Enviroschools
HAWKE'S BAY OUR REGION OUR WORLD

DECEMBER 2016

Term 4 and the end of the year

Wow only a few weeks to go and this year will be over. Does anyone else think it's gone fast?

Reflecting on the year and looking forward to 2017 is our current focus. The loss of one of our funders at the end of September (the Nina Brathwaite Trust) means we head into the New Year with some trepidation. Finding funding is never easy and for our Enviroschools facilitators this creates some uncertainty. Since the programme started in our region Hawke's Bay Regional Council has always been our major funder. Increasing the current level of funding and seeking alternative funds is a priority to ensure there is no lag in any of the facilitation that we offer. In the meantime its business as usual. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sonya, Jenni and Haana for the wonderful way they facilitate the kaupapa of Enviroschools here in Hawke's Bay.

We hear from Te Awanga kindergarten in this issue – Thanks to Paula Lantsbury, one of the Te Awanga Kindergarten teaching team. Both Napier and Heretaunga Kindergarten Associations are part of the Enviroschools network. We value their partnership and enthusiasm.

Enjoy the last few weeks of term and best wishes from the Hawke's Bay Enviroschools team for a safe and restful festive season.

Mere Kirihimete

Sally, Jenni, Haana & Sonya

Pukemokimoki marae, children's day March 2016

2017 key dates

Wednesday 22 February to Sunday 26 February - Celebrating Excellence

- Te Matatini is a significant cultural festival and the pinnacle event for Māori performing arts. Held every two years, it is one of the most highly anticipated events for perfomers, their whānau and the mass of passionate Kapa Haka fans throughout the world.

The festival prides itself on being a whānau friendly, smoke and alcohol free event. It has an open door policy, where all people are welcome to come and experience the timeless tradition and spectacle of Kapa Haka.

Tuesday 28 February has been earmarked for a Swimmable Rivers Day. Taking place at the Tukituki River. Schools will be invited to come along to particpate in a day of activities. More details to come.

Seaweek 2017 – Saturday 26 Feburary to Sunday 5 March. The theme "Toiora te Moana – Toiora te Tangata – Healthy Seas, Healthy People". What event will you plan during this time?

On the **HB Enviroschools** calendar in 2017 we are currently in the early planning stages for two events we would like to hold next year. **Term 2 - May and Term 3 - July**. The first will focus on theme areas - Living Landscapes, Energy, Water of Life, Ecological Building and Zero Waste. The second – Respect for the Diversity of People and Cultures. Dates, times and location will be confirmed at the beginning of Term 1.

St Josephs School, Wairoa

Jenni Scothern-King has been spending time at St Josephs School Wairoa where students are immersed in various environmental projects.

Room 4 New Entrants to Yr 2 have been learning about growing seeds and planting. They are keeping science diaries and feeling proud of their efforts. As kaitiaki of their new vegetable seedlings they are keen to look after them well. With Facilitator Jenni, they discussed how dry, damp or wet their plants like to be and how to tell if they are thirsty, or in danger of drowning! They planted their seedlings at just the right depth. Mathematics skills in geometry and measurement were required.

Room 5 is interested in the health of the Wairoa River and whitebait spawning areas. During November they visited the river, with a senior class to carry out water testing. They will be investigating the effects of erosion, by measuring water quality at various river locations along the riverbank.

The Grotto area at St Joseph's is also receiving attention from the the year 5 - 6 class. While this make-over project started last year, a more sustainable approach to keep it a well-maintained, attractive and peaceful area is now the focus.

Te Mahia School

Further up the road at Te Mahia School team work was required to design and construct a wharenui out of cardboard, without using tape! This activity took

place during the schools Whangawehi walkway workshop. As a key partner in the restoration project students have had lots of opportunities. A shelter is being constructed along the walkway, with the design following a wharenui concept. Matiu Bartlett demonstrated some traditional taonga puoro that he had made.

Poukawa School

Last term Poukawa School wrote and performed their own production, which they called "Birds of Aotearoa." The idea for the production was based on the school vision statement and motto …

"Ma te huruhuru te manu karere"

"Adorn the bird with feathers so it may fly"

They changed their class names this year to bird names. Instead of Room 1, or Year 1, they renamed classes Kereru, Kea, Pukeko, Ruru and Tui.

