

SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

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

Newsletter No.01 January 2026

Dear Springbank Families,

Happy New Year, and welcome to 2026! I hope you have made the most of the incredible summer weather we have been having (not to mention the great fishing!). I had a very busy summer hosting my daughter's wedding and entertaining endless visitors. However, I finally waved goodbye to the last of the guests and got my home back in order on the 11th, just in time to return to school on the 12th refreshed and ready to go.

We are thrilled to kick off the year by sharing the results of the 2025 Cambridge International Examinations. These results reflect the dedication, hard work, and passion of our students and teachers. Please see page 4.

This year, we are excited to welcome Steph Mitchell to the team to teach English. We also welcome 26 new domestic students and their families, along with four new international students whom Jo is currently settling in. A heartfelt thank you to the families hosting our international students; it is a wonderful way to showcase the spirit of Springbank. (Please note, Jo will be looking for more homestays for our July intake later this year!).

Save the Date: Welcome Back BBQ - based on community feedback, we are evolving our "Meet the Teacher" event into a more relaxed social gathering. On Thursday, 29th January (3:30 pm – 6:00 pm), members of the Friends of Springbank committee, staff, prefects and student leaders invite you to a Welcome Back BBQ. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with teachers, meet other parents, welcome new families, and celebrate Springbank School turning 30 years!

We would love to see you there. Here is to another exciting year ahead!

Tina Hallowes



2026 Dates to note

- **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)
- 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



Term One Events to note

- **Welcome Assembly** – Tuesday 27th January 8:50am
 - Students will go to their year & form classes at the first bell for a welcome before assembly.
- **Regular Timetable starts** – Wednesday 28th January
- **Springbank Welcome Back BBQ** – Thursday 29th January 3:30pm to 6:30pm
- **Inter-House Games** – Friday 30th January, period 6 & 7
- **Year 1-13 Camp** – Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th February
- **Year 4-6 Camp** – Tuesday 3rd to Thursday 5th February

Term One Events to note continues ...

- **Kapa Haka begins** – Wednesday 11th February
- **Northland Secondary School Sports begin** – Week Five
- **Netball Umpiring Course** – Sunday 1st March, runs for five weeks
- **Auckland University Talk** – Monday 2nd March
- **Year 7 to 13 Camps** – Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th March
- **Headstart Camp** – Friday 13th March
- **St Patrick's Day** – Tuesday 17th March
- **School Photos** – Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th March

2026 School Wide Focus

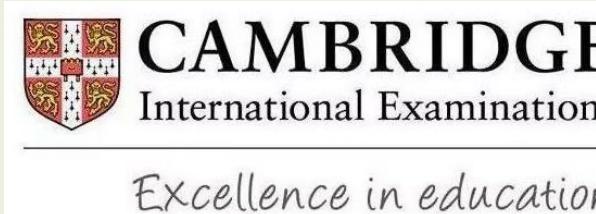
- **Habit Forming**
- **Goal Setting**



2025 Springbank School Exam Results!

We are excited to share our 2025 Cambridge International examination results, which once again reflect the dedication of our students and teachers. Their hard work has paid off, and we're very proud of what they've achieved. The Cambridge International Curriculum, with its academic challenge and global standards, continues to support our students in building the skills they need for life beyond school. Here's a quick look at their accomplishments:

