

# Primary Projects Impact Report - Term Two 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 four Primary Project youth workers placed in 4 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 Two, 123 learners benefited from mentoring with one of our team.**

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.

## **School Feedback**

In Term Two Nigel & Jodie connected with many of the schools at the Orewa Kahui Ako E Tu Tangata Professional Development event at Orewa College. The feedback from teachers and senior management was very positive and encouraging for both our Primary Project and Youth Wellbeing Programmes.

We also had the privilege of visiting Silverdale Primary, Dairy Flat School, Waitoki School, Wainui School and Ahutoetoe School to talk with senior management about Primary Project. Both Wainui and Ahutoetoe have expressed interest in adopting Primary Project.

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**In term two 2024 we had youth workers in Dairy Flat, Silverdale Primary, Orewa Primary and Waitoki School.**

We have two Primary Project 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 12 learners in term two. Noah also works two half days on a Thursday and a Friday, he mentored 15 learners in term two.

At Orewa Primary we have Simon working a Tuesday afternoon each week. During term two he has mentored 11 learners on a weekly basis.

At Silverdale School two of our Primary Project youth workers, Liz and Simon, work a full day on a Wednesday. On a weekly basis during term two Liz has mentored 19 learners and Simon has mentored 19 learners.

At Waitoki School Simon and Holly both work a half day on a Tuesday. Waitoki have chosen to have larger mentoring groups, this means that Holly has mentored 15 learners and Simon has mentored 21 learners on a weekly basis during term one.

Holly	12 students at Dairy Flat, 15 students at Waitoki
Liz	19 students at Silverdale
Simon	21 students at Waitoki, 11 students at Orewa Primary, 19 students at Silverdale Primary
Noah	15 students at Dairy Flat

# Educator Feedback - Silverdale Primary

## Highlights:

- My highlight from Term 2 Primary Project at Silverdale School would be the relationships I've built with the learners I see each week. Seeing their faces light up when they know it's their 'SALT time', as they call it. Being so privileged when they share personal information with me, being able to support and encourage them when they ask me for advice.
- Seeing how much students look forward to their 'SALT time'.
- Have been able to have some really good conversations with some of the students about what they are going through.
- Interacting with students during lunchtimes by being invited to join in their basketball games.

## Student Stories:

- One young learner has been battling with big anxiety towards bees and wasps in the school gardens, affecting her enjoyment of the outdoor spaces and playgrounds. She's come a long way with learning to be brave and not holding onto her fear and worries about them. She would stop dead in her tracks and run away from areas she'd previously seen them flying around, causing her to take huge detours to where she needed to go. Her teacher and I have been working on this with her and are proud to say she has made significant improvements and no longer takes 'the long way around'!
- I often give the students I see a number of activity options to choose to do while we talk in each weekly session. With some of the pairs/groups of students I see, it is sometimes a challenge for them to decide on an activity that they can all agree to do. From the beginning of the year, one pair of students in particular seemed to always want to do different activities to one another and they struggled to happily make compromises for each other. In term 2 I got to see what I thought was significant progress in them taking turns in choosing the activity and genuinely being okay with the other person's choice. It has been really cool to see them learn to value and recognise the other person's feelings by making compromises and I hope and believe that they will carry out this valuable skill with their other peers and people they interact with in their lives.



# Educator Feedback - Dairy Flat School

## Highlights:

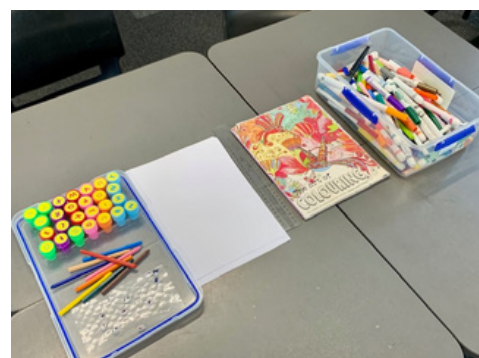
- Supporting teachers and cheering on the students during the touch rugby zone day
- As always, seeing how their faces light up when they see me walk into their classroom knowing it's time for Salt :)
- Being able to have some deeper chats and connection time with some of my regulars.

## Student stories:

- Finding out that one of the students finds it helpful when we talk about our good things/bad things of the week and how that has helped him better communicate with others
- Seeing the children open up not just in our chats but in the way they interact with their classmates in a more genuine and caring way
- One student I've been seeing regularly for two years bumped into me at our church a couple of weeks ago. Her mum has been connecting with Coast Community's 'meals & more' and had brought the family to church for the first time. It was so lovely to see them all there and get to meet L's mum & nanna . The mum has signed up for a positive parenting course which is so encouraging to hear as it will hopefully have a really beneficial & positive impact on the three kids.

## Other thoughts:

- Really enjoy helping out with the out of school activities and would love to help in some way with the basketball or other sports at the school e.g. after school basketball training



# Educator Feedback - Waitoki School

## Highlights:

- Had some good chats and the students were very open about things they were going through or finding difficult.
- Seeing many of the students progress in learning how to make compromises with one another.
- Have been able to have some good conversations with some of the students about what they are going through.

## Student stories:

- One student who struggles with anxiety has continued to make leaps and bounds and is back in the classroom a lot more. She also felt comfortable to share with me about a neurological diverse diagnosis she had recently received.
- With all the groups of students that I see, I try to create (and encourage the students to create) a positive team culture in which all the students can recognise that we are all on the same 'team'. With some groups/students this can take longer than others and with all of them there is ups and downs (as it's a constant learning process). With one group in particular I got to witness a really positive team culture develop through the year (and especially through term two) and I believe it has influenced how each of them get along with one another. They have begun to respect and value each other's voices and see the value in their own voice as well. At one point in the term we went to play catch together with a frisbee on the court. I prompted them to say words of encouragement to each other throughout the game. It was amazing to see them learn to do this and by the end of the game be genuinely encouraging to each other without prompting. I look forward to seeing them continue to grow in team work with one another and to see how these skills translate to the classroom/home environment and how they get along with their peers.

## Other thoughts:

- It was sad to say goodbye to the students at Waitoki. There was a lovely relationship between myself and the students and I will miss them. I hope in the future Salt will be able to run there again for the girls and there be better communication and support between the staff & youth mentors.



# Educator Feedback - Orewa Primary

## Highlights:

- Being able to meet a need for students that are really struggling by creating a safe space for them to talk.
- Receiving positive feedback from senior management about the behavioural progress students that I am seeing are making.

## Student stories:

- One student's progress through the year (and term 2) particularly stood out to me. This is a student that constantly found himself being triggered by certain situations or classmates which resulted in outbursts of anger. Through talking week by week about how he has been going with this (along with additional support he has been getting from his teacher and the school), I have seen him really grow in his emotional awareness through the year so far. I found that more and more often he was able to recognise when he was getting triggered and when big feelings such as anger start rising for him and therefore be able to take some time out to breath/calm down thus not directing his emotions at someone else and potentially cause harm. Although this is an ongoing journey for him it has been awesome to see him grow in this way through the year so far.

