



SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

Capability – Character – Confidence



Newsletter No. 12 | December 2022

Dear Springbank Family

And that's a wrap for 2022! Thank you to staff, students and families for a fantastically fulfilling year at Springbank.

It is always a lovely way to end our school year with our annual events. As Year 10 undertook a special surf camp, Options Day was reserved for Middle School. Options Day was a blast as usual, with several options for students to get out and about to experience some exhilaration in our slice of paradise. Junior School undertook their Big Day Out, including 'ice' skating, which was a unique experience! Our Gift Giving was festive, staff farewells were emotional, Prize-Giving was a wonderful celebration, and the Water Fight was **cold!**

It is now time for our staff and students to have a summer break to relax and rejuvenate and enjoy our magnificent country and all that it offers. I hope you manage to spend some quality time with your children outside!

I wish you all a very merry Christmas 🎄 and a happy New Year 🎊, and I look forward to seeing you again in 2023 and welcoming all of our new students as they embark on their Springbank careers.

Dates & Events to Note 2023:

- **Term One** – Tuesday 31st January to Thursday 6th April (10 weeks)
 - **Teacher Only Days** – Thursday 26th and Friday 27th January
 - **Northland Anniversary** – Monday 30th January
 - **Waitangi Day** – Monday 6th February
 - **Mid-Term Monday** – Monday 13th March
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- **Middle and Senior Camps** – Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th February
 - **Room 1 & 2 Camp** – Thursday 16th to Friday 17th February
 - **Year 5 & 6 Camps** – Monday 20th to Friday 24th February



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Geography Trip

To wrap up the Geography studies for 2022, 12 students from the Year 10 and 11 IGSCE Geography classes headed out on a field trip to Paihia on 30th November.

The aim was to investigate tourism in The Bay of Islands by observing human and natural attractions, looking at the advantages and disadvantages of tourism, and analysing the management and sustainability of tourism in the Paihia area.

We were lucky to have some of our of Springbank School parents and a past student join us as guest speakers, to share their knowledge of the area with us.

Warren Batt (Morgan's) dad, is a geologist, and gave us history of the geology of New Zealand and Northland at the Haruru waterfall site. We learned that Northland is the youngest part of New Zealand. Haruru Falls means Big Noise, and radioactive dating dates the basalt columns of the falls to be 1.24 million years old.

Jonny Martin welcomed us to the Waitangi Mountain Bike Park. Jonny runs his business Paihia Mountain Bikes within the park entrance and talked us through the development of the park. He informed us that it took four years before any official paperwork was signed to begin the process of the park; that's a huge negotiation period! Also, that it cost \$2.3 million to develop. The bike park is fully funded by the local organisation, Focus Paihia.

Our third speaker of the day was from Charles Parker (Liam's dad) who worked for Fullers for 12 years. Charles explained how the Waitangi Yacht Club is the main docking point for all cruise ship passengers when they come to shore. Passengers can then easily walk up to the Waitangi Museum or be taken into the Paihia village or Kerikeri. Charles took us through a brief history of tourism in Paihia and explained how regulations have been altered over the years for humans, the environment, and wildlife; thereby changing the management and sustainability of Tourism in Paihia.

The highlight of the day was the cruise ship visiting in the bay on the same day. There were 4000+ passengers on board (excluded the crew) which more than doubles the usual Paihia population of around 1700 people. The students really got the buzz of tourism and felt like tourists in their "home" town. As we got to have the last talk at the site of where the ship cruise docks, Charles kindly arranged for us to all go on the same cruise shuttle bus as the tourists do, so we well and truly got amongst the vibe.



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Certificate Assemblies

On Friday 2nd December we ended Week 8 with our end of year Junior School and Year 7 – 10 Certificate Assemblies.

These assemblies are a celebration of each student's achievements, as every student is presented with a personalised certificate from their class teacher. These certificates reflect the many wonderful qualities of determination, teamwork, kindness, resilience, and capability that our students display every day.

The assemblies are also special for students from Year 6 as they graduate from their final year of Junior School, and students from Year 10 as they head into their final senior years of school.

Thank you to Petr, Sebastian, and Elizabeth for their beautiful piano playing, and thank you to all our parents and extended family members who came along to help celebrate all our amazing students.



