

Primary Project Impact Report - Term Four 2024

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

We have five Primary Project youth workers placed in 5 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 Four 129 learners have benefited from mentoring with one of our team.

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Our Primary Project is a team of youth workers who actively serve the local community within the primary school setting.

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.



Primary Project Impact Report - Term Four 2024

In term Four 2024 we are excited to have added Wainui School to the cluster of schools our youth workers support along with our long standing relationships with Dairy Flat School, Silverdale Primary, and in more recent years Orewa Primary and Waitoki School.

We have two PP youth workers at Dairy Flat School. Holly works two half days on a Monday and a Wednesday where on a weekly basis she has mentored 18 learners in term four. Noah works on a Friday, he mentored 17 learners in term four.

At Orewa Primary we have Simon working a Friday morning each week. During term four he has mentored 13 learners as well as reaching a wider group of learners during morning tea times, participating in a range of activities including basketball & football.

At Silverdale School two of our PP youth workers, Liz and Simon, work a full day on a Wednesday. On a weekly basis during term four Liz has mentored 20 learners and Simon has mentored 15 learners. They also spend the lunch break out on the turf or in the playground interacting with a wider cohort of learners. Liz also attended the Country Show day which was a highlight.

At Waitoki School Simon and Grace work a half day on a Tuesday. Grace mentored 18 students and Simon has mentored 16 learners during term four, as well as spending morning tea in the playground and interacting with students.

In Term Four Simon began doing a half day at Wainui School on a Tuesday afternoon, where he mentored 12 students, as well as interacting with other learners during afternoon break, he also helped with athletics day supporting the wider school community.

Mentor	Students receiving support
Grace	18 students at Waitoki
Holly	18 students at Dairy Flat
Liz	20 students at Silverdale
Noah	17 students at Dairy Flat
Simon	16 students at Waitoki, 12 at Wainui, 13 students at Orewa 15 students at Silverdale

Salt Management Feedback

In Term 4, we were excited to launch Primary Project at Wainui School with Simon onsite on Thursday afternoons. We have also employed a new female Primary Project worker who as part of her role will also do a half day at Wainui School starting in term one of 2025.

During meetings with senior leadership at each school in term four we have received overwhelming positive feedback about the impact our youth workers are having with their learners and also an appreciation for the support our youth workers provide to staff and the wider school.

We are sad to farewell Holly one of our longstanding Primary Project workers, she has built amazing rapport with students and staff at Dairy Flat School and will be greatly missed. We are pleased that Holly is staying in the primary space within our community and know that her future endeavours will be fruitful.





2024 Teacher Feedback about impact for students & the benefits of Primary Project

Towards the end of term four we reached out to each school asking for feedback from teachers who have learners participating in our Primary Project programme.

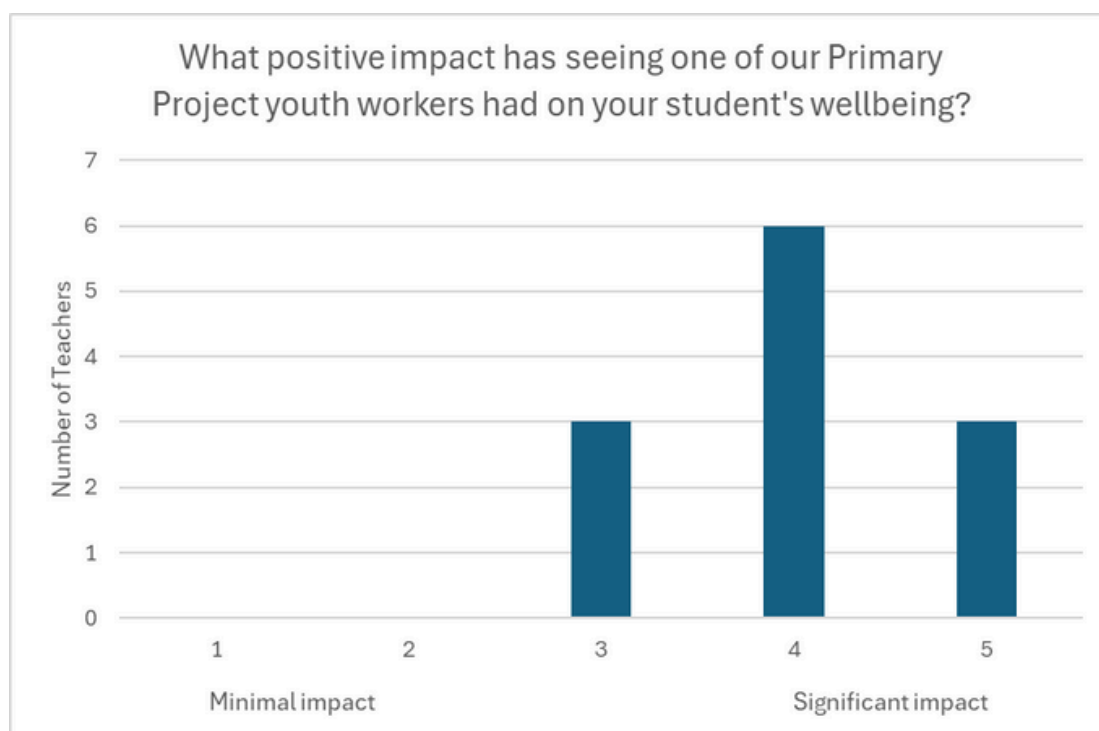
We received responses from teachers at Dairy Flat School, Orewa Primary & Waitoki School.

