



Birkdale Intermediate School

Newsletter of the Board of Trustees

Summer 2013



**SPORTING
SUCCESS**

**GOLD AWARD
FOR 40 hr
FAMINE**

**PLAYGROUND
MUSICAL
INSTRUMENT**

International Recognition for our Learning Programmes

A new book is being published by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). This book will have a section on learning at Birkdale Intermediate School.

The title is, 'Thinking Through Projects.' It is intended to show teachers how they can move to a more challenging problem-based, thinking-based approach.

ISTE represents more than 100,000 education leaders and emerging leaders throughout the world and informs it's members regarding educational issues of national and global scope so it is an important influence on educational thinking world wide.

At the ISTE conference in San Diego in 2012 our school was mentioned by one of the authors, Jane Kraus, at a session on learning environments. She made particular mention of Kiwi and Tui's Nests that provide quiet spaces for small groups of students to work semi-independently and the cabinets in our library that display real objects to support our students' learning and develop their curiosity.

ISTE's annual conference and exposition is the world's premier educational technology event attracting around 20,000 participants each year.

This is the second time ISTE has recognized our work. In

2004 we received an award recognizing creative teachers for their pioneering use of telecommunication networks to provide innovative learning opportunities for school-age students.

Education Review Office Comments on Students' Enthusiasm for Learning

This year we received our latest Education Review Office Report. They made wonderful comments about the high quality of the teaching and learning.

"Students are progressing and achieving well at Birkdale Intermediate. The school's long term focus on thinking skills has had a positive impact on student engagement. Students are motivated learners and this is reflected in their levels of achievement."

They have made special mention of the collegial team approach of our staff and their enthusiasm for their teaching.

On a number of occasions they talked about the high engagement of our students in their learning. They made a point of mentioning that this was not just engagement with task completion, or activities, but with a deeper understanding and enthusiasm for their learning.

They also commended us on our community engagement, not only with the good turn out of parents to our three

way conferences, but also with the way people in the community, such as artists and scientists, are involved in strengthening our students' learning.



Musical Instrument in the Playground

We installed an outdoor musical instrument in our playground as part of a project to make not only our classrooms but also our playground a place of learning. We are keen to enhance our students' curiosity and their creative play.

The instrument is called a Manta Ray and stays out in the playground permanently as a fun way for our students to experience music during their break times. The Manta Ray uses the Pentatonic scale, so that children can learn about making music without the fear of making harmonic mistakes.

The Manta Ray is a type of metallaphone. Similar to the glockenspiel it is a percussion instrument consisting of a graduated series of metal bars to be struck with hand-held mallets. Metallophones existed in China during the 7th century. By the 17th century, metallophones reached northern Europe.

Fabulous Performance of the Rocky Monster Show Junior

This year the cast of the Rocky Monster Show Junior put on a wonderful performance. This is the 47th Production in the life of our school. It is wonderful to see our young people taking up the challenge and producing a high quality show with such enjoyment evident on their faces.



Improvement in Mathematics and Reading

Last year one of our goals was to reduce the number of Maori students achieving below the National Standard in Mathematics by 50%. This meant we set a target that 90% of our Year 8 Maori students will achieve 'At' or 'Above' the National Standard. The outcome was very positive. We achieved our target.

A second goal was to improve on 2010's National Standards Reading

Top Sporting Results

Softball

Our Y7 boys are North Shore Champions and our Y8 team came second. This is the third year one of our teams has been the North Shore Champions.

Squash

Three boys represented us at the North Shore Squash Zone Day. These boys had a fantastic day winning the plate final and third overall in the Premier League.



Rugby League

Our under 55kg and the open weight teams played in the North Harbour Intermediate Schools' tournament. Our Open Weight team won their tournament and represented North Harbour at the Auckland tournament.

Rugby

Three teams competed at the North Shore Intermediate Schools' boys rugby competition. The Open Weight team came third in their group.

Netball

Tayla Tokona was selected for the Year 8 Team for Poi Tarawhiti O Te Raki Paewhenua (North Harbour Maori Netball) and Jaana Driver and Flataysha James were selected as reserves.

Volleyball

At the boys' North Shore Intermediate Volleyball Zone Day our Year 7 boys came 2nd overall.

Cross Country

Forty of our students represented us at the North Shore Intermediate Schools Cross Country. We had a student in the top ten in every race. Four students went on to represent the North Shore in Auckland.

achievement of 86% success rate for Pacific Island students to 93%, so that Pacific Island students will be on par with our other students' achievement levels. The data shows that the withdrawal of 20 students to receive small-group intensive support has increased student achievement. 5 out of 20 students are now achieving at the National Standard. 14 of the 20 students moved towards achieving the National Standard and one student left the school so was not counted in the results.

New Microscope Arrives in Our Library

Earlier in the year a new video microscope was delivered. It is now permanently set up for students to use during lunchtime and their weekly class visit to the library.

We have a number of samples that they can put under the microscope for a 'close-up' look. The students also bring things in from the playground and from home.

They have found that one of the most interesting items to do is to simply study their own hands under the microscope.

Mrs Bradbeer studies French in Nouméa

Mrs Bradbeer spent her last October holidays at a 2 week Immersion programme in Nouméa.

This programme was offered by the French Embassy to New Zealand trained teachers of French.

Special Award to Miss Lawless

Miss Lawless has been awarded a Ministry of Education Language Immersion Award for Teachers. This is a 3 month immersion in the French language for one Term in 2013. She will spend the time living and studying in France. Her work has been featured in an article in the Educational Gazette.



Kapahaka Perform at the Auckland Competition

Our Kapahaka put on a wonderful performance at this year's competition coming 10th. It was particularly humbling when we were standing outside the stadium and schools passing by saw our group and began clapping as they passed.

Two Finalists in the Auckland Haiku Writing Competition

Congratulations to Duncan Cameron and Payge Swanson, finalists in the Auckland Intermediate Haiku writing competition. Ten finalists were chosen from across Auckland.

Our School Receives a 40hr Famine Gold Award

This year we were one of the top fundraising Intermediate Schools within the Upper North Island. Along with the Gold Award, we received a prize pack from Warehouse Stationery that includes a laptop (with bag), software and mobile phone.

Fun Day Raises \$2,030.00 for New Sports Uniforms

Our student executive organised a fun day with a water slide, dunking machine and haunted house. It was a great day with everyone having a great deal of fun.

