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## New website going live in term 2

TCS will launch a new website in term 2, to replace the current website at [www.correspondence.school.nz](http://www.correspondence.school.nz).

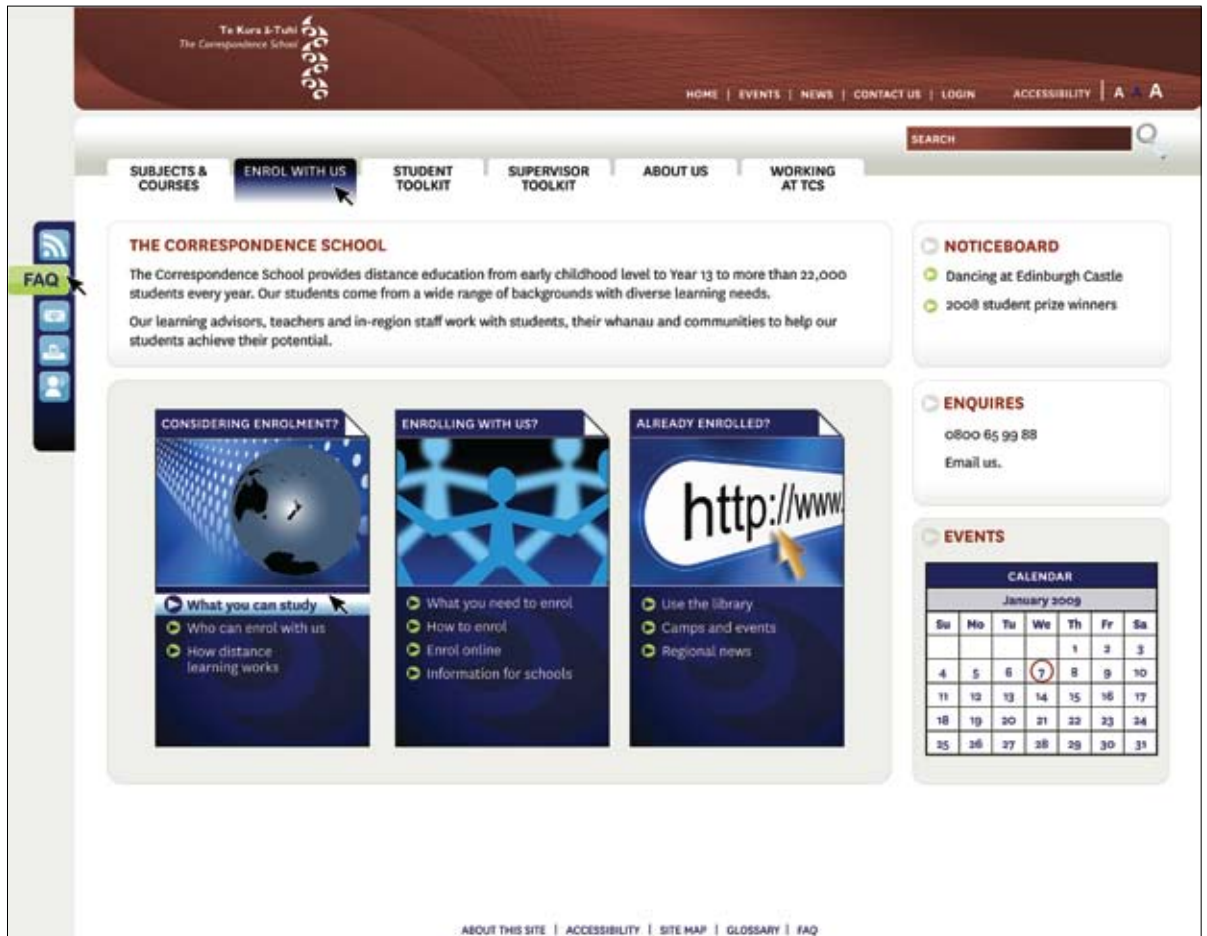
The website will have all-new content and has been developed with feedback from TCS teachers, students and supervisors. It includes toolkits for students and supervisors that aim to answer common questions and provide easy access to important information.