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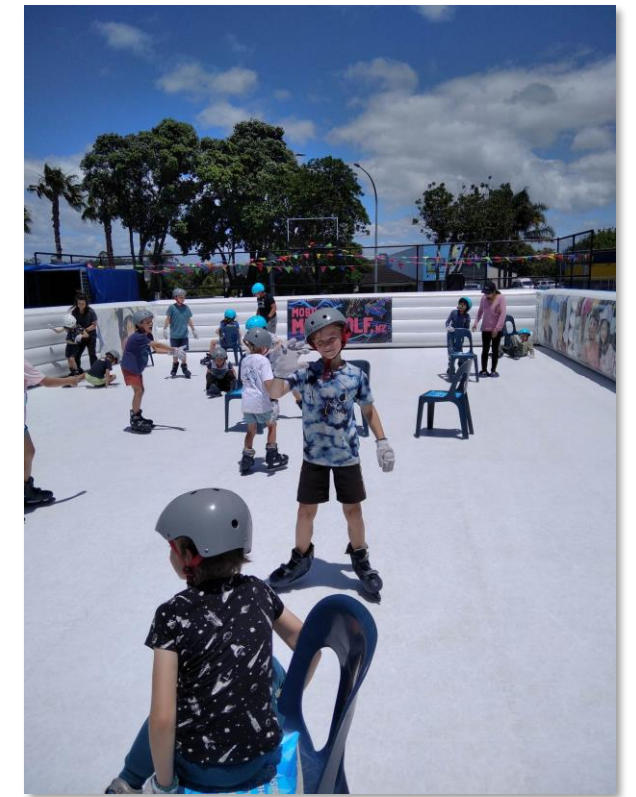
Junior School Big Day Out

Our Year 1-6 students headed into the Kerikeri Domain for their Big Day Out on Monday 5th December. The day started off with a movie *The Nutcracker* at the cinema, before heading over to the domain for some fun in the sunshine.

Our students were able to have a play and explore the cool new playground in town, throw a few balls around, and test out their balance on the artificial ice rink.

The Big Day Out is a great opportunity for the Junior School teachers, parents, and students to celebrate a fantastic school year together. A big thanks to all our parents who could help with transport and stay for the day; we appreciate your support.

Well done, Junior School! Another wonderful school year is complete.



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Options Day



Options Day is always held in the last week of the school year, during which Middle and Senior School students can choose from various activities to participate in. This year the options included a trip to Whangarei, Adventure Forest, sea biscuiting, paintball, and horse riding.

Options Day is a chance for students to have some fun with their friends outside of the classroom and celebrate the end of a successful school year. It was a beautiful day out, with the sun shining for everyone, and there were lots of happy faces retelling of their adventures of the day, once back at school for pick up.

A big thank you to our Middle and Senior School staff and parents who assisted with transport and joined in on the fun for the day.



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Year 10 Camp

The Year 10A and 10B classes headed away to Ahipara for a two day surf camp with Mr Horgan, Mr Epley, and Mrs Haden during the last week of Term Four. The camp was a final chance for both classes to hang out and have some fun together before the end of the school year.

On Monday around lunchtime, everyone started arriving at Ahipara and setting up their tents. We had lunch around a big picnic table and played some volleyball. By 1pm we headed to the beach for a swim. There was also some bat-down (cricket), football, beach walks, and an intense game of touch rugby! We walked back to camp at 3:30pm for a snack and to get ready for our surfing session.

At 5:30pm we met Rangi from Surf Bros who set everyone up with wetsuits, surfboards, and extra instructors. The weather was absolutely outstanding, and we had an amazing evening surf session. Back at camp, Susanna, Mike, and Natalie had cooked up a huge BBQ dinner for everyone so we could eat as soon as we got back from surfing. We had some chill-out time, showers, and a card game of Werewolf, followed by ice-creams. At 9pm, Mrs Haden sent all the adults to hide out around the campground with torches and gathered all the Year 10s together for a game of spotlight. We had to make it up to the dining hall without being spotted by a torch!

