

# Social Studies and Environmental Studies Newsletter 2017

Welcome to our annual newsletter. Here you will discover what the syndicates have been exploring in social and environmental studies in 2017.

## Junior Syndicate

At the beginning of the year our key competency focus was Managing Self. As part of this we were discovering how to take responsibility as a student; to be ready and willing to learn. Classroom activities involved the children interacting with their peers, taking part in group activities and showing our school values (RICE). Children described their role as a Sunnybrae learner and this developed into looking at roles of other people in the school.

Over the last two terms, the Junior Syndicate children have been implementing the key competencies of Respect, Independence, Cooperation and Excellent through the lens of leadership and teamwork.

All children have been learning about the different roles we play in a group, how we can learn from each other, active listening and responsibility. They also learned about the importance of being part of a team and what this means to others if we let them down, such as joining a sports team. Building resilience and the skills to adapt and move on from situations that don't always go our way, was also explored. A range of activities such as art and technology projects, physical education, sports and drama were used to build on and develop these skills.

Year 2 children learnt about the qualities that make a good leader and what it means to be a good leader. Good leadership is demonstrated through sharing and cooperation in groups, listening to and understanding others' points of view.



*Students built a shelter*



## Middle Syndicate

In Term 1 students explored the theme of rights, roles and responsibilities as they thought about how they could take part in activities beyond the classroom. In this study the competencies of relating to others, participating and contributing and managing self were looked at in depth as students thought about their roles at home, at school and in the wider community. They were then able to put this concept of 'teamwork' into practice as they helped to prepare food items for the International Food Festival.





In Term 3 attention was turned to heroes and their role in our society. Students looked initially at heroes in their own immediate circle such as family, sports coaches, brownie leaders and others. Sharing characteristics these heroes had in common led them to a definition of what a hero is and the behaviour they exhibit. After this we completed class inquiry studies into national heroes and looked at individuals who had made a difference in NZ. Following on from this students were able to complete an independent inquiry study into an international hero who had inspired them.

*Solo definition map for 'What is a hero?'*

## Senior Syndicate

The senior syndicate launched the year inquiring into 'Identity'. The Social Studies component included understanding and appreciating our own and others' cultures, understanding the influences that shape our identity. The key values we covered were:

- We express our own beliefs and heritage through literature and art.
- We read and ask questions to learn about other cultures and beliefs.
- Through understanding we develop empathy and compassion towards others
- Our classroom experiences included identifying artefacts that we value and some children brought in culturally or belief-based items of importance.

In terms three and four, it was time to investigate communities. We defined what a community is and recognised our roles and responsibilities within it. We explored needs within a community and how people respond to these needs to make a difference. Some wonderful projects were undertaken, including educating others, recycling, caring for the Sunnybrae environment, organising resources, taking lunchtime clubs and sport, fundraising, and acting as teaching assistants.



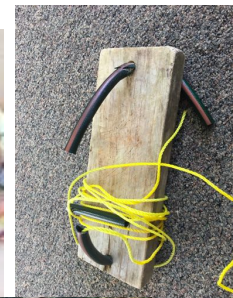


# Environmental Studies



In Term 1, the Senior syndicate was privileged to watch a fantastic show about a crate of yellow plastic ducks that were lost at sea and eventually travelled to the corners of the globe. Following the show, the students listened to an oceanographer describe his work. Students learned about conservation of our oceans and the impact humans are and can make. As part of the

Community projects conducted in the second half of the year, some students upcycled old items into new items - a trash to treasure type project.



Fewer students in the garden group this year meant that those who joined were able to get together more often to nurture our school vegetable garden, as well as plant shrubs around the school grounds. Some of the vegetables grown were massive as Mr Barnes emptied one of the compost bins early in the year. Compostable plates from the 2016 International Food Festival made up a portion of the compost.



TAKAPUNA COMMUNITY NEWS WITH SARAH THORNE



## Takapuna Community News

with Sarah Thorne

Kia Ora, I'm the new Takapuna North Community Coordinator. After three fantastic years, Rachael Bro has moved onto literal greener pastures (a lifestyle block complete with goats and calves) and I am stepping into her shoes. My background is in community development in the inner city, but I live on the Shore and I'm really looking forward to working with my local community and meeting members of the community at some of the exciting upcoming events.

**Community News & Events:**  
**Beach Clean up:** 29 students from Sunnybrae School, plus teachers and parents worked to clean up the Tufts Crater Reserve on Friday 7th April. The students did a great job despite the rain. Thank you Sunnybrae School!  
**OWN Women's Festival:** Come Fly with Me: Saturday 6th May at the



Again this year Room 8 students represented Sunnybrae at the annual Beach Clean Up Day organised by Sarah Thorne, the Takapuna North Community Coordinator. It was exciting to see that a photo of Room 8 had been published in a local newspaper.

