



SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

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

Newsletter No.07 July 2026



Dear Springbank Family

Welcome back to Term Three. I hope everyone had a wonderful and refreshing break. The three-week holiday provided a welcome opportunity for everyone to rest, recharge, and spend time with family and friends. It is fantastic to see our students back energised, enthusiastic, and ready for what promises to be a busy and exciting term ahead.

We are thrilled to welcome 23 new students to our community this term, including 11 International students. We are so excited to get to know each of you! A special thank you goes out to our host families for opening their hearts and homes to our new international students.

Our Years 5–10 students are busy putting the finishing touches on their Science Fair projects. Our seniors are hard at work preparing for their mock exams, coming up in Weeks 6 and 7. Official Cambridge exams kick off in the final week of Term 3 with IGCSE ICT, with several other exams scheduled throughout the September holidays. Revision classes are officially underway. If you have any questions about your child's progress or revision schedule, please reach out directly to their subject teachers. For our Middle and Senior School students we will be holding parent teacher interviews in Week 5. Keep an eye out for booking details!

This term, we send our warmest wishes to Mrs. Steph Mitchell as she heads off on maternity leave to welcome a baby girl! We wish Steph, Justin, and Hugh all the very best as they prepare for their new arrival, and we look forward to welcoming another addition to the Springbank family.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Enjoy the last stretch of winter as we look forward to the warmer spring and summer months ahead!

Tina Hallowes, Principal

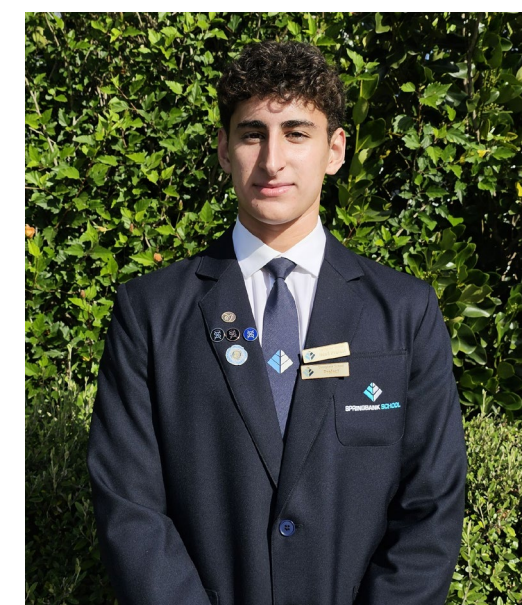


Student Success

At school we are always proud to celebrate successes of our current students, but this also includes our graduating students. Once students finish their last day at school and leave the gates for the final time before embarking on further educational studies or career paths, we are always keen to hear how everyone is doing here in New Zealand and around the world. Many of our past students have become successful business owners, graduating university with top honours, and being offered exciting job roles in their chosen field. If you have news about a graduating student from Springbank School we would love to hear about it and celebrate them.

We would like to take moment to congratulate Hunter Blakeman, 2024 Head Boy and graduate, who is currently studying at the Faculty of Engineering and Design at the University of Auckland. Hunter has been selected for the prestigious **Dean's Leadership Programme (DLP)**.

Selection for this programme is an exceptional achievement and is highly competitive, drawing applications from the university's entire second and third year engineering students, as well as second year students in Architecture, Urban Planning, and Design. Hunter was chosen not only for his strong academic standing but also for his leadership potential, drive, and vision for the future. We were thrilled to hear about this achievement for Hunter, and we know he is going to excel in his degree and position in the leadership programme.



Dates & Events to Note:

We have a wide range of internal and external events and trips across Term Three. All events can be found on our school website calendar.

