



Term 3 has been another term of solid work. The term has seen lots of the same programs continuing strongly and a few other exciting opportunities along the way too!

NORTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

This term at North has seen me continuing along with mentoring and Man Skills, as well as the beginnings of a new boys group.

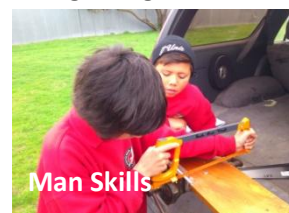
Man Skills at North has now seen 3 groups of boys go through the program all of them learning plenty and being challenged through learning new skills. One of the most successful sessions (which has been shown not only at North) has been the session around what it means to be a 'Man', relationships and how to treat women. It seems that this is a hot topic for the boys and one which is hitting home for many of them based on the buy in on this session!

We are now onto our 4th group of boys this year which will finish up just in time for the summer holidays!

The one on one mentoring that I have been doing with two of the year 5 boys is still going well. This is a time to ensure that there is a positive male speaking into their lives.

This term has also seen new program working alongside 6 year 6/7 boys. The program focuses on big questions such as Who am I?, Where do I stand in the world?, What am I being told by the world, and how does that affect me?

This has been a interesting challenge for me to design and run a course like this for these boys, one which is showing back positive results. One of the boys can often blend in with the other boys around him, however as we discuss some of these topics you can see that he is constantly having "Aha!" moments where he is connecting what we are talking about with his own life!



Man Skills



Man Skills



Man Skills



Y 6/7 boys group



Man Skills

Man Skills



Y 6/7 boy group

CENTRAL NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

This term at Central has seen me focusing on my time on Man Skills and the Leadership group.

We are now through our second group of Boys at Central doing Man Skills. For both groups that I have been leading through the course most of the skills are things that they have yet to try, such as putting up a tent on their own and knot tying. With the current group of boys they have been taking on the challenges presented to them in their stride, learning heaps and looking forward to whatever we may be doing each Tuesday afternoon.



The year 7/8 leadership group has been progressively working towards the group running a lunch time event later this term. This has been facilitated by me, Jonny and Steve from Presbyterian support with the challenge set that they are going to be running an event with a \$100 budget. We have been helping the group figure out the whole process themselves. Due to the group being so student led, the buy-in from them has been spectacular. Even in the many sit down and plan it out sessions!

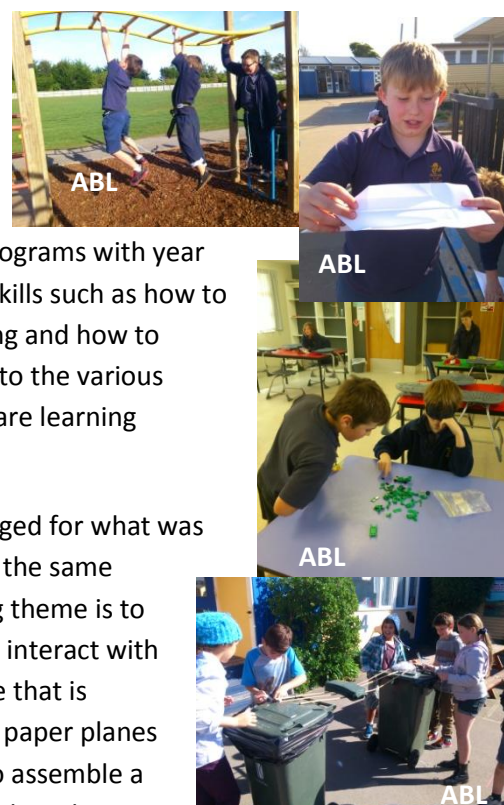


SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

This term at South New Brighton has seen a focus on man skills, mentoring, basketball and supporting other school activities such as the ski trip and Top Town.

The juniors have been continuing the ABL (activity based learning) programs with year 3/4 boys from 4 classes. These basic activities help in teaching boys skills such as how to work as part of a team, what kind of leadership they are good at doing and how to interact with others. The boys that are involved always look forward to the various activities that they get to do, often they don't even realise that they are learning through it all!

I continued on the year 5/6 reading group however as the need changed for what was wanted out of the group we developed it more to an ABL group with the same boys and took on another 6 young people from other classes. The big theme is to focus the learning towards where they stand in a team and how they interact with each other. We have done challenges such as having to build a bridge that is capable of holding 3kgs out of newspaper and tape, having to design paper planes that can fly a set distance and then turn around a point and having to assemble a Lego set using the whole team where each person has very specific roles. These young people really do learn from these groups while it can be more difficult to quantify than giving written tests, seeing the positive results in the young people seems evident enough.





Alternative Sports Group



With the seniors I have been continuing the Man Skills program, which has seen another group of boys successfully complete the course. We are now onto the 3rd group of boys in south and the course is already starting to get a bit of a name for it going around! One of the most popular sessions at South is proving to be the Knots sessions, the young people really enjoy learning how to manipulate a piece of rope to be able to make it do what they need it to do.

At the start of the term we also continued the alternative sports group, this was a group of boys that weren't part of a winter sports team, often the "non-sporty" types. My goal with this group was to show these boys that being "sporty" is not just about being great at ball sports but instead is more about getting yourself physically active. We did many different physical activities such as circuit class, touch rugby (with variations) and basketball however the highlight for the group would be taking them out mountain biking through Bottle Lake Forest.



