



SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

Capability – Character – Confidence



Newsletter No. 5 | May 2023

Dear Springbank Family

May was another busy month, with some significant events taking place. Of particular note was our schoolwide production, *The End of the Golden Weather*. The next two pages of this newsletter are dedicated to this show, but I wanted to pay a special tribute to Andrea Druery, Nicky Barker, and their full cast, crew, and parent & teacher helpers. What a performance it was! I was blown away by the acting talent that we have at Springbank, many of whom were undertaking their debut performances. Congratulations to all involved – you should be extremely proud of your tireless efforts culminating in two very successful shows.

At the time of writing, school reports have been issued. This time of year can be quite stressful for our teachers who have report-writing duties in addition to their everyday planning, teaching, and marking commitments. And yet, it is clear that our teachers have put in a great deal of time and thought into their students' reports. I am in awe of how many of our teachers can articulate such personalised, thoughtful, and insightful reports. It is indeed proof that our teachers have an in-depth understanding of each of their students' personalities & character, their academic strengths and challenges, and an accurate assessment of their academic level. Our teachers genuinely care. They are invested in each child and are aiming for excellence in academic, social, and character development. I am very fortunate to work with such dedicated teachers, and I thank them for the outstanding job that they do.

Over the course of the last two weeks, in proofreading every student's report, I came away feeling that this set of reports was pretty special. They were overwhelmingly positive, which is evidence that we have amazing, hardworking, diligent students. Of course many of our students have refinements to make and skills to work on for improvement. But I am proud of our students' attitudes and thankful that we have the pleasure to work with such inspiring young people. For this, I offer a heartfelt thank you to our students.

Dates & Events to Note:

- **Inter School Cross Country, Takou Bay – Tuesday 13th June**
- **Year 11-13 Careers Trip – Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th June**
- **Room 4 Science Roadshow, Whangarei – Monday 19th June**
- **Year 1-4 Inter School Cross Country – Wednesday 21st June**
- **Jumping June – Friday 23rd June**
- **Orange Day for World Vision – Friday 23rd June**
- **40 Hour Famine Sleepover – Friday 23rd June**
- **Matariki Celebrations – Thursday 29th June**



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[The End of the Golden Weather](#)

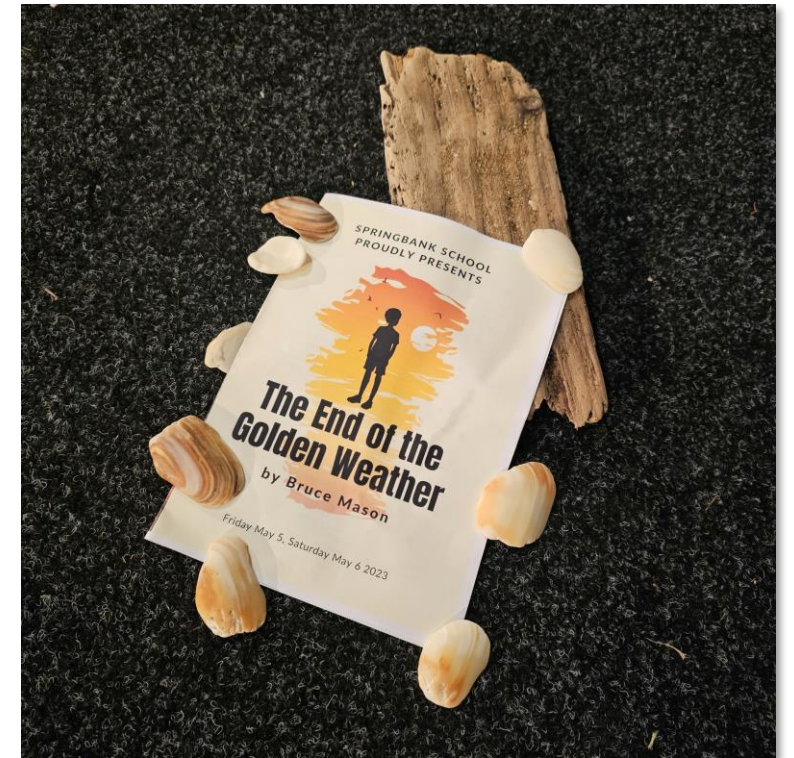
Springbank School was proud to present their bi-annual production over the nights of Friday 5th and Saturday 6th May. This year's production was a play written by Bruce Mason, called 'The End of the Golden Weather'; a beautiful play spanning one summer of a boy's childhood in the coastal town of Te Parenga in the 1930s New Zealand, as remembered and narrated by the boy, Geoff, as an older man.