- **TERM THREE** – Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September (10 weeks)
- **Springbank Mathex Competition** – Wednesday 12th August
- **Northland Mathex Competition** – Thursday 13th August
- **Football Festival, Year 3 to 6** – Friday 14th August
- **Friends of Springbank Parent Social Evening** – Saturday 15th August
- **NSSS Year 7&8 Mixed Futsal** – Monday 17th August
- **NSSS Year 9&10 Netball Cup** – Tuesday 18th August
- **NSSS Squash Year 7&8** – Thursday 20th August
- **Mock Exams** – Monday 24th August to Friday 4th September
- **School Ski Trip** – Sunday 23rd to Friday 28th August
- **NSSS Year 7&8 Netball Festival** – Tuesday 25th August
- **Regional Science Fair** – Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th August
- **Daffodil Day** – Friday 28th August






FRIENDS OF SPRINGBANK 80'S PARENT SOCIAL

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 5:30 - 11:00PM

OPUA SWORDFISH CLUB, OPUA MARINA

It's time for an evening of dancing, laughs & fun! Come dressed in your best 80's attire ready to party with DJ Erena and karaoke!

Buy your own meal and drinks
Prizes for BEST dressed
RSVP to Natalie - 021 215 4625



Year 7&8 Speech Finals

To end the first week back for Term Three, our Year 7&8 speech finalists delivered their speeches to their peers in the gym for judging. These speeches are usually held in Term Two alongside the Senior School, but the Senior School was brought forward this year to accommodate a date change with the Rotary Speech competition. This date change gave our Year 7 and 8 students that little bit longer to write and prepare their speeches. Once again the standard of speeches was high with a huge variety of topics, great poise, confidence, entertainment factor, and knowledge on their topics.

Ms Hatherly was back with the hard task of judging the students and awarding the top three placings. Standing up in front of a large audience is not a favourite task for many people, but we are so proud of our students for stepping out of their comfort zones, taking control of the stage, and delivering their speeches with great conviction.



1st Place – Jago, Year

The Importance of Mangroves



2nd Place – Mia, Year 8

DNA



3rd Place – Robert, Year 8

The Harm of Bottom Trawling

Well done to Charlotte and Lara (Year 7) and Alessia (Year 8) who placed as Runners Up. The next round of speeches at school will be for our Year 4 – 6 students, and those students from Headstart to Year 3 will present poems. Learning the art and skill of public speaking is a valuable tool to learn, as it builds confidence, critical thinking, leadership, and the ability to influence others.

Writing and presenting speeches helps students start to learn how to organise their thoughts, how to vary their tone and body language, research their topics, as well as build a clear structured speech. Springbank is proud of the strong level of speech writing and delivery we have at school from students over many years.

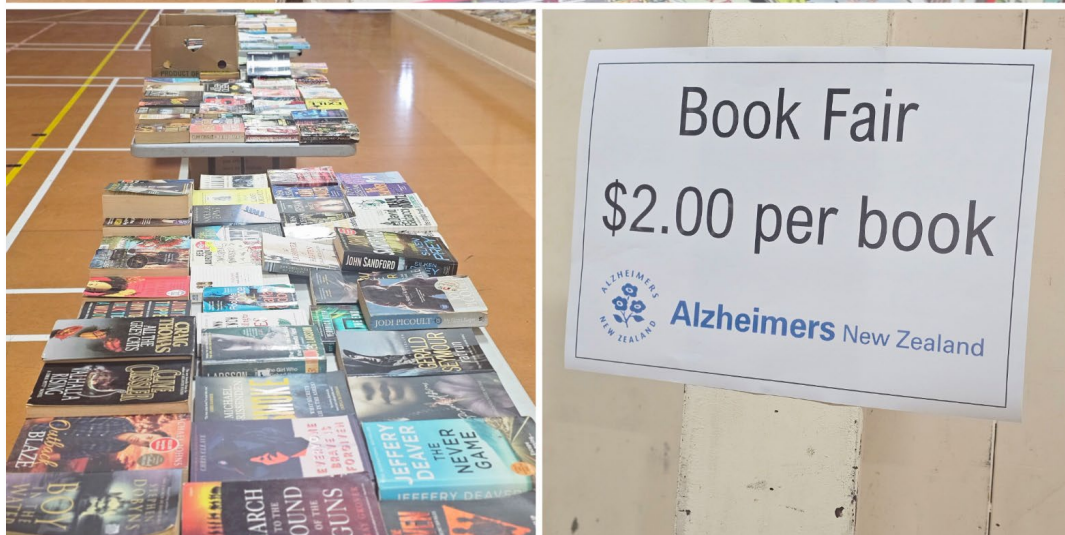
Book Fair

On Thursday 30th July, we held our annual Book Fair alongside the school Science Fair in the gym, and this year we were raising funds for the Alzheimers / Dementia community.

