



Newsletter No.2 | February 2018

Dear Parents

As we head into the end of Week 5 of Term 1, a new month begins! The other night it struck me that 10% of our school year is already complete! Right now it's 12%! But don't panic, there are plenty of weeks left to learn new facts and figures, study hard and have some fun along the way. And as you will see in this mammoth 18 page newsletter, we have certainly packed a lot into our first 10%. It has been a busy few weeks with our school camps already taking place and I have heard many great reports from students, parents and staff.

I am proud of how our Schoolwide Focus of Character Strengths has started so positively, and I am enjoying witnessing these in action every day by students and staff. Make sure you as parents don't miss out on this one, as we look to embed these 24 character strengths into daily life at Springbank School. All of us can benefit from practising each of these character strengths. To get an idea of what your key character strengths are, please take 15 minutes of your time to complete the free VIA survey [HERE](#) (please note that in the terms and conditions, it is not a requirement to give your real personal information in order to take this survey if you do not wish to). Many of our Middle and Senior students have taken this survey, and it will be an interesting experience to discuss each others' results as a family.

Please enjoy fabulous-February's newsletter.



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Springbank School 2018 Prefects

Congratulations to our 2018 prefects, and thank you to all of the senior students who applied for this prestigious role. To be given the role of Springbank School Prefect, a student must demonstrate a range of positive qualities. Our 2018 prefects have demonstrated that they possess these, and we look forward to witnessing them in action this year.

A Springbank School Prefect models a consistently positive attitude and has the mindset to serve the school and give back generously to support our younger students. He/she works collaboratively with staff, has earned the respect of peers, and brings out the best in students from a range of year levels. A Springbank Prefect is proactive in organising student events, and leads these with enthusiasm. Our prefects embody Springbank and what we stand for: capability - strong academic effort and personal achievement, good character – the ability to relate easily and sincerely with others, honesty and integrity, and they exhibit strong self confidence.

We are thrilled to introduce the six students who will represent Springbank School as our school prefects for 2018:

Max Hittle, Michael Horsman, Phoebe Huett, Raven Kerr-Allen, Mya Napier, and Levi Whitehead



From left: Principal Mike Warren, Michael Horsman, Raven Kerr-Allen, Mya Napier, Phoebe Huett, Max Hittle, Levi Whitehead, Deputy Principal Chris Whitaker

Dates to Note

March 6: School Photos

March 6: New Parents Morning Tea

March 14: Year 7-8 EPro 8 Challenge

March 15: Year 5-6 Epro 8 Challenge

March 17: AgriKids NZ

March 23: World of Maths Roadshow

March 26: End of Summer BBQ



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Senior School Camp – Urupukapuka Island

The Senior School Camp was held on the stunning Urupukapuka Island. Before departing Paihia by ferry, students listened to DOC wardens explain about Project Birdsong and the native species they might see on the island. After a peaceful boat crossing through the mist, the saddlebacks, cicadas and tui were in full song as students hiked across the island to the DOC campground at Urupukapuka bay.



Students were given full responsibility for planning their camping and meal arrangements for the three days and impressed with the speed at which tents and gazebos were set up. Despite the soaring heat and humidity, Year 10 and 11 students set off for a hike around the island, which regularly provided stunning views across bays, bush and ocean.

No trip to an island would be complete without water-based fun. Students frequently took advantage of the natural playground and paddled, snorkelled and swam from some beautiful beaches, into crystal clear waters.

After circumnavigating the island, the Year 10 and 11 students were quickly set to task by the senior students who had prepared a range of different challenges and games to test teamwork skills and build leadership qualities.

The rain clouds built as the evening set in, but this did not deter students from playing “Catch the lantern” to the sound of moreporks and distant thunder.

After a rainy night, students rallied well and prepared for a second day of adventure by exploring nearby Motorua Island. The purpose of Senior Camp was to enjoy the outdoors and challenge students to work together to complete activities successfully as a team. This was in full evidence as people shared food and laughter and supported those struggling with fatigue and minor scrapes and sprains.



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For a second night running, the Year 12 and 13 leaders had everybody engaged in a variety of team-based challenges. Both physically and mentally demanding, the Seniors excelled in running everybody ragged well into the evening.

Fortunately, the rain abated, and any free time was spent preparing food, swimming and snorkelling as well as most people's highlight – a good dunking off sea biscuits behind John Whitehead's boat!

