

Nau mai | Welcome

Welcome to our short round up of events and information. We have more information about the programmes we provide on the MDC website so take a look to see how we can support you.

www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/environmental-education

We have a dedicated EnviroSchools Marlborough website and blog, which help us to capture and share some of our local stories. We also have an EnviroSchools Marlborough Facebook page and 'closed group' for Marlborough teachers - search EnviroSchools Marlborough to find and join us.

www.enviroschoolsmarlborough.co.nz

The national EnviroSchools website has had a major revamp: take a look to see what is going on both in Marlborough and around Aotearoa.

<https://enviroschools.org.nz>

Hei mahi | Taking action

This year our local focus has been Hei Mahi: Taking Action. Have a browse and see some of the action that has been going on at schools and kindergartens in our fabulous region in Term 4.

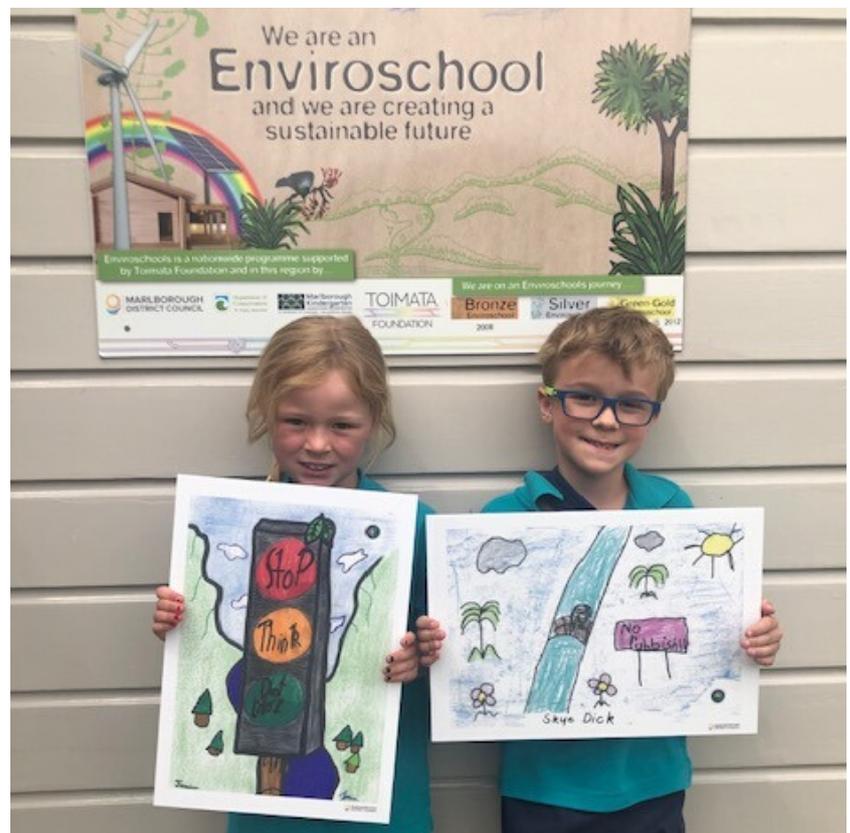
Noho ora mai,
Annie, Anna & Angela

Student artwork by the Taylor River

Some of the Springlands Go MAD (Make a Difference) students came up with an idea to design artwork with messages to remind people to take care of special reserves in our region. The students displayed all the artwork in the staffroom window and then asked the school to vote on their six favourites. The MDC reserves team kindly turned these six artworks into signs that will be displayed on some of the entrances to the Taylor River.

This was an exciting project that was totally developed by students with a bit of support. Look out for the signs when you are next walking along the river: they will be up by the end of the year.

Springlands School are not content to stop there and want to make more of a difference so will be contacting some other schools in the new year with a bit of a challenge. Ka pai Springlands!



Green Gold Schools Collective

Our four Green Gold Schools: Fairhall, Linkwater, Springlands and Renwick, are all totally different. Two years ago we started the Green Gold Collective with a plan that each school would host the other Green Gold schools so they could share and learn from each other. In Term 2 Springlands School hosted and this term it was Renwick School's turn.



Welcomed by the Green Ferns, we saw a presentation on some of their actions for this year. These included their school-wide BioBlitz in Term 2 which was led by students (including a staff meeting!) and their Enviro-week in Term 3. Students shared the learning that followed on from the BioBlitz, such as entries into the science fair.

The Stream Team took us to see the changes they have been making to protect the school stream, including regular waste clean-ups and weeding sessions. It was exciting to hear they have seen some fish and an eel living in what five years ago was a dirty drain.

We also enjoyed a tour of the impressive edible gardens and everyone took part in learning how to make our own seed-tape. Thanks to the Green Gold schools for sharing their amazing mahi.

Ngā Ngata....Snails



This term at Kohungahunga Mayfield we have been learning all about Ngata .. Snails. Lots and lots have been discovered in the gardens by the tamariki. It is an exciting time when the discovery of these slimy little creatures is made. So many conversations about the anatomy of the snail, the biggest, who has the most, and how many are going home at the end of the day! Some of the tamariki have become experts at find ngā ngata, particularly in the harakeke and vegetable gardens.

The tamariki have been very respectful of Tāne Mahuta's tamariki, building new habitats around the playground. Tamariki have explored what snails eat, why they make bubbles, how snails move, and what is the best habitat for a happy snail!

What do you get when you cross an elephant with a potato?

