



Soggy school holidays

Last term was very busy for me as the relatively 'dry' months of May and June meant lots of planned field trips went ahead, without the weather ruining the fun. We all know that society seems to be constantly changing and increased urbanization can present challenges for children to connect with their natural environment. But bravo to all of you, who continue to develop programmes which enhance your students' awareness of our environment and its fragility.

You may be aware of the term 'citizen science' and wonder exactly what it is. Basically, it is a way for people who aren't 'experts' to effectively contribute data to scientific studies. Programmes undertaken can benefit both the citizens and the scientists as well as helping to demystify the field of science for many people. The programmes undertaken are extremely wide-ranging and include national bird counts, water quality measurement, pest free programmes, wetland restoration, intertidal diversity studies and lizard monitoring. I expect schools to hear more about and have greater involvement with citizen science in the next few years.

Building developments are progressing at a fast rate at Pukeiti with the official opening expected in September. The new buildings are spectacular and will really enhance the education programme but rest assured popular activities and programmes such as the bush walks, the pot-a plant, the bird studies, the native freshwater fish and the creepy crawlies will still be available.

The annual Science and Technology Fair will be held on Tuesday 8 August at the Pukekura Racecourse in New Plymouth. The Council is again sponsoring the Environmental Science Award and I look forward to judging lots of exhibits from the Year 7 and above students. Good luck to all entrants.

Best wishes for a great term everyone.

Kevin



Civil Defence Emergency Management and 'What's the Plan, Stan?'

This issue of SITE looks at Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) in general and the educational resource "What's The Plan, Stan?"

Coastal Taranaki School Stream Study

Craig Taylor's Year 7 class at the Coastal Taranaki School had a great time studying the Mangaemiemi Stream in May.



Five groups were stationed along the course of the stream with each one gathering data about the stream flow, water clarity, water temperature, water pH and water conductivity as well as discovering and identifying the invertebrates at their location.

The photo above shows Kurt Hofmans and Liam Harvey looking closely at the invertebrate action in their tray and the tally sheets show how the data was initially recorded back in the classroom. Well done Coastal Taranaki School and the tasty sausages at the barbecue lunch were greatly appreciated by everyone!

Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM)

A little bit of history

New Zealand has always been vulnerable to devastation by natural forces. The effects of events such as the 1886 Tarawera eruption, the 1931 Napier earthquake, the 1968 Wahine storm, Cyclone Bola in 1988 and more recently the Canterbury and Kaikoura earthquakes to name a few were devastating.

New Zealand's civil defence organisation, which dates back to the 1930s, has had the task of managing the response to these kinds of emergencies. It was not until 1959 that the establishment of the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM) formalised earlier attempts to deal with natural disasters. The development of the ministry and the evolution of its role over the years illustrates the changes in both the public perception of the threats posed by natural emergencies and the way they have been dealt with.

In Taranaki, the three district councils and the regional council make up the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group which works to reduce the risk and leads the preparation for and coordinates the response to emergencies.



What's the Plan Stan?

I am sure you have heard of 'What's the Plan Stan?' the educational resource which seeks to improve awareness and understanding of the hazards we face in New Zealand. It promotes emergency preparedness in primary and intermediate schools by providing teachers and students with the knowledge and skills to act in a safe manner when a disaster occurs. But it is also a useful resource for early childhood centres, kindergartens and high schools. First published in 2006, written in Te Reo in 2008, updated in 2009 and recently improved again (see insert) it has proved to be a valuable resource for many teachers. It is aligned to the New Zealand Curriculum's vision for young people being confident, connected and actively involved and lifelong learners.

It encourages community and participation for the common good by promoting innovation, inquiry and curiosity through

critical, creative and reflective thinking.

In addition, its principles of community engagement, coherence and future focus are promoted in meaningful ways with strong links to the key competencies.

The programme can be taught in the context of several learning areas including Health and Physical Education, Social Studies, Science and English.

The recent changes in 'What's the Plan, Stan?' can be seen on the CDEM website <http://www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz/>.

Superheroes are used to help students make the right decisions should they be stuck at home, can't get home, have to evacuate or have no power, water, phone or internet.



Early Childhood Centres, Kindergartens and Schools involvement with What's The Plan Stan?

