlighting the specialties offered at each of their three campuses. She welcomed our Year 13 student, Aliesha, who is studying a Level One Accountancy paper extramurally through Massey University.

Years 11, 12 and 13 enjoyed their thirty minute presentation, and will each receive an information-rich 2018 prospectus when hard copies are sent up to us.

- Phil Webb

## ***Agri-Kids Success!***

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, Cameron Ireland, Reuben Harrison and Jamie Small, took part in the Northland Agri-Kids competition. Agri-Kids is the kids' version of The National Young Farmers competition. The students competed in a variety of events including drenching, bridling a horse, assembling a beehive, Agri-Quiz, identifying farm equipment, and sorting wool grades.

Without much practice at all, the boys ended up taking out 2nd place of 32 Northland teams!

They have now been invited to compete in the Nationals being held on 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July in Fielding. This will require the team to fundraise and find sponsorship in order for the team to get to, and be accommodated, in Fielding. If any business would like to be a sponsor and have naming rights of the team please contact the school office.



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## Continued ...

Developing character is possible through endeavour. Children learn to be resilient, to show determination and courage when facing challenges, to take measured risks, to exercise self-control, to be resourceful, to use initiative, to show leadership and to practice integrity, gratitude and kindness towards others. They understand that working hard is worthwhile in attaining meaningful and purposeful personal goals. They experience the joy and deep satisfaction of achievement. Through daily staff role-modelling and guidance, weekly quotes at school assembly and the school's annual focus, aligned with their parents' values, our students develop strong qualities. They can take their place in a changing world and know deep in their core who they are and what they stand for.

Confidence and a strong self-belief is vital for our students' emotional and mental wellbeing. Over twenty years ago our Springbank mantra was, "Attitude is everything"...and it still is! This positive outlook on life and an "I can and I am able to" focus, is embedded in the Springbank ethos. Self-confidence arises from knowing deep inside that whatever happens in life, we will find the resources within us to manage difficulties. Students also learn to be self-motivated, to feel good about themselves, to celebrate their successes with pride, to have self-respect in the way they present themselves, and to take care of their emotional, mental, and physical health. This holistic approach to education while at Springbank, enables our students to believe in themselves. It sets them up for life.

So whilst we don't know what the future holds for our children and grandchildren when they step out into a fast-changing world, we do know that we have provided them with a huge head-start. Their capability, character and confidence will serve them well.

## After School Sports Classes & Holiday Programme

From the Term 1 school holidays our students will have the opportunity to take part in specialist afterschool and holiday sports programmes.

Martina Schonweiss, an independent operator, studied in Germany and is a certified sport and gymnastics teacher, kids coach, climbing instructor, outdoor trainer, personal and athletics trainer and swim instructor. She has worked at the GymBus and SwimBus on Auckland's North Shore and at the AUT Millennium Institute. There she organised holiday programs, school programs, taught water safety, surf safety, climbing, teambuilding, swimming, parkour and gymnastics for 3-14 year olds.

Martina is passionate about providing fun sports classes, where kids learn new skills and techniques in different sports, and she is looking forward to providing these classes for Springbank students of any age.

At this stage, Martina is looking to run basketball, football (soccer), and if there is enough interest, parkour. Her afterschool classes will run for 45 minutes and there will be a cost of \$13 per session, per child.

We are yet to decide on which days per week each session will run, but if you are interested in the afterschool and/or holiday programmes, please contact Sally at [reception@springbank.nz](mailto:reception@springbank.nz), or your child can register their interest on the list in reception. Please indicate which sport(s) your child is interested in and preferred day(s) of the week.



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## Headstart – Community Project

Our annual focus for 2017 at Headstart is 'Community'. Our aim is to provide a stimulating and engaging environment for our children, their families and our local community. We have been inviting our families in to share a topic of interest or a special skill they possess, which in turn will strengthen our relationships with them and build on our knowledge about the community we live in.

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, we were fortunate to have Julian's Mum, Catherine Howell, spend a wonderful afternoon teaching us about the Stone Store and Kemp House where she works. Catherine arrived in her uniform, which was the everyday clothing that the women wore in the 1800's. We watched a very informative and interesting slideshow about the very different life the Kemp family led and saw some photos of inside the Stone Store.