The aim, at Poukawa School, is to equip the children to achieve their potential. Like the bird they will soar to new heights and experience success in everything they do.

The production was based around the birds that each class was named after.

Every class brought to the production something about the essence of their bird and a story to tell. Kereru class told the story about how Kereru ate so many berries he fell out of the tree and couldn't fly away but was rescued from a hungry cat by Sam and his dog. The children in Kea class showed us how Kea turned from being a bird that ate people's camping gear, to being helpful and caring. Pukeko nearly got run over on the highway that had been constructed through their wetlands and taught everyone that their home was important too. The story that Ruru class told was about Rata cutting the tree down in the forest without permission from Tane. The tree stood up three times before Rata learned to respect the god of the forest. Finally, Tui class followed the aspiration of Louise the Tui who aspired to win "Birdies Got Talent." After many set-backs and self-doubt, Louise finally believed in herself to win the competition.

From Alan Dustow, Principal, Poukawa School

Hastings Central School

Hastings Central School has completed their Bronze Reflection sessions. Eight students spent time as a group over four weeks, completing a waste audit and having a contemplative tour of the grounds to develop next step ideas. What followed was a PowerPoint presentation by students at a senior assembly.

The next step ideas ranged from a peace garden, rongoā garden, makirikiri stream project, signs, insect hotel upgrade and construction area for play. The top photo shows a native fuschia that was grown from seed! The students are very proud of their thriving shade house.

A great team effort Hastings Central School. Congratulations we look forward to working with you on your next steps.

My Enviroschools journey

My name is Paula Lantsbury and I am one of the teaching team at Te Awanga Kindergarten in the beautiful Hawke's Bay. Last month I went to Te Mauri Tau in Raglan; it is the training venue for Enviroschools facilitators. Over the three-day course, we were introduced to the role of a facilitator and the importance of the role within Enviroschools. A Powhiri began our journey into the unknown.

During our stay, we learnt about the origins of Enviroschools. We developed our understanding of the Kaupapa, and connected with the guiding principles. We made connections and learnt about others, ourselves and what it means to be kaitiaki of our land. We delved into the Enviroschools pools of knowledge, the kit and the scrap book; we also had time to plan how we would use our newly acquired knowledge in the future. We were finding out how to engage as a facilitator, and what resources and support we could turn to, to guide us on our journey. My highlight was making a new family and meeting all of the amazing people at Te Mauri Tau. I look forward to bringing my new knowledge into my kindergarten as well as sharing with others in the Napier Kindergarten Association.

Te Awanga Kindergarten is situated in Haumoana nestled between Kahuranaki and Te Matiu a Maui. The kindergarten has a roll of 30 children, aged between 2 1/2 to 5 years old. Our kindergarten has been part of the Enviroschools programme for the past six years. Over this time we have begun to embed the Kaupapa of Enviroschools guiding our tamariki and their whanau, helping them to enjoy teaching and learning through this amazing philosophy. Our children enjoy exploring our environment through the Enviroschools lens, using the Guiding Principles to explore and connect with nature, surveying the environment for bugs, worms and insects, growing vegetables, tending to the worm farm and engaging with the atua on a daily basis. The children especially enjoy the many visiting birds and wildlife.

Flemington School

When Flemington School became an enviroschool, their first goal was to establish a shade house to grow native plants. Flemington is a farming community so native planting, particularly on riparian margins, is quite topical. Scheduling a parent working bee to build the shade house took too long for some, so a group of senior students together with the principal built it themselves. Over the last couple of years the whole school has gathered seeds from the school grounds and from bush on a school family's farm, and the seeds have turned into seedlings needing repotting as they grow. Over winter the growth in the shade house was phenomenal, particularly the weeds growing on the floor!

With a bit of concentrated effort over two days this term ..... you can see the floor again and almost everything has been repotted. Three senior students took responsibility for the "filing system", making sure plants were organised into species then size order.

The leadership group is now meeting every two weeks, working on giving each class a task each week, investigating a cheaper way to buy (or make) potting mix, widening the range of species, succession planning for leadership, and taking a plan for plantings and more vegetable gardens around the school to the Board with costings. Just as well the new entrant class has been making worm farms – that will be a lot of plants to fertilise!

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