AS and A2 Level (University Entrance Papers)	IGCSE	Checkpoint
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 92% of all papers gained a pass grade. ❖ 21% of all papers were A Grade or above. ❖ 100% of Year 13 students gained enough points for University Entrance. ❖ Over half of our 2025 Year 12 students have already gained University Entrance. ❖ Art & Design gained excellent results with an average mark of 80%. <p>Special mention to the following students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ronan Leung (Year 12) – averaged 90.3% across his subjects. ❖ India Clarke (Year 13) – averaged 88.8% across her four subjects with an excellent 93% in AS Business. 	<p>YEAR 10 (English, Maths, and Science)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The overall pass rate was 86%. This is an excellent result as this class have studied these IGCSE subjects for one year (not two), and it is the first year that we have had Year 10s sit IGCSE examinations. ❖ 95% of students passed English, with three A grades. <p>YEAR 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 86% of all papers were passed. ❖ 25% of all papers were an A grade – congratulations to those students who received these. ❖ The average mark across all papers was 66% ❖ Art & Design gained excellent results with an average mark of 83% <p>Special mention to the following students who gained some strong results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Amelie Gilliver-Ditrich – received 6 A or A* grades, averaging 90% across all her subjects. Her top scores were 95% in Maths and 94% in Science! ❖ Imogen Spooner – obtained 94% in Art and Design. ❖ Toni Warren – obtained 93% in English. 	<p>Lower Secondary Checkpoint – Year 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Our results for the 2025 Year 9 Checkpoints were pleasing with Springbank School achieving on par or above the international average. Superb results for science. <p>Average grades across all of the Year 9 cohort (grading system is out of a total of 50):</p> <p>English: 36 (international average of 34)</p> <p>Mathematics: 31 (international average of 31)</p> <p>Science: 40 (international average of 32)</p> <p>Primary Checkpoint – Year 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ We would like to congratulate the Year 6 class on their solid results. Year 6 Checkpoint is the first introduction to exams for our oldest Junior School students which can be daunting, but everyone studied hard and achieved some excellent results. <p>English: 33 (international average 34)</p> <p>Mathematics: 32 (international average 32)</p> <p>Science: 36 (international average 34)</p>



Springbank School Staff 2026

We would like to introduce all of our staff members for 2026. We have a superb team of teachers who are passionate about providing your children with the very best educational experience at Springbank School. If you wish to contact a member of staff, you can email them by using firstname.surname@springbank.nz

Mike Warren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director & Owner / Finance / IT Admin
Tina Hallowes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal / IGCSE Mathematics Extension

Middle and Senior School – Years 7 to 13

Ryan Barker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form Teacher Year 8 • Years 7 to 11 PE / Health • Outdoor Education • Fitness 	Vicky Binedell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS Mathematics • A2 Mathematics • AS Psychology
Michelle Chapman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Principal Middle and Senior School • Form Teacher Year 13 • Year 7 to 9 Future Studies • Year 9 Global Studies • Year 10 and 11 Business Studies • Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) 	Mark Dryburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form Teacher Year 9 • Year 7 to 9 ICT • Year 7 & 8 Mathematics • Year 7 to 9 Music • Year 9 Science • A2 Physics • Fitness
Neldie Dryburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Lab Tech • Year 7 & 8 Mathematics 	Mark Epley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form Teacher Year 11 • Year 10 Geography • IGCSE Geography • AS Geography • AS Global Studies • Outdoor Education
Sara Hittle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 English 	Gwyneth Hulse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 to 9 Art • Year 10 & 11 IGCSE Art and Design • AS Art and Design
Samantha Joseph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form Teacher Year 10 • Year 10 & 11 Science • AS Biology • A2 Biology • AS Chemistry 	Steph Mitchell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form Teacher Year 12 • Year 8 & 9 English • Year 10 IGCSE English • Year 11 & 12 AS English

Middle and Senior School – Years 7 to 13

Charne Pretorius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Teacher Year 7 Year 7 & 8 Science Year 7 Global Studies 	Belinda Robertson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8 Global Perspectives Relief Teaching
Corine Wils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 and 11 IGCSE ICT Year 7 to 9 Japanese IG Mathematics Core 		

Junior School – Years 1 to 6

Bridget Foster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Teacher Year 1 & 2 (<i>Monday to Thursday</i>)
Diana Stirling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Teacher Year 1 & 2 (<i>Friday</i>)
Jacqui Larkan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior School Deputy Principal Class Teacher Year 3
Justine Halliday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Teacher Year 4
Sara Hittle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Teacher Year 5 & 6
Neldie Dryburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics Year 5
Gwyneth Hulse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Year 5 & 6
Charné Pretorius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science Year 5 & 6
Belinda Robertson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PE Year 1 to 6