Approximately 83,000 New Zealanders are living with dementia and this is a disease that not only affects the patient, but friends and family around them. We will be donating all money raised to go towards the local support group.

It was fantastic to see students from Headstart right up to Year 13, parents, and staff coming and buying books to take home.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the book fair, together we have raised just over \$530.00 which is an outstanding amount.



Springbank School Science Fair

After months of preparing, testing, researching and finally pasting the science boards together, our Year 5 – 10 students displayed their scientific questions and knowledge in the gym.

The broad range of topics, science questions, research, and presentation was impressive and every year it surprises everyone of the huge variety of projects on display.

Congratulations to everyone for completing their projects. As this newsletter was being typed, the final judging for students moving forward to the Regional Science & Technology Fair was being completed and will be announced at assembly on Monday 10th August.



Springbank Sports

The winter sport season is getting closer to finishing with our junior hockey and netball teams wrapping up their games across the weekend of August 7th and 8th. Our senior teams continue for one more week, while our basketball boys' team will continue to play in Kaikohe across the full term.

It has been awesome to welcome new players to Saturday sport this year and getting involved with a team sport. While students bond and make friends within the classroom, weekend sports and being part of a team also helps build a sense of belonging, encourages school pride, builds perseverance and promotes regular physical activity.

We would like to highlight and congratulate our boys' basketball team who played in the ATR Collegiate Basketball Competition across Term Two in Kaikohe.

Springbank Senior School — ATR Collegiate Basketball Term 2

Springbank Senior School delivered a standout Term 2 performance in the ATR Collegiate Basketball Competition, entering teams in both the Junior and Senior divisions. Playing weekly at Papa Hawaiki in Kaikohe, Harry Bramall, Logan Dukes, Simon Kistemaker, Reef Kriz, Alex Edwards, George Murray, Ethan Shepherd and Aaron Singh proved to be a highly competitive team, playing against schools from across the Mid North.

Despite a gruelling finals night, featuring four consecutive games, Springbank's resilience shone through claiming

🏆 First Place in the Junior Division

🏆 George Murray named Best Junior Player

🏆 Harry Bramall awarded Ambassador to Basketball.

The team also secured a strong 4th Place in the Senior Division, rounding out an impressive term of basketball.

Well done to Team Springbank as they look ahead to the Term 3 competition.



Student Sports

Many of our students compete in sports outside of the school gates that are not part of our regular teams or events. They train several times a week, have to travel far to competitions, some take on extra coaching duties, all while keeping their school work in order and completed. We are very proud of the achievements of our students and would like to share some recent results with our wider community.



Ilha (Year 8) is excelling in her sport of gymnastics and has been working her way through regional competitions, before heading to Nationals and representing school at the 2026 AIMS Games.

Ilha has most recently been named the Northland Gymnastics Champion in Step 6 Under, scoring an impressive 54.45 out of 60.

Congratulations, Ilha, and all the very best for the National competition.



Finn (Year 10) has been sailing in Calasetta, Italy representing New Zealand in the Under 17 fleet. Finn was up against 105 other sailors, including his two team mates and has had the most amazing time.

This is Finn's first taste of a major international regatta and placed a respectable 52nd place.

What an absolutely incredible experience, and we look forward to following Finn's sailing successes over the next few years.



We love to celebrate our students' successes in sport, the arts, academics – EVERYTHING!

If your child has something to celebrate please let us know by emailing the school.



Another gymnastic superstar is Charlotte (Year 4) who recently competed in the STEP 2 Northland Gymnastics competition.

Charlotte got some excellent results at the event

3rd on beam

2nd on bars

1st equal on floor

1st on vault

These results placed Charlotte 2nd overall in STEP 2, as well as achieving a personal best score on the day.

