

Primary Projects Impact Report - Term One 2024

We have four Primary Project youth workers placed in four local primary schools. Their main focus is supporting learners through our big buddy small group mentoring programme, in addition they also interact with learners in their breaks, support staff with class activities and and join in with school wide activities.

In term one 91 learners benefited from mentoring with one of our team.

By providing a consistent presence within a school, Primary Project trained youth workers collaborate and partner with the local school to provide mentoring and support that is fun, energetic and NZ curriculum based – to support the development of positive, life-long skills.

The four local primary schools we currently have Primary Project youth workers in are Dairy Flat, Silverdale Primary, Orewa Primary and Waitoki School.

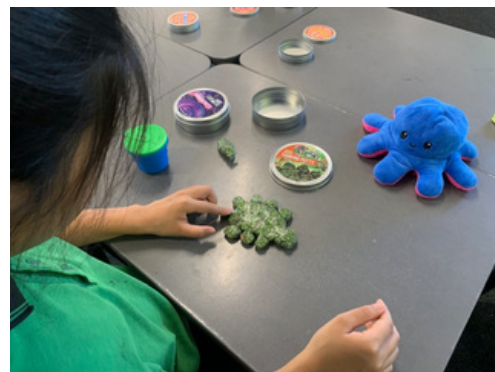
Primary Project's goal is to equip young pre-adolescent students with social and communication skills that enhance positive and healthy choices, decision making and peer interactions

Holly	12 students at Dairy Flat, 15 students at Waitoki
Liz	12 students at Silverdale
Simon	18 students at Waitoki, 8 students at Orewa Primary, 13 students at Silverdale Primary
Noah	13 students at Dairy Flat

Educator Feedback - Silverdale Primary

Highlights:

- Having our own room and space to set up activities and meet uninterrupted with the learners. We're able to relax, play and chat with so much more freedom now!
- Being able to see and reconnect with our past Year 6 learners, who've started at Orewa College, when SALT PP workers have been invited to help with college events.
- The joy on the learner's faces whenever they see SALT workers around their school, especially when we arrive at their class to collect them for their 'SALT time', it shows how much they value and look forward to it.
- The loving pictures and cards that the learners gift me make my heart sing
- Seeing a large amount of the students (year 6s who are now year 7s) who used to go to Silverdale Primary, now at Orewa College and to continue the mentorship journey with a couple of them whilst staying in contact with a number of others through lunch time interactions. This has been valuable for a lot of them seeing a familiar face in an unfamiliar environment, as transitioning to a new intermediate school has been a big change for many of them.
- Having our own room/workspace to use for the day. This allowed us to have activities set up and be able to use the space and hang out with the learners uninterrupted.
- Another highlight is that it has been great getting to know the teachers and staff better and to be able to give and receive feedback on the learners so that we can work together to support the learners' needs and help them to thrive.



Educator Feedback - Silverdale Primary

Student stories:

- A Year 5 learner, who was withdrawn and very shy, has now gained more confidence, made friends, and is verbally contributing in class more since attending SALT PP in Term 1 .
- A Year 2 learner who was losing weight and having dark depressing thoughts, has made a complete turn around and is like a different child. She's now happy, eating well, and engaging with class activities and friends.
- I was able to alert the school of a Year 6 learner who I suspected was self harming. She came to PP as a friend of one of the learners on my list and at the end of the session as she was leaving I thought I glimpsed cut marks under her sleeve on her upper arm. I spoke with the SENCOs about it and the girl's teacher was able to discretely check and confirm that was the case, and speak with the girl. They're now in the process of gaining parental permission for her to regularly attend PP in Term 2. In the meantime I'm encouraging the school to get her professional counselling.
- One student that I see every week at Silverdale Primary has been struggling with self worth and managing his emotions/anger in class. From the beginning of term he has quickly learnt to open up and talk about his home life/school/emotions seeing me as a 'safe person'. This has opened up opportunities to empower him in his value, voice and ability to choose how he reacts to uncontrollable situations. Although it has only been one term and there has been a number of ups and downs, it has been awesome to see him see value in his time spent with me each week and a lot of the time choose to make the most of that time.

Other thoughts:

- Term 1 Silverdale School have changed their school bell times, down from 4 break times to 3, which will now make it easier for me to see more children if and when needed.