On Tuesday morning, a group of keen beans were up for a 5:30am beach walk/run. Then we had breakfast and headed back to the beach for another surfing session. The waves were still good but it was a bit cloudier (no one complained as we'd had plenty of sun the previous day). Not everyone surfed on Tuesday morning but there were a few who made up their own games, read a book, or went for a walk along the beach. We headed back to camp to shower and pack up all our gear, then headed back to school via a pizza lunch stop at Cable Bay.

Thank you to all our Year 10 students for a fabulous couple of days away, and thanks to our parent helpers for your assistance with transport and keeping us all fed.

- Mrs Haden



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Beach Volleyball

Mr Horgan and Mr Epley took six teams to the Northland Secondary Schools Beach Volleyball competition for Years 9 and 10 at Okaihau in late November.

27 teams from local schools took part, and all our Springbank teams placed either 1st or 2nd in their pools. After the semis and finals, one team, the Springbank Habaneros, placed 2nd overall. Another team, the Jalapenos, placed 4th.

A great finish to a busy and fun volleyball season.



Sir Peter Blake Regatta

Brisa Carlyon, Year 8 likes a good sporting challenge and earlier this month put her hand up to race in the biggest sailing regatta for youth in the Southern Hemisphere, the Sir Peter Blake Regatta.

Brisa entered in the Silver open skiff which is the entry class and got a 5th placing, with even a win in one of the races. Everyone was really impressed with her sailing, and Brisa got acknowledged as the most improved sailor.

Along with great sailing on the water, a highlight from the day was seeing the America's Cup. This trophy is the oldest active sporting trophy in the world. And yes, New Zealand are the current holders!



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Staff Farewells

On the last Wednesday of Term Four, we held a farewell assembly for some wonderful staff who are moving on to new adventures.

Stephen and Laila Walsh have been the cleaners and caretakers at Springbank School for 14 years. But now it is time for them to retire, spending more time with their family (which includes 10 grandchildren!), and setting off on some exciting journeys around New Zealand.

Stephen and Laila were thanked for their daily smiles and conversations they've had with staff over the years. A strong theme was their genuine care for not only their work, but their care for others and a care for nature. Stephen and Laila have a wonderful knowledge of plants, and their expertise is seen every day in the beautiful gardens surrounding our school gym. Their work took them all over the school grounds, from the far fields, fitness track, and classrooms, to Laila working as a support teacher down at the Preschool.

Stephen and Laila have been a huge part of the Springbank School family, and we wish them all the very best for their retirement.



Nicole Simonotti was our second staff member to be farewelled. Ms Simonotti has only been with us at Springbank for this year but made an immediate impact with her energy and passion for science and geography. Her students spoke of their enjoyment in class every day and loved learning from her.

Ms Simonotti taught AS Biology, Year 10-11 Geography and Year 6-7 Mathematics, as well as being the Form Teacher for Year 7. It won't be the last we see of Ms Simonotti as she will be on our reliever list for 2023. We wish Ms Simonotti all the very best for a wonderful festive season, and safe travels back to South Africa and France to see family.



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Staff Farewells continues ...



Our final farewell of the morning was for Ms Filer, our Year 5-6 teacher. Ms Filer joined Springbank School in Term Two of 2020, mid-lockdown via Zoom! This was a unique situation due to the Covid lockdowns New Zealand was experiencing at the time, but Ms Filer took it all in her stride and immediately connected with her class.

Ms Filer will be fondly remembered for her wonderful, bright sense of fashion and sparkly smile around the school, along with her fabulous connections with her students. Ms Filer's class was always fun! Whether it was learning maths, English, or science, Ms Filer knew how to make the lessons interesting for her students and help them understand concepts easily.

We will miss Ms Filer's energy in the Junior School, and we know wherever she teaches next, her students will be very lucky. We wish Ms Filer all the very best as she makes the move across the ditch to Sydney with her husband Chris.

Thank you all for your dedication, friendship, and hard work.



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Gift Giving – Bald Angels

Every year in the final week of Term Four, we hold our annual Gift Giving Assembly. The Gift Giving is an opportunity for our students, families, and staff to give generously to our school-wide 'Chosen Charity'. This year we have been supporting Bald Angels.