Zespri AIMS Games 2026

The annual Zespri AIMS Games held in Tauranga will begin on Saturday 5th September. The Zespri AIMS Games is Australasia's largest junior sporting event for students in Year 7 & 8. Schools from all over New Zealand and some invited international schools come together to compete in a week-long festival of sport. 27 sporting codes are on offer with both individual and team events.

This year Springbank School has six students attending the games to compete in cross country, gymnastics and swimming. We would like to wish our students all the very best, and hope they soak up all the exciting atmosphere and energy of being part of this huge event. GO SPRINGBANK!



CROSS COUNTRY

Olive, Jimmy, and Henry (Year 7)

Frank (Year 8)



GYMNASTICS

Ilha, Year 8



SWIMMING

Charlotte, Year 7

Springbank School Staff Updates

Mrs Steph Mitchell, English Teacher – we would like to wish Mrs Mitchell, her husband Justin and son Hugh all the very best on the soon to be arrival of their daughter / sister. We are very excited for their family on this precious new addition, and can't wait to see some photos and learn what her name is going to be. As mentioned in last month's newsletter Mrs Mitchell's English classes are going to be looked after by Mr Bean and Mrs Stirling until early 2027.



Ms Justine Halliday, Year 4 Teacher – It is with sadness that we announce that Mrs Halliday will be leaving Springbank School to embark on a new teaching chapter in Egypt. Mrs Halliday has always had a desire to teach abroad and this opportunity has become available to her. Mrs Halliday has been with us since 2022 and we'd like to thank her for her kind and positive teaching she contributed to the Junior School every day. Mrs Halliday always encouraged her students to strive for their best, give everything a go, and be the best version of themselves they can be. We will miss seeing Mrs Halliday around the school grounds, but wish her the very best on this next education journey and adventure.



Mrs Alison Blundell, Year 4 Teacher – With the departure of Mrs Halliday, we are thrilled to introduce Mrs Blundell who will be taking over the teaching role in Room 3 for the remainder of 2026.

I am delighted to be joining you as the Year 4 teacher for the remainder of the year, and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am a fully qualified teacher with 14 years of classroom experience. Before returning to teaching, I spent several years with the New Zealand Police and qualified as a detective, a career that was incredibly enriching and taught me a great deal about working with people, problem-solving, and listening closely. Teaching, though, has remained a true passion, and I couldn't be more excited to be back into the classroom setting and working with the staff, students, and families of Springbank School.

My husband Cedric and I have recently settled in Kerikeri after ten years living in Wellington, London, Auckland, and Turangi. We made the move for a wonderful lifestyle change, the warmer weather, beautiful beaches, and the close-knit community feel of Kerikeri were a big draw, as was the chance to be closer to Cedric's large family and some excellent local fishing spots and bike riding trails.

As I step into this role, my priority is to create a classroom that feels safe, supportive, and full of encouragement and to build on the foundation that has already been laid this year by Justine. I cannot wait to get to know your children and to be part of this fantastic school community.

I look forward to meeting everyone at Springbank School.



Welcome to our new international students

We were delighted to welcome 11 new international students to school on Day One of Term Three. Our international students have already quickly immersed themselves into the Springbank Way by joining lunchtime sports practices, running in the popular Beast Run, receiving Student of the Week awards, and venturing over to Waitangi with Jo.

It's a big journey for our international students to travel to another country all by themselves, living with new people, and getting used to new surroundings, so it is great to see them engaged at school and slotting in so easily with their new class peers.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HOMESTAY

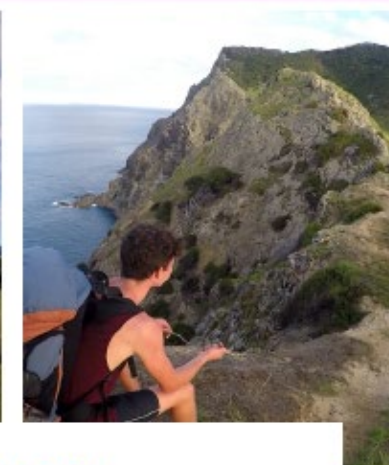
Have you ever thought about becoming a host family?

Hosting an international student is a rewarding opportunity to share our culture, learn from each other, build lifelong connections, and earn extra income along the way.