After a more settled and restful night, students impressed once again with a speedy pack up and thorough cleaning of the camp facilities. After farewell speeches and "Thank yous" to the parents who had contributed to making the camp possible, students donned their packs for the final hike back to the ferry.

As the blisters and fatigue fade, we give thanks to the parents, staff and students who overcame many challenges to make Senior Camp 2018 such a memorable and rewarding experience.

Chris Whitaker

Deputy Principal Senior School



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Middle School Camp – Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre (MERC)

The 2018 Middle School Camp was held at the Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre in Long Bay, Auckland.

Qualified instructors were employed to expose the students to high-quality, challenging activities that gave the students new experiences outside the classroom and also pushed them outside their comfort zone. Through these activities the students had the opportunity to work in teams, as well as to individually overcome challenges to find success, and the development of new skills.

Each of the five activity groups rotated around harness, sea-based, and shore-based activities. Parents were also welcome to join into the activities which many did.



The night-time activities also were a lot of fun with Mr Horgan and his team challenges, and the traditional camp concert, which allowed students to show off their varied talents and some not-so! Sharks came first place with their humorous and well-rehearsed skits, closely followed by Dolphins.

The highlight for many students was the visit to the Whangarei Aquatics Centre. Springbank had hired and got full exclusive use of the wave pool and the hydro-slide. There, the students spent what little energy they still had left. The last part of the bus journey home was the quietest!

I would like to thank the parents and staff that attended and were gracious in helping wherever needed, especially with the camp cleaning on the last morning. Your energy, enthusiasm, and positivity (even in the rain) was appreciated and you provided an excellent set of role-models for yours and other students.



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I would like to finish with a few quotes from the student's evaluations of camp:

- *Middle School Camp was a blast. I had so much fun surfing, sailing, doing archery, rope climbing with my eyes closed, and having fun with my friends. Everyone made the most of all opportunities*
- *Surfing was awesome; the waves weren't that big but boy it was fun! - James Small*
- *This camp I found was really a camp for trying new things and giving them our all. For me personally, I had never tried surfing or archery and I found two new things that I love. I was also impressed because everybody gave the activities a go when they were challenging or never been tried before. It definitely helped having trained instructors guiding us through the activities, step-by-step! - Bethany*
- *This years' camp was cool. It was even more fun than video games! - Rhys*
- *The camp was held at Long Bay Regional Park and marine reserve. The activities were both creative and exciting. Not only was it a great bonding experience but taught life-long skills that we will always use and remember, such as surfing, archery, raft-building and the ability to trust your peers using the giant ladder - Indra*
- *Personally, my favourite activity was surfing; I love the water on my skin and the rush you get when you catch a wave. I am extra happy as I stood up for the first time - Lana*
- *We had a lot of fun on camp and by the end of it I had made three new friends who I otherwise wouldn't have spoken to - Ellie*
- *MERC camp was exciting, from stacking crates under ourselves to catching waves on surfboards. Surfing was fun because Mr Horgan was surfing with us and everyone was complimenting and congratulating each other - Calan*
- *For entertainment we had Springbank's Got Talent. Everyone was included and had talents. They all gave it their best shot, but the sharks were unbeatable with a fantastic act. This camp experience was amazing. Every activity was filled with teamwork and zest! Thank you Ms Chapman, I can't wait until next year!*

Michelle Chapman

Deputy Principal Middle School

Community Notices

Bay of Islands Interschool's Regatta



March 10th & 11th at the Bay of Islands Yacht Club – Waitangi.

Open to all Northland Schools

Opti, Open Bic, Starling, 420 & 49er

For more information about this event please visit:

www.boiyachtclub.co.nz



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Year 9 Community Projects

Two 2017 Year 9 Community Projects were completed and officially opened by John Carter, the Far North District Mayor.

The first project was the information sign which educated people on the Charlie's Rock Walkway about the bullock tramway and eventually steam train. From the late 1800's through to 1923, this transported kauri logs from Puketi Forest, down Puketotara Road, across the top of Rainbow Falls, and on to Waipapa Landing, where they were floated out to a waiting steam-ship which, took them to Auckland.

This group of Melissa Foster, Jack Hittle and Malindi Reihana-Ruka, fundraised \$389.00 to have the sign built and installed.

The second project was the building of a picnic area and table on the riverside of the Charlie's Rock Walkway. This group of Sean McConnachie, Poppy Lenton, Khalila Strevens, Eva Svakakis, and Jordan Wojtulewicz raised \$681.00 to complete this project.