Comprehensive nationwide research in 2012 revealed that 75% of primary and intermediate teachers had heard of 'What's the Plan Stan?' 70% of them rated it to be a useful or very useful resource but perhaps surprisingly only 33% had actually used it in their teaching. I am hopeful that those percentages have risen since then, particularly the last one. Nationwide earthquake exercises such as NZ Shakeout in 2012 and 2015 would almost certainly have lifted the figures especially in Taranaki where the response from virtually everyone was magnificent.



What about fire drills in schools?

A fire drill is a method of practising how a school should be evacuated in the event of a fire. Usually, the school's existing fire alarm system is activated and the school is evacuated as if the emergency is occurring. Students and teachers should practise getting out of, and away from the school buildings as quickly and safely as possible.

What about a 'lock down' practice?

Lots of schools have a school 'lock down' practice as part of their emergency preparation plans. A school lock down is when students, teachers, and other adults are confined to their rooms due to a perceived or real threat.



How can we help?

Kevin would love to visit your school to talk to you and your class(es) to cover:

- Types of emergencies that could occur in Taranaki and what actions to take if they happen
- The impacts we may face in an emergency event and how to prepare.

He can also assist with teacher delivered curriculum planning, to further explore the topic. Children can take home a 'Get Ready Get Thru' pack, then put together with their family, a household emergency plan, emergency survival items for staying at home, and a getaway kit should the need arise to leave home in a hurry. Additional copies of 'What's the Plan Stan?' can be obtained from the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management. <http://www.civildefence.govt.nz>



The unnecessary trio

Here is a list containing some items you should have in a Home Emergency Survival Items plus three others which really shouldn't be there.

✓ Which are the three unneeded ones?

- a battery powered torch
- face masks
- radio with spare batteries
- lawnmower
- cans of food
- one litre of ice cream
- first aid kit
- blankets/sleeping bags
- guitar
- toilet paper
- can opener



Civil Defence Emergency Management Quiz

- 1 What phone number do you call in an emergency if life is threatened?
- 2 In an earthquake is it best to: Cover, Drop and Hold: Hold, Drop and Cover or Drop, Cover and Hold?
- 3 In a fire, is it a good idea to 'get out and stay out' or 'stay in and keep warm'?
- 4 Mount Taranaki almost certainly will erupt again! It last erupted in 1066, 1755, or 1961.
- 5 The best way to help you cope with any emergency is to deal with it as it happens or prepare for it beforehand or to have a think about it after it has happened.
- 6 Earthquakes are measured in scales. Which of these scales is not useful when measuring earthquakes? - the Richter Scale, the Mercalli Scale or the Musical Scale.
- 7 Personal items are important to have with you in an emergency. Which of these is not really a personal item? – a towel, a fence post or a cake of soap.
- 8 In a volcanic eruption which of these should you not do? Stay indoors, panic and run away or listen to your radio for advice.
- 9 The correct spelling of the Japanese word meaning a sea wave caused by an earthquake is sunami, tsunami or soonasme?
- 10 Six radio stations will carry civil defence information and advice in an emergency. Five of them are Radio Rhema, The National Radio, Radio Live, The Hits and More FM. What is the other one?

5 easy questions!

Well maybe not that easy!

A so-called 'expert' from America reckons it is human nature for most of us to respond exactly the same way when we are asked to answer five easy questions, without really thinking.

All you need is a piece of paper numbered 1 to 5 and please ask your teacher if he or she would be kind enough to ask you the questions. The 'expert' believes that most of us will get either four right or even all five. I failed miserably as I only got one right so I am sure you will do better me. But you must write down your answer instantly and then be ready for the next question.

Here are the questions:

1. What is your favourite colour?
2. Name a piece of furniture.
3. Name a flower.
4. Pick a number between 1 and 4.
5. Name an animal in a zoo.

The 'correct' answers are on page 4 and my incorrect ones are there as well. Good luck!