Springbank School is looking for host families and we would love to hear from you if you can help.

Homestay rates for 2026 are \$340 per week, increasing to \$355 per week in 2027.

Become a Host Family. Open Your home, Open Your World!



Contact Jo Warren today to find out more information.

📞 022-391-0852

✉️ jo.warren@springbank.school.nz

The BEAST Run

The BEAST Run is one of the highly anticipated events of the year for students in Years 7-13. For some reason, the idea of running through cold water, mud, farmland (with no doubt the odd cow poo), across rocks, and slippery paths is very appealing 😊

This year Springbank School registered an impressive 71 students to participate, and they all had an AWESOME TIME! The conditions, apart from a couple of quick rain showers, were ideal, with clear skies and as they wanted - plenty of mud! Over 1,100 students from schools all over Northland arrived in Okaihau to run and were set off in year group stages. Up first were the Year 13s and congratulations to Clay, who took out 1st place for the event!

It was a fun introduction for our newest international students to a popular New Zealand event, and even better with Vincent and Florian dressing up in costume.



Netball Samoa Trip 2027

On Friday 31st July, a fundraiser was held at The Duke, Russell to help raise funds to get our Under 15 girls netball team to Samoa in 2027.

The netball festival tournament was a suggestion by a parent who saw a flyer about the event, they got a few other parents together, threw the plan around, started putting the wheels in motion, and now they have a team of 8 very excited players gearing up for a big year of fundraising and training ahead of them.

The fundraiser dinner was a huge success with just over \$20K being raised; a huge help towards reducing the overall costs for each player.

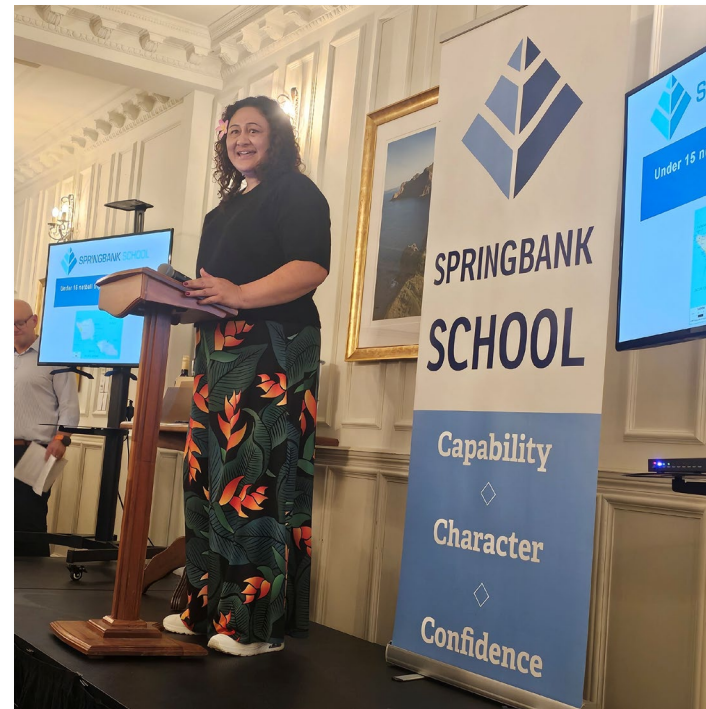
The guest speaker was the amazing and inspiring Linda Vagana - former NZ Silver Fern (61 caps), international coach, Samoan netball rep and GM for Duffy Books in Homes. Linda spoke about "training for purpose" and being "proud in who you are", she recognised this is a huge opportunity for the girls to travel and play overseas and was greatly impressed with how poised and confident the girls were.

It was a wonderful community evening of support and we are excited for the trip in 2027. A huge thanks to the following sponsors of the auctions.

- The Duke of Marlborough Hotel
- Charlottes Kitchen
- The Landing Vineyard
- Lion Nathan

Linda also came with the support of Duffy Books and will be providing some books for our team to take to Samoa to share with local teams. Plus, the team has partnered with ReSport in Whangarei to help provide sports equipment to Samoan players and coaches.