Springbank Ancillary Staff

Jill Hatherly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Librarian 	Taryn Lynn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Administrator Principal's Assistant
Angela Warren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Co-ordinator Marketing & Social Media 	Jo Warren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Student Director

Springbank Headstart Teaching Staff

Jenna Pille	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headstart ECE Teacher 	Robyn Parker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headstart Primary Teacher
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Springbank Preschool Teaching Staff

Angela Miller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre Person Responsible & Registered ECE Teacher 		
Renee Tipene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully Registered ECE Teachers 	Emma Gerrard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisionally Registered ECE Teacher
Rosana Alves			
Helen Morris			
Jono Davey			
Trudy Black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECE Teacher (currently studying towards her ECE qualifications) 	Peta Kell Lucy Spice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECE Teachers



Springbank Relievers

From time to time, we require relievers to support our classrooms at school and preschool. If you, or anyone you know, is a qualified teacher or experienced reliever and would like to be considered, we'd love to hear from you. Note that Preschool relievers do not need a formal teaching qualification.

Please feel free to pass on this message and ask them to send their details directly to our Principal, Tina Hallowes, at tina.hallowes@springbank.school.nz



New staff for 2026

We would like to welcome Steph Mitchell to Springbank School for 2026.

Steph Mitchell – English Teacher and Year 12 Form Teacher

I'm Steph Mitchell, and I'm excited to be joining the team at Springbank School. I have a proud and passionate background teaching English and helping students discover the ways we make and create meaning in the world. For me, the study of literature and language is never *just* about words, but a deep dive into connected disciplines like history, sociology, and psychology. Whether it's a novel, a film, or even the back of a cereal box, I believe every text has something to say, and I love guiding students to decode language and analyse ideas critically.

I started my teaching journey at Kristin School, where I taught NCEA and IB English alongside some curriculum leadership. My family and I relocated to Northland in 2021 to embrace a slower pace of life. We've enjoyed putting down roots here and exploring everything this beautiful region has to offer. More recently, I've been working with the Northern Health School, supporting young people with diverse health, and learning needs.

Outside of school, I'm a keen reader and a bit of a serial hobbyist—I'm always dabbling in something creative. Most of my time is spent chasing after our four-year-old, Hugh, and soaking up the outdoors.

I'm looking forward to getting to know the Springbank community and working alongside a dedicated team of educators.



Prefects and Senior Leaders 2026

We would like to congratulate and introduce our 2026 Prefect team and Senior Leaders

Prefects

Head Boy - Ronan Leung

Head Girl - Evie Trotter

Deputy Head Boy - Clay Blakeman

Deputy Head Girl - Toni Warren

Aysha Legler Klaui

KK Jirawatrongruang

Jacob Finch

Patrick Finch

Raidon Reich



Senior Leaders

- Amelie Gilliver-Dittrich
- Brisa Carlyon
- Fynn Dalzell
- Imogen Spooner
- Paul Leitz
- Seb Mottl
- Simon Kistemaker
- Taisei Epley



Friends of Springbank

The Friends of Springbank committee is looking forward to another exciting year of supporting the students of Springbank School, Headstart, and Preschool. You will find more information below about the committee, what they do, and how you can be part of Friends. Across 2025, the Friends of Springbank committee were able to support several events, including:

- Junior School Disco	- Sport Northland competitions	- LitQuiz	- MUNA
- Year 7-10 Disco	- Life Skills for Teens	- Senior Ball	- Careers Trip
- Netball Auckland Trip	- AIMS Games	- Leadership Day	- Design Technology Workshop

All parents and caregivers from Preschool, Headstart, and school are welcome to attend the monthly meetings. The first meeting for 2026 is yet to be confirmed, so keep an eye out on our social pages, email, and notices around school for meeting updates.



WHO WE ARE

We are an Incorporated Society registered with the Charities Commission, run by parents of Springbank School students.

Our key objective is to
"Further the educational experience of the Springbank School students"

We are a friendly group of parent volunteers who are passionate about our school, and we help fund various events, competitions and excursions for the students of Springbank School, Headstart and Preschool.

