

Enviroschools

TE TAI POUTINI

WEST COAST

TERM 2
2017



Kia ora koutou

Term 2 time and back to basics. This newsletter is structured on the **Enviroschools Guiding Principles (GPS's)**, with plenty of examples of these being woven throughout school and centre life.

As many of you are gearing up for your holistic reflections in Term 3 and 4, make sure you are exploring and collecting ways that your school or centre is using the GP's. In this newsletter check out how Reefton Early Learning Centre has created a visual representation of their GP coverage. A tried and tested activity for building awareness & confidence in using the GP's is on the last page of this newsletter - give it a go with staff, tamariki, or whanau.

Nga mihi nui,
Zoe Watson

Getting Creative with Composting

Learning for Sustainability at St Canice's

Thanks **St Canice's** for submitting this story. Rumour has it the compost spinner will be painted up as a cow!

"The day of our Waste Audit, we had a full day out of the class to catch up on a few Enviroschools jobs that have been waiting for some attention this year. We got stuck into the garden to do some much needed weeding and to dig the potato patch... we dug 98 potatoes. We also



finished off our new compost bin. There was a great deal of research and discussion that went into the design for our bin. This compost bin has been in the planning stage for nearly 12 months. All of the materials used were donated to us. One of our parents came along to give us a helping hand with the construction. We now have a fantastic new spinning compost!



Above: Hokitika Primary's Waste Warriors.

Targeting Waste

Action Learning Cycle for Change

Hokitika Primary School's Envirogroup has been using the Action Learning Cycle to empower students.

"Last year the Hokitika Primary Envirogroup began a war on waste, this saw our school reducing our waste from five (large) wheelie bins per week to just two!

This year we realised waste was still in the wrong bins. After a thorough investigation of the classrooms and waste area we realised that the signage wasn't clear and there was little cohesion in receptacles.

Coco Johnston-Coates said, "There was a lot of plastic being mixed in with the compost and I often saw rubbish in the recycling bins". Clare Peters suggested, "Let's use the same signs for all the classrooms and at the main receptacles to help students remember what goes in each bin".

We sourced enough recycled containers from local cafes and have streamlined our bins and labels to avoid any confusion.

Caden Manuel said, "The new system seems to be working well although there is still some rubbish getting mixed up with the compost".

Next term we will implement a weekly waste audit in each classroom and will report the findings to students to help raise awareness."



A Guardian for the Garden

Integrating Maori Perspectives

Reefton Area School provided this report on their unfolding creation for their school garden. Tamariki have been working hard to find ways to strengthen Maori Perspectives

throughout their work.

"Enviro Rangers needed a gate for our Edible Garden project, as our fence had been constructed by the Hard Materials students. Welding students needed to practice their welding technique and their tutor, Danny Bass wanted a project for them to undertake and so offered to make us a gate. After

discussing and sketching our own design ideas we decided to enlist the help of local artist Alun Bollinger to draw up a design that encapsulated all our ideas that symbolised our edible garden. We wanted the gate to include vegetables and flowers and trees, as well as the atua of cultivated foods/ garden crops; Rongomātāne.

We are very excited to see the gate take shape as you can see from the design Alun has skilfully included all of our ideas."



Road Trip to Christchurch

Respect for Diversity

The third of three road trips for EnviroSchools Kaiako, funded by the West Coast Community Trust, took place in February. Lead teachers were led on tours by Envirogroups at 3 different Canterbury schools. "Seeing a variety of ways that schools explore and take action for sustainability was a highlight. There were lots of creative ways schools were providing robust learning for a range of students and abilities." - Teacher



Above: Ashley School's Envirogroup running the show.