Springbank School would like to thank Zane Wright, the FNDC Facilities Technical Officer, for his help with organising the building and installation of the projects. Due to work safety regulations, the students were unable to lend a hand with construction.

Completing projects for the Charlie's Rock Walkway so close to Springbank's heart, as it was a Year 9 Springbank Community Project that worked with FNDC and adjacent landowners to build the walkway in 2009.

Michelle Chapman



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Students at a glance

Name: *Leonardo Fisher*

Year: 6

House Group: *Dolphins*



What do you enjoy about Springbank School? *I like Maths - it's "add"mazing!*

What's your favourite subject? *Maths & Science*

What's your favourite song? *Believer by Imagine Dragons*

What's the best thing to do at lunchtime? *Playing Handball*

If I were Principal I'd ... *Make lunchtime twice as long.*

In my spare time out of school I like to ... *Play soccer, cricket and play on my Xbox.*

Name: *Malindi Reihana-Ruka*

Year: 10

House Group: *Dolphins*



What do you enjoy about Springbank School? *I like hanging out with my friends and learning about all the different subjects we have on offer.*

What's your favourite subject? *Outdoor Adventure*

What's your favourite song? *Personal by HRVY*

What's the best thing to do at lunchtime? *Playing games, basketball in the gym, talking.*

If I were Principal I'd ... *Make an outdoor swimming pool.*

In my spare time out of school I like to ... *Go surfing, horse riding, singing, and playing guitar.*



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World of Maths Roadshow at Springbank School

Numeracy is an important component of our curriculum, and to make numeracy fun and relevant to our students, we have arranged for the World of Maths Roadshow to visit our school. The World of Maths Roadshow is an ideal opportunity for students from Headstart to Year 8 to see how Maths is applied to some real-life situations.

More importantly, students will be engaged in hands-on activities that will cater for all ability levels and probe their problem-solving skills. It is a highly engaging session, which will show the children that Maths can be fun!

For more information, to view a video of a session in action and read testimonials from schools WOMRS have presented to, visit their website www.worldofmaths.com.



Photo from the 2017 show

Parents are able to attend the session, especially with junior grades (at no cost).

•Friday March 23rd

•Session 1: Headstart – Year 5 from 8:50 – 10:00am

•Session 2: Year 6 – 8 from 10:50am – 12:20

See you all there!

Henk Bertelink

Top Achiever in New Zealand

We would like to congratulate Wilson Baker again on his fine result of gaining the highest mark in New Zealand for his AS English Exam for 2017.

Wilson attended the High Achievers dinner in Auckland, where he was presented with his certificate.

Wilson worked with Mrs Andrea Druery and put in many hours towards study, backing himself to achieve an outstanding mark.

Wilson is one of several Springbank students who have achieved a top Cambridge result over the years, which proves that it is certainly not out of reach for our other students to work towards gaining a top New Zealand exam mark as well.



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Friends of Springbank

Meeting highlights - It was great to see some new faces at our last meeting. We are pleased to have approved financial contributions towards the Year 7 Trip to Macbeth at the Pop up Globe in Auckland and the annual Senior Geography Trip. We are also happy to be supporting an initiative from a trio of girls in Year 6 who would like to establish a friendship table in the Junior School.

Nano Girl Live Science / Motat Trip (2017) - A few photos from what sounds like an incredible educational experience. A big thanks to Ian Sizer for organising.



FOS Noticeboard - We have our own noticeboard! Watch the space outside Mrs Collings office as it fills up with details about Friends of Springbank (FOS) including upcoming events, meeting dates etc. We also have a few calendars left to sell and will be making these available at a very special price in the coming weeks with more details to follow on the FOS noticeboard.

Welcome Morning Tea for New Parents - On Tuesday 6th March we would like to invite our new parents to attend a special morning tea in the staffroom from 8:30 – 9:30am. Existing parents very welcome too!

Join Us - Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 28th March from 2-3pm in the staffroom and we would like to extend a warm welcome for you to join us. We still need to appoint a new Secretary and Treasurer at our upcoming AGM in April. Neither role is too arduous and I can vouch that FOS are a great team of parents to work with.

Kind regards,

Erica Wells, Chairperson, Friends of Springbank



***"To further the
educational experience of
Springbank students"***



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Rooms 1 and 2 Camp – Coopers Beach

Although it was drizzly and miserable on our first day at camp, we didn't allow the weather to dampen our enthusiasm and we were still able to do many fun activities. The water was chilly, but we still had a lot of fun in the waves. The parents formed a safe wall that we could swim inside, and the waves were big enough for some long rides on our boogie boards. Squeals of excitement could be heard above the sound of the waves.

