



Salisbury School
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Term 4, 2015

14 December—Board meeting
and Final Assembly

16 December—Travel Day

Term 1, 2016

2 February—Student Travel Day

From the Principal, Brenda Ellis

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2015. Our website is currently under development as we design an energised and fresh new look for 2016—our Centenary year. Please keep your eye on the website as we plan the activities and celebrations over Labour Weekend next year when many current and past students, families, staff and Board Members from throughout New Zealand will have the opportunity to get together to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

Tips for Autism Training is being hosted at Salisbury from 12-14 April 2016. We have hosted this very valuable course in past years and 'teams' of Salisbury staff have attended the training also so we can really recommend this Professional Development opportunity. Contact Sharon Dixon, course organiser on (06) 364 5645 for further details.

On Wednesday, 2 December Salisbury will give an oral presentation to the Education and Science Select Committee on the identification and support for students with the significant challenges of dyslexia, dyspraxia, and autism spectrum disorders in primary and secondary schools. The submission document can be accessed through the following link.

http://parliament.govt.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/documents/evidence/51SCES_EVI_00DBSCH_INQ_64710_1_A447735/salisbury-school

We have a final Assembly on Monday, 14 December which has been scheduled to allow Board members from throughout New Zealand as well as any parents to attend. We are delighted to be hosting three past students, two of whom will be giving a presentation on 'life after Salisbury'. It is lovely that these girls have formed lasting friendships and will be holidaying together before Christmas. Parents report that prior to their daughters' enrolment at Salisbury, forming and keeping friendships has often been a significant struggle. As staff we gain great satisfaction from helping girls develop the skills necessary to form quality friendships which can be sustained once they leave Salisbury.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and holiday season with your daughters, family and friends.



Kia Ora from Deputy Principal, Stephen Evans

The Curriculum theme this term is Change. Through our different themes we link all the curriculum areas into meaningful, fun learning opportunities. The main focus this term is to use Visuals so the students clearly understand how their new skills, knowledge and positive experiences are changing them in positive ways. Visuals also help to encourage self-management and independence.



Each term we carefully prioritise any additional learning opportunities that are available to maximise the success each student achieves. Programmes that help to build relationships, confidence and self-esteem are particularly essential to the physical and mental well-being of our girls. As students build resilience and an overall sense of well being they become more independent and able to complete core IEP tasks such as developing reading, writing and functional numeracy skills.



NCEA Credits

This term most of the students completed a low and high ropes course at Whenua Iti. The low ropes course was completed by 7 students who have now achieved Unit Standard: 470 - Demonstrate personal and social development through participation in a low ropes course programme, NCEA Level 2, (3 credits).



We are also using the expertise of the Teen Power group this term. This programme helps to teach strategies, self-defence skills and shares knowledge to support students to make safe choices. This course also helps develop social skills and reinforces our teaching strategies to support peer friendships.

Physical Education

One of the strategies we use to keep the girls engaged in their learning, as well as physically active, is to provide short daily PE sessions. We encourage the girls to keep moving for their physical health and development of muscle tone, coordination and sporting abilities. It's also a good chance to build self-esteem, confidence and enhance friendships while developing social skills. The benefits of keeping active are priceless, life-long learning opportunities for everyone.

Each week the girls are exposed to a range of different activities which they can be involved in; circuits, balance games, team sport, team building and biking as well as scooter and skateboarding opportunities. Furthermore, the students feel that they are able to participate in any way they can or want and are presented with plenty of challenges to extend their individual abilities.

The girls are enthusiastic and motivated during PE sessions. In addition, when they return to class they have increased energy levels, they're engaged in their learning and are more determined to achieve their core learning goals.



Food Technology

As previously mention our theme this term is Change. In the Food Technology sessions, we are working with eggs and how we can use them in many different ways to produce healthy, filling meals without blowing the budget!



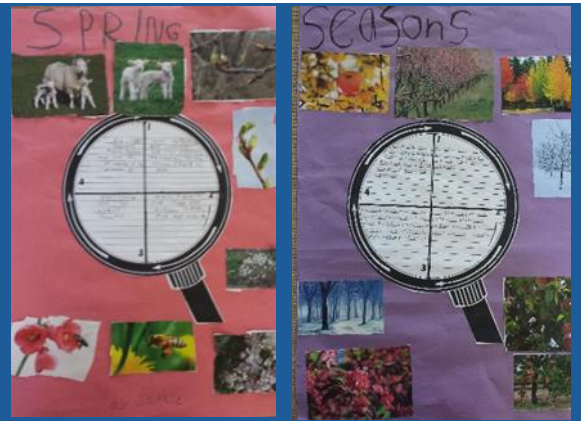
Food Technology is a chance for the girls to build on functional Literacy and Numeracy skills, as well as basic cooking lessons and life skills. The recipes are broken down into simple, easy to read instructions, which coincide with reading comprehension and learning goals. With assistance the girls are usually able to finish recipes with minimal help.