This international sporting trip is a first for Springbank School, and the team of parents working behind the scenes are amazing and we know this is going to be a trip of a lifetime for the netball players.



Friends of Springbank

The Friends of Springbank committee has been changing how they host their monthly meeting, going online with zoom calls and this is working really well. If you have ever wanted to be part of the Friends of Springbank committee but couldn't make the onsite meeting at school, this is a great way to join in. Zoom meeting details will be sent out via email from Taryn closer to the meeting date in the assembly Wrap Up.

The committee continues to sponsor exciting opportunities for our students with the following requests confirmed.

- ✓ Mathex Northland Competition
- ✓ Mathex Springbank Competition
- ✓ Northland Secondary School Sports events (Futsal, Squash and Netball)
- ✓ Middle School Disco

Upcoming Events

- Saturday 15th August – Parent Social Evening (see slide 3 for details)
- Saturday 7th November – Fireworks Extravaganza

Our legendary Springbank Fireworks Extravaganza will be held on **Saturday 7th November**. This year we will be having a different format which will enable more of our families to be able to enjoy the event as spectators (instead of volunteering etc). We will however, still need some help with setup/pack down.

We are on the lookout for external food trucks and vendors from the community, so please feel free to let anyone you know who might be interested to please get in touch with us. Any students (and/or their family) who would like a stall similar to Market Day, an activity stall or family business stall, are also welcome to reach out.

All Vendors would need to be completely self-sufficient with power (if needed) and cash/efpos capabilities, as we will not be using Springbucks this year.

Please get in-touch directly to info@millbaymagic.co.nz with any questions or if you would like to be a vendor.

Spaces are limited but priority will be given to Springbank families and previous vendors.



Springbank School Celebrating 30 years – Jump Jam

Students at Springbank School have been enjoying the beats, moves, and music of Jump Jam for over 20+ years. A fitness activity that never goes out of style!



JUMP JAM™

Headstart Report

Headstart had a wonderful time during the holidays, filled with exciting adventures and lots of fun! The children enjoyed bike riding, making kebabs, playing a variety of ball games, and staying active outdoors with their friends. One of the highlights was a very special trip to the Parrot Place, where the children got to hand feed and hold the beautiful birds. It was a memorable experience encouraging confidence, curiosity, and sometimes bravery... but also a love for animals while creating happy holiday memories together.



Preschool Update

- S – Smiles shared every day
- P – Play that inspires learning
- R – Respect for everyone
- I – Imagination in every moment
- N – Nurturing curious minds
- G – Growing with confidence
- B – Belonging to a caring community
- A – Adventures through discovery
- N – New friendships that last
- K – Kindness at the heart of all we do



If you have children aged 6 months – 5 years or you know friends or family that are interested in joining Preschool, visitors are welcome to stop in any day. Check out our Facebook page for footage of all the amazing learning, adventures, friendships, and discovery happening at Preschool every day.

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





GIVE IT A GO NIGHT
THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
SPRINGBANK SCHOOL
UPPER FIELD



SUPPORT OUR TEAM 
SPONSOR OUR JOURNEY TO SAMOA
SPRINGBANK SCHOOL U15 NETBALL TEAM
APRIL 2027 SAMOA TOUR

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY
Help our dedicated young athletes represent Springbank School and our community in Samoa.
Your support will help create lifelong memories, friendships and experiences while allowing our team to compete, learn and grow together.

\$500 
SPONSOR PACKAGE

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

-  Your business name and logo featured on the team tracksuit 
-  Recognition at the Springbank School U15 Netball Team Fundraising Dinner & Auction 31 JULY 2026 THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH HOTEL, RUSSELL
-  A team thank-you photo from Samoa to display in your business
-  Recognition in team supporter acknowledgements and communications

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS WITH

-  Flights and accommodation
-  Tournament and tour fees
-  Team uniforms and equipment
-  Transport and meals
-  Cultural and educational experiences

TO BECOME A SPONSOR OR FIND OUT MORE
riki@theduke.co.nz 

SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

Thank you for supporting our team and helping make our Samoa Tour 2027 a reality. 

