



SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

Developing Capability ◆ Character ◆ Confidence in an exceptional educational environment.

Newsletter No.12 December 2025



[Message from the Principal](#)

Dear Springbank family,

Reflecting on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for our students, staff, parents, and wider community who have brought our values of Capability, Character, and Confidence to life. At the heart of Springbank is the belief that students thrive in a supportive environment, and this year we have seen that spirit shine. Thank you to all our families, as together, we have fostered a culture of kindness and encouragement that has allowed every learner to flourish.

The last week of term was truly exhilarating! Highlights included our final assembly where we farewelled Ms Fallows, held our Christmas Gift Giving for Hospice, the Big Day Out for our Junior School to Matauri Bay, the Options day for our Middle and Senior School students, certificate assemblies, our final prize giving, and the much-anticipated end-of-year water fight. The prize giving ceremony was especially memorable as this was our biggest ever group of graduates, and their heartfelt final speeches caused a few tears. Our graduates really are quite amazing. As for the water fight, it was an absolute blast on a hot afternoon, but Mr Warren, we need more time next year! It was lovely to see Jill Hatherly our wonderful librarian, at 74 years of age, getting right into it!

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year. May you enjoy quality time with your loved ones while exploring the incredible region we are lucky to call home. Stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Tina Hallowes

Principal



Term & Holiday Dates 2026

Term 1: 27 January to 2 April (10 weeks)

Term 2: 20 April to 26 June (10 weeks)

Term 3: 20 July to 25 September (10 weeks)

Term 4: 12 October to 3 December (8 weeks)

Teacher Only Days: Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd January

Northland Anniversary: Monday 26th January

Waitangi Day: Friday 6th February

Good Friday: Friday 3rd April (*NB: Easter is during our school holiday break*)

Easter Monday: Monday 6th April

Easter Tuesday: Tuesday 7th April

ANZAC Day: Saturday 25th April (*observed on Monday 27th April*)

King's Birthday: Monday 1st June

Matariki: Friday 10th July (*NB: Matariki is during our school holiday break*)

