



Presidents Report

With this final newsletter of the year I wish to send you all Seasons Greetings and hope that 2010 will bring you "health, wealth and happiness." May your children bring you more and more joy as they get older.

As I look back over our activities this year, we have done a lot of varied and exciting things – (as well as a couple that were not so exciting) – but as usual, the kids seem to have a good time together and that is what our group is all about.

Explorers has grown this year with many new members added to our list. Welcome to all of you. I hope that you soon find friends for yourselves and your children. Remember, Explorers is a club that requires your input. The more families that join in the journey of providing activities, or being part of the committee, the easier all jobs become and the more fun our children can have together. The more often you come to activities, the easier it becomes to be part of the furniture and relax in this environment where other children are just as wonderful as your own.



By the way, if anyone is out camping this summer and wants some company...just email the group or a committee member to let people know.

We will be losing a few members next year so we would like to ask you to come forward and help on the committee. Tasks are not arduous if shared and meetings are normally quite jolly and social. Please consider if you can make a contribution that way.

This year has been really good in that we asked each family to come up with one activity during the year and we managed to do some interesting things together. Thank you to you all who have provided your expertise and time. Furthermore, we had some interesting parent information evenings this year too, thanks to the committee for arranging them.

We managed to spend our grant money and get a library of toys and books for our club.

Our final activity is our Christmas party with Ian, Julie and Kyle. Over the Christmas break I would like to stock take our library items so if you have any that you have not returned – please bring them along. The library will be closed for the holidays.

Once again, have a fun filled holiday and we hope to get together again in February.

Kind regards,
Ingrid.

Good News!!

We have managed to secure the use of Welcome Bay school hall for our club days next year.

Thanks to Prathima and Tanya for their great efforts towards this.

Tauranga Explorer's Xmas Party

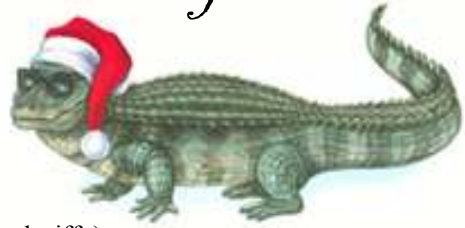
Where: Ian, Julie & Kyle Brown
80 Neewood Road, Ohauiti

Date: Sunday 20th December 2009
(Rain check – will bring forward to Sat 19th if weather looks iffy)

Time: 2pm until 6

Rsvp: 07 571 6330

julieianbrown@hotmail.com - with "Explorers" in subject.



See Julie's e-mail for more details!!

Please remember to bring any Library items so we can stock-take.

Conference Reports

Ingrid Booysen

I managed to attend two conferences this year – Reaching Forward (for gifted and Talented education) where Gagne presented a very interesting research paper. http://www.giftedconference2009.org/presenter_files/f_gagne_thoushaltgroup_1.pdf. For other PDF Files see: <http://www.giftedconference2009.org/proceedings.htm>

The other conference however really took me by surprise – the SPELD conference held in New Plymouth. There were two main speakers – Linda Silverman and Jan Polkinghorne. For a full summary of their contributions look up: <http://www.speld.org.nz/events.htm>

Linda Silverman is famous for her observations of visual spatial learners as opposed to auditory sequential learners. (you will find her book in our library). Furthermore, as her practice has been collecting data for the last thirty years she has many other interesting facts to share.... Her other presentations were about Twice exceptional children and Reversing Underachievement. If you would like to learn more read her articles in PDF on the website above.

Jan Polkinghorn was equally exciting as she has a very practical approach to teaching children. She encouraged the use of the computer, as she shared how our children are digital natives and thus will take to technology with glee. She encouraged the use of voice recognition software and shares how Microsoft Word can be fully utilized with movie making software etc. Once again, have a look at the website if you are interested... I most certainly learned a great deal at this conference and I hope you will learn from the articles presented too.

Activities

As Ingrid mentioned in her Presidents report, there have been a variety of activities this year. Here is a small sample of what we've been up to.



Visit to Papamoa Fire Station



We had a good turn out for the visit to the Fire station with a bit of Fire Safety, a tour of the station and truck. Of course, there was also a bit of hands on water fun!!