An event calendar and notice board on the homepage will help to keep you up to date with news and activities at TCS, and there will be lots of quick links

from the homepage to other parts of the site.

The course list has been enhanced with more detailed information on courses. It also includes some booklets so prospective students can take a look at the course work and decide whether the course is right for them.

The site will go live in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for it and let us know what you think. We're keen to hear from students and supervisors, so email your feedback to us at [info@correspondence.school.nz](mailto:info@correspondence.school.nz) or [webmaster@correspondence.school.nz](mailto:webmaster@correspondence.school.nz).



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Correspondence School website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, EVENTS, NEWS, CONTACT US, LOGIN, ACCESSIBILITY, and a search box. Below this is a menu with categories: SUBJECTS & COURSES, ENROL WITH US (highlighted), STUDENT TOOLKIT, SUPERVISOR TOOLKIT, ABOUT US, and WORKING AT TCS. The main content area features a central section titled 'THE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL' with a brief description of the school's mission. To the right, there are three sidebars: 'NOTICEBOARD' with items like 'Dancing at Edinburgh Castle' and '2008 student prize winners'; 'ENQUIRES' with a phone number and email; and 'EVENTS' with a calendar for January 2009. The calendar shows the 7th of January circled. At the bottom, there are three columns of quick links: 'CONSIDERING ENROLMENT?' (What you can study, Who can enrol with us, How distance learning works), 'ENROLLING WITH US?' (What you need to enrol, How to enrol, Enrol online, Information for schools), and 'ALREADY ENROLLED?' (Use the library, Camps and events, Regional news). A footer at the very bottom contains links for ABOUT THIS SITE, ACCESSIBILITY, SITE MAP, GLOSSARY, and FAQ.

# Pushing the boundaries



TCS students who attended the event (L–R), Whitney Cassidy, Sheridan Bignall, Matawha Durie, Claire Munro and Toby Yeoman

The official theme of this year's National Young Leaders Days is 'Building Tomorrow Today', but it might well be 'pushing the boundaries'. Many speakers at the Wellington event for secondary students were people who'd achieved the unexpected.

Kathrine Switzer ran the Boston marathon in 1967, five years before women were officially allowed to compete, and finished the race despite the efforts of a race official to push her off the road. She went on to run 35 marathons, coming first among women runners in the New York marathon in 1974, and she campaigned successfully to have the women's marathon made an official Olympic event.

Jehan Casinader, from the Hutt Valley, established himself as a teenage freelance journalist without tertiary qualifications. His writing has been published in the *Listener* and the *New Zealand Herald*, and he has appeared on television as a youth affairs commentator.

Dr Ocean Mercier, now a lecturer and researcher in Māori Studies at Victoria University, gained a PhD in physics in 2002, the first Māori woman to do so. Her work and study have enabled her to travel extensively, from Alaska to Antarctica. Talking about who had inspired her, she mentioned her college physics teacher, Joseph Fernandez, now a teacher at TCS. He'd taught Dr Mercier at Wellington Girls' College.

Learning advisor Mike King, who attended the Wellington day, said that the students who went had had 'a huge experience'.

'To hear from people on stage, telling them that they can be successful and be the leaders of the future was a highly valuable life experience, especially for those students from smaller towns around New Zealand,' he said.

More National Young Leaders Days for students in Years 1–8 are coming up in term 2, with events being held in Auckland, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

# Shooting straight with Gateway



Gateway's on-the-job training is proving to be a success for budding photographer Jerusha Tucker.

The 15-year-old has almost completed the first module of an introduction to digital photography course, and has also spent time with Te Puke photographer Andy Belcher gaining hands-on work experience.

Jerusha is studying 'Introduction to Digital Photography' online through The Photo School, Kapiti Coast. The course allows students to explore photography and develop an awareness and understanding of the photographic process.

Gateway coordinator Kathryn Smith negotiated the placement and training for Jerusha and says it is the first time one of our students has been placed in the photographic industry.