Sharing the Journey

Sustainable Communities at Reefton Early Learning Centre

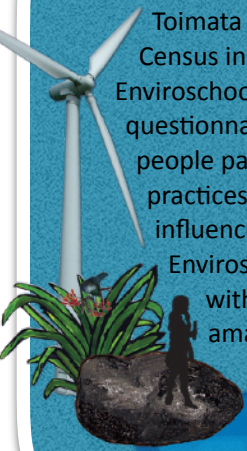
Reefton Early Learning Centre are sharing their EnviroSchools Journey with their whanau. The wall display below uses the 4P's and GP's and give examples of each at play at the centre. Lead teacher Jo Newburry said, "Families are really supportive of EnviroSchools and together we are finding ways to support our tamariki to make positive change". Watch this space!



Census Time!

Toimata Foundation will conduct a Nationwide Census in Term 4. Lead teachers in each EnviroSchool & ECE centre will be sent a questionnaire to find out the range and number of people participating, the range of projects and practices undertaken this year, and how they have influenced sustainability outcomes. Your

EnviroSchools facilitator will be available to work with your school or ECE centres. The goal is to amass a rich pool of national data that supports individual journey and further collective knowledge about the EnviroSchools network. We'll keep you posted :)



Term 2 Calendar

Sustainability events and actions to support



Compost Awareness Week

1-7 May

Compost looking a little neglected? This is the time to juice it up! Links to hot hints below.

www.createyourowneden.org.nz/comp.html

www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1klpCBD3UI



ECE Enviroschools Hui, Christchurch

10 May

Lead teachers are in for an Enviroschools treat - a hui facilitated by Toimata Foundation's National ECE Coordinator Katie Higgins. Contact Zoe for details.



Fair-trade Coffee & Kit Sessions

Westland/Grey - Wed 17 May 3:30 - 5pm

Buller - Wed 7 June 3:30 - 5pm

Reefton - Thursday 15 June 3:30 - 5pm

Learn more about Fair Trade and the connections to the Enviroschools Programme including film, goodie bag, & planning ideas.

www.tradeaid.org.nz

www.youtu.be/Hh8zHQzdVv4



Habitat Heroes 2017

18 April to 29 September

Habitat Heroes encourages young people to explore a local natural environment and think about how they can make a difference. For information, teaching & learning resources, and to enter the competition visit

www.doc.govt.nz/habitatheroes



International Biodiversity Day

22 May

The activity 'Web of Life' pg. 112 from the Enviroschools Kit is a great way to explore biodiversity & how things are connected. DOC has a wealth of information too.

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/biodiversity



West Coast Envirogroup Action Day

Thursday 25 May

Theme: Biodiversity. An action-packed day at Punakaiki with activities led by Enviroschools, Tai Poutini Polytechnic & Conservation Volunteers NZ. Please register with Zoe.

Strengthening the Guiding Principles at your Kura

Activity for Staff, students, and whanau



This Guiding Principles Donut activity is a real winner. Adaptable for any age, the process below enables users to share what each of the GP's means to them. Revisit this activity often and observe and record how knowledge deepens over time.

Guiding Principles Donut

Purpose: To develop awareness of the Enviroschools Guiding Principles

Resources:

- Big Picture from pages 30 & 31 of the Enviroschools handbook.
- A set description of the Guiding Principles adapted from the Enviroschools Handbook pg. 9 - 11 (ask Zoe for these or make your own)

Activity:

- Organise groups into pairs so that one of the pairs is standing in an inner circle and one of the pair is standing in an outer circle (forming the inside ring and outside ring of a donut).
- Give each pair a copy of the "big picture".
- Read out a description of one guiding principle and give the pairs a few minutes to find examples of where that guiding principle is happening in the picture.
- Ask the inside person in the pair to hold the big picture and the outside person to move one place clockwise.
- Read out the next guiding principle description and so on until each of the guiding principles have been discussed with a different person.

Additional parts to activity:

- Participants identify themselves in the picture, "Where would you be if you were in the picture?"
- Participants discuss which of the guiding principles they have just discussed is strong in their school or early childhood centre and which they would like to do some more work on.

