

Christmas Edition



NZRA 30th National Conference

Sun...Sand...and Stories...And don't forget the food, fun and friendships!

This year the annual conference was held in Paihia, Bay of Islands, during the September holidays. Five members of our committee attended the 3 day course and we all came away with our own "pearls of wisdom". The Tai Tokerau committee organised a daily programme of literacy keynote speakers, Jill Eggleton's pearls of wisdom and several workshops to choose from, mainly focusing on New Zealand content. We were all inspired to become authors, when Joy Cowley spoke to us about her life and career. Having attended, we urge teachers to encourage management to contribute towards this worthwhile professional development. Don't miss your opportunity to be part of the next National Conference in New Plymouth, September 2007. Book early!



Paihia School's Hundertwasser-designed playground

Mystery Literacy Bus Tour

On October the 19th 100 teachers from around the Bay of Plenty took a bus trip and visited Saint Mary's, Tauriko Primary and Te Puna School. We were treated to viewing several classrooms at each school, showing best practice in literacy.

"Inspiring and informative," Michelle.

"Amazing art work...great to look at local schools that were so diverse...all great in their own ways...strong school philosophies coming through," Selwyn Ridge School.

"Great to see literacy rich environments," Jo.

"An amazing evening," Cathy.

TMRC Upcoming Events

There will be a Summer Holiday committee meeting to discuss the 5 year strategic plan and the new year calendar.

If you would like more information on the above event, please email Diana Price — diana@maungatapu.school.nz



Joanne Meehan's effective BFG display, St Mary's School.

Literacy recipes to try

1. Use the website below to make your own Christmas cards. The kids will love making them!
2. Set up a table in Word on a classroom computer, with 5 adjectives along the top.. When the children arrive at school they have to think of a synonym for 1 word and type it below, with their name next to it.
3. Personalise a short story by substituting the main character's name with their own. It's lots of laughs!
4. Type up some words that relate to your current topic with grey font and photocopy them onto A3 to make a wallpaper background for your display (see the photo opposite).

FORUM

The most recent FORUM journal has just been sent out to schools with this newsletter. Look for it on your staffroom bookshelf! Look for the following interesting articles:

Pg 29: Browse through this article for Information Literacy Critical Success factors—what do they look like?

Pg 36: Online opportunities to enhance literacy.

NOTE: The FORUM is a "Refereed Journal" -- A journal in which articles are reviewed and selected by professional colleagues for publication.

Popular books available at Books A Plenty

Remember Books A Plenty offers 20% discount to all schools who buy books from their Tauranga store.

Picture Book - *Uno's Garden*, a fantastic new title from Graeme Base blending story, puzzle and counting book. \$35

Early Reader - *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, by Kate DiCamillo (Tale of Desperaux). This is the story of Edward, a china rabbit, who loses his owner. \$30

8-9 yrs - *A Series of Unfortunate Events 13 The End*, by Lemony Snickett. The final instalment in the story of the Baudelaire orphans. \$25

10 plus - *Artemis Fowl & the Lost Colony*, the latest in the series by Eoin Colfer. Artemis has met his match! \$25

Useful websites

www.tki.org.nz/r/hot_topics/packaging_e.php

Make your own Christmas cards and decorations!

<http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/graphing/>

Also known as "Create a Graph". An awesome website for teachers and children to make their own graphs for just about anything!

www.magickeys.com/books

An awesome site for independent reading or story telling.