'It's going really well; Jerusha has almost completed the first NZQA module in the course and will be going on to complete the second one.'

'Gateway works for students like Jerusha because it is flexible and provides students [with] valuable work experience while still continuing with their schooling.'

Jerusha's mother and supervisor, Inez Tucker says the Gateway programme has given Jerusha relevant, industry-based training. 'It's provided her with an avenue to follow one of her passions. She's

learnt heaps of new skills like how to use an SLR (single-lens reflex) camera properly and how to get different shots using different camera features.'

Photographer Andy Belcher says the work placement aims to give Jerusha a good introduction to the world of photography. 'I wanted to show her both sides of the business; the fun days when you go out and shoot a load of neat pictures and also the computing and editing side which can be very time consuming,' he said.

One session saw the pair take off on a photo adventure and attempt to take a very close up picture of a motorcyclist at speed. 'We pulled it off and Jerusha learnt practical skills like how to work around a photography problem and that you don't always get the shot you want in one go!'

Jerusha is an elite snowboarder and is aiming to make the national development squad later this year.

If you're interested in applying for a Gateway placement in 2009, contact Kathryn Smith on 0800 65 99 88 extension 8552 or email [kathryn.smith@correspondence.school.nz](mailto:kathryn.smith@correspondence.school.nz)



# Success in Manawatu



Schools, students and whānau involved in the Manawatu Project are stoked about the way the project is keeping young people connected with school. Through the Manawatu Project, TCS works with schools to provide flexible learning programmes to keep students at risk of alienation connected to education.

An evaluation of the project near the end of 2008, its first year in operation, asked for comments from students, whānau and participating schools. Information on student engagement, progress and achievement was also considered.

Most parents reported a significant positive shift in the behaviour, learning and well-being of their children as a result of being involved with the project. Nearly all identified positive gains for their children.

'My daughter was not able to manage the change of classes required at secondary level,' one parent said. 'She became fearful and anxious to the point where she refused to attend school. The Manawatu Project provides her with the opportunity to learn in a safe environment and still to have access to those classes where she feels comfortable.'

The majority of students surveyed said they were interested in their learning and making progress toward their learning goals.

'I would definitely not be in school without the Manawatu Project,' one student said. 'I was getting into trouble in classes because I become hyperactive in large groups. I was either too loud or too doped and that was causing problems.'

'The project has allowed me to remain at school in a safe environment where I feel accepted by others.'

All participating schools said that without the project, the majority of the students they'd referred would have become alienated from education in 2008. Schools and parents recognised that personalised programmes were the strength of the project.

By the end of 2008 the project had received 124 expressions of interest from schools, the Ministry of Education, Child, Youth and Family and local agencies. In total 94 students enrolled and participated in the project over the course of 2008. The project is continuing in 2009, with some exciting developments in the way that TCS, schools and agencies work together to support students to achieve learning success and positive well-being.

## More board members to be appointed

In March, Minister of Education Anne Tolley called for nominations and expressions of interest from experienced, suitably qualified people, including parents and caregivers, for appointment to two new board positions. Applications closed on 3 April and the three-year appointments are expected to be announced in early May. A third new board member, from the School's general and teaching staff, will be chosen by election on 12 June.

## Northern Kaiarahi appointed

The Kaiarahi for the Northern region, Fred Astle, was appointed in January. A lecturer, Fred has worked for the Challenge Trust as National Māori Development manager and as Senior Māori Health Advisor at the Auckland District Health Board. Based in Auckland, Fred keeps in touch with government and community agencies that work with TCS students, as well as schools and other education providers. He manages the Northern region's liaison teachers and coordinates regional camps and events.

## Congratulations to our scholarship winners

Congratulations to achievers in last year's scholarship exams. Full-time TCS student Gemma Stanbridge earned a scholarship in Art History, and young adult student Emily Peach achieved a scholarship in Physics.

Dual students enrolled with TCS gained scholarships, in German, French, Japanese and Classical Studies.

