

Kia Ora everyone.

Another busy term in the Village and the students have all been working hard.



Congratulations to **Carly Laing** for coming second in the Spoken English Research section of the Annual KDEC Speech Competition.

Tom Purvis (Acting CEO) described her speech as

“an engaging and moving story of the last 80 years as seen through the experiences of her neighbour and friend, Bill, who is now in his 90’s”.

It takes a lot of courage to speak in public and everyone in the Village is very proud of you and all the participants.

The annual Village ski weekend was a roaring success. Thanks once again to Susan Thomas who organised the travel, accommodation, equipment hire and lift passes.



Susan also worked very hard to secure funding from the Halberg Trust for adaptive ski lessons for the students — my thanks to Halberg Trust for their continued support. The students have all noticeably improved in their skiing or snowboarding. They are already excited at the prospect of going again next year. I have included some photos

and student comments Susan compiled with this newsletter.



Staff and students at KDEC have been very enthusiastic about using the Video Relay Service (VRS) currently being trialed by Sprint until the 2nd of November. If you haven't tried it yet, give it a go over the holidays. There are minimum computer and internet requirements. For all the information you need, visit www.nzrelay.co.nz/WhatIsRelay/HowDoesItWork/VRS.

Term four is often a busy time for our students with many of them sitting exams. We will make sure they study hard and have breaks for some relaxation.



Planning is underway for our end-of-year Farewell Ceremony on Saturday 28th November. Hard to believe we are already planning functions for the end of the year. I hope to see you all there.

Tony

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M a t a i C o t t a g e

We are now down to five boys in Matai. It has been a busy term. There have been lots of actives on. Indoor netball every Tuesday night. Some of the boys did not want to play but as the term went on they join in. All of them have improved such much they are Brian, Tuhoi, Elisala, Charles and Ben.

The same boys are also involved in Art classes on a Wednesday night. They have done some wonderful art work.



Three boys Tuhoi Ben and Elisala are in the village drama group. They will be performing at the Kelston Pride Festival on the 22 September. This is a dance group with a mixture of dances including hip hop to rap to Maori all combined. We do hope parents come to watch and support this evening held at Kelston Boys High School auditorium starting at 7pm. They are very good. There was also a write up in Friday 18 September Western Leader regarding this group.



Both junior and senior boys have had exams this month.

When the weekend is open all the boys stay in. Next month November there will be 2 weekends in a row that the village will be open and 2 weekends that it will be closed in a row.

Two of our boys now have Video Conferencing equipment installed in their homes. They are Ben Keopraserth and Tuhoi Henry. This means students have visual contact with their families. This is great when we have IEP's and families are unable for to attend these meetings.



It is very sad that person or persons set fire to the village trampoline recently. This happened when the weekend was closed. The students love their trampoline

Mary, Wayne and Julius wish you all a lovely and safe holiday with your boys.

Just a reminder that Xmas is just around the corner.

The students in Lynwood have been joining in the afterschool activities with the other Village students for all of Term three. We have had drama practices on Monday nights leading towards our fabulous dance / drama at the Kelston Pride Festival on 22nd September. Seven students were picked to perform on stage in costumes and masks. They had such a positive attitude during rehearsals and were real stars on the night. The Western Leader ran a story on September 18 that featured our students. We would like to thank the two drama teachers Rhondda and Ginette, for all their time and effort working with the students.

The Village students have also been playing Indoor Netball on Tuesdays. Over the term I have noticed a huge improvement in their motivation and their skills on the court. Every single student is more confident moving to get the ball, running and handling the ball.

Wednesday afternoons have been busy with Art classes. All the students who attend spend a relaxing afternoon and are producing some beautiful pieces of art to treasure.

We have a varied timetable for Thursdays. We have been lucky enough to have visits with a police officer who is learning NZSL and can sign confidently with the students. She let the students look through her police car, and try on her vest—which is heavier than it looks! We have also spent some time shopping at the mall and hanging out with friends.

Enjoy your holidays. We look forward to seeing you all in Term four.

Contact us

Lynwood mobile 02102677357 (24 hours)

Fax 09 8279818 (night staff voice only 10pm to 7am)

Email: Lynwood@kdec.school.nz

Video conference (text us to make time to meet on VC)

Lynwood staff

Susan, Ava & Valu



Totara Village Students Skiing & Snowboarding

Whakapapa 28th - 30th August 2009

We went to Mt Ruapehu with 14 Deaf students and 4 staff volunteers. We left Auckland with two vans about 2pm. We stopped at Te Kuiti for hamburgers and hot chips for our meal.

We arrived at Whakapapa Village about 7pm. We stayed at a lodge called "Skotel Alpine Resort" near the Chateau. We brought our weekend bags into our bunk rooms and went downstairs to the Edge to Edge rental area to get rental skiing and snowboarding equipment and waterproof gear so we would be prepared for the snow the next day.

On Saturday 29th August we left about 8am, drove up about 6km to Whakapapa ski field. It was cloudy and we had a clear view of the mountain with snow. We met three adaptive instructors at Happy Village (beginners snow area). One Instructor's lesson was for the first-time snowboarding group and the second Instructor took the intermediate snowboarding group lesson. The third Instructor took a skiing lesson. The students practiced their skiing and snowboarding up and down with their instructors and staff support.

Some students went up the lower half of the mountain in the "rock gardening" area. By about midday there was a beautiful blue sky and perfect visibility with clear white snow on the mountain. We were so excited and wanted to go up to the top of the mountain right then. We went up the Waterfall (Upper Mountain) lift and had some great skiing / snowboarding down the mountain.

Staff noticed we have some students becoming more confident and they wanted to go up to the top of mountain again after their first try. There were a few students who stopped skiing / snowboarding because they were so exhausted after their lessons and wanted to have a break. They went sightseeing on the "rock gardening" lift and saw heaps of snow on the mountain.

On Sunday 30th August we went back up to Whakapapa ski field. It was not as nice weather with heavy fog and some snow drizzles. There was still skiing and snowboarding at Happy Valley and rock gardening (lower mountain) areas and we all went up and down lots. At the end of the day, we were all soaking wet and went back to Skotel Alpine Resort to change into warm clothes and pack our bags. We had some lunch then took off at 2pm. We stopped for Subway & McDonalds for our dinner then we arrived back in Auckland at 7pm. Everyone had an awesome and fabulous time.

*Grateful
thanks for
their continued
support*