The production was a moving, warm-hearted piece full of colourful characters and timeless themes. Our production cast and crew had been rehearsing since January under the wonderful Directorship of Nicky Barker and Production Manager, Andrea Druery.

The production was beautifully set with hand painted backdrops, delicate lighting, and excellent props and costumes reflecting the 1930s. Each member of the cast performed their character/s with great enthusiasm, wonderful expression, and all delivered their lines excellently. For some of the actors there was a lot of dialogue to remember, and they did a splendid job.

It was fantastic to see so many students, families, staff, and members of the wider community come along to watch the production and support all the cast and crew.

Congratulations to all the cast and crew for an amazing production!



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[The End of the Golden Weather continues](#)

Boy / Younger Geoff – Charlie Rowe, Year 9

"I decided to audition for the production as I was interested in trying something new. It was hard at first learning all the lines, but I really enjoyed it! I would definitely be part of another production at school and recommend anyone to give it a try; a great experience."

Resident of Te Parenga – Maddie Brook, Year 4

"I wanted to be in the production because I have always wanted to be in a show and get more confidence. The best part was getting a speaking part."

Firpo – James Simpson-Maccabee, Year 10

"I absolutely love acting and being part of a collaborative team working towards a shared goal. The ability to completely immerse myself in a character is an incredibly freeing experience. What truly brings me joy is being surrounded by a group of passionate actors who share the same love for acting, creating a tight-knit crew that feels like a second family. Throughout the show there were many memorable moments both on and off the stage. It's truly awesome to witness everyone fully embodying their characters and seeing the younger members take on their roles. But one moment that stands out to me is when I had the chance to throw my shoes at one of my cast mates. It added that extra touch to my character, Firpo."



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Junior School Duathlon

The annual Springbank Junior School Duathlon was held on Thursday 18th May. This event has been going since 2019, thanks to Jo Warren. After a couple of postponement dates due to bad weather this term, the rain and wind held off long enough on race day for our students from Headstart to Year 6 to compete in the bike and run duathlon.

Three courses are available for students to participate in.

Fantail – bike 1km and run 400m

Kakapo – bike 1.5km and run 1km

Moa – bike 3.9km and run 3.7km

It was another exciting morning with some fast-paced times, and students giving it their all out on the track. The fitness track was a little bumpier than previous years, so for some of our younger students it was a test of their endurance and determination to complete the race, and they all stepped up to the challenge. For our Year 6 students this is their final year doing the duathlon, and every one of them went out firing with huge energy to get to that finish line.

Thanks to our Junior School teachers, parents, and senior students for helping assist our students around the track, logging finishing times and supporting everyone.

The biggest thanks go to Jo Warren. Well done on another excellent duathlon!



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We take pride at Springbank for being a friendly, welcoming, and inclusive community to all of our students, from our youngest at Preschool right up to Year 13. Everyone knows each other, says hi to one another, supports and encourages each other, and is proud to be part of the Springbank campus.



Northland Secondary Schools Orienteering

The Northland Secondary Schools Sports (NSSS) Junior Orienteering was held at Springbank School on May 19th. We were delighted to be able to host the event again, and we are thrilled to announce that Springbank School achieved some superb placings.

94 students from Springbank and 5 other schools from around Northland navigated their way around our fitness track, looking for the various checkpoints and trying to get back to the finish line in the shortest time possible.

Well done to all the competitors on the day, and congratulations to the following students who gained a top five placing:

Year 7 and 8 Team	Year 9 and 10 Team
1st – Springbank School (Marco, Jacob, Gaby and Sam)	2nd – Springbank School (Jamie, James, Clay, and Raidon)
3rd – Springbank School (Amber, Ramneet, Harry R, and Finn)	3rd – Springbank School (Simon, Patrick, Toni, and Ava)
Year 7 and 8 Girls Individual	Year 7 and 8 Boys Individual
1st – Amber Warren	1st – Harry Robertson
2nd – Gaby Morrison	2nd – Marco Moore
	3rd – Ethan Shepherd
	4th – Finn Mason
Year 9 and 10 Girls Individual	Year 9 and 10 Boys Individual
1st – Brisa Carlyon	1st – Clay Blakeman
3rd – Toni Warren	5th – Simon Kistemaker

To see more photos from the day you can head along to our school Facebook or Instagram pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/springbankschool>

<https://www.instagram.com/springbankschoolkerikeri/>



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Junior School Disco

On Friday 19th May, the school gym was turned into a glowing dance party for the Junior School Disco. Students from Years 1 - 6 hit the gym from 4 - 6pm to dance the afternoon away with their friends.