Scholarship exams are designed to be challenging for the most able students. In most subjects, only about three percent of students studying at Year 13 will achieve in scholarship exams. Success in these exams depends on high-level analytical skills, critical thinking, and advanced written language skills.

# An event to remember



Year 13 student Ashleigh McKinstry and her horse, Pioneer Makokomiko, were part of the New Zealand team who took out a convincing win at the Young Rider Trans-Tasman Eventing competition last month.

Ashleigh was one of five riders in the national team who claimed victory over Australia at the two-day event. Ashleigh and her horse finished sixth individually at the event held at Camperdown, near Melbourne.

'My horse was a star,' she said. 'I was three years younger than the rest of my team but I didn't feel there was an age gap.'

Neither rider nor horse had flown before and Ashleigh said the trip also provided a good insight into flying overseas with a horse and the technicalities involved.

Her eight-year-old horse was bred by Ashleigh's family who live near National Park, in the central North Island. Pioneer Makokomiko's dam (mother) was one of the wild Kaimanawa horses that live on the Central Plateau and Pioneer Makokomiko is named after the stream that runs past the family's property.

Ashleigh has studied with TCS since she started secondary school, completing NCEA Level 2 last year while preparing for selection for this competition. Eventing is a relatively new interest for her.

'My horse and I started horse trials about 18 months ago, but I've always been riding,' she said. Her mother started her off with dressage, and now Ashleigh's learning the technique from dressage judge and farrier Jutta Rosenblatt, who's also teaching her to shoe horses. Ashleigh intends to study horseshoeing.

'When I'm finished school I'm planning to go to England and look at some of the prestige events that they have there,' she says. 'I'm hoping in the future I will end up going to the Olympics.'

## Otago's outstanding artwork

A stunning mosaic artwork, created by a group of Otago TCS students, took out one of the top spots at the recent Mackenzie A & P Show in Fairlie.

Students of the Haldon Unit won the 'most outstanding entry' category at the Easter show for their mosaic panels titled 'A smashing day in the Mackenzie'. The panels took two years to complete.

Some of the students also gained top places in the open media

section with their decorated plaster t-shirts. Year 3 student Alex Innes won first place while Susie Innes, also Year 3, was placed third and Year 5 student Scott Gilmour came fourth.

Meanwhile, Year 3 student William Whelan Urquhart took out first place for his 3D picture and got highly commended for his crayon dye entry.

The Haldon Unit comprises a group of students who learn together with a supervisor appointed by TCS.