Please share any positive changes you have noticed or been told of that seem to be related to your student spending time with a Primary Project youth worker

- More self confidence, happier in themselves
- Communication skills both with peers, and coming to me as the teacher. Greater empathy towards peers.
- Our tamariki look forward to Tuesdays because of SALT.
- Our tamariki find the Primary Project youth workers friendly, kind and supportive.
- I have students who attend SALT, unfortunately 2 are away at the moment, but was able to talk to one of them. He said he enjoyed playing the games. I asked him if there was anything else they helped with and he said they help talk about managing anger and that it has helped him a lot. So based on that I have ticked significant impact.
- More confident in themselves, making positive new friendships, a happy time for them both taking part in the sessions.
- Something they look forward to during the week, someone they can chat to and talk about problems (another outlet, rather than it all being in the classroom)
- They are more social and verbal with other children
- The boys and girls groups are always keen to see the big buddy mentors.
- The students that see Holly and Noah really look forward to seeing them and especially enjoy the positive connections that they make with them and the fellow students that they can take to collaborate with. They share what they do when they return and it is seen by them as a really fun and positive time. Holly will be well missed but we are looking forward to working with Katie next year.
- I am seeing some changes in resilience and confidence.
- The student has become more confident and has had less friendship issues



2024 Teacher Feedback about impact for students & the benefits of Primary Project



Please feel free to give any other feedback

- Simon has been amazing, our students love spending time with him
- Great programme, thanks for your mahi this year Holly, Simon and Grace.
- Hard to measure the impact because of other factors which would have had an effect e.g. teacher/teacher aide input, family support, medication etc. I would say, however, that the project as part of a package has had a positive effect and would welcome its continuation in school.
- Both Noah & Holly come in with a smile on their faces and truly make a positive impact to those children!
- Thank you for all you do
- This year it has been helpful to have Noah at sporting events. Very successful with our year 5 & 6 boys.
- I really love the service that SALT offers and think that it is such an asset for those students that don't have an outlet to process big feelings. Thanks so much for your time and input to our students.

Educator Feedback - Silverdale Primary

Highlights:

- My highlight from Primary Project in Term 4 has actually been having a number of learners, who aren't on my 'list', come seek me out for comfort and help in times of distress, if they're having a bad day, just needing a hug, or someone to connect with. The fact that these other learners are now personally recognising that SALT people in their school are able to provide support and can be trusted to do so, fills my heart immensely.
- I've also enjoyed connecting deeper with certain staff, who are opening up more to me about various issues with learners from their classrooms who I see, and sharing information with me that helps me gain greater understanding of what's going on, so I can then try positively impacting those areas too.
- This term I've thoroughly enjoyed being able to meet and make connections with parents of the learners I see both through Primary Project and/or our wellbeing programmes, when I've attended various school events such as AG and Country Show days etc. It's awesome seeing and hearing what they know about SALT through their children.
- Receiving even more really positive feedback from teachers about the behavioural progress students that I am seeing are making.
- Interacting with a large variety of students during lunch times by being invited to join in their games.
- Getting to work two days a week at Silverdale Primary School.





Educator Feedback - Silverdale Primary

Student Stories:

- A girl I've only seen briefly around the school before, came to me in tears wanting a hug along with a support friend of hers. Because she was so upset, I was able to help calm and relax her first by simply inviting her and her friend to join me in playing with some putty together. After connecting with one another, and getting her smiling and laughing again, I was then able to ask her if she wanted to talk about what had made her so upset? She shared that things are difficult at home right now and how sensitive she's feeling due to her Mum having recently miscarried a baby. I was able to tell her how brave she was for sharing that and how healthy it is to talk about these things with people she can trust. I let her know about the wonderful school counsellor Theresa Bruce, and how she can make an appointment to see her. I also suggested that she let her teacher know for extra support in the classroom, as long as she felt comfortable enough doing so. If she wasn't comfortable but wanted to, then I could happily support her in that. The turn around in her was immense, from when she first walked through my door to when she left our SALT space smiling and so grateful with a plan
- One week two of the boys that I see each week had a bit of an altercation/argument towards the end of our session in which we were playing some hockey. Wee stopped the game and talked about how we could make it right. I explained how everyone makes mistakes and that we need to learn how to show grace and kindness to each other as everyone has inherent value and importance. At the time, I wasn't sure how much the boys had actually learnt/taken in from the situation apart from that they had attempted to make it right with one another and left the session feeling better towards each other than when they first had the altercation. However in the next session the following week, they looked to be quite intentional in how they displayed listening and grace towards one another, as well as communicating their needs well in the activities that we did. It was so cool to see them learn from the altercation that they had in the week prior and to actively see them progress in their journey of learning their own value and each others' value.



