

Nau mai | Welcome

Nau mai and welcome to GREENchat for Term 3, 2021.

This term, Springlands Kindergarten wowed us with a beautiful silver reflection on what turned out to be the day before we were all plunged back into lockdown. Read about some of the creative actions that they have taken to maintain and grow their sustainable practices.

We also profile some of the diverse learning through action that has been benefiting students and gardens alike via the region's Kids' Edible Gardens programme. We check in on Seymour Kindergarten's much-loved butterfly house and find out about a new resource that students have developed for use at Grovetown Lagoon.

Remember to take a look at how we can support you on the MDC website:

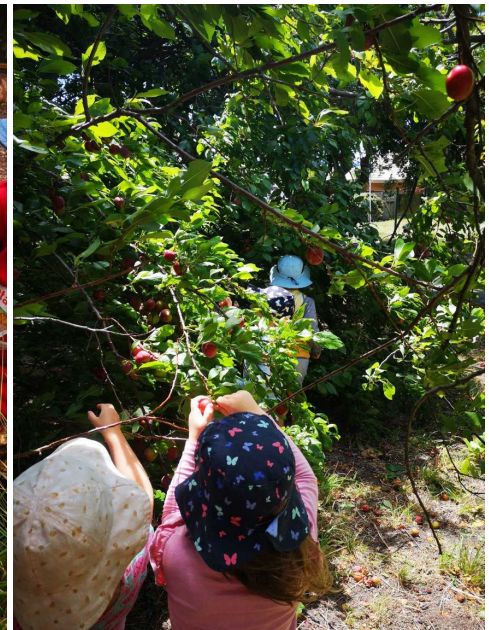
► www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/environmental-education/school-education-programmes

And don't forget about our EnviroSchools websites and our padlet collections too!

► www.enviroschoolsmarlborough.co.nz
► enviroschools.org.nz
► padlet.com/EnviroschoolsMarlborough/MarlboroughMenu

Ngā manaakitanga,
Annie, Angela & Anna
The MDC Education Team

Silver for Springlands Kindergarten



Springlands Kindergarten successfully reflected at EnviroSchools Silver this term, the day before the national lockdown began in August! It was fantastic to see all the great work they have been doing especially linking to the EnviroSchools guiding principle of Sustainable Communities.



They are a green-fingered group and have been growing and making lots of things to share. We especially loved the relationship they have formed with a local rest home. They collected and made plum jam and then shared it with the residents at the rest home. How cool is that?

There were some other clever sustainable ideas like homemade natural glitter, hand-dyed shirts using natural plant dyes and some special activities around Matariki. We even got to be part of a dance party to celebrate this collaborative achievement!

We are very excited for their next steps, including seeing how big the giant sunflowers get that tamariki have planted for people and birds.

Teachers scaffold students' learning in the garden



It goes without saying that the focus of Kids' Edible Gardens is providing hands on meaningful activities outside in the gardens. However, children can be found working just as hard inside with their teachers who are scaffolding their students' learning. These beautiful and colourful posters created by students at Rapaura School are a great example.

The children worked in teams using gardening magazines to cut and paste items that explored 'What we need to grow our gardens' and recall and inspire ideas for 'What we grow in our gardens'.

They now take pride of place on their classroom wall and have become a talking point for classroom visitors and parents, creating links for the children with their wider community.

Science in the garden at Waikawa Bay School

There is a multitude of curriculum learning going on in a busy gardening session – numeracy, literacy, science – much of which the children don't realise is happening as they are so engaged in the task at hand.



The children at Waikawa Bay School dived into science earlier this year when planning their planting of broad beans. They set up an experiment to find out the most successful way of growing broad beans, sowing half the crop as seeds directly into the garden beds and planting the other half as seedlings. They have since been enthusiastically monitoring the growth of both.

The broad beans were an extension of another science-based topic: soil health. Broad beans, like all the plants in the legume family, have nodes on their roots that absorb nitrogen from the air. Bacteria in the soil around the plant roots convert it into a form that plants are able to use. These specific bacteria may not be in the soil at Waikawa Bay, but the nitrogen will be absorbed into the soil when they dig in their crop at the end of the season or add it to their compost heap. Win-win for students, their garden and science no matter what!