COMMITMENT

- There is no set commitment to join Friends
- Monthly meetings are not compulsory
- We can send meeting minutes via email
- As a committee member you can have your say on how funds are spent
- A few hours during the year may be requested to assist with BBQs, discos, or at our community fireworks

MEETING LOCATION

Springbank School staff room
Last Wednesday of every month
2:00pm - 3:00pm
NB: Meeting times may vary

CONTACT US

friendspringbank@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF SPRINGBANK



THE SPRINGBANK FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA

Our major fundraising event each year is The Springbank Fireworks Extravaganza.

Each November we host a community fireworks show, with 2500+ people in attendance. Food, drinks and entertainment are available, making our event one of the most popular in the area.

All money raised from this event goes directly to further the educational experience of Springbank School students.



WHAT WE FUND SCHOOL EVENTS

Senior School Ball
Cross Country BBQ
Leadership Days
Discos and Camps
Speech Competitions

COMPETITIONS

EPRO8 Challenge
AIMS Games
Lit Quiz
Mathex
NSSA Sports Competitions

EXCURSIONS

EOTC Field Trips
Rock Quest
Preschool Excursions
Pop Up Globe

COFFEE SQUAD

Friends of Springbank are proud to support the Coffee Squad, in which senior students are able to gain their Barista Certificate and provide coffee for visitors to school.

And much more...

Springbank School Fitness Track

The Springbank School fitness track is an excellent resource for our students to use every day as part of their morning fitness. But it is also a great resource for our families as well.

Our fitness track comprises several different loops, enabling the walker or runner to wind themselves around beautiful established native bush (first planted by Bob Warren back in 2015).

Parents and Caregivers are welcome to use the track, but please ensure you sign in at the office before you set off and also when you return back from the track. The surrounding paddocks are a working farm, so from time to time there will be stock and machinery moving about. We ask that any gates are left as you find them, be aware of the electric fencing, and dogs must be on a lead at all times.



Springbank Sharing Shed

The Sharing Shed is ready and waiting for any excess summer produce, seedlings or flowers for our families to enjoy.

The Sharing Shed can be found at the top of the carpark and is a school community space for sharing. Our families can leave excess produce, eggs, flowers or preserves and possibly more as we go along, from home, to share with everyone.

- There is no charge. It is purely just sharing with other families.
- No baking please, as it is too hard to keep ants away.
- Please label and put on a use by date if applicable.

In order for the Sharing Shed to be effective, families must also take the shared goods. They are free to Springbank families, and there is no expectation that you must share anything in return. Of course, if you would like to, then it also helps the Sharing Shed!





Springbank School House T-Shirts

For all house events such as Athletics Day and Cross Country, it is compulsory for all students to wear house colours.

We have house t-shirts available to purchase for \$25.00. Sample sizes are available in the office to look at, along with an order form if you wish to purchase one for your child. Keep in mind that each family is in the same house, so shirts can be passed down to younger siblings if needed. For those new students, you will find out which house you will be in on the first day.

The t-shirts are 100% cotton and will be available in kids' sizes 6 – 14 and in a men's fit size S to 3XL.



How to keep up to date with Springbank School

Website: On our school website you can find our monthly calendar, enrolment information, history about the school, staff details, and more:

www.springbank.school.nz

Instagram: Springbank School has an active Instagram account that follows the students and school through their various events, activities, and classes:

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

Facebook: Our Facebook page is updated regularly with sports news, upcoming events, student achievements, community notices, photos, and other celebrations from around the school campus. Our Headstart and Preschool centres also have Facebook pages which highlight the learning and fun they experience each week.

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

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

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

Weekly Assemblies: Assemblies are held every Monday at 8:35am in the school gym (or Tuesdays if public holidays fall on Monday). All parents and extended whanau are welcome to attend.

Noticeboards: There are noticeboards outside the school office, Rooms 1 & 2, and by the gym where news and notices will be shared.

Springbank School Office

Taryn Lynn is our Office Administrator extraordinaire and is the friendly face you will see in the school office.