The party was non-stop with awesome music from DJ Thomas (one of our school parents) whose DJ system included not only great songs, but a cool light show and smoke machine. The students also enjoyed some hot pizza, a drink, and dessert in amongst all the dancing.

It was a fantastic afternoon, with smiles, laughs, and cheers heard all afternoon long. A big thank you to all the parents who were able to help with the disco setup and be present at the event. It's with your support that the disco ran so smoothly and that everyone had such an epic time. Thanks must also go to the Friends of Springbank committee who donated funds towards the disco; this financial contribution helped make the event a success.

At the end of the night, all the students were asked if they'd like another disco to happen, and it was with loud cheers and a resounding consensus, that 'YES', they would love to have another disco. So, watch this space!



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Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

A group of 11 students from Years 12 and 13 went down to Auckland (with Mrs Hittle in tow) to participate in the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) at Auckland Girls' Grammar School. We arrived on Thursday evening and lugged our gear for miles upon miles (at least 900 metres) to our accommodation. With full bellies after a night of indulgent food and intense Shuffleboard matches (but sadly, no Karaoke), we frantically rewrote and practised our speeches and then headed to bed in anticipation of the big event.

We woke ready for global domination and the undermining of our enemies. We set off, dressed in our national garb, starving but hopeful, on a long and wearying walk to MUNA, only to be met on arrival with 10 flights of stairs. Undaunted, we trudged up to the top and were rewarded with breakfast and the pandemonium of hundreds of costume clad teenagers excited to begin the day.

Over the course of the two-day event, students from 50 plus schools presented to their peers in the Model United Nations their views regarding five global issues (remits).

Springbank represented three countries: Myanmar, Monaco, and North Korea. Each country gave two speeches on two of the five issues relevant to them. One of the more popular topics was that of the Russia-Ukraine war, which all our teams had an opinion on. The Russian delegation obviously had a lot to say on the subject with highly controversial ideas – our North Korean team were their staunch allies, throughout. There was never a dull moment. Not a second passed without the arrival of a note requesting some alliance or other, the current speaker making rather questionable and controversial remarks, or simply entertaining their audience of fellow delegates.



Portia, Jaluka, and Lucy representing Myanmar.



Reuben, Briar, and Jan representing Monaco.



Raffi, Hunter, and Youssef representing North Korea.



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Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) continues

At the end of each remit, delegates were allowed to make amendments to them if the majority agreed, so we ended up with some outrageous additions. One was the reenactment of the death penalty in justice systems across the world. Myanmar and North Korea were especially fond of this measure. Meanwhile, Monaco flaunted their wealth and looked every inch the royals as they represented their principality.

All in all, it was a swanky and instructive trip - we met a multitude of new people and formed a plethora of lasting bonds, had some powerfully competitive Shuffleboard tournaments, learnt important and interesting information concerning problems on a global scale in a well-simulated UN environment, consumed a hearty number of doughnuts, and had a wonderful time. It is fair to say that our MUNA experience was unequivocally excellent, and we would like to thank Mrs Hittle. We would also like to thank the Friends of Springbank, the Waipapa Rotary, and the Rotary Club of Downtown Auckland for their generous sponsorship, which allowed us to participate.

- MUNA team 2023



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Year 8 Field Trip

On Tuesday 23rd May, our Year 8 Art class, along with their teacher Mrs Snedden, headed along to the Baxter Quarry in Kerikeri to learn about the different uses of aggregate and its importance. Aggregate is crushed rock, gravel, and sand, which makes up the bulk of products we quarry in New Zealand.

The visit was also part of a new competition called Rock Our Future, run by the Aggregate & Quarry Association. Students are encouraged to visit a local quarry and then design a poster depicting three everyday uses of aggregate with explanations. There are some fantastic prizes up for grabs including \$1,000 prizes for winning schools and \$100 Prezzy Cards for individual winning students.

Good luck to our Year 8 Art students with creating your posters!



