

ADVERTISING FEATURE

A School of Opportunity



Design Tech in Sync with Opportunity

The arrival of a block of two portable classrooms at Casebrook Intermediate School has changed the landscaping needs of the surrounding area. The existing organic gardening project had to be relocated elsewhere on the school site and the need for a rethink of the landscaping outside the classrooms became apparent to all.

The development of the bare site into a landscaped area with seating, planting, paving and shelter from the elements was the ideal opportunity for a motivated group of Year 8 Casebrook students lead by specialist teachers Lauren Dick-McCann, Anna Giddens and Paul Cook.

Time to learn landscape design and construction skills, then apply these skills in a real

and practical situation!
30 Year 8 children have started the transformation of the site into a fully landscaped environment. They began with brainstorming all the different features that could go into making a useful, pleasant and robust solution. Breaking up into research groups, they focused on one aspect of the project, for example, seating. Then the children searched through books and visited successful sites around the inner city on a field trip. They were then able to create a list of what could be the best solution for their site.

Of course all that information won't be useful unless they are able to present it to others (fundraising applications and presentations to other groups will be an important part of the

learning experience!).
We were all very pleased when Sharon Keen our principal mentioned she had been approached by Colin Bell of Futureintech, a government funded agency, set up to introduce recently graduated technology practitioners as mentors for school based projects.

Colin quickly opened communication with Reuben Williams, a Geographical Information Systems engineer working for Abley Transportation Engineers. During Reuben's first visit to our school he looked at the site, met the students and teachers he would be working with and showed us a digital aerial photograph of the Casebrook area. On his second visit Reuben used the big screen of the school's lecture theatre to take the class through the making of a digital

site plan for the students future use - and a quick trip to Wanaka using aerial maps, it sure made the idea of scale clear! Using the principles demonstrated by Reuben the children were then able to create their own scale drawings of the site to be developed. These will be a great tool in being able to design and cost out the materials to make our ideas into reality.

At present, the research teams have taken their specialist knowledge to their new roles in design groups, creating well-informed scale drawings of their proposals for the final design. And then on to the finance and construction of their design. It's a big project, but this is a great team, learning and using diverse talents, working together to make this corner of the world a much nicer place to be.

Community Hangi

The Hangi pit was dug in the school grounds and by sundown the smell of food filled the air.

The event was organised by our Kapa Haka tutors and supported by Casebrook students. Large numbers of Casebrook families enjoyed the evening with over 200 meals being served.

This was the first of many community evenings planned for Casebrook Intermediate.



Stars Shine Brightly

Last term our students were given the opportunity to participate in a three night Performing Arts Camp. This was an amazing opportunity for those students who have a passion for the Performing Arts to mix with like-minded students.

While on camp the students attended workshops which both extended their learning and entertained. Experienced tutors shared their expertise in their particular field. While some students workshopped barbershop, classical and solo singing, others were learning how to apply stage make up. Theatre games were interspersed with reciting Shakespeare, melodrama and script writing. Instrumentally students were trying out keyboard or guitar for the first time or workshopped an original piece of band music. Musical theatre was popular with large groups staging song and dance numbers from 'Little Shop of Horrors' and 'Hairspray'. The camp gave amateur and experienced dancers alike, the chance to work at hip-hop, cultural, jazz, contemporary and ballroom dance.

The tutors who worked with the students were teachers from Casebrook and tutors from around Christchurch who offer a wealth of experience and talent.

With the above happening over just three days the students were delivered back to their families simply buzzing with excitement at having taken part in such an exciting event. They are now all looking forward to the excitement of putting together a major production in Term Three, an annual event at Casebrook Intermediate.



Passionate Writers

When children get to the end of an intensive writing course and cry, "We want this to go on. We need more writing time. Please can we have another term of this?" it is clear that Extension Writing groups are just what creative writers thrive on. At Casebrook Intermediate short extension courses addressing different areas of the curriculum are woven through the school day. Most recently 20 students with a passion for creative writing were given the opportunity to hone their skills in a small Extension Writing group. The work they produced reflected a love of language and a growing maturity of thought.

In a weeks time the students will be proudly sharing their work in front of an audience of their parents and interested guests at a "Supper and Stories" evening. It is always fun to celebrate learning with our school community.

"That was him, he thought, the cast down of society, despised by the police and public alike, the cold wind of the law, biting deep into his rock-hard skin." Mark Wilkinson, Year 8.

**Ice cold and slippery
Frozen fingers slide over
Glassy covering...**

**Baby seals losing life
Kill the killing sport
Seals' freedom to live**

Olivia Neiman, Year 8

"For a split second my heart stopped before I lay in utter despair."

Emma Bray, Year 7.

Veitches Road, Christchurch
Phone 03 359 7428 | Fax 03 359 3074 | Email office@casebrook.school.nz

www.casebrook.school.nz

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