At the end of this term we will be holding a Salisbury Masterchef which will be a chance for the girls to utilise what they learned over the year to create a dish that they will plan, cook, and present before the judges!



Kimi Ora

As part of this term's topic on Change, we have been learning about the Seasons. For one of the learning activities the girls became Fact Detectives and found new and interesting facts about Seasons. Next they matched pictures that represented these facts and created a poster. They were very proud of their achievements and chose to share their learning at Assembly.



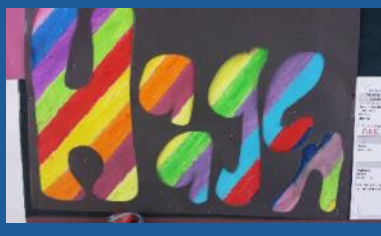
Another activity we discussed during Current Events was the impending change of the New Zealand flag. The whole class were engaged in discussion, where everyone voted on a flag of their choice and explained why they chose that particular flag. Sophie chose the Koru design and explained that it related to her cultural values and represented Maori. Sophie made a bar graph, showing the most popular Flag.



To encourage physical activity, the school has purchased two trikes. Melissa enjoys riding the largest one to and from school, which not only gives her exercise, but is used as a carrier for her bags. The smaller trike is popular with Sophie and Rachael. The girls find the trikes stable and easier to ride than a two-wheeler bike.



At the beginning of each term the girls make a new name art piece and this term they used rainbow colours, cutting out the letters to create a negative shape, where the colours and pattern show through. These are displayed above each girl's work area.



As part of our All Stars incentive Kimi Ora was turned into a Beauty Spa, complete with relaxing Japanese spa music. Under the careful guidance of Mrs Deck the girls learned to paint intricate nail-art flowers on each other's fingernails using white polish. Not only did they have a relaxed session but they practiced their fine motor skills.

Kimi Ora

Visual Cues for Learning

Having an interactive whiteboard and the recently purchased Boardmaker programme helps to support student learning in Kimi Ora! We use it in our morning conversation time to establish that we are all present and to identify our feelings.

This term we extended our 3 stars system which supports students with task completion. We further developed the individualised system to show more specifically the tasks needing to be completed. Each star component breaks down IEP tasks so the student can understand, reflect and evaluate more clearly on their progress.

Each student has her own preference for how her chart should look. One student is a linear thinker and prefers photographs in a step by step sequence. Another learner likes horses and earns her show rosettes. Other students are happy with gaining petals which have various tasks written on them. Petals are added to complete a flower to show their success. This approach is increasing motivation and self-management skills.



Examples of 3 Star Incentives Visuals



Each time 3 stars is completed a sticker is added to the “All Stars” chart. A completed “All Stars” chart at the end of the week earns a treasure dip or special choosing time.

All Stars Chart



Kimi Maturanga



Our term theme of *Change* has provided many opportunities to take our learning outside the classroom, investigating how historic sites of Nelson have changed and reflecting on how life would have been for early settlers. Some of the historic sites we have visited have included Fairfield House, Founders Park, Nelson Haven and the Nelson Port, looking in particular at the reclamation area.



We are looking forward to our visit to Bishops School to experience school life in the 1880's. Kimi Maturanga students have been surprised by the appearance of everyday items from long ago such as phones, computers, clothing and cars among other things, researching as to how they have changed and evolved through time. This has provided many opportunities for discussion about change and how people's ideas have contributed to what we have today. It also has sparked conversation as to if all change is good and how we, as staff and students have changed and grown this year.

Other highlights this term include Special Olympics Athletics, Teen Power, continued swimming lessons and our trip to the Nelson Museum. As the weather continues to warm up we have enjoyed the opportunity to take part in more physical activity outside including swimming, daily fitness, walks around exploring Nelson and the upcoming athletics competition. We also look forward to learning more about body systems and how they change as we mature.

We continue to enjoy the company of animals in the class with the girls taking turns to take responsibility for the visiting dogs. A love for animals is a consistent theme in class and we have access to a



number of dogs who join us for our learning in class. Some Kimi Maturanga girls will be part of the planning process of a 'Dog Day' at Salisbury before the end of the term.

Kimi Maturanga Sleepover



As part of our whole class incentive, Kimi Maturanga worked together to achieve the reward of a classroom sleepover. This took two terms for the class to achieve by working together and supporting one another and took place towards the end of Term 3. The evening's activities consisted of party games such as pass the parcel, pin the moustache on Justin Bieber and a balloon obstacle course which all provided a lot of laughs from everyone. We enjoyed a new release DVD before settling down to bed on our camp-style beds around our classroom. It was a fantastic evening which was a great bonding experience and opportunity to spend time together in a more relaxed atmosphere. The girls described the

sleepover as being "the most fun time I've ever had", "it was amazing", "it was awesome because everyone had lots of fun" and for some, it was the first time they had experienced a sleepover before or ever slept in one of their classrooms!