# Sounds and letters

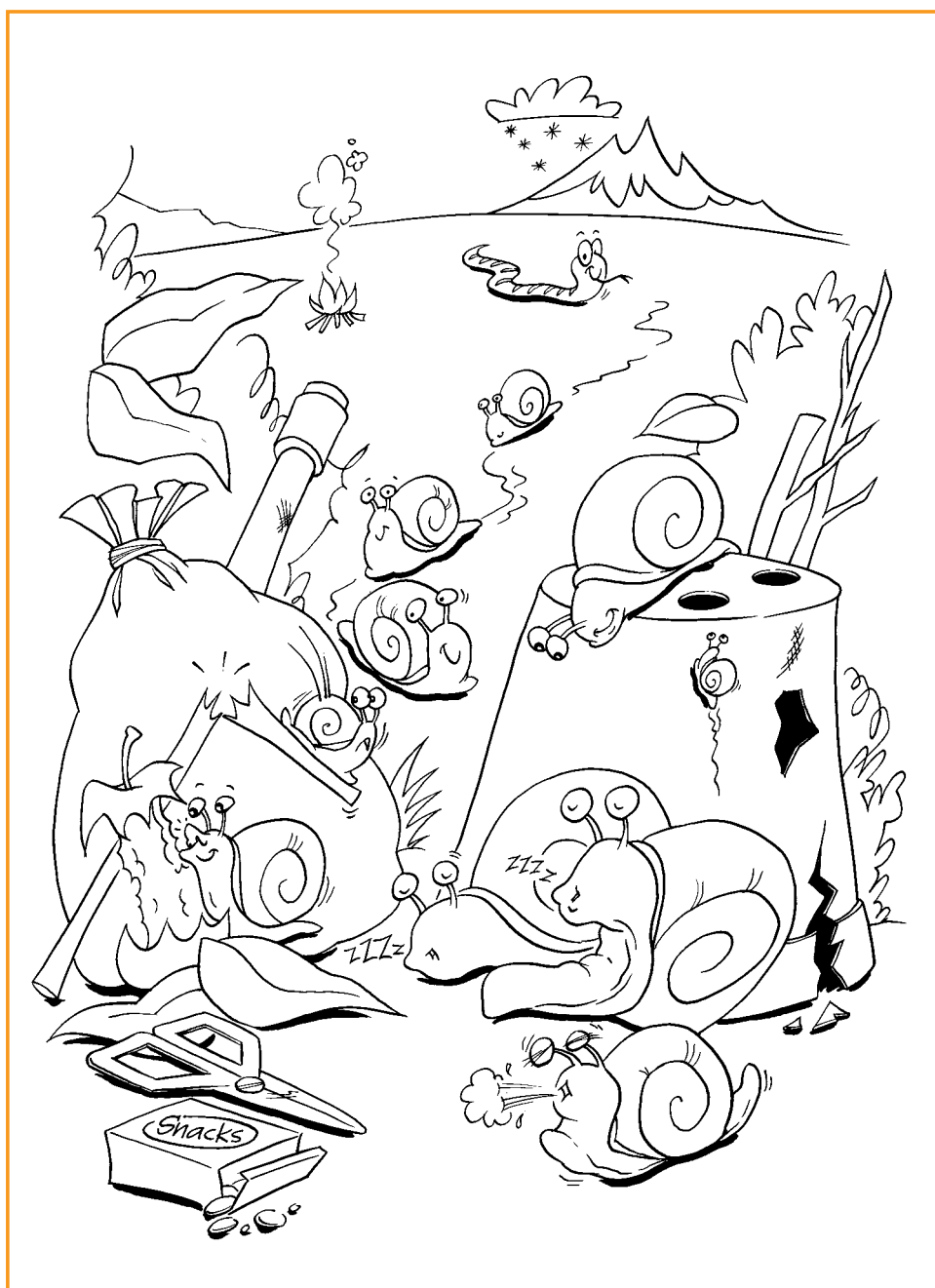


How many things in the picture can you spot that start with the sn and sm sounds? This illustration is from a series of Correspondence School packs that help young students connect the sounds they hear with the words and letters they see written down.

Sounds and Letters series author Margaret Paterson teaches students in Years 1 to 6. She says knowing which letters can be used to represent the different sounds is essential for both reading and writing.

'There are 26 letters in the English alphabet, but they represent 43 sounds,' says Margaret. 'We need to help children know about these sounds to make writing easier for them.'

'The English writing system is so complex, yet we expect children to become competent spellers very quickly,' she said. 'Some children do this with what seems like little effort, but others need to be taught explicitly.'



To assess students' need for direction, teachers talk to students and analyse their reading and writing, before choosing the appropriate Sounds and Letters packs to send out. Most of the learning is through oral activities. The packs include games, stories, poetry, spelling leaflets and activities for younger learners.

Margaret wrote the series in consultation with Joy Allcock, author of *Switch on to Spelling* and *Spelling under Scrutiny*. It is based on the Ministry of Education's Sound Sense Literacy initiative along with the Literacy Learning Progressions, which aim to raise the levels of early literacy. Many New Zealand schools are following similar initiatives. Research being published in *Reading Forum NZ* shows this kind of teaching is producing 'significant improvements' in early literacy skills.

TCS's series was illustrated by Nikki Slade-Robinson, who lives in the eastern Bay of Plenty, and produced by Media Services. The majority of the 12 topics, with 64 different components, have been published. The last two topics are now in production and will be completed later this year.

