



Central New Brighton School

*Central New Brighton School community nurtures social, academic and physical growth
As a friendly seaside school we value a safe stimulating environment
Working together to be the best we can be ----*

Seaview Road
Christchurch 8061
New Zealand

Telephone: (03) 388-9098
Facsimile: (03) 388-4774
Mail: P.O. Box 18544 New Brighton, Chch 8641
Email: office@cnb.school.nz
Principal: toni.burnsidel@cnb.school.nz

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To whom it may concern

In Support of Youth Alive Trust

Our school is once again very fortunate to have support from Youth Alive Trust in particular their youthworkers, Matt Barnes, Amber Paterson and James Ridpath. As we are a decile 2 school many of our children have a variety of behavioural and learning needs as well as social disorders; all support makes a difference and they have been a huge asset in our community over many years.

We had Matt in school the equivalent of one day a week. In this time he supported children in the playground at breaks, sometimes informally and at other times by organising events. He acted as a male mentor to some of the children, a vital role as many of our children don't have positive male role models in their homes. He introduced a "Man Skills" programme that had a big impact in giving boys the skills and knowledge in every day contexts e.g. changing tyres. A very successful leadership programme was run with a group of year 6 and 7 children. Matt also attended school camps and made himself available at school functions adding to the strong culture of the school. Amber mentors a number of our girls and is running a Girls Group once per week for the senior girls covering issues such as self esteem, family relationships and the self reflections through journaling. James continues to coach our senior football team and supports us at larger school events.

The success of these interventions hinge on the positive relationships that are built with the children and the families involved. Matt, Amber and James are caring and genuinely concerned and interested in making a difference in the lives of young people. The support Youth Alive Trust gives us is flexible and works in with our timetables and our needs.

We are excited about building on the successes of last year by introducing new interventions and continuing with some of the others in 2014. Any support with funding to allow these programmes to continue in these very trying times is very much appreciated!

Yours Sincerely
Toni Burnside