Labour Day: Monday 26th October

Teacher Only Day: Friday 4th December



Camp Dates 2026

Year 1 to 3 Camp – Wednesday 4th to Thursday 5th February

Year 4 to 6 Camp – Tuesday 3rd to Thursday 5th February

Year 7 to 13 Camp – Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th March

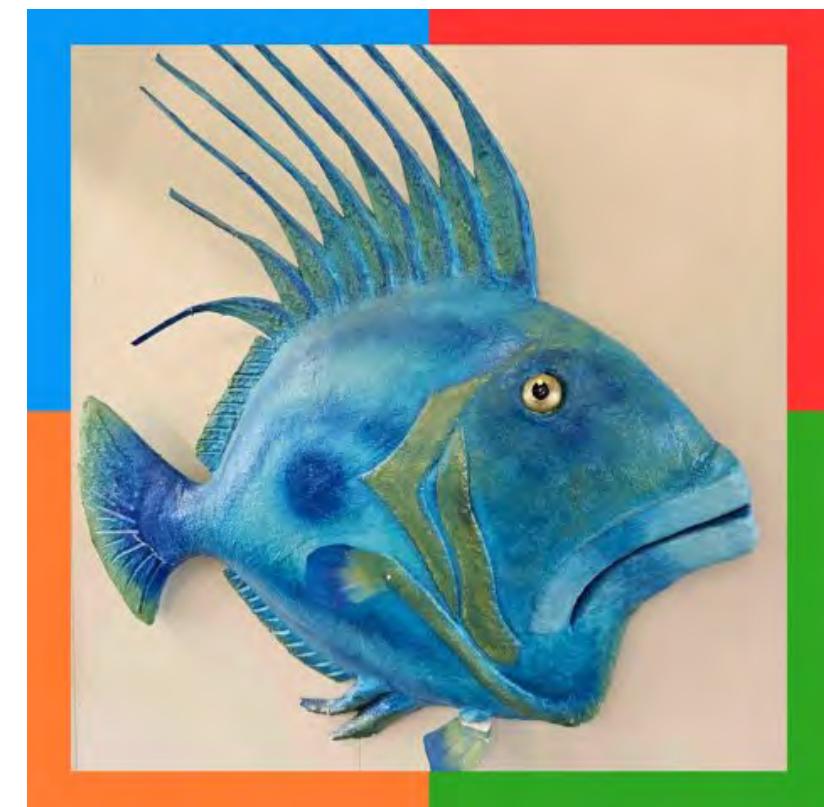
House Placings 2025

1st – **OCRAS 3409 points**

2nd – **STINGRAYS 3253 points**

3rd – **SHARKS 3029 points**

4th – **DOLPHINS 2909 points**



[Northland Secondary School Sports \(NSSS\) – Beach Volleyball](#)

The last event of the NSSS 2025 calendar was held on Friday 28th November at Okaihau College with Beach Volleyball.

Mr Barker went along with two teams, and they had a fantastic time. Springbank A won all three of their games, while Springbank B just missed out on winning with only seconds to go on the clock.

Thanks to the Friends of Springbank committee for helping fund part of the costs for this event, and Mr Barker for coaching and supporting the students.



[Northland Secondary School Sports Association \(NSSSA\)](#)

The Northland Secondary Schools Sports Association (NSSSA) has been in existence for over 20 years. Initially it was made up of an informal group of teachers who were in charge of sport at each Northland Secondary School.

As more students became involved with sport, and events increased in the early 1990s a Sports Coordinator role was created alongside Sport Northland, and this relationship still exists today.

NSSSA events are open to students in Year 7 to 13, and cover both individual and team events.

Springbank School is proud to offer our students the opportunity to participate in as many events as possible, subject to enough student interest, staff and transport availability.

2025 has been another busy and successful year, and I'd like to thank and congratulate all students who have represented school with great confidence, skill, and great sportsmanship.

- Angela Warren

Term 1

- Rangatahi Coaching Day
- Futsal Senior Boys
- Futsal Senior Mixed
- Volleyball Senior Boys
- Tennis Individual
- Track & Field
- Paddleboarding, Year 7&8
- Volleyball Senior Girls
- Swimming Champs

Term 2

- Squash Individual Champs
- Cross Country Champs

Term 3

- BOI Beast
- Futsal Festival, Year 7&8

Term 4

- Hockey 5s, Year 7&8
- Fast 5 Netball
- Golf Festival
- Beach Volleyball

Farewell to Crystal Fallows

To begin the month of December, we held our last school assembly for the year and said farewell and thank you to Ms Fallows. Ms Fallows joined Springbank School at the beginning of the year, taking over Room 4 to teach Year 5&6. This was a new teaching shift for Ms Fallows as she had previously taught high school level, so she was coming into a new school, a new year level, and a new curriculum.

Ms Fallows loves a challenge and took on her teaching role in Room 4 with energy and enthusiasm. Her students loved her and she will be missed. We wish Ms Fallows all the very best on her next teaching journey.



Ruma Wha



Celebrating Mrs Foster

At our final assembly we also celebrated Mrs Foster, who has been teaching at Springbank School for 20 years!

Mr Warren highlighted how wonderful and respected Mrs Foster is, and how much all her students love her. He described how Mrs Foster is the epitome of The Springbank Way; selfless, positive, creates lasting differences, is an amazing teacher and all-round wonderful human!

We know Mrs Foster doesn't like too much fuss, but we couldn't pass the opportunity to thank her again for her dedication to all her students that come through Room 1. They are so blessed to have a teacher like Mrs Foster.

Bring on the next 20 years 😊



100 Club

Throughout the year our students run around the fitness track during fitness and PE classes, trying to clock up as many kms as they can.

If a student achieves running 100km in one term, they are awarded a hoodie, and every subsequent 100km is added to the back. We would like to congratulate the following students who ran 100km across Term Four.