If you found four things or words that start with sm and eight that start with sn, you found them all. Good spotting!

# Success on the slopes for Ellen



Year 11 student Ellen Dixon proved she's among New Zealand's best up and coming young skiers at the K2 Provincials held recently at Red Mountain, British Columbia, Canada.

Ellen was among a number of New Zealand skiers training at the Vernon Ski Club who competed at the four-day event in March.

The 14-year-old's best result was in the Women's Super G event where she climbed from her start position of 92nd to finish in ninth place. She also managed to improve her 89th positioning in the Women's Giant Slalom to finish 14th overall.

In the Women's Super Combi she started in 91st position and finished in 22nd, while in the Women's Slalom she finished 17th.

Looking back on her results Ellen says she's very happy with them. 'At the time of the races I wasn't very happy with how I did because I knew I could have skied better. But now that I see where I was and have thought about the big picture, I am very happy,' she says.

Ellen says her main goal for this season is to break 200 points in the international ski federation's Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS) skiing. 'In FIS, every athlete starts off with 999.99 points as a first year skier; a world cup ski racer has 10 points or less. I'm aiming to get my score down and become a World Cup skier within five years,' she says.



## Maths everywhere: a new early childhood resource

What do you think when you hear the word 'maths'?  
Many people think only of the maths they did at school. But maths is part of our everyday experience.

A new series of early childhood resources called 'Maths Everywhere' aims to teach children about maths in an everyday context.

The resource explains what maths is for young children and how parents and caregivers can help their child's understanding of maths through simple activities.



# TCS trio take clean sweep



Three TCS students studying at Palmerston North's Tū Toa made a clean sweep at the Manawatu Whanganui Intercollegiate Golf Championship held recently.

Kaylin Huwyler, Maraea Durie and Keita Durie took out all the major titles at the event held at Marton Golf Club in March.

The trio were named team champions, while Kaylin (70) and Maraea (72) individually won the male and female divisions by five and seven shots respectively. Third team member, Keita Durie posted a career low of 79 to give the team an 11 shot victory over Palmerston North Boys' High School.

The students were further commended as they managed to claim victory even though they were down one player. 'It made it all that much harder to compete

against the other sides that had the benefit of dropping their highest score,' says Tū Toa's Nathan Durie.

The team is now aiming to improve on its sixth place finish at last year's National Secondary Golf Championship final, when it meets all the other district champions at Auckland in August.

Tū Toa is an education initiative based at Massey University which currently has 30 students enrolled in Years 9–13 who study with TCS.

Tū Toa provides a varied curriculum that focuses on academic, sporting, and cultural pursuits using a combination of high quality coaches, teachers, and mentors.



*Kaylin Huwyler, Keita Durie, Maraea Durie*



*Keita Durie*



*Maraea Durie*



*Kaylin Huwyler*

# Come to an event near you



## Northern region

### Event days

22–26 June

Dates and venues to be confirmed. Check our website for details.

Focus on literacy, numeracy and transition work skills.

### Halogen National Young Leaders Day (primary/intermediate)

6 and 7 May

Telstra Clear Pacific Events Centre, Manukau

### Northland Careers Expo

3–4 May 2009

Forum North Venue, Whangarei

## Central North region

**Roadshow** – Te Ara Hou and NCEA. Dates and venues to be confirmed. Check our website for updates.

### Halogen National Young Leaders Day (primary/intermediate)

11 May

Energy Events Centre, Rotorua

### Rotorua Trust Careers Expo

22–23 May 2009

Rotorua Energy Event Centre, Rotorua

### Career Paths Waikato Expo

7–8 June 2009

Claudlands Event Centre, Hamilton

## Southern region

### Event days

22 June in Blenheim

23 June in Christchurch

25 June in Invercargill

Contact your learning advisor for details of the event near you.

