



Already a quarter of the way through 2014! This year is so far a year of both new beginnings and continuations, with plenty having happend over the 1st term.

NORTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

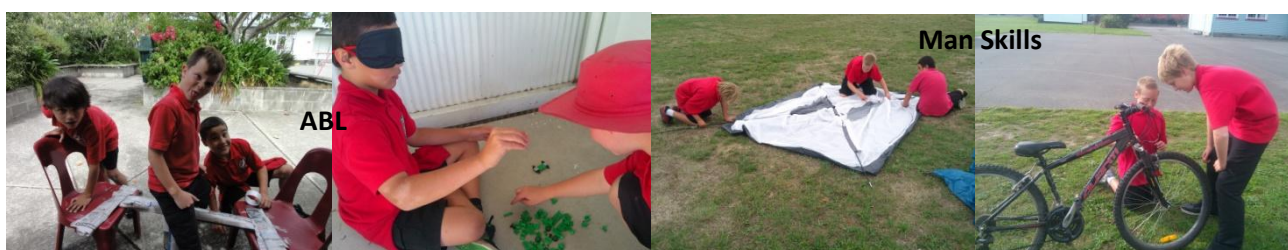
Term 1 at North New Brighton School has been similar to previous years with a few changes. I currently am continuing the Man Skills Program with year 7/8 boys, and I have over term 1 been trialling an Activity Based Learning group with a bunch of year 5/6 boys.

Man Skills again is proving its value at North New Brighton with the latest boys to finish the program reporting back how useful they have found it. When asked 'what did you like most about Man Skills?' one replied "you get to learn stuff that helps you in life".

All of them when asked what we could improve on said that we should run it for them twice a year. And all the young people from this group found the course to be very helpful for their personal development.

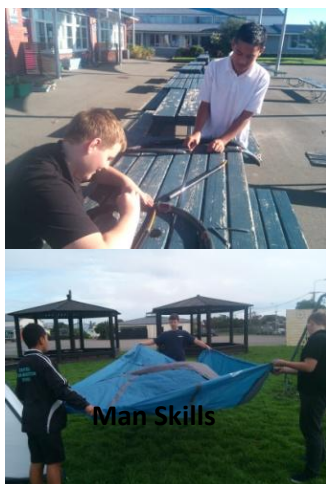
This term I have trialled a similar Activity Based Learning group to what I have been running at South New Brighton last year. I found it interesting and challenging the differences in the young people to work with from the different schools. Because of the fluid way ABL is structured this allows me to tailor each session to build off of the last one and to be able to use activities that will hopefully bring forth meaningful debriefs with the boys. It was clear to see that the ABL was a hit with them due to the excitement that they had every Wednesday afternoon as I turned up with another challenge for them.

Those have been my main two programs I have personally been running, I also keep myself available to help out where needed as I can and make sure that I am present around the school at lunch times to associate with all the students.



CENTRAL NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

This year at Central New Brighton my time is being spent being present and available at lunch time one day each week and running the Man Skills Program.



Man skills here is again proving successful with three boys nearly finished the course. These three often surprise themselves with what they are able to achieve when they push themselves. I have seen each of them develop over the last 7 weeks of the course and I'm sure that each one will come away with a sense of achievement when they have finished. When asked what they liked most about Man Skills? One responded "It's always a challenge and I learnt things that I have never learnt before."



NEW BRIGHTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL – NEW SCHOOL!!!

Nearing the end of term 1 we have expanded out my position to include a fourth school, New Brighton Catholic! At the end of 2013, we were approached by NBC about providing some extra support to some of their more 'challenging' boys. We've had a relationship with the school for many years through organising fun days, helping with the school fair and many of pupils attending our programmes and event, but this was the first opportunity we have had to get involved in the school on a weekly basis.

So far I have been in New Brighton Catholic for four weeks. Currently my role here has been being present and getting known around the school. I have been spending a lunch time and afternoon in the school each week. Over term 2 we have the intention of me providing a likely small group mentoring with a few of the year 3/4 boys.



SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

This term at South New Brighton has seen me pick up the pieces where I left off at the end of last year and hit the ground running. Over the first term I have done lots of ABL with year 3-6 students, restarted basketball getting training happening early in the year, been away for a few day trips, helped out with

Friday afternoon sports and activities, ran man skills, and packed in more activities into lunches.

As with previous years ABL at SNBS is proving effective. I have been running ABL groups with two groups from the year 5/6 age group and with various year 3/4



students over term 1. With these groups we are often focusing on using the activities as catalysts to help the students learn about how they interact with others. That one point can encompass a huge amount of personal growth in how they act throughout the rest of their lives. Learning things like how to work as part of team, problem solving, confidence boosting, sharing ideas in a group setting are all part of the norm as focuses for the discussion debriefs on the activities.



With the Year 7/8's my main focus has been running the Man Skills program. This is still showing its value with the first group of boys finding the skills they are learning to be very relevant to their everyday lives. With sessions in man skills such as 'what it means to be a man' there are always a few 'ah ha' moments as the boys learn something new and often taboo to talk about.



Over term 1 with SNBS I have been able to be a part of two outings with the year 7/8's, Sailing and the Police Competency Test.



I went away sailing with two of the year 7/8 classes. Our day out was the one day in the year which was near completely windless. Despite this the students made the most of the day with plenty of swimming and sailing (when the wind slightly picked up) and capsizing the boats.

For the Police Competency Test, I took 8 students out for the day. The day was focused on the police competency obstacle course and seeing which school could do it the fastest. However after completing the course for the rest of the day the police had various activities that we did as a group to

build relations with the police. This was a fantastic day out had by both me and the students and allowed for some great relationship building with a few students that I have otherwise not had huge amounts of contact with!



BASKETBALL

Basketball has become a large part of my youth work, one that is helping many young people develop positively. So far this year I have been committed to seeing SNBS present some competitive basketball teams into the eastern competition. I am currently coaching two y7/8 teams. We started training early term one to give us plenty of time to up skill even the freshest of players to the sport up to a level that they will be playing competitively in their grade over terms two and three. One of the things I love about coaching the basketball is seeing the very rapid development of the players at this level and the confidence that they gain from being a part of the teams. At South Brighton we are really managing to get several of the young people into basketball which is fantastic as many of the ones playing basketball have previously have been involved in little or no sport prior.

FATHER SON CAMP

Father Son camp for 2014 was based at Lake Lyndon Lodge in the Canterbury High Country, from here we were able to use the outdoor opportunities around us to make camp successful. We had 16 father son pairs on camp and 6 leaders to run it, so a total of 38 people on camp!

The purpose of the camp was to build deeper relationships between the boys and their Dads, away from their normal environment.

Over camp we had outdoor activities such as Archery, Bouldering, Mountain Biking and an Early Morning Swim. We had Jonny Reveley from 'Family Works' attend to run sessions around the father-son relationship. These sessions included material such as 'what do you want to get out of camp?', 'What makes a good conversation?', 'What helps you as boys talk with dad?' and 'what helps/hinder you as dad to communicate with your son?'.

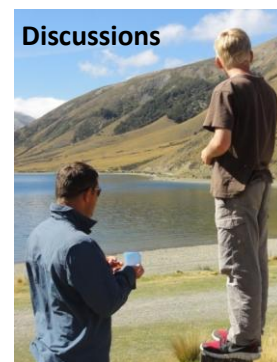
We also had a session on the Saturday night where all the pairs were sent away together for 30 mins of one on one time. This proved to be one of the most popular parts of camp.

At the beginning of camp we had professional photos taken of every pair and then had these photos developed. This was our last activity and it gave them something to go away with, by writing about their father or son on the back of their photo – Something they admired about them, Something they learnt about them over camp, Make a commitment to each other that you will do post camp to continue building on your relationship.

As a first for this type of camp I was stoked with how well it worked out. Hearing some of the feedback from dads made me realise how worthwhile this camp was, with one dad even saying that "this was the best 36 hours I have ever spent with my son."