MASHED POTATO!

Many of the children involved in the Kids' Edible Gardens programme have been busy chitting (sprouting) potatoes, then planting them in buckets for class competitions, or planting into garden beds. There has been much discussion on how they will cook and eat them, but the most exciting part is digging them up before leaving school for their long summer holiday.

There is of course much more to chitting and planting. The children learn that although the potatoes they plant are called seed potatoes, they are actually part of the stem! As they mound up the soil around the plants, they discover that the tuber or potato has all the parts of a normal stem. When the stems are covered in soil, they become thicker and develop into the potatoes that we know. At the end of the growing season, when the plant's leaves and stems die down, the children unearth the new tubers/potatoes which have by then detached from their stems.



Te Kura o te Waiharakeke | Blenheim School: Kaitiaki for the awa

Tamariki at Blenheim School have been thinking about how they care for a place that is very special to their school: The Taylor River. The Envirogroup got together to think about kaitiakitanga, and talked about all of the different kaitiaki that care for the Taylor awa - such as ātua (e.g.: Tangaroa and Tamanuiterā), taonga species (e.g. tuna | eels), iwi / mana whenua, council, and community members. They discovered that they can be kaitiaki for the awa too, as the more kaitiaki the awa has, the healthier the awa will be! They all had loads of examples of why the river is special to them, and it turns out that they have already been doing some things to look after it, such as 'womble walks' to pick up rubbish, and helping to plant seeds in the new wildflower beds near their school. They thought of some more things that they can do to help too, and they are excited about spending more time caring for the awa in 2020.



Green-Gold review at Linkwater School



Linkwater School has now been a Green Gold School for 5 years. Students recently shared what they have done since becoming a Green Gold School as part of their review reflection. There would need to be a lot more pages to share all of the projects that they have undertaken and how they have intertwined sustainability into their curriculum, programmes, and wider community.

Led by their awesome students, we got to see their many actions displayed on whole walls around their library. Projects ranged from a hazelnut living hut through to upcycled swings. Of note was the way that they had tried new things out: in some cases acknowledging that the things that they had planned did not actually work. In these cases, they had to adapt and be creative to achieve their goals. The support that the students had received from their teachers and wider community was evident here. Linkwater may be a small school but they are achieving some pretty big outcomes. If you are looking for inspiration on your EnviroSchools journey, Linkwater School is the place to visit!

Hands-on learning about photosynthesis



At Witherlea School, the Term 3 inquiry topic was science: the perfect fit for gardening which is all about science. They investigated photosynthesis: the process that plants use to make their food. The children learnt why the leaves are so important. They are mini food factories! The leaves use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to make sugar which gives the plants energy they need to grow. Chlorophyll is the amazing compound that mixes the ingredients to make the sugar. The whole process takes place just under the surface of the leaves in the chloroplasts.

They found that the process of photosynthesis is not only important for the plants but also for us: this is because when the plants make their food, they release oxygen that we can breathe. The children wanted to look a little closer at how plants 'breathe'. They submerged a leaf under water and left it in a warm place. As the process of photosynthesis took place, the children saw the carbon dioxide that was being released forming small bubbles along the edges of the leaves. It was a great visual experiment that showed how amazing science can be.

NEWS & EVENTS



TEACHER WORKSHOP | TERM 1 2020

Empowered Students

with guest expert Bek Galloway

Come and learn about student agency: what it is and how it can build empowered students. Plus, try out some activities from the new EnviroSchools 'Energy' resource.

Tuesday 3 March
9 am - 3 pm
Blenheim School Hall



Connecting With Our Seas

Ko au te moana, ko te moana ko au
I am the sea, the sea is me

nzaee Seaweek

NZ ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

SAT 29TH FEB - SUN 8TH MAR 2020



Visit www.seaweek.org.nz to find out how to get involved in Seaweek 2020.



Follow us on Instagram!

Check out [@enviroschoolsnz](https://www.instagram.com/enviroschoolsnz) on Instagram.

Add **#enviroschools** to your social media posts and follow our page to see inspiring action from across Aotearoa.

POST PHOTOS USING THE HASHTAG...

#ENVIROSCHOOLS

STUDENT WORKSHOP

LEADING CHANGE

with guest expert Bek Galloway

For student enviro-leaders in Years 5 to 8

Your students will work on ways to help plan and take action in 2020, and will connect with other empowered students from throughout Marlborough.

Wednesday 4 March
10 am - 2 pm
Blenheim School Hall



Our team

There are three of us working in the MDC education team to support you and your students, as well as Ramona Millen, who facilitates the EnviroSchools programme in kindergartens. We also have some talented people in our organisation and community that we can link you with, and good connections with the team at DOC.



Annie McDonald | Education Officer & EnviroSchools Regional Coordinator

Annie is an educator, has taught at primary and secondary schools, and is passionate about showing schools how they can integrate education for sustainability into the curriculum. She gets a thrill from working with students to grow environmental leaders.



Angela Wentworth | Kids Edible Garden Coordinator & EnviroSchools Facilitator

Angela is a horticulturalist, and regularly has her hands in the soil with students. She also trains our edible garden facilitators and supports schools with inquiry learning into things green.



Anna Crowe | Freshwater Educator & EnviroSchools Facilitator

Anna is a scientist and is pretty good in a pair of gumboots, sharing her knowledge and expertise of the watery world. She also manages our digital communications, and supports schools on their environmental journey.