The sand sculpture competition brought out the creative side of both students and parents, with aquariums, mermaids, royal cities and even a sandman resulting. Standing waiting in line shivering was no deterrent for those determined to go down the 80m waterslide. Once again, the competitive nature of certain parents came out as they tried to see who could get the furthest! It was so good to see children overcome fears as they watched their peers, then attempted their own slides.

There were some fairly tired little people at bedtime, and Harrison and Amber won the competition to be first asleep. Our second day brought on torrential downpours, so after some fun indoor relays and Jump Jam, we decided to end the camp early.

We would like to sincerely thank all the parents who came on camp; your enthusiasm and help in all areas was appreciated. We'd like to also thank all our children who made it a pleasure to be on camp. We look forward to the next one!

Bridget Foster and Jacqui Larkan



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Years 4-6 – Camp Manaia

Camp Manaia was a rewarding event in our 2018 calendar. We had fabulous weather, students, parent chefs and supervisors! The children had a fantastic time and grew in lots of ways by working together in their camp groups.

The physical challenges were completed with a variety of cheering and puffing! Day 1 saw us hiking to the top of Mount Manaia, 420 metres above sea level, followed on day two with a hike around the Bream Bay Scenic Reserve from Urquharts Bay to Smugglers Bay. It was a picturesque hike through the coastal forest with spectacular views, to Busby Head and the gun emplacement.

Two afternoons were spent on the shore of McGregors Bay, just at the edge of the camp property. Parents, teachers and children snorkelled, swam, paddle boarded, rock climbed, and boogie boarded for several hours. We think Conrad Andrew and Jo Warren missed their vocation, as they were amazing snorkel instructors. Much fun was had on the iconic Kiwi rope swing hanging from a huge pohutukawa tree. David Smith took the prize for the best pushing!

The team treasure hunt covered the whole property. Mr Hittle had hidden the clues so well, that one '6 of spades' is still there. Plus, super sleuth Sophie Hunia found the missing '4 of clubs' from last year's treasure hunt! The Rip Tide group were the winners.

The annual camp Drama Challenge was approached with enthusiasm. Groups all put together the ten compulsory items and presented their sketches with great flair. The Rip Tide group of Charlie Rowe, Naiya Patel, Elizabeth Esscher & Sophie Hunia combined with Brad Rowe and Irina Efremova to win this challenge. Their fishing sketch included Jack Sparrow, a mermaid, and a special character dance.



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The Emoji Challenge involved each group creating an emoji character for a tennis ball and then taking it on a lengthy adventure, which had to include a variety of experiences. The Tiny Turtlez group (Toni Warren, Aysha Klaui, Leonardo Fisher and Juliette Traas) took their emoji, Majestical, on the most exciting adventure, which was narrated by Toni with great zest, to win this challenge.

Nightly games of Spotlight were hotly contested, and I entertained the seekers with my annual glow in the dark poi manoeuvres on the waterfront.

The Manaia Olympics were keenly contested by all groups. A lot of laughs were had by the spectators as students attempted to complete the tricky challenges.

The winning 2018 camp team was The Tiny Turtlez.

Thanks to Max Hittle for his amazing leadership at camp. He is so patient and motivational towards all the students.

I really enjoyed educating the students outside the classroom. There is so much learning to be had in the camp situation; everything from patience, perseverance to independence and resilience. Thanks again to all the parents who attended the camp and to all the parents for equipping the students with everything they needed for a great time.

Roll on Camp 2019!

Lynne Alexander & Max Hittle



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Sporting Success

We would like to congratulate the following students on their outstanding efforts at the recent Northland Secondary Schools swimming and triathlon events.

NORTHLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2018 SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Issy Welling

- **2nd** in 11yrs & under girls 100m Breaststroke, achieving **personal best** in final time
- **5th** in 11yrs & under girls 50m Breaststroke

Nathalie Hull

- **2nd** in 14-15yrs girls 100m Backstroke
- **3rd** in 50m fly
- **3rd** in 14-15yrs girls 100m Breaststroke
- **4th** in 50m freestyle

Amy Schuetze

- **10th** in 12-13yrs girls 100m Backstroke
- **9th** in 12-13yrs girls 100m Freestyle

Tracy Schuetze

- **6th** in 14-15yrs girls 100m Backstroke
- **15th** in 14-15yrs girls 100m Freestyle

NSS TRIATHLON RESULTS:

- Hunter Blakeman – 2nd U12 Male
- Lucy Sizer – 3rd U14 Female
- Ollie Huett – 5th U14 Male
- Harry Sizer – 3rd U16 Male
- Nathalie Hull – 1st U16 Female (2nd overall by 22 seconds)



Nathalie Hull

Special mention must be given to Nathalie Hull as she demonstrates her resolve whilst continuing to gain success within her sporting events.