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Cross Country 2023

We ran our annual Cross Country Day on Friday 26th May, and it was a stunning day! The sun was in full force, and there wasn't a hint of a rain cloud this year. The conditions were perfect for a solid run around the course, with just enough mud to dodge (or fall in for some) at the bog.

Cross Country is run by our youngest friends at Preschool right up to Year 13 students, along with the opportunity for staff and parents to gain house points by running in the Junior and Middle/Senior School races.

Our Junior students compete first in the morning, and there were some super-fast runners, which was exciting to watch, and we can't wait to see how they keep progressing each year. The Junior Parent/Teacher race saw a huge turnout with over 30 competitors, which is just awesome.

After lunch it was the Middle and Senior students' turn to get running, and again the pace this year was quick. Students pushed themselves hard, giving it all they had on the course, with some exciting finishing times.

It was great to see students getting into the spirit of the day, dressing up in their house colours, cheering on their peers, and enjoying the great day of weather.

Thank you to the Friends of Springbank who cooked up a yummy sausage BBQ for everyone. And thanks to numerous staff, students, and parents who helped with the Cross Country set up, running of the day, and pack down.

There was a lot of grit and determination shown at Cross Country this year, and everyone should be proud of their efforts. Here are just a few of the shots taken from the day.



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Cross Country 2023 continues



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International News

Two of our International students have been busy learning to SCUBA dive this term. Tristan completed his course back in April, but Hiroto's course was delayed with weather and repairs to Kawakawa pool. Both students are now fully certified to dive to 18 meters anywhere in the world. We would like to thank DiveZone in Waipapa for providing our students with the skills and knowledge to safely explore the underwater world.



If you would like to learn more about hosting an international student, please contact Jo Warren at jo.warren@springbank.school.nz for more information, and she will be happy to discuss our programme with you.



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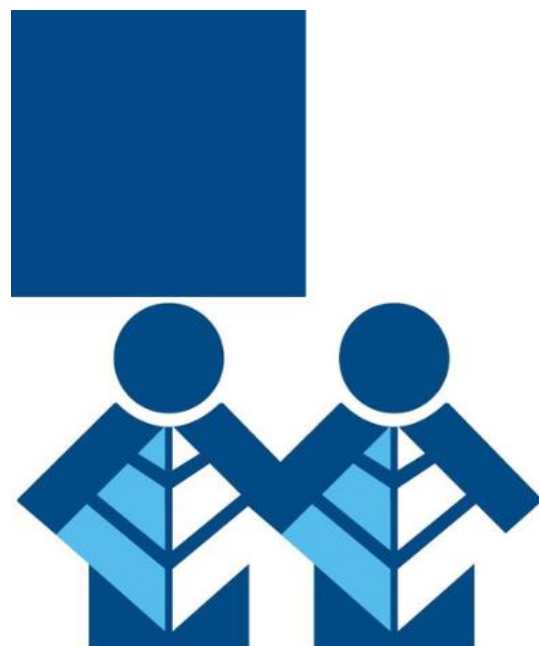
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Upcoming Meeting Date

**FRIDAY
21ST JULY
2:00PM**

IN THE SCHOOL STAFF ROOM

Parents from Preschool, Headstart and School all welcome to join.



Friends of
SPRINGBANK

Carpark Safety Reminder

It is important that as a school community we work together to ensure the safety of everyone in the carpark. The safety of our students is a top priority for us.

Safety measures include:

- ✓ Driving slowly at or below the 10km limit.
- ✓ Slowing down and stopping at the pedestrian crossing.
- ✓ Looking out for the judder bars and slowing down.
- ✓ Do not pass vehicles that are in the process of reversing.
- ✓ Giving way to buses.
- ✓ No use of cell phones while driving.
- ✓ Holding your child's hand in the carpark.
- ✓ No parking in areas with the NP sign or non-designated car parks.
- ✓ No parking in the bus bay. For quick drop offs please head to the gravel area at the bottom of the carpark.



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Headstart Report

We are fortunate to be able to explore the wider grounds of the Springbank School campus on a regular basis and share these experiences with our older friends. After a few weeks of hard work training for the Junior Duathlon and Cross Country, we celebrated by toasting some marshmallows with our Buddy Reading class from Year 5.

The weather had finally settled as well, so it was the perfect opportunity to end a successful week and enjoy the sunshine with our friends.