Educator Feedback - Dairy Flat School

Highlights:

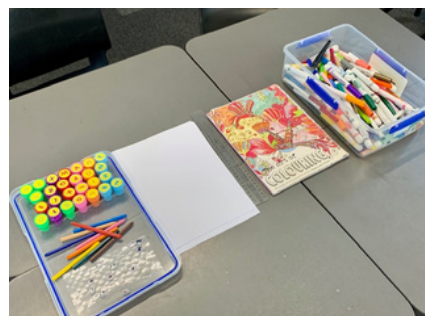
- My personal term one highlight is being back at Dairy Flat as I really enjoy the team feel amongst all the teachers having everyone's back and the genuine passion for the students which further brings up the energy of the school days which I find super fun when I see the boys and chat with the teachers
- I feel I have a great rapport with the teachers and feel like a valued member of their wider staff team. This I'm sure is a result of having been working alongside them for almost 2 years.
- The age group that I see has expanded from students predominantly year 4 and up to a couple from years 2 & 3.
- All of term one I've had a whole classroom to use which is beautifully set up with positive affirmation cards on the walls, bean bags, weighted blankets and soft toys for those who like to sit and hug something.

Student stories:

- A specific student story was when I was watching the year 6 speeches for becoming leaders this year at Dairy Flat. One of the boys I saw had a big struggle with speaking in front of people and at one point told his teacher he isn't going to do it. Eventually I helped him get through his speech by helping him get his ideas down on paper. After he was finished he was stoked with himself not only that he did the speech but that he got over that fear he had in his head
- One of the boys when we first met was very shy and it was quite a struggle to talk much at all. Now after term one he is always very excited to hang out, however my favourite part is checking on him at lunch time and seeing that change of shyness crossing over into his relationships with his friends at school which is very cool to see
- Halfway through term one a very timid and super quiet year 3 student was added to my list of girls to see. It was hard to get a word out of her at first as she struggles with English being her second language. I soon discovered it was much more of a self-confidence issue and just worked on having fun in our sessions and building relationships. One week I just sat with her in her class (at the invitation of the teacher) and just listened as she read me a book. Since then she has changed so much in terms of confidence and lights up when she knows it's time for our session. Her engagement in the sessions and willingness to give words a go is just brilliant and so encouraging.

Other thoughts:

- I enjoy how Primary Project is going and would love to join in with any activities such as zone days or athletics etc more



Educator Feedback - Waitoki School

Highlights:

- One of my highlights has been having access to the 'art shed' to use for Primary Project. It has been really beneficial having a bit of a larger space and a few more resources to use with the learners.
- It has been getting to know students who are new to SALT Primary Project this year and integrating them with the learners that I am continuing to see from last year.
- Another highlight is that it has been great getting to know the teachers and staff better and to be able to give and receive feedback on the learners so that we can work together to support the learners' needs and help them to thrive.
- Students are genuinely excited about coming out for their Salt session.
- While groups here are larger than I would like, my request to restructure one of my groups that needed to be split was actioned. Seeing two of the girls for 5 weeks and the other 3 for weeks 6-10 is going to work so much better.
- The new school library was recently refurbished and I was able to move from an empty hall into a much more inviting space.

Student stories:

- In working with a group of four year 1 and 2 students through term one I have gotten to witness great progress in growing social skills and working as a team. Beginning the term as a new group these 4 students have had to learn to work together as a team - they've gone from sometimes 'ganging up' on each other in the games we engage with, to learning to encourage one another - showing growth in social awareness and unity.
- A year six student with quite severe anxiety has made some great progress. A few months ago she was refusing to be left at school and having emotional meltdowns when mum would leave. She's now a lot more relaxed, smiling often and is integrating back into the classroom, slowly but surely. She really enjoys our Salt sessions and her mum is very appreciative that both her girls come to the sessions.



Educator Feedback - Orewa Primary

Highlights:

- One of the highlights for me has been the joy and positivity I am met with each time I come and get learners from their classrooms and it has been awesome hearing from them that 'SALT time' is something that they very much look forward to and value each week.
- Another highlight is that it has been great getting to know the teachers and staff better and to be able to give and receive feedback on the learners so that we can work together to support the learners' needs and help them to thrive.

Student stories:

- A year 6 learner who I have been seeing for the last two terms has been growing in emotional literacy. He has progressed from not wanting to talk much about what emotions he was feeling when talking about a past event/altercation to learning to identify those emotions and talk about them. He is still progressively learning as to what to do with those emotions but he definitely has a posture of growth and desire to learn from past mistakes. I look forward to continuing to see him grow and learn in the term ahead.