Wordfind

E R V E H W J G Q T C A Q C E P H E Y F
 K C R Q S U I B E D D M E P G R M U E N
 E E I R H A R H L V G G M T A E N C T E
 R M Z L N W K R U Q A A P K R A A S H Y
 K O M U O E P M I M N T P G E D T E M W
 Y U A G E P I Y A C Y E E Q W I U R G M
 T S U N A M I D Y R A N N P E N R U E L
 L A N D S L I D E E C N V Y S E A L G K
 C K H N Z D B V K Y P Y E O A S L N K D
 W C P E A V O A Q G L F D W L S D W T H
 V U E Q D C U Y R U J N I D A C U F P L
 R Y Q U E Q E S N O P S E R H T A I Y V
 U E A R H E N S H H N X R A Y U E N W R
 K C T T Z T P E Y Q B K Z W G H R R O H
 N N R S O H U F H Q V A R N J K N F H C
 L A F R A Z E I Z V R X H E S R S Z H Z
 E G C T Z S D L G D F L O O D A R I N Q
 R H T Q M S I C O K F Z U C F D H M R O
 Q V R U P E G D R P R Q A B S I F E H I
 Q J M T Q V M E D C A Q W W B O F E F M



- CDEM
- DAMAGE
- DISASTER
- EARTHQUAKE
- EMERGENCY
- FLOOD
- HAZARD
- HURRICANE
- INJURY
- LANDSLIDE
- LIFE
- NATURAL
- POLICE
- RADIO
- READINESS
- RECOVERY
- RESCUE
- RESPONSE
- RISK
- SEWERAGE
- TORCH
- TSUNAMI
- VOLCANO
- WATER

Word match-up

Match the word on the left with the correct definition from the right column.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. natural | A. to come before |
| 2. property | B. a danger |
| 3. community | C. caused by nature |
| 4. eruption | D. staff or workers |
| 5. precede | E. people's belongings or assets |
| 6. personnel | F. an outpouring from a volcano |
| 7. train | G. people who live in a particular area |
| 8. hazard | H. to teach or inform |



Hawera High School study the Kaipokonui River

A large group of senior students from Hawera High School studied the Kaipokonui River at three sites on Mt Taranaki, at Kaponga and at the river mouth at Kaipokonui Beach in early May. Weather-wise it was really challenging, particularly on the mountain but the group, under the guidance of teacher Anna Campbell

worked with enthusiasm and accuracy as well as being extremely polite throughout. Well done Hawera High School.



Fitzroy classes visit the Peringa Park wetland areas in May

Education Officer Kevin Archer makes a point to this group from Fitzroy School during their visit to the Peringa Park wetlands, Lake Rotomanu and the Te Rewa Rewa bridge.



Auroa School study the Kaipokonui River

I had my first interaction with the staff and students of Auroa School in June and it could not have been a better experience for me. Classes studied a variety of environmental issues at school and a few of the older classes ventured into the Kaipokonui River for their water quality investigation at two sites, including the river mouth at Kaipokonui Beach. Thanks very much for all the visits Auroa School, you were all focused and fun to be with.



Spotswood College study the Waiwhakaiho River

Wintry weather made conditions unpleasant when this group of Spotswood College studied the Waiwhakaiho River at Peters Rd, close to the national park. Later that day they continued their study of the same river at Merrilands Domain where the weather deteriorated further causing several students, teachers and myself to take shelter in a covered picnic area. Several lightning strikes and claps of thunder made things even worse when right on cue, six white uniformed people emerged out of the gloom on the other side of the river. They were on the hunt for Myrtle Rust and we all admired their dedication!

This and That

Environmental Awards

The Council will again be rewarding outstanding environmental work by individuals, community groups, farmers, businesses and educational institutions through its annual Environmental Awards programme. Please feel free to nominate yourselves for an award as we aren't always aware of the many excellent environment programmes that are happening out there. Nominations for this year's awards are open and close at 5pm on Wednesday 23 August. The winners will receive their awards at a presentation evening on Thursday 9 November in New Plymouth. To make a nomination or for further information please go to trc.govt.nz/environmental-awards or contact: Rusty Ritchie ph 06 765 7127 or email: rusty.ritchie@trc.govt.nz

Answers from page 3

The three unnecessary items are: lawnmower, ice cream and guitar

Quiz: 1.111 2. Drop, Cover and Hold 3. get out and stay out 4.1755 5.prepare for it beforehand 6. The Musical Scale 7. A fence post 8. panic and run away 9.tsunami 10.Newstalk ZB

5 Easy questions: According to the 'expert' the correct answers are 1.red 2. chair 3. rose 4. 2 5. lion My answers were 1. blue 2. table 3. daffodil 4. 3 5. lion. One right out of five for me which means I either don't know what to think or even how to think! **Match-up:** 1-c 2-e 3-g 4-f 5-a 6-d 7-h 8-b

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