The next morning girls contributed to preparing a cooked breakfast for the class as well as other special guests. The

evening was a huge success and the girls are very keen to do it all again. Considering the exceptional behaviour and attitude of all the girls in Kimi Maturanga we would not hesitate to plan another sleepover to celebrate their exceptional efforts in class.

Residential

Labour Weekend



Labour Weekend brought out the sunshine and lots of fun outings and activities. Melissa went to Faulkner's Bush to play on the Flying Fox. As well as exercise, this outing enables her to develop her social skills around sharing and taking turns with others. On the outing she displayed the skills she has learned by helping a small child on to the Flying Fox, ensuring she was safely seated and balanced before letting her go. This is one of Melissa's favourite recreational activities.

On Saturday night the girls enjoyed a twilight alfresco dinner out on the Parker deck. Students were



asked what they would like for dinner over the long weekend, and a unanimous decision by all was a BARBEQUE!

The students involved with the preparation were also able to achieve their SMART goals around food safety and food preparation in line with their IEP goals. Students are often given the opportunity to help staff cook meals in the weekends. This Saturday night our budding chef Ciarra decided she was

going to be in charge for the night! Under close supervision she was taught food safety/ personal safety when cooking around an open flame, appropriate clothing, use of tongs, and appropriate portion sizing. The relaxed atmosphere gave all the girls a chance to interact and enjoy eating and socialising with staff and other students.



On Labour Day we were blessed with even more sunshine so we took the opportunity to take the girls for a walk round Miyazu Gardens. We had to conquer stepping stones and narrow bridges to cross the water which some girls found very challenging but with support they were able to get to the other side. After our walk we found a nice spot to sit and eat our picnic lunch, some girls



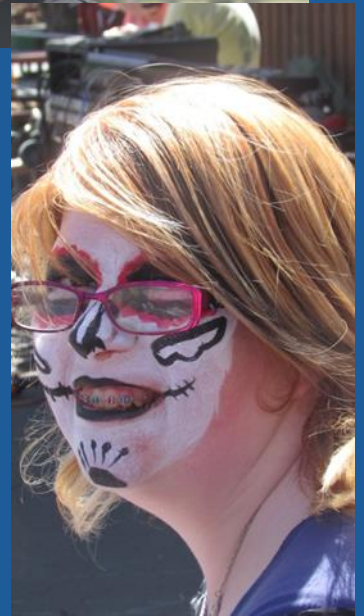
returned to school while some went to Founders Park to the "Mexican Day of the Dead Festival".



Residential

Labour Weekend continued

At the festival the girls enjoyed getting their faces painted and listening to music from South America. With the large number of people the girls initially found it a little overwhelming but were able to purchase tickets for the face painting and wait patiently in a queue. After a sun-filled weekend the girls returned to cottage for a quiet and relaxing evening.



Fireworks and Bonfire Night

We were fortunate to recently be invited to the Russ Farm again for another Bonfire and to watch and enjoy some Fireworks. All the girls loved having a ride in the Mule (four wheel drive) and a highlight was for each of us to experience riding in a Kawasaki Vulcan side chair. One of the Staff even rode it much to the surprise and delight of our girls.

As darkness fell the Fireworks were set off by two adults to the collective gasps of delight of the crowd. Melissa was in her element, she joined in every activity and was front and centre for the fireworks. The delight on her face was a picture for all to see. Melissa talked to everyone, adults and other children and was first in line to get a Sparkler.

When the Bonfire had died down we were treated to Damper on a stick, with everyone cooking their own.



For our Walking Group this week we explored the grounds at the School. We walked through the Lizard Garden and Ciarra talked about the traps that have been set to catch Stoats or Weasels. Lizards are definitely on the menu for these two introduced species, and we don't want our Lizards being caught and eaten by them.

We carried on to have a close look at some of the big, old protected trees that make our grounds so beautiful. We have two types of Oak (a Holm Oak and an English Oak). The green spring leaves of the Oak look amazing next to the vibrant red of the Copper Beech.

The biggest tree of all is Himalayan Cedar. Sophie looked really small when she was up close to it and we were all amazed and how wide and thick its branches are.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS—ATHLETICS

This term all girls attended the Special Olympics event at Saxton Stadium. Each girl had an opportunity to take part in two track events and one field event. Four students also took part in the relay. Rachael was asked to begin the day by saying the official Special Olympics motto into the microphone. "Let me win, but if I can't win let me be brave in the attempt".

The teachers were very proud of the students' efforts in all their events. They all challenged themselves to do the best they could. Everybody achieved their personal goals but the most rewarding aspect of the day was the pride the students showed as a team.

Everyone wanted to look good, do their best and support their friends. A genuine sense of belonging and happiness was evident in the whole team. Nicola was too overwhelmed to join in last year but did her best this in all the events. She was proud of getting all her certificates.

Other successful aspects of the day were the appropriate and positive interactions between our students and other the other schools. The most effective way to learn and live the key competencies is to practise them in real life contexts in the community. It was rewarding to see the girls using the strategies and skills we discuss at school to help build friendships and build confidence through talking to new people.