We then ventured outside and were split into groups, where we took turns using soap and wash boards to clean linen which we then hung on a washing line to dry. We also played games with a skipping rope and sack games. Some of the skills that we strengthened and acquired were relating to others, using verbal and non-verbal cues and developing an understanding of taking on different roles in different contexts. We look forward to extending these concepts further with the upcoming visits we have planned.



## School Closures

With the recent run of stormy weather, we thought it an opportune time to state our policy on emergency situations and school closures.

There has been no occasion in the last 10 years that Springbank School has had to close its doors during a school day. However, in the rare case that we must close, we will inform parents via email. We will also endeavour to have an auto attendant enabled on our school phone number, which will state that we are closing and it will provide any specific instructions.

## Power Outages

We are able to handle power outages for up to a day. This was evident late last year when we were one of the only schools in Northland that didn't have to close because of a major power outage. Therefore, only an extreme power outage would force us to close the school.

## Flooding

Even during the worst floods, we are still able to ensure that our students are safe. In the case of severe flooding, we can appreciate that several roads around the Far North can flood, making your home inaccessible. Please feel free to pick up your child from school early if you believe that you won't safely get home if you were to wait. Make sure to sign your child out at reception so we are able to account for all students.

Please ensure that we have your correct email address on our system. It is also a good idea to check your junk / spam folder as group school emails may end up there.



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## Preschool – Rain, rain here to play . . .

While all the rain might have proved distracting for some, at Preschool it was a great opportunity to get outside with mother nature and play in what the rain makes best – splishy, splashy, sploshy puddles!



For those who wanted to keep dry, we made some bread and created our own tukutuku panels after being inspired by our recent trip to Waitangi. Whatever the weather, there are fantastic learning opportunities available each day.



## Staffing updates at Preschool

There are a number of changes happening with in the Infant and Toddler classroom. We would like to introduce some new names to our teaching staff and farewell to some others.

- **Nikki Wasson**, a great local ECE teacher, has joined the infant area for four days a week, along with her one year old daughter, Olive.
- **Kylie McDell** has taken up the position of lead teacher on the toddler side, replacing Paula. Kylie has taught for a number of years as an ECE teacher and has made the move from Hamilton to join us.
- **Paula Warren** has resigned her fulltime position at Preschool after two years with us (11 in total teaching ECE in the community). Paula would like to take a step back for a while and spend some more time with her daughter Addison and husband Chris. However, it won't be goodbye forever as we will have Paula come in as a regular reliever when needed.
- **Jenna Pille**, (Head Teacher of the Infant & Toddler room) will be taking six months maternity leave from April 21<sup>st</sup> to prepare for the arrival of her second baby due early May.



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## Past Student Profiles

I quite regularly get asked by prospective families, "What do Springbank graduates usually go on to do?" My answer to that is, "A whole heap of different things!" While we hear from time to time about what many of our past students have been up to, unfortunately in many cases we have lost touch. I would like to begin profiling past Springbank students in our newsletters. I know that all of us would really love to hear about what everyone has been up to, and to celebrate milestones of our past students.

We would love to hear from any and all past Springbank students, and certainly not only if you feel you are achieving great things. We know there will have been plenty of University graduations, apprenticeship completions, marriages, babies, travel-the-world plans that eventuated (or not!), dream jobs, and business start-ups (and quite possibly failures!). Our intention is not just to profile "Johnny Billionaire" who has won at the game of life. Life is a journey, and that journey takes a different form for all of us. We even want to hear from "Johnny Boring" who lives on Struggle Street, because that guy deserves to be profiled too.

If you are able to forward this message to anyone you know who is a past Springbank student (of any age!), it would be much appreciated. Could they please get in touch with [mike.warren@springbank.nz](mailto:mike.warren@springbank.nz) and I will make the process an easy one!

Regards

Mike Warren  
Principal

## Thoughts for the week:

### Week 4:

"One Day or Day One... You Decide"  
Courtesy of Wilson Baker (Head Boy)  
– Week 4, Term 1, 2017

### Week 5:

"Dream It  
Believe It  
Achieve It"  
Courtesy of Michelle Chapman  
– Week 5, Term 1, 2017

### Week 6:

"Do you want to be a character or a  
spectator?"  
Courtesy of Henk Bertelink  
– Week 6, Term 1, 2017

### Week 7:

"It always seems impossible until it is  
done."  
Courtesy of Aliesha Whitehead  
(Head Girl)  
– Week 7, Term 1, 2017



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