### Nelson Careers Expo

Trafalgar Centre, Paru Paru Road, Nelson

6 May 2009, 9 am–5 pm and 6.30 pm–8 pm

7 May 2009, 9 am–2.30 pm

### Christchurch Coca-Cola Careers Expo

Westpac Stadium, Christchurch

10–12 May 2009

### Dunedin Coca-Cola Careers Expo

New Edgar Arena, Dunedin

17–19 May 2009

### Halogen National Young Leaders Day (primary/intermediate)

25 May

The Regent Theatre, Dunedin

### Halogen National Young Leaders Day (primary/intermediate)

26 May

Christchurch Town Hall

## Central South region

### Event day

27 May – Wellington

### Wairarapa Careers Expo

10–11 May 2009

Genesis Recreation Centre

Masterton

### Halogen National Young Leaders Day (primary/intermediate)

18 May

Wellington Town Hall

### Hawke's Bay Today Careers Expo

20–21 May 2009

Hawke's Bay

### Manawatu Careers Expo (part of the Women's Lifestyle Expo)

23–24 May 2009, 10 am–5 pm

Arena 2, Pascal Street

Palmerston North

### Halogen National Young Leaders Day (primary/intermediate)

15 June

Regent Theatre

Palmerston North

# Come to an event near you (continued)



## Early childhood events

Early childhood teachers will be hosting event days for students and their supervisors in the following towns and cities. Ask your child's teacher for more details. More events will be scheduled once venues are confirmed.

### Early childhood events – North Island

9.30 am–2.30 pm

Kaikohe Playcentre, 13 May

Mangapapa Playcentre, Gisborne, 14 May

Onerahi Playcentre, Whangarei, 14 May

Eketahuna, 19 May, venue to be confirmed

Wanganui, 21 May, venue to be confirmed

Stratford Playcentre, 9 June

Manunui Playcentre, Taumaranui, 11 June

### Early childhood events – South Island

9.30am–2.30pm

Kaniere Playcentre, Hokitika, 27 May

Karamea Playcentre, 28 May

Mapua Playcentre, Nelson, 17 June

Renwick Playcentre, Marlborough, 18 June

## Student success

### Surfing safari

Year 12 student Joe Moretti went surfing in South America last term, as part of the New Zealand team competing in the 2009 World Junior Surfing Championships in Ecuador. The team competed against surfers from 28 countries in swells of up to 2.5 metres. Altogether 264 competitors took part in three divisions: under 16 boys, under 18 boys and under 18 girls.

After coming second in his first heat, Joe dropped to fourth in the next qualifying heat, which sent him through to the repercharge round. The New Zealand team finished seventh overall, with Joe coming 43rd in the under 16 boys division.

Closer to home, Joe and his brother Paul are representing TCS at the National Scholastic Surfing championships at Raglan in April. Paul will also compete in Australia in July, as a result of winning the under 14 boys division in the Billabong Grom series at Piha in March.

### Skiing success

At the Westpac Halberg Awards this year, freeskiier and Year 13 student Jossi Wells won the Westpac Emerging Talent category, a prize which comes with a \$25,000 scholarship. The Westpac Halberg Awards recognise New Zealand's: Sportsman and Sportswoman of the year, Sports Team and Coach of the year. The top overall award, the Halberg Award, went to Olympic athlete Valerie Vili. The awards are presented at a formal dinner, which raises funds to support participation in sport by people with disabilities.

More recently, Jossi won the gold medal in the Big Air event at the Nippon Freeskiing Open in March. He and brother Byron Wells are both on the National Freeski Team for 2008/2009.

### Taupo camp

Breana (left) guided Honey Lee along the Burma trail at the Central North region camp at Lake Taupo one night in term 1. Honey Lee, wearing a blindfold, followed a rope for about 150 metres, and depended on Breana's instructions to work her way around various obstacles. They were among 25 students and 15 parents who attended the camp and worked together on literacy and numeracy activities, as well as taking part in outdoor activities.



# Student work 2009



## Rescuing Colin

By John Wyllie, Year 6

Dad and I were up riding around the old clearing looking for lambs one wet rainy day in the spring three years ago. I heard a loud 'Naa' over the top of the noise of the bike and I said 'Dad what's that sound?'