Breakers Game



Over the term I coached both the year 5/6 and 7/8 basketball teams. At the start of the season almost every young person in both teams had very little experience in playing basketball. By the end of the season we had two competitive teams! One success was to see a player from both teams selected for the Cowles All Star teams. Another success was seeing the year 7/8 team come out to win their section! A final success around the basketball is to see just how many other young people now want to be a part of it next year!



Wave Riders Ski Trip



As the season finished up we also took both teams along to see the Breakers playing at the CBS Arena, it made for a fantastic night and a great way to wrap off a great season of basketball.

I also helped out with a days skiing and boarding with the year 7/8's. It made for a fantastic day out of the class room with all the young people, for many of them this was their first time skiing or boarding and for all of them it was a great day had!

And to finish off the term Sports Canterbury brought in their Top Team program for the year 5-8's which I got involved in helping run for the morning. This is a fantastic quick fire, team

challenge program which made for a fantastically fun way to wind down to the holidays as well as build team work skills for all the students involved.



Top Team



GUYS DAY OUT

Term 3's Guys Day Out was a packed 9 hour day out for 26 young people! Over the day we went to Adrenalin Forest, had a BBQ feast for lunch, went to Timezone and had a van rally. The highlight for me this Guys Day Out was to see every young person connecting with a different leader over the day, which was confirmed to me through the feedback forms, It is great to see all types of different guys from different schools and backgrounds come together, make new friends and trying new things on these days out!



SOCIAL BASKETBALL

As the basketball season wrapped up it was quite clear that there was going to be a gap in the market for all the young people that want to keep playing basketball. I also knew that there were lots of young people keen to get involved in playing basketball so the solution to the issue was to start a social basketball program!

On Wednesday afternoons through to the end of the year I am running refereed games of basketball for any year 5-8 young person that wants to be involved. There isn't any championship or practices or training requirements, simply an afternoon once a week where young people can come and get involved in a hugely popular sport.

My suspicions that it would be popular were proven right with the program having over 20 young people signed up before the first session and now at the start of this term we are full to capacity with 37 young people signed up! What is even better is it is not just the young people from the basketball teams that have got involved but also lots of those young people that have been involved in no sport or just want to give it a go without the pressure.



OTHER INVOLVEMENTS OVER TERM 3

ROCK SOLID

This term Rock Solid has seen us doing more crazy events, we have done a toastie master chef night, had a EPIC Roller disco which was combined with a bunch of other young groups from the greater area, and gone for a day trip to Hanmer Springs!

The highlight of Rock Solid this term was heading to Amped Camp, run by CYS (Canterbury Youth Services). It is a combined youth group camp which had about 300 people in the showgrounds equestrian centre for an activity packed overnight camp! This camp was a great opportunity to go a bit deeper in our conversations with a few of the boys that came along.



MENTORING

I have been continuing mentoring this term with the same boy that I have been mentoring for over a year and a half now. The term has been a really rough time for him, due to a death in his family, both him and his family have really valued having me being able to spend time with him every week to help him process what's going on and just be a positive male in his life.

I have also had a few small group mentoring times over the term as needed where I have taken a small group of 2-4 boys out for an afternoon as a bit of an extra to add to the other work that I am doing with them also.



HOLIDAY PROGRAM AND KIDS CAMP

Over these holidays I was busy busy busy. Over the first week of the holidays I was able to be involved with YAT's holiday program. It was a great opportunity to spend a bunch of quality time with several of the young people I am involved with at the schools outside of school and do fun activities!

Then during the second week of the holidays I was back running CDN Trust's Kids camp at Woodend, there were over 15 young people from the New Brighton area that we would be involved with in some way, so more quality time spent with young people that we are already working with!

OUTWARD BOUND

During the first week of term 4 I had the amazing opportunity to attend the Connect course run by Outward Bound specifically for people who are working with young people throughout NZ. It was an 8 day course in the Marlborough Sounds doing all sorts of amazing physical activities alongside 12 other people that are working with young people. It proved a great opportunity for networking and sharing ideas, as well as



personally developed me. I learnt heaps about myself and plenty of new tips and tricks to bring back and implement in my youth work practice here in New Brighton!

TERM 4 AND ONWARDS

Term 4 is already looking packed out and no doubt there will be plenty more packed into it than I'm expecting. I have got three school camps to go on! Basketball on Wednesdays, a morning out sailing, leavers evenings, end of year wrap ups and leavers evenings, YAT's family fun night, and more all on top of keeping the regular programs ticking along!

It seems like a huge amount to pack into a small term because term 4 is a bit like that - packed, crazy and building excitement for Christmas and the summer holidays. 2013 will soon be through and scarily 2014 will soon have begun. As I look forward to next year I am excited about what it may hold as I move into my third year in the role of male mentor. It is often talked about by long serving youth workers that the real effect of the job starts from your third year of being present and active in a community. With my funding drawing to a close in April 2014 we are currently looking for ways to keep me on into this "prime" period of youth work. Especially with the merging schools over the coming year and into 2015 the need for stability will be greater than ever. As well as the excitement I personally have to see programs such as Man Skills and the alternative sports group continuing and training many more young people in basketball.

It's a privilege to serve this community and the from the feedback I receive from young people, parents and schools I am left feeling really appreciated. Thanks heaps to everyone that has supported me this year!

Matt Barnes

Thanks again to both the Todd Foundation and the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust for making everything that you have read about and the other bits you haven't all possible with their generous funding.