Dissection day





Science – Eggzperiments

Drop an egg without breaking it!!



Chess Day

Wai-o-tapu Thermal Wonderland



Rotorua Museum

Adult Activity – Meet a Psychologist

Report by Prathima

Our Adults' activity for this term was an evening with Melanie Hansen, a Clinical Psychologist who has recently moved to Tauranga from Auckland. Melanie has 10 years experience working with children and adolescents and specialises primarily in Gifted children and those with Specific Learning Difficulties who need assessment and therapy. In Tauranga, Melanie has a range of contracts with DHB, MOE and CYF plus meets with self funding private clients. The talk was held at the Welcome Bay School Hall on 12th of November at 7.30 PM.

The focus of Melanie's talk was:

- What is Intelligence/What is Giftedness
- Intelligence Testing - The WISC
- Results – How to understand them
- Limitations and Validity of tests
- Working with Schools
- What to do at Home

The evening was open to non-members and was well attended. It was heartening to see parents and teachers actively participating in discussions which carried on late into the evening. We have a copy of the powerpoint presentation, and the talk on DVD at our library for those who could not attend.



Membership Report

Tauranga Explorers has grown leaps and bound this year and we have currently 22 “family members” and 2 Complementary members (schools). 2009 saw 12 new families joining our group. Welcome to the new members and their families:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| •Strauss | (Mt Maunganui) |
| •Coys | (Ohauti) |
| •Lingards | (Putararu) |
| •Salmons | (Waihi Beach) |
| •Schlothauers | (Welcome Bay) |
| •Thomases | (Te Puke) |
| •Thomases | (Papamoa Beach) |
| •Troughtons | (Welcome Bay) |
| •Urquharts | (Rotorua) |
| •Wood/Gows | |

Articles and Websites to check out

Below are a selection of items submitted by members for your interest or entertainment.

An interesting video presentation featuring Bill Gates...

"Bill Gates hopes to solve some of the world's biggest problems using a new kind of philanthropy. In a passionate and, yes, funny 18 minutes, he asks us to consider two big questions and how we might answer them."

http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/bill_gates_unplugged.html

Dyslexia Foundation of NZ newsletter...

<http://www.dyslexiafoundation.org.nz/news12.html>

Articles about Educational Advocacy

This article by Julia Osborn distinguishes between "testing" and "assessment." The author then focuses on some of the important and unique issues involved when assessing gifted children's cognitive, academic, and social/emotional functioning. This short article is one of the definitive articles in the field on the assessment of gifted children. For part 1 of 3, follow this link:

http://www.davidsongifted.org/db/Articles_id_10221.aspx

Also, available by links below PDF documents for you to have a look at:

• [GiftEdNZ Newsletter](#)

http://www.giftedchildren.org.nz/tauranga/docs/GIFTEDNEWZ_TERM4_09.pdf

• [NZAGC AGM & Conference flyer](#)

<http://www.giftedchildren.org.nz/tauranga/docs/NZAGCAGM2010.pdf>



Tauranga Explorers Club Committee Members 2009

President	Ingrid Booyesen 543 0287 ingy.b@ihug.co.nz
Secretary	Tanya Johnson 544 4061 waynetanya@wave.co.nz
Treasurer	Jon Gebert 542 2097 jcgkiwi@clear.net.nz
Membership	Prathima Dutta 544 7190 praodutta@yahoo.com
Library	Ingrid Booyesen
Public Relations	Janet Buckton
Activities	Lesley Standing / Jon Gebert
Newsletter	vacant
Website	Jon Gebert
Fundraising	vacant
National Rep	Ingrid Booyesen

www.giftedchildren.org.nz/tauranga

Upcoming Activities:

20 Dec 09

Christmas Party at the
Brown's

January 2010

NO ACTIVITY

21 February 2010

A.G.M & Games Day

March 2010

National AGM see NZAGC
website for details

2010 AGM

As you can see from the list to the left, there are already vacant committee positions. As of the next A.G.M in February, there will be more positions that require filling. All positions (including those with incumbents) are contestable, so if you want to have a go - **PLEASE PUT YOUR HAND UP.**

2010 Vacant positions:

- President
- Library
- Activities
- Fundraising
- National Rep
- Newsletter