Not only did she perform exceptionally well at the recent Northland Secondary Schools Swimming Championships, Nathalie also competed the very next day in the Northland Secondary Schools Triathlon, gaining 1st place in the U16 Female section.

There was no rest for this young lady, as Nathalie then competed for a THIRD day in a row at the Avoca Short Course Public Triathlon – Open Women's Individual Division. This consisted of a 350m swim, 9km cycle and 3.9km run. In this event Nathalie took out 2nd female!

Nathalie's passion for her sporting events is clear to see and we are sure with these fantastic results, it won't be long before we cheer Nathalie along at the Commonwealth Games or Olympics!



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Library News

Great news in the library! We have a new library management system, which will make borrowing and returning books streamlined and user-friendly. Students and families will now be able to access the library catalogue from devices within the school and at home, as well as researching topics and reserving books. This is a wonderful step forward, and I thank Mr Warren and the management team for supporting the library in this way (next step, a purpose-built 35-storey multimedia centre!).

This year, each book promoted in assembly will be displayed on the stand by the library door to make it easier for students who want to take one of the books out but can't remember its title / author / topic. "I think it had a green cover?".....

We are trying out a new book recommendation sticker: in the front of some of the popular books, I will put a sticker where readers can rate the book in one or two words, give it a star rating or just write their comments for others to enjoy.

Read on, Springbank!

♥ Ms Hatherly



Safety in the carpark.

Just a friendly reminder for everyone at school that the speed limit around the carpark is 10km.

With busy times like morning drop-offs and after school pick-ups, there are a lot of people moving around the carpark. This also includes the buses coming in and out with students as well.

From our youngest friends at Preschool right through to our Senior Students and families, we want to make sure everyone keeps safe in this high movement area.

It's a great idea to remind your children the importance of looking both ways for cars, holding hands of younger siblings and looking out for each other.



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Headstart Report

It has been a fabulous start to the year up at Headstart! We welcomed in 12 new students at the beginning of Term 1, as well as giving a huge welcome to our new teacher Mrs Frame.

So far for Term 1, we have been learning our numbers and how to make them using clay. Every day we learn lots of new words to help us read stories. Part of our literacy programme is to give each child sight words to take home, along with their reader book to share with their family.

We have also been painting in unusual ways and making masks of our favourite animals and superheroes. Plus, we have been learning all about shapes – we found so many shapes in the playground and inside, including a hexagon! Phew! It's been a busy term so far and we are loving it!



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Preschool – Over Threes

We have had a very busy start to the New Year with lots of new children joining our Preschool whanau. We celebrated Valentines Day with discussions on what love means to each of us and then had a yummy heart shaped waffle with cream and strawberries to end our day of Aroha. A few days later, we have had a trip to the Honey Shop to extend our knowledge on our centre interest on Bees. It was amazing to see how hard bees work to make our honey, and to stand in the middle of an actual hive, watching this happen.



Preschool – Infants & Toddlers

The children in the Infant & Toddler Classroom may be some of our youngest friends, but they demonstrate great courage, strength and perseverance as they took on the climbing frame and rope confidence course.



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Ski Trip 2018

After the success of last years ski trip we will be running another trip this year, again to Whakapapa. The dates will be from Sunday 2nd September to Friday 7th.

The format will be the same as last year with the trip open to Years 1 to 10 and the international students (if numbers are limited then it is oldest first). As a guideline, last year the maximum cost was around \$750 including transportation, accommodation, food, ski hire, lesson and lift pass. More details will be sent out early in term 2.

If you have any questions in the meantime then contact Mr McFadden at paul.mcfadden@springbank.school.nz



Regards

Mike Warren
Principal

Thought for the Week

Term 1, Week 4 – Creativity:

“I don’t think outside the box; I think of what I can do with the box.”

- Anon

Courtesy of Mrs Stringer

Term 1, Week 5 – Curiosity:

“Blessed are the curious, for they shall have adventures.”

- L Drachman

Courtesy of Mrs Hatherly



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