Dad found a little frozen goat sitting by a fence post maaing. He was the size of Dad's hand. He was a boy and he was in Colin's paddock and that's how he got his name. We took him home on the bike in the lamb box with the lambs. We gave him a lot of care and love and milk and a nice bed. He still says 'Na' and I love him. I am glad we rescued him or else he would have died. He is three years old and cheeky with horns.

## Stories

By Rebekah Fistonich, Year 11

I am all I remember

Faces of people all over the world,  
Friends who have moved away,  
Aeroplanes by the dozen,  
Red scarves around childrens' necks,  
Around my neck

I am all I have seen

Skyscrapers and yak-hair tents  
And houses made of mud.  
Millions of people in Tiananmen Square.  
Live animals in supermarkets,  
Chickens on city buses  
And elephants playing soccer.  
Police cars on every corner.

I am all I have heard

People talking in many different languages.  
Fireworks and car alarms on Chinese New Year.  
Roosters crowing in the middle of the city,  
And tales of faraway lands where my friends live.

I am all I imagine

Life in places I have never seen.  
Stories that live in my mind.

Stories that are me;

I am those stories.

Stories of what I remember;

And have seen,  
And heard,  
And imagined.

And one day,

When I am ready,

I will tell them

To the world.

## Tops

by Mary Wyllie, Year 4

One rainy night last year Tops went missing. Tops is our little old foxy cross dog and she is about 10 years old. She is scared of thunder and lightning and that is why she ran away. The next night when we were going home we saw Tops at Pakawau. We stopped and tried to pick her up but she ran away because she was scared of the car lights.

We had to drive home and soon after Tops came in the door wet and wagging her tail. Tops had got 12 kms away. I felt sad because Tops wouldn't come home with us but half an hour later Tops was home and I was happy to see her. I think she is a real cool dog and now she has got over her fear of thunder.

## My place = Justin's Joy

By Justin Roberts, Year 4

My name is Justin and my place is called Justin's Joy which I live in.

It is called a mobile home. I travel around the country with my Nan and Papa. A lot of people say how lucky I am. They say, 'I wish I could do that.' So does that deserve a poster or not?



# Student work 2009



## Winning poets

There was a double win in the Hertwich household when the results of the Seaweed Poetry Competition were announced in March. TCS students Alexander Hertwich (Year 13) and his sister Johanna (Year 10) both placed second in their age groups, earning them each a \$25 Whitcoulls voucher. More than 400 students from 25 schools entered the competition, which was initiated by Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council. This year's theme was: 'More than meets the eye'.

### More than meets the eye

By Alexander Hertwich, Year 13

Mussels, hermit crabs, starfish, seaweed and the fish,  
All live under the sea.

Down in the depth there are  
Lots of unimaginable creatures.

Currents and whirlpools  
All are in the sea.

Sharks all eat small fish.  
Two orcas can kill a whale.

A sea of green is all we can see,  
When we go under the surface of the ocean.

We destroy the coral reefs by dragging the big nets,  
We catch all the fish.  
Our eyes don't want to see the destruction.

### More than meets the eye

By Johanna Hertwich, Year 10

We see the sea, all around us.  
The ocean green that surrounds us.  
A rippling painting of dark azure depths  
White-crested waves, yet what lies beneath?

What we explore, and what we destroy,  
Magic of the deep that many don't know.  
Trawlers that haul nets, poisonous waste  
That is let in the seas with uncaring haste.

The beauty of the undersea world  
Once deep down it is unfurled  
Wonders and marvels non perceive  
Yet we shatter those reefs with webs  
we weave.

### A frozen wave

by Robin Long, Year 10

Down at the airstrip's end  
There is a wave  
Poised to break,  
But it never will,  
With stones as foaming flotsam,  
Sedge grasses as spray,  
And at the top,  
The grassy moss the curling crest,  
The sandy bank the water,  
Poised, forever waiting to break.



*Mareakara by Alex Innes, Year 3*