Bald Angels support families all over Northland, and we were extremely proud to be able to donate Christmas gifts of toys, beach gear, toiletries, games, books, and much more. We know the gifts will truly bring some sparkle and smiles to many faces this festive season.

Our Gift Giving ceremony is never complete without a visit from Santa himself, who kindly took some time away from making Christmas lists to join us. We appreciate how busy his time is, so we hope he enjoyed the many high fives and hugs he received!

A big thank you to Mrs Druery for organising the event this year, along with our Year 10 students who have beautifully decorated the gym and assisted as Santa's helpers.



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School Prize Giving

On Thursday 8th December we celebrated the end of the 2022 school year with our schoolwide Prizegiving. Trophies awarded to our Junior, Middle, and Senior School are linked to our school-wide values of Capability, Character, and Confidence. These include values such as courage, teamwork, honesty & integrity, and leadership, along with Academic Excellence (DUX) and Outstanding Student.

Prizegiving is also an opportunity to celebrate those students who are graduating school to pursue tertiary educational study or head into the workforce.

Our parents and extended families were entertained by our Junior School students singing the song Try Everything, which related well to the valedictorian speech from our Head Girl, Ellie Epley and Head Boy, Ethan Williams who both spoke about giving everything a go, striving for your best and working hard.

The end of the 2022 school year also held special meaning, as Mr Mike Warren was recognised for completing his 10th year as school principal. To finish off Prizegiving, the much anticipated staff video was played with some saying "It's the best one yet!".

You can find the 2022 Staff Video here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF4_wLtAy0c



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Water Fight

Thursday 8th December was our last day of the school year. It was a busy day with Prizegiving in the morning, collecting yearbooks and getting signatures from friends, doing last rounds of classroom tidy ups, all before the annual end of year water fight!

This year students were already wet before the water fight even started, as it was a drizzly cool afternoon. Many commented that this is the first year it has rained for the water fight, but this didn't stop our students from Preschool up to Year 13 heading down to the field to have some fun.

Water guns, balloons, buckets, ice cream containers, and more were filled with water, and as soon as Mr Warren said go, it was on!

The end of year water fight has been a long tradition, and one that brings a lot of laughs, fast feet, and quick aim. Mrs Halliday and Mrs Lynn joined in for the first time as staff, and much to the delight of the students had the last couple of buckets poured over them at the end, along with Mr Warren.

The water fight signals the end of the school year and what a way to finish!



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Welcoming new staff for 2023

We would like to introduce and welcome three new staff who will be joining the Middle and Senior School in 2023.

Samantha Joseph

Kia ora Springbank family

I have the honour of joining the Springbank team in Term 1 (2023). I have a passion for teaching and learning and I am looking forward to being a part of the science department.

I have been teaching for a number of years and my goal is to inspire a lifelong love of learning by creating lessons that are exciting, authentic, engaging, and relevant to the lives of my students.

As a science teacher, one of the things I love to encourage is critical thinking as it enables students to become powerful and thoughtful leaders in their school and community.

My family and I are looking forward to our move to Kerikeri. We currently live in Durban, South Africa and spend most of our free time relaxing on the beach or exploring the great outdoors. We love visiting new places, learning about different cultures and making new friendships. We have dreamed about moving to New Zealand for a number of years and are excited to finally start this new adventure together.

I look forward to meeting you, Samantha Joseph



Belinda Robertson

Dear Springbank Families,

My name is Belinda Robertson. I am very excited to be teaching Physical Education and Social Enterprise at Springbank School next year.

I have been in the education sector for 13 years. 8 years were teaching in Auckland where I taught at Rosehill College, St Cuthbert's College, and Baradene College, and in Northland I have taught at Kerikeri High School. For 5 years I was also a Physical Education and Sport advisor to all Primary and Secondary Schools in Auckland, Waiheke Island, and Great Barrier Island. I have always had a passion for teaching. My goal as a teacher is to ensure all students can reach their potential and to ensure they become confident, competent life-long learners.

We moved up from Auckland 8 years ago, onto our family farm which my husband runs. I also coach gymnastics at the Kerikeri Gymnastic Club. I have two children at Springbank. It has been a wonderful experience for them, and I now feel privileged to be part of this learning community. My hobbies are growing flowers for a local florist and anything to do with sport and the outdoors.