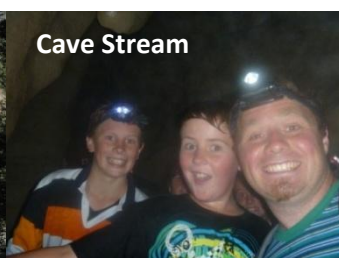
Team Challenges



Discussions



Mountain Biking



Cave Stream



Networking



Bouldering

OTHER INVOLVEMENTS OVER TERM 1

CDN TRUST KIDS CAMP

Over the Easter school holidays I went away on Kids Camp again, this time in the role of camp dad. We had nearly 30 young people from the New Brighton area that were on camp about 20 of which I see on a regular basis. Kids Camp is a great place for building relationships with the ones that I see regularly and for connecting in others from the area with Youth Alive who are not already involved with a youth group. This camp we had almost all of the ones that are not already involved in one of YAT's clubs strongly expressing interest in attending. I have been doing these camps for 5 and a half years now and I still see such huge value in them running, and they prove so beneficial to my current role!

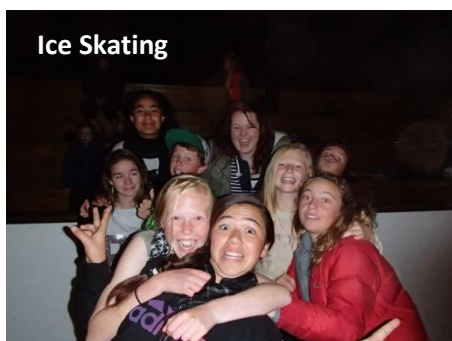
ROCK SOLID

This year at rock solid has started out big, with being full to near capacity every night since night one. At schools Rock Solid is often a big talking point for many of the students that come along all hugely looking forward to coming along to the next weeks program. Over the last term we have had some fun and crazy nights which have included a photo scavenger hunt, candy night and ice skating. Rock Solid is a good way of integrating the young people I see in school with other leaders and other community programmes they can be a part of.

MENTORING

This year I have also been keeping up my community mentoring with my mentee from Big Brothers Big Sisters. Over term one we have been meeting once a week, it's a space that he finds is a time that is just for him. We don't often have to do a lot in the time for it to mean a lot to him.

I have also freed up a bit more time in my schedule to allow for informal mentoring/catching up with current or past young people that I am working with.



Ice Skating



Balloon Volleyball



Wheel Barrow Racing



Ninja Jump

TERM 2

Having had a break for a week during the holidays I'm now back on board ready to go. This term is looking to be productive, new, exciting, challenging and no doubt a lot of fun.

This term I will begin more formalised programs in New Brighton Catholic, start running a cooking course for year 5/6's at South New Brighton, continue with all the usual bits and no doubt get involved with more events and trips as they turn up.

So thanks again for your support however that may be given as it's that support which is allowing me to the work I'm currently doing.

Matt Barnes

Thanks again to the Todd Foundation and the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal. It's been through your generous donations that have allowed me to financially do what I do!



ARE YOU ABLE TO BE THE NEXT FUNDER OF THIS ROLE?

We have been grateful to the Todd Foundation and the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust who have funded my wages and programme expenses for the past two years. However at the end of Term 1, this funding comes to an end and we have been unsuccessful in extending this funding. We have received some funding from local schools through their one-off Earthquake Red Cross funding, however we are now looking for longer term funding of both my role, and the female mentors role in the local primary schools. If you would like to donate towards the ongoing costs of my programmes or wages, you can find all the ways to donate on the NEW Youth Alive Trust website.

Remember you can claim back one third of any donations made to Youth Alive Trust, and we always promise to make the most of any gift given. Or if your cousin is a Bill Gates or Richard Branson type, we'd love to catch up with them over a coffee!

Visit the Youth Alive Trust website www.youthalivetrust.org.nz to see more about what we offer and how you can support us.

If you would like to know more in person feel free to contact me at matt.barnes@yat.org.nz or on 027-257-1768.