Canvastown students investigate plant adaptations



While the children at Canvastown School were investigating how they could protect their plants from frost, they wondered how plants protect themselves from animals and insects. After a bit of research, they found that plants have 'adaptations' that help them ward off their enemies. Some have furry leaves, others have thorns, waxy layers, or bitter tastes to defend themselves. Indirectly, some plants take advantage of insects who help protect them, such as ladybugs who eat aphids.

Curious to see if the plants around their school used any of these adaptations, they went on a scavenger hunt to find out!

Did you know that spinach, apples, and beans have small amounts of cyanide compounds that kill some insects when eaten? Some plants use VOCs (volatile organic compounds) which are oils or smells that attract enemies of the insects eating them. Corn can even emit VOCs to attract wasps to attack the insects eating them!



Seymour Kindergarten's special house

The different life stages of monarch butterflies have long been an area of fascination for tamariki at Seymour Kindergarten, and kaiako have supported their learning in a variety of ways over the years. Their latest innovation has been the construction of an impressive butterfly house.

Tamariki have experimented with different methods to find the best way to capture caterpillar eggs and transfer them into the butterfly house. The most successful method has been to carefully capture the female butterfly and place her into the house so that she can lay directly onto the plants.

Tamariki have loved this experience and can regularly be heard calling for a kaiako to capture a butterfly when they see one in the garden.

While caring for their caterpillars, tamariki noticed that they liked to move along the side of the house and form their chrysalis hanging from the netting. While this seemed to be a great place for them, they discovered that paper wasps were able to attack them through the netting, so making wasp traps became another project. This had mixed results, but took their learning in new directions as they learnt all about the different types of wasps and other predators, what they eat and whether they are good for our environment or not.

Visiting the house daily to check on the progress of the eggs and caterpillars quickly became a favourite activity for many. The butterfly house has become a very special space where tamariki can investigate the living world, broaden their interests and develop scientific thinking skills. Through collaborative learning, tamariki used problem-solving skills, which empowered them to share their knowledge and ideas with their peers. They also gained the skills to take responsibility in looking after living things enabling them to become successful lifelong learners.



Students create bird hunt resource for Grovetown Lagoon

Students in Waverley class at Grovetown School have created a 'bird scavenger hunt' for use at Grovetown Lagoon. Grovetown School has had a long-standing connection with the nearby lagoon, being involved in regular whole-school tree-planting days and hosting a shade house where lagoon volunteers propagate and grow native plant seedlings. This project was part of an inquiry looking at connections with their local community and local places.

Students came up with the idea of creating a resource during a class visit to the lagoon, when they photographed and observed the birds that they saw. Students worked in pairs to research one of the birds that they had seen and



to make a fact sheet with information about their chosen bird's appearance, habitat, diet and conservation needs, as well as a 'fun fact'. They also created a 'bird scavenger hunt' activity which eagle-eyed visitors to the lagoon can use to tick off the bird species that they have seen.

The project was challenging due to the large amount of information available about the birds online: the students had to search for accurate and relevant facts and then present them as 'bite-sized' pieces of information. They are proud to have created a resource that will be both useful and fun for other visitors to the lagoon.

Their next step is to share their mahi with others in Marlborough so that more people can learn about and enjoy the birds in this special place. You can find the resource in our [Enviroschools Marlborough google drive](#) and in our [digital resource padlet](#).

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 | Environmental Educator

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



Anna Crowe | Environmental Educator

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.

PLANNING A PROJECT? NEED SOME FUNDING?

Find more options for funding your school or community project in our padlet:

padlet.com/EnviroschoolsMarlborough/funding



One Billion Trees Fund
Matariki Tu Rākau
Commemorative Tree Planting
in Your Community

Your school can apply for funding to plant trees as living memorials to honour New Zealand's heroes.
Applications for 2022 are now open.

www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/funding-tree-planting-research/matariki-tu-rakau/



WWF Environmental Education Action Fund

Aims to support schools, environmental educators and communities who, as part of their learning, are taking hands-on action to address an environmental issue.

Applications are open until 26 October 2021.

www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/community_funding/funding_for_schools/



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Action Fund

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