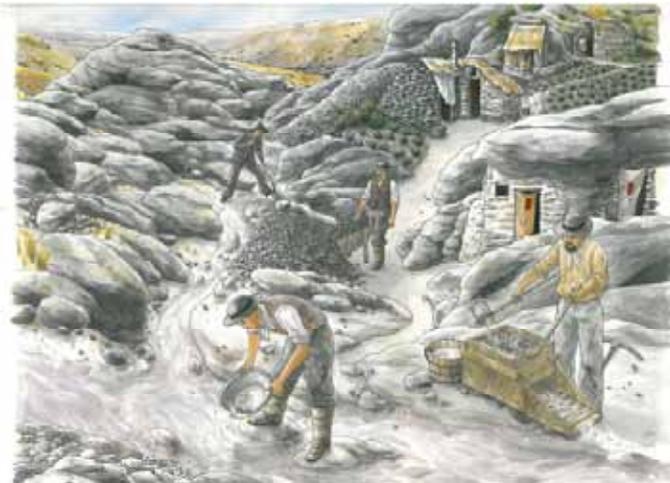




James Shum's Dilemma

Scenario

In 1873 James Shum's family were trying to decide if he should join the men from his village and sail from Canton, China for the goldfields in Otago, New Zealand, in the hope of gaining a fortune. James was a 17 year old Chinese farmer. Using your knowledge of skilful compare and contrast what would you say to James's family? Should he come or should he stay?



Exploratory Environment

Dear Parents

We are about to start a new social studies Quest called 'James Shum's Dilemma' This unit of work has been developed here at Birkdale Intermediate.

Students are looking to develop new insights and understandings around how exploration creates opportunities and challenges for people, places, and environments. The underlying question is, 'What challenges does James Shum face if he is to take advantage of the opportunities that his exploration of the Otago goldfields offers him?' The students will use skilful compare and contrast to examine life in 19th Century China with life on the gold fields of New Zealand and make a well founded judgement to advise James.

Students are exploring their personal values base, as well as that of another person and culture in order to make a recommendation.

Ways in which you could support your child during this study:

- Make a family visit to the Chinese New Year celebrations particularly the Lantern Festival in Albert Park in February 5pm – 10pm
- Visit a local Chinese restaurant (rather than the Chinese takeaway) and sample some unusual dishes.
- If you are travelling to the South Island consider visiting:
 - The Chinese village in Shanty Town...
 - The Chinese gardens in Dunedin
 - The Chinese display in the Settlers Museum, Dunedin.
 - Visit the town of Lawrence and their museum that contains objects from the goldfields.
- Call in to our school library and ask you child to show you our collection of objects from the Otago goldfields. The collection includes an opium pipe, Chinese coins found on the goldfields

of New Zealand and Canada, gold coins from the 1800s ginger jars and whiskey jars from China that have been dug up on the goldfields of the South Island.



Chinese Lantern Festival, Albert Park, Auckland

Quest Awards



Online Learning Award

Recognizing creative teachers for their pioneering use of telecommunication networks to provide innovative learning opportunities for school-age students.



Presented at the National Education Computing Conference, New Orleans, United States of America.



Finalist Computerworld Excellence Awards.

Yours sincerely

Richard Coote
Principal