There were several students in the Junior School who also ran an impressive 75 or 50km, which is a fantastic achievement. Running is not a favourite fitness activity for all students, but we are really proud of everyone for giving it their best, pushing hard, and not giving up.

Term Four 100km

- Toa – 100km
- Arlo – 100km
- Maddie B – now at 200km
- Lochie – now at 300km
- Camilla – now at 300km
- Olive K – now at 300km
- Cohen – now at 300km



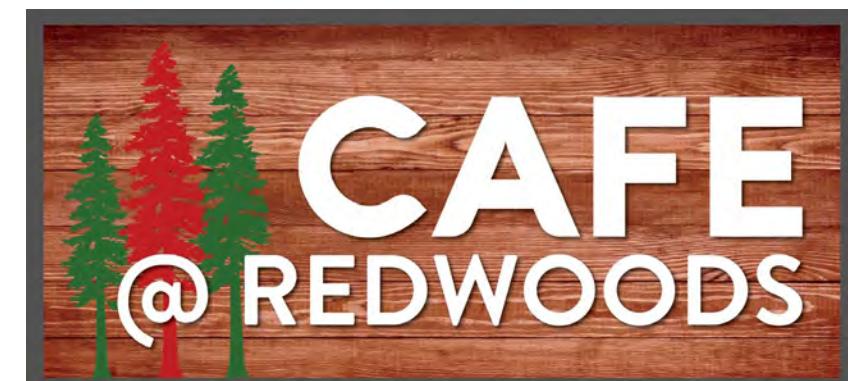
Memorable Moments (MMs)

Across each term, students have the opportunity to earn MMs. MMs are earned when students reflect qualities such as helpfulness, teamwork, excellent listening skills, good time management, and all those extra memorable moments that their class teacher or other staff notice.

Students are rewarded with a \$20.00 café voucher kindly donated by Café @ Redwoods.

Congratulations to the following students who received the most MMs for Term Four.

- Room 1 – Alice
- Room 2 – Jordan
- Room 3 – Toa
- Room 4 – Camilla
- Year 7 – Robert
- Year 8 – Amelia
- Year 9 – Isabella



Gift Giving – Hospice Mid-Northland

Every year during the last week of school, we hold our annual Christmas Gift Giving ceremony, and this year we were proud to support Hospice Mid-Northland.

It was a delightful afternoon, and we are extremely proud of the kindness and generosity that our students and families displayed, with the massive amount of food items and Christmas treats being donated. There are many patients and families in Hospice care who may miss out on that little bit of extra Christmas cheer and treats at this time of the year. The donations of food, Christmas sweets, and crackers will truly bring some sparkle and smiles to many faces these Christmas holidays. 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.

Thank you to Mrs Joseph and Ms Wils for organising the event this year, along with our Year 10 students who assisted as Santa's Helpers.



Big Day Out & Options Day

During the last week of school for the year, our students' classroom learning slows down and it's all about having fun and celebrating a great year.

Big Day Out – students from Headstart to Room 4 ventured up to Matauri Bay this year as a group, to enjoy the sun, sand, and surf. The weather was looking a little grey with predicted rain showers, but thankfully the rain held off until pack up time, and our students, parents, and teachers all enjoyed a calm day out. A huge thank you to all the wonderful parents who came along for the day to play some beach games, swim, relax, and laugh together.



Options Day was back for 2025. Students could either take part in a day trip to Otehei Bay, go to paintball, have a blast on the ski biscuit at Opito Bay, or go down to the Adrenaline Water Park near Whangarei. The weather was looking a bit wet for the activities, but the weather gods must have been on our side with settled weather, and all reports back from students was positive and happy.



Certificate Assemblies – Junior & Middle School

Celebrations continued on Wednesday 3rd December with our Certificate Assemblies. First up at 9am, students of Junior School (Rooms 1-4) each receive a personalised certificate from their teacher highlighting their successes, character strengths, and special memories from the year.

The last part of the Junior School Certificate Assembly is focused on the Year 6 students, as they complete their final year in Junior School. Each student gets a moment to share one or two of their favourite memories, as well as throwing (if they wish) their handmade graduation cap, signalling their next step into Middle School.