I look forward to meeting you all in the New Year.

Kindest Regards, Belinda Robertson



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Welcoming new staff for 2023 continues ...

Suzie Oakley

Kia Ora Springbank Community,

I am excited to be joining the Springbank team in 2023 to assist with the music curriculum for Years 7 and 8.

I have a huge passion for music and am actively involved with live music performance in and around Northland. I am part of an awesome covers band 'Dogfather', and we regularly play at many great live music venues as well as supporting local community events. I am also involved with the local Kerikeri Theatre Company - writing, recording, and performing music for several of their live shows. I have been teaching music privately for the past ten years and have been an itinerant music teacher for Kerikeri High School (teaching years 7 - 13) for the past four years. I am also a mentor for the Be Free youth programme - an excellent outlet for young people enabling expression through music.

I look forward to becoming part of an excellent team of individuals striving to bring out the best in youngsters on their educational path.

Kind regards,

Suzie Oakley



Suzie rocking out with the Dogfather at our 2022 End of Summer BBQ.



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Headstart Report

That's a wrap for 2022, and what a year it has been! We have had such a busy year exploring the world around us, making new friends, improving on our literacy skills, testing our scientific theories, running the track, swimming and so much more! It's amazing how much we can pack into one year of play and learning. The final "official" week of Term Four was busy. We learnt how to make our own recycled paper, gave generously at the annual Gift Giving morning, took part in the end of year Water Fight, and had an epic day at our Big Day Out.

What a way to end the year with a, bouncy castle, water play, ice skating, yummy food, a visit from Santa and all surrounded by our good friends and family. A big thank you to everyone who helped make our Big Day Out so special. We'd also like to give a huge shout out to Ms Marriner who has finished her teaching at Headstart. Thank you for all your wonderful investigations, stories, learning, and friendship.

We'd like to wish all our Headstart students and families a safe and happy festive season, and we'll see you back in 2023.



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Preschool Round Up

The final few weeks of the year are always a lot of fun, with plenty of festive cheer and joining the big school for activities. We have been practising our Christmas singing for our end of year Christmas carnival, which we held on Friday 16th December. We were so lucky that Santa was able to interrupt his busy schedule to spend the morning with us and celebrate another wonderful year full of fun, investigation, and play.

We joined Headstart and the big school at the annual Gift Giving, where we donated gifts to Bald Angels, who pass these onto families in need around Northland. A highlight of the final week of big school is also a favourite of ours; the Water Fight! Despite the day being a bit gloomy, we grabbed our water guns and marched down to join in the excitement.

We've had a very busy and exciting year at Preschool, and we would like to thank all our amazing children and their families for your friendship, smiles, laughs, and support across the year. We'd like to wish everyone a relaxing, safe, and loving festive season with all your family and friends. We'll see you back in 2023!



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School Production 2023

"End of the Golden Weather"

Next year is SHOWTIME! In collaboration with Nicky Barker, in 2023 we will be producing our biennial school show and have chosen a beautiful play by NZ playwright Bruce Mason, *The End of the Golden Weather*. This poignant play spans an important summer in a boy's life in a small coastal town and features a colourful cast of well-written characters, set against the backdrop of summer and Christmas in 1930s New Zealand. Exploring themes of social conformity, childhood innocence and belief, *The End of the Golden Weather* is a moving piece of theatre which engages audiences young and old.

We will start the year with auditions promptly in Term 1. Rehearsals will be held after school (days and times TBC) and at lunchtimes during Term 1, the Term 1 holidays, and in the first week of Term 2. Dates for the performances will be Week 2, Term 2 (3-6 May). If you think you'd like to be involved in the show, look out for information about auditions at the start of Term 1. Auditions will be open to any student from Year 3 to Year 13.



Merry Christmas! I look forward to seeing everybody on our first day of term, Tuesday 31st January 2023.

Regards,

Mike Warren
Principal

Thoughts for the Week 2022:

Term 4, Week 9:

Aim high

Work hard

Enjoy the journey

Celebrate your achievements

Courtesy of Mr Warren



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