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Preschool Update

Wow, what a busy month May was!

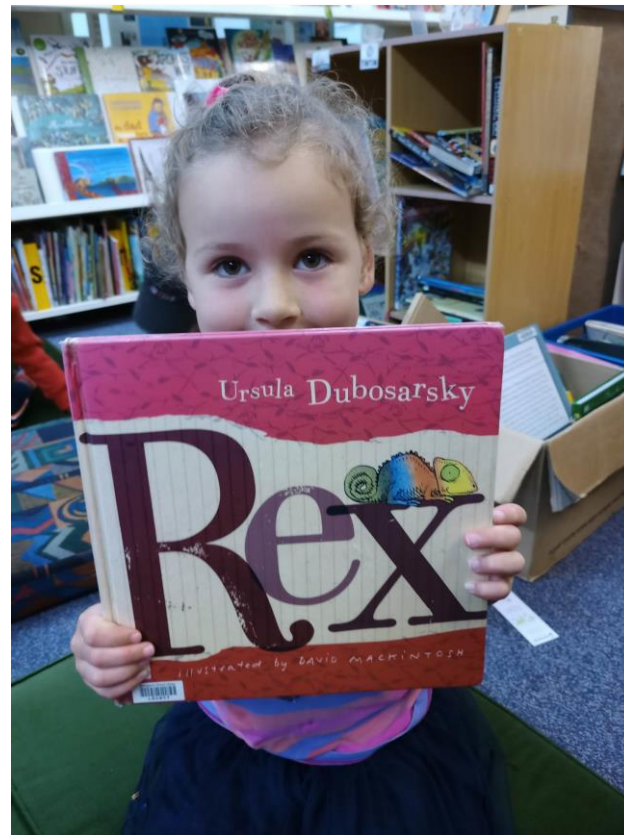
May started off very wet and windy, which had us all wondering whether the rain was ever going to stop. For Preschool, the weather meant lots of indoor activities, visits to the gym and exploring our beautiful surroundings in our gumboots and rain jackets.

May also saw our Tamariki enjoying the school library, visiting Headstart, farm walks, feeding our hungry eels, dancing with Sherry, swimming at little dippers and enjoying Playball with Coach Dean.

We spent a good deal of time practicing for Cross Country, which was an absolute hit by the way! What a day it was, the sun finally deciding to shine down on us. We have to say it was an absolute pleasure, witnessing our parents and children out running the cross country together. We were extremely proud of each and every one of you.

This month we said goodbye to two amazing teachers. Lucy Sizer is travelling overseas, and we are hoping to see her back in November. Our beautiful Mal Ruwhiu, after 20 years of teaching, has decided it is time to try something new in a different industry. Her presence at Preschool will be greatly missed.

We cannot wait to see what June has in store for Preschool. We are hoping the sun sticks around for a wee while yet.



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Date Reminders

Term Two School Holidays

- Saturday 1st July to Sunday 16th July

Term Three

- Monday 17th July to Friday 22nd September (10 weeks)

Term Three School Holidays

- Saturday 23rd September to Sunday 8th October

Term Four

- Monday 9th October to Thursday 7th December (9 weeks)
- Labour Day – Monday 23rd October – Springbank School closed
- Teacher Only Day – Friday 8th December

Our 2023 Schoolwide Focus is **The Springbank Way**. The Springbank Way is a set of principles and values that we, as staff and students of Springbank School, aspire to uphold. In assembly for each of the four school terms, we are highlighting one of the four themes of The Springbank Way, through our Thought for the Week (eg on the right hand column of this page ->).

Term Two's theme is Positive Relationships. It has been wonderful to hear from staff and students about what Positive Relationships means to them, and taking on board their advice on how we can establish and maintain positive relationships in each of our lives.

So far, The Springbank Way has been an excellent Schoolwide Focus, and I look forward to covering the remaining themes by the end of this year.

Regards,



Mike Warren
Principal

Thoughts for the Week 2023:

Term 2, Week 3:

"Kind words are like honey – sweet to the soul and healthy for the body."

Courtesy of Mrs Foster

Term 2, Week 4:

"Always Aloha"

Aloha Spirit is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self.

Courtesy of Mr Epley

Term 2, Week 5:

"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you; spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life."

- Amy Poehler

Courtesy of Mrs Hittle

Term 2, Week 6:

"Be the change you want to see."

Courtesy of Ms Rose



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