Christmas gifts for Silverdale learners

Educator Feedback - Dairy Flat School

Highlights:

- My highlight of term 4 was being able to see the growth of all the different kids I have seen through the years and especially the now year 7 boys and watching them graduate primary and seeing the difference in maturity they have made even just in their final year and how they have all stepped up in some way shape or form. I can't wait to hear how they do in the next chapter and being able to be a part of that Journey helps remind me why being apart of primary project especially at Dairy Flat Primary is so fulfilling and how I can't wait for the next chapter with even more highlights
- Joining in with art lessons, making paper mache roast chickens for the school production, Fantastic Mr Fox.
- Dancing together in a mass school dance workshop and seeing the ridiculous excitement levels when all the teachers (plus myself) got pulled up to dance in front of all the students. So much fun! 😊
- Feeling valued and appreciated by the teachers
- Seeing the younger girls' beaming faces when I go to collect them from class and how they ask when they see me in passing "Are you going to get me today?!" ☺

Student stories:

- One student particularly became more open and shared some things that were difficult for her at home. While hard to hear, it was really good that she felt safe enough to share those troubles with me.
- In term 4 I remember one boy who really struggled with making friends and was overall quite shy and found it hard to put himself out there to his fellow peers. After hanging out with him for a few weeks we continued to go to the playground and try to help him get out of his shell and find things he enjoys doing. Now I see him running past me with a group of friends every lunch time and that was a big highlight for me.

Other thoughts:

- The goodbyes were tough. After 2 ½ years at Dairy Flat School and getting to know some of the students pretty well it's hard knowing my time journeying with them has come to an end. I feel blessed to have got to know each one of the students I worked with and hope and pray they always have someone in their life they know will be there for them.
- I have really enjoyed my time at Dairy Flat School and working for Salt. ♥.



Educator Feedback - Waitoki School

Highlights:

- I was able to have a number of great conversations with students around what it means to be a team and succeeding together by recognising each others' inherent value.
- Supervising and joining in on sports games at morning tea – connecting with a wide range of students.
- Seeing how much students look forward to and value their 'SALT time'.
- It has been so lovely to spend time with the girls outside and embracing the NZ weather. Being able to interact with the SALT kids and getting to know their friends as well over handball at morning tea has been a massive highlight. Building the wider connections has been super delightful and something I look forward to doing more next year.

Student stories:

- Towards the end of morning tea I came across one of the students that I regularly see who was sitting by himself feeling very sad. He explained how he felt like his voice and opinion wasn't being listened to by his friends and subsequently felt excluded/left out by them. I was able to have a good conversation with him about his inherent value and how there are people that care about him and value him for him. The rest of his 'salt group' joined at the end of morning tea and were able to recognise that he was feeling sad and enquired about it thus displaying great emotional awareness of others. In response the group did an awesome job of including him, listening to his opinion as to how they wanted to spend their 'salt time' and helping him to feel valued. This was very encouraging for me to see and really reinforced their progress in making compromises for others and valuing their voices.
- One of my girls has truly started to show improvement in her self-esteem and has begun to really demonstrate excellent social awareness. She is always looking out for her friends and has on several occasions put her friends' needs above her own instantaneously. Another awesome thing to observe is the girls looking at how they can bless others. In particular through making bracelets for special people in their lives.



Educator Feedback - Orewa Primary

Highlights:

- Being able to support and help a student transition back into school after being away for the first 1.5 months of term.
- Being invited to join in on basketball games at morning tea and in doing this, being able to support students who I wouldn't normally see.
- Seeing how much students look forward to and value their 'SALT time' and hear some really positive feedback from them about how it has benefitted/helped them to thrive and grow.

Student stories:

- I began seeing a student this term who was quite quiet and reserved to begin with. Throughout the term he began to open up more about the things he is going through at school and with his family. I have tried to use consistent language each session (during various activities/games) around everyone having value, succeeding together as a team, and encouraging one another. As a result of this I have really seen him grow in self confidence throughout the term simply through the empowerment he has received and the value he has begun seeing in himself. It was awesome to have this affirmed by his teacher who said that he has 'grown significantly in self confidence' this term.



Calming boxes



Educator Feedback - Wainui Primary

Highlights:

- Beginning work at Wainui school this term! Getting to know the teachers and students.
- Helping out at the senior Athletics day.
- Connecting with students through lunch time sports.
- Being able to meet a need for students that are really struggling by creating a safe space for them to talk.

Student stories:

- On the first day of meeting a couple of the boys, they expressed their emotional awareness and described how taking part in the anger management wellbeing programme (run by SALT) had really helped them to identify their emotions and how they felt further along the journey in learning how to process them. This was really encouraging and awesome to hear and a great foundation for me to build upon in supporting them with what they are going through. Throughout the term they have been open with where they are at with their emotions and I was informed by the counsellor that one of these boys had even said that it's been really great seeing me as now they have another person in their support circles. So it has been super cool to hear that they are feeling supported and it has given me a lot of hope seeing them progress in learning what to do with certain emotions (such as anger/sadness/disappointment/anxiety) when they come up.



Thinking putty



Liz at the Wainui Ag Day