



Term three was another great term that was brimming with various ventures around the place. It was definitely an all go term and a lot of fun however very busy. This term has felt like I haven't needed to be going much wider in meeting young people now that I have met the vast majority, my focus has now turned to deepening relationships and finding the areas that can best utilise my time! Read on to see what I've been up to this last term!

North New Brighton

North New Brighton School this term has been great! I have filled up all my time here without any issues. My typical day in North now consists of doing some hands on construction projects with three year 5 boys in the morning, from after morning tea until lunch it is three slots of 1 on 1 mentoring time I am currently working with a year 8 and two year 3's in this time. After Lunch my time is spent with the Year 7 and 8 boys helping out Mr Redmond with the various "Guy Activities" that he has planned from week to week.



We had hoped that by now we were going to have the soccer goal posts that we were working on all sorted and in the ground but due to almost half the Wednesdays this term being bad weather it hampered our efforts significantly. The Goal post it now about a hour or two's work away from being completed and the guys that have been helping build it are looking forward to seeing their efforts up for all to use!



A big highlight of this term has been joining North's school camp to Hanmer. This trip was three great days away of fun in the outdoors (right up my alley). The young people went snowboarding (or skiing) one day, and then for a bush walk the alternate day. On the first evening everyone went to the hot pools. My time was spent on the slopes for both days sticking with the young people that were competent enough to board the main mountain, two blue bird days with snow in great condition made for everyone having a great time on the slopes. The camp also included a hilarious camp talent show and a few great night games. All up a fantastic time had by all!



Central New Brighton

This term at central New Brighton has seen my role step up a gear and move into maximising the use of my time in the school. A large amount of my time is spent doing Goal Setting work 1 on 1 with students from years 3-6. It has been encouraging for me to begin to see improvements from some of the young people that are really sticking to their goals.

On Monday Afternoons my time has been split between building a skate ramp with two year 8 guys and every second Monday running a leadership group for 10 year 6's and 7's. Both of these Monday afternoon activities have been going really well. Thanks to Mitre 10 Mega Ferrymead's generous sponsorship we have been able to get really stuck into construction projects both here and at south, sadly we ran out of time to complete the skate ramp at present. The leadership group has been a top alternative to the senior leadership group as all the young people are seen as the up and coming leaders of the school and are all super keen to be a part of the group.

A highlight enjoyed by many young people this term was the 2012 Dodge ball tournament, young people needed to form teams which then competed on Monday lunch times for about 4 weeks. The winning team was stoked with their prize of a fish and chips lunch!



South New Brighton

Term three at south has been great, with so many different happenings around the place. My time in south is split over Thursday afternoons and Fridays. This term with the guys on Thursday afternoons we have built hand launch gliders and started on making a trebuchet and quite reasonable proportions. The guys were absolutely stoked to see the gliders that they had made from sheets of balsa wood (not a kit set) themselves, we had a great time trying them out however sadly the plan we used was not robust enough for our needs and we had all managed to break them soon after! Our new project is a sizeable trebuchet, hopefully we will have this done early into term 4.

My Friday mornings are spent in junior classes working alongside a few tougher young people. This time is mostly spent with the class giving a bit of quality time and positive attention to a few specific young people however the attention also flows onto the rest of the classes and many young people look forward to me coming and being with their class on Friday mornings.

This term I have seen the end of the first lot of focus groups and moving onto the second set of groups. The first two focus groups really benefited from their time and were sad to see it finish up. The second lot of boys coming through are both doing more hands on activities that the first lot and are also really benefiting from the time that they are getting.

When I can I like to stick round on Friday afternoons to spend some more time with the year 7 and 8 classes. Friday afternoons often end up helping out with young people working on their inquiry projects and getting out and active for a bit of end of week physical activities. They have often also been a time where I end up having a few deeper discussion with some of the young people, it really is a great way to start winding down to the weekend.

The other top part of South has been Boys Club which is run most Friday lunch times for year 5-8 boys. This term we have left some of the past favourites to try out new options such as table tennis, basketball and a popular choice American football! Boys club offers the guys a chance to let of some steam in a really healthy setting and now try some new activities that they may not try otherwise.



Guys Day Out

Guys Day Out is the newest venture for my role and the first one was a flying success, with the young people giving it an average rating of 9.8/10. Me and 4 other local leaders took 19 year 7 & 8 guys from 5 local schools out for an action packed day, into the one day we did paintball, archery, ultimate frisbee, had a talk round life priorities, had dinner, dessert and snacks, squeezed in a movie and played a bit of table tennis and pool. Sadly but not surprisingly we ran out time to also fit in American football.



The idea of Guys Day Out is to give the guys an opportunity to have a fun filled day out from normal life with positive male role models trying activities that they may not have tried before in a safe environment.

A real highlight for me was seeing the guys trying new activities and then having at least three at the end of the day tell me that it was the best day out they have ever had! No doubt after a success like this Guys Day Out will be a regular part of my role!



Kids Camp

I have been doing kids camp with CDN Trust (Community Development Network) for four years now and have done 16 in that time. When I started with Youth Alive Trust I thought that I may have to stop doing these however they have proved to be hugely complementary to my role.

Kids camp is a 5 day intermediate aged camp for about 80 young people from all over Chch every school holidays. The young people are nominated through schools and don't have to pay a cent to get to come along. For many young people these camps are the only holiday that they get to have.

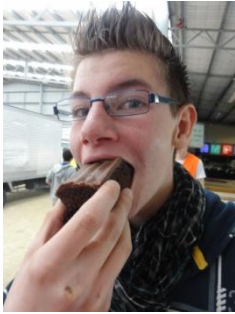
In my role these benefit me by allowing me to expand my connections to both young people and leaders as well as deepen relations with young people that I am already in contact with. On most camps we tend to have at least 10% of the young people from the New Brighton area and often more! This has proven an invaluable way to connect young people into youth groups this camp alone I have had strong expression from about 4 young people from the New Brighton area wanting to join Rock Solid!

This partnership with CDN Trust is a great asset to both agency and will hopefully be one that continues long term.



Rock Solid

Rock solid is Youth Alive Trust's Intermediate aged youth group run on Friday early evening. This term we have done all sorts of great stuff such as a trip to Hanmer, guy girl spilt night, family quiz night and also joined in on Amped camp – a camp for over 200 intermediate aged young people from across Chch run by CYS (Canterbury Youth Services).



Other Stuff

And just incase I wasn't up to quite enough I also manage to flesh out a bit more of my time with mentoring a young person from the New Brighton Area once a week. We do plenty of activities that get us both away from electronics and the indoors. Things like Fishing, going for a walk on the beach, installing the new sound systems in the vans and heading down to the skate park.



I also have been spending free Thursday afternoons down at the New Brighton library as the youth worker presence.

A highlight of the term was to attend RAP (Response Abilities Pathways) Training with Dr. Martin Brokenleg one of the founders of the circle of courage!

Looking Forward

Term four is shaping up to be another great and full up term as everyone begins to wrap up for the year. This term will include 2-3 school camps and many other trips and events here and there as well as keeping up with the usual in school bits!

A Massive thanks to everyone who has been helping me out in my new role and who is still helping out.

Looking forward to another epic term in partnership with you all!

MATT BARNES

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