If you need to reach the office you can call on (09) 407 5236 or email taryn.lynn@springbank.school.nz

Absences: It is **very important** that if for any reason your child is away from school, that we are notified. As per Taryn's email we are using the website KAMAR for all school absence reporting. Please go to www.springbank.school.kiwi and follow the instructions. If you need to reset your password, please let Taryn know.

Student sign in and out: If your child is leaving the school during the day for an appointment, leaving early or illness, they must be signed out at the school office. Students are to wait at the office until they are collected by their parent / caregiver. If your child is arriving late to school due to an appointment, they must sign in at the school office before going to class.

Late students: Students arriving late to school, must report to the office first to get a late slip.

Updated contact details: If any information for your child/ren has changed, such as

- ✓ Home address
- ✓ Parent / Caregiver phone numbers
- ✓ Parent / Caregiver emails
- ✓ Emergency contacts
- ✓ Medical notes

Please update Taryn as soon as possible.

Thursday Lunch Orders - Sushi Gallery Kerikeri

We are delighted to announce that lunchtime sushi orders will be available via Sushi Gallery Kerikeri. The owners are parents of our school community and have set up a simple online ordering system. Taryn will be emailing out further details to you all.



Community Connections

We are lucky at Springbank School to have a vibrant and supportive school community, including many of our families who own and run local businesses covering a wide range of services.

We would like to create a 'Community Connections' page on our website, where you can share your logo, website address or social media pages to build awareness and connections not only within our school community but reach others who may be visiting our school website.

If you'd like to share your business on our Community Connections page, please email through a logo and your website and/or social media page links to Angela.

angela.warren@springbank.school.nz

The page is in its development stage, but as soon as it's ready to go we'll share it with all our school community.



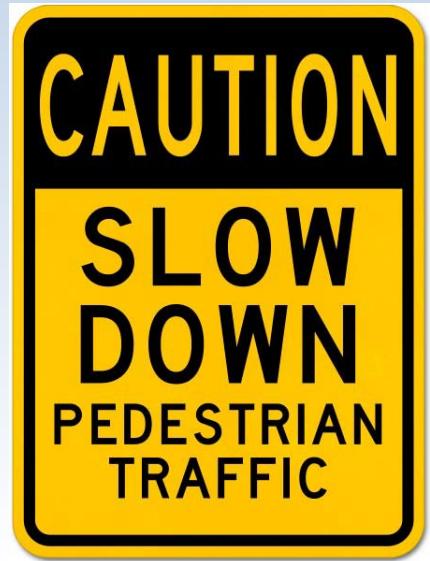
Car Park Safety

As we start a new school year, 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.
- 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, non-designated car parks, or the bus bay.

If you notice unsafe driver behaviour in our school carpark, please contact us immediately with a description of the vehicle (and ideally a licence plate number), and we will follow up with the driver concerned.





Violin Lessons

Springbank School is delighted to offer an exciting and unique opportunity for your child to learn violin with experienced music teacher, Sophie Foster. Open to all ages, pre-schoolers to yr 13, beginners to advanced. The lessons are tailored to your child's learning style adopting a fun, step-by-step approach. The curriculum uses Suzuki music and other repertoire, enabling ensemble playing and performance opportunities.

Sophie studied violin, viola, piano and music theory at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin and completed postgraduate studies at Ithaca College, New York. She studied Suzuki violin pedagogy in the USA and Europe.

Lesson Times: During school hours (some after-school availability).

For further information and bookings please contact:

Sophie Foster BA (Hons), LTCL

mb 021 264 0619

sophie@jumpingbeans.co.nz



This 8 lesson / week course covers off on all the basics of sailing - in a safe, fun and social environment. Both theory and practical learning are delivered in this Learn to Sail Yachting New Zealand Course. Cost is \$275 (discount for more than one child per family) which includes; boat hire, coaching, booklet, temporary membership and insurance.



- Coached by Tom Richardson
- Starts: 11th of February
- Wednesday - 4pm to 7:00pm
- Ages 8-14



BAY OF ISLANDS YACHT CLUB - WAITANGI

LEARN TO SAIL - STARTS FEB 11TH

BOOK NOW - Call Trish 021531966

