



SCHOOL TALK

October 2015

Mokau's got Talent

Mokau students' training certainly paid off at the recent Tainui Cluster Schools' Cross Country event. Students battled hard in sodden conditions on a challenging course to gain some very credible results. Special thanks must go to Evan and Emma O'Sullivan-Lobb who organised this event.

Tainui Cross Country Results 2015:

- Pre-schoolers 1st Anika
 2nd Ruth
- 5 year old girls no competitors from Mokau
- 5 year old boys 3rd Jacob
- 6 year old girls 1st Brylee
- 6 year old boys 1st Billy
- 7 year old boys 1st Reece
- 8 year old girls 1st Sophia
- 8 year old boys 2nd Rico
- 9 Year old girls no competitors from Mokau
- 9 year old boys 2nd Claude
- 10 year old girls 2nd Tessa
- 10 year old boys no competitors
- 11 year old girls 2nd Morgan
- 11 year old boys no competitors
- 12+ year old girls 1st Francis
- 12+ year old boys 1st Oliver, 2nd Bryn, 3rd Madi



Congratulations to Rico, Claude, Tessa, Morgan, Olly and Francis who braved the elements the following week to compete in the Taranaki Schools' Cross Country in Hawera.



Mokau School's success at Cross Country was followed up the following week with some wonderful poem and speech recitals. What a talented group of students at Mokau School. Congratulations must go to every child - speaking to an audience does not come naturally to everyone but every student did it and did a good job.

Friends, parents and extended family of students gathered to hear poems and speech recitals.

The audience enjoyed some delightful poems from the juniors and was entertained by a wide array of "I believe" speeches from seniors in which their parents took a bit of a ribbing!

Frances believes her mother needs to go to spec savers, Claude believes his father should give up making vegetarian shepherd's pie and Bryn convinced us that his dad is not good with technology. On the other hand, Karnia put some good arguments forward as to why her father is a superhero and Sophia told us about the 'olden days' when her mother used to play bullrush on concrete!

Aliens are amongst us according to Grace. Gemma believes every day can be a good day, Eve was very convincing with her arguments for battery hens to be abolished and her brother Connell was equally convincing that homework should be banned! Morgan gave a very entertaining speech on the delights of being a middle child, Tessa was passionate about Mokau School taking up the William Pike Challenge, Madi had some good arguments as to why Richie McCaw should be Prime Minister while Olly and Unity debated the role technology has in our lives.

Given speeches should be informative, entertaining and memorable the audience was not disappointed!

Thanks must go to Mrs. Wise and Mrs. Bryant for adjudicating the school's competition - it was not an easy task. They had the difficult job of separating the top contenders to send forward to the Tainui Cluster Speech Competition where our students were well rewarded for their hard work.



Tainui Interschool Speech Competition Results:

Year 1	1 st	Jacob
Year 2	2 nd	Martha
Year 3	2 nd	Reece
Year 4	1 st	Claude
Year 5	no competitors from Mokau	
Year 6	1 st	Eve
Year 7	1 st	Francis
Year 8	1 st	Unity

ART WEEK

Preparations for Art Week are well underway. Thank you to the community members who have willingly stepped forward and volunteered time to help us. It will be great to have some 'extra hands' while students explore their creativity. If you have some spare time and would like to join us art week runs from October 12- 16th. Whilst we have ordered some nice new resources to support this learning, we would also appreciate donated items such as: feathers, chunky beads, buttons, small boxes, material, horse shoes, ribbons, lace and wool. Each student is going to paper mache and decorate an old shoe so if you have some shoes you no longer wear - heels through to a holey gumboots - we could use these as well. All art work will be on display at school during our Pet Day on 21st October so please come and have a look at our creations. Tainui Pet Day will be held on Friday 23rd October at the domain.

COLLECTABLES

Thank you to community members who added to our supply of dominoes - I think most children now have a complete set. Students have now 'moved on' to the next 'big' thing - New World little minis! Students are using these to add realistic touches to their art week designer rooms. Minis do add authenticity but it is also good to see students making furniture from scratch such as good old matchbox dressing tables and drawers.

SCHOOL GARDENS

Our school gardens are a bit depleted at the moment with just a few winter vegetables growing. Thanks to the Whitebait Inn for the coffee grounds as well as eggshells to help deter snails. Please think of us if you are cleaning out your calf pens as now would be a good time to enrich our soil with nutrients. We would also welcome vegetable seedlings to plant - if anyone in the community has extras please drop them into school once we are back for the fourth term.

DUFFY ASSEMBLY

A stingray barb, a huge horseshoe crab shell, a snake skin and various fossils were just some of the enthralling items students and parents got to see up close during the school's recent Duffy Assembly address from Diana Queenin.

Diana's passion for animals and their habitats began at 17 when she went on a Field Service Scholarship to the United States.

Since that time she has travelled extensively and worked in many parts of the world including Melbourne, Los Angeles and New York, where she worked as a guide in the Museum of Natural History specializing in Dinosaurs and Ocean Life.

In Los Angeles she attended UCLA University and studied bio geography (the effect of nature on the land) and spent time in the American deserts among the cactus and snakes.

Diana is a certified Scuba Diver and has done many dives in the Caribbean, the Red Sea, and Thailand and has learned much about the underwater world.

Diana is interested in whales and dolphins, as well as monarch butterflies, plants, fishing, insects, birds, travel, and **READING BOOKS**.

While Diana entertained the students with items of natural history, the stories of their origins and the wonderful travel experiences she has had, she also emphasized the need to read to gain knowledge, to answer the questions generated from our experiences and learn more about our world.