The Year 7 to 10 Certificate Assembly is held at 11am, and students from Year 7 to 10 also each receive a personalised certificate from their form teacher. The class placings of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for individual subjects are announced, along with overall class placings. Student representatives from each year level share their highlights, followed by a class video. The Certificate Assemblies are a fantastic opportunity to celebrate a successful school year, and acknowledge the capability, character, and confidence demonstrated by all the students.



2025 Prize-giving

On Thursday 4th December, the last day of school, we start the day with our full school wide prize-giving. The school prize-giving is a celebration of achievement for students from the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools. Individual character strength awards, senior subject awards, and Dux and Outstanding Student awards are presented.

Our graduating Year 13 students also have a moment to shine as they end their high school education and move onto tertiary study or travel. We are so proud of our 2025 Year 13 class and wish them all the very best for their next chapter of learning and adventure.

The famous staff video was also back to end the prize-giving, with an entertaining performance to the toe tapping tune of Footloose. We would like to congratulate all our students on another outstanding year. You should all be very proud of yourselves. We look forward to seeing you back in 2026.



2026 Prefect Team & Senior Leaders

This year we had 17 students from Year 12 and 13 apply for a position on the Prefect Team for 2026. This is a huge number of applicants and the calibre of written letters and interviews was exceptionally high, making the appointment of the team very hard. A team of nine students have been appointed, with the remaining students being given a Senior Leader role.

Those who haven't initially made the 2026 Prefect team have the opportunity to work towards promotion across Term One. We would like to thank and congratulate all 17 students who applied for Prefect 2026. The confidence you have shown to take that first step in applying for the role, demonstrates your leadership ambitions, communication skills, and enthusiasm for school which highlights what amazing senior students we have at Springbank.

2026 Prefect Team



Head Boy – Ronan Leung

Head Girl – Evie Trotter

Deputy Head Boy – Clay Blakeman

Deputy Head Girl – Toni Warren

Prefects – Jacob Finch, Aysha Legler-Klaui, Patrick Finch, Raidon Reich and Doungkamon Jirawatroongruang (KK)



2026 Senior Leaders



Top Row: Amelie Gilliver-Dittrich, Brisa Carlyon, Fynn Dalzell and Imogen Spooner

Bottom Row: Paul Leitz, Sebastian Mottl, Simon Kistemaker and Taisei Epley

End of Term Four Water Fight

Our annual water fight is always a highlight on the last day of Term Four, and this year the prospect of being splashed with cold water was very welcome, with the recent hot and muggy days. This year we had new staff members join in for the first time; Ms Fallows, Mr Dryburgh, and Mrs Dryburgh... plus Ms Hatherly participated in the water fight for the very first time in her 23 years at Springbank School!

Our youngest friends from Preschool once again joined us in their fenced off zone, and the giggles and smiles on their faces as they blasted water guns and balloons at the older students was pure delight.

The end of year water fight is always fun, and it is wonderful to see senior students come back for the afternoon to join in.



Headstart Report

Headstart were proud to support Bald Angels at this year's Market Day back in November. The students raised over \$200.00 that went towards purchasing toys and activities for children in the Far North. On Wednesday 3rd December, Kim, a Bald Angel's helper, stopped into Headstart and collected the gifts from our children.

We would like to wish everyone a safe, happy, and relaxing festive season. Thank you for a wonderful year.



Preschool Update

On Tuesday 2nd December, while the big kids were out at their Big Day Out and Options Day activities, we had the whole school to ourselves. How lucky are we?! We got to explore all over the school grounds, but our favourite place was the gym.

Who knew learning to take responsible risks could be so much fun! Risky play encourages children to take on challenges to build confidence, learn their boundaries, and develop skills physically, like these tamariki are!

We can't believe it is holiday time. We've had the best time at Preschool this year learning, exploring, playing, and making friends. Have the most amazing holiday break, everyone. We look forward to joining in with big school activities in 2026.

