



It's hard to believe that a whole nother year has already passed by. Term 4 was an action packed term with lots of extras. This term has seen numerous outings, three school camps, several school events and more, as well as the usual in's and out's.

### NORTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

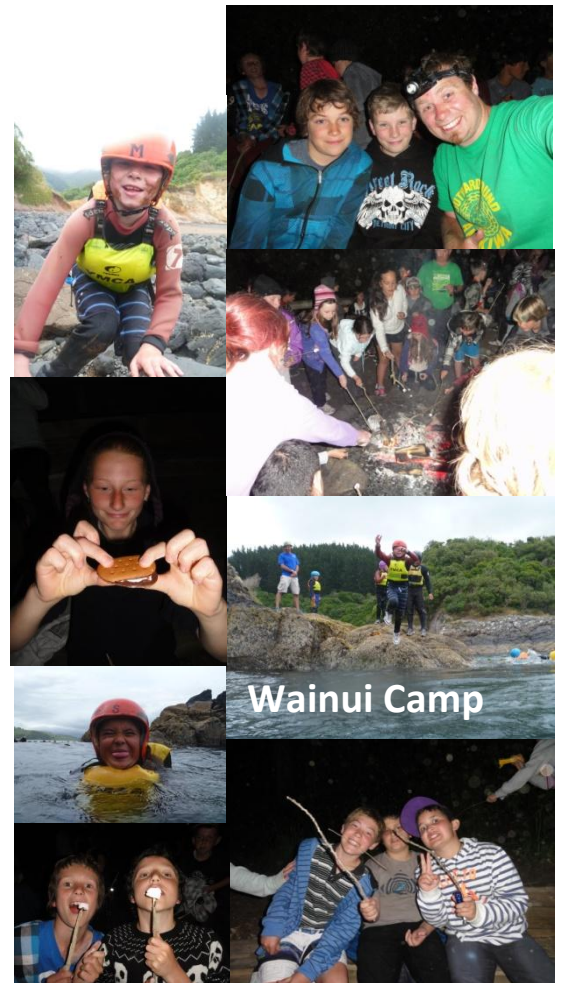
Over term 4 at North we have gone on camp to Wainui, finished off another man skills group, kept up mentoring and fare welled all the year 6's and 8's that are moving onto their new schools next year.

Man skills this term as with the last terms has gone down well. We have seen another three boys learn many more "manly" skills. After reading through their feedback all of the boys felt that they had developed personally, when asked what they liked most about the program they found it too hard to select one part and instead went with "everything" as their answer.

Mentoring has continued along this term with the two boys that I have been working alongside this year. Mentoring can often be one of those hard to quantify what difference you are actually making with a young person. Over term 4 there have been lots of other

programs and trips that I have been involved in which have meant that I have missed a few sessions with the two. It has been when I've missed sessions that I have been shown how much value they have in the time, their expressions of disappointment showed that they find huge value in spending some one on one time with me.

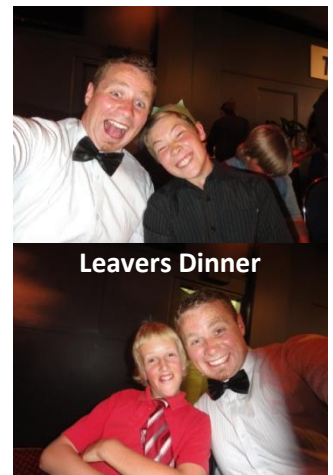
This term both Amber and I were lucky enough to be able to come along on camp to Wainui with the year 5-8's. This was a fantastic three days out with the young people, all of



Wainui Camp



them tried new things in the outdoors and had a fantastic time doing it. As I asked what were some of the highlights for them on camp I would normally be given three or four activities that they would rave onto about why they were just so so good. Camp also proved a great opportunity to connect with some of the parents as well as strengthen relationships with staff and young people.



And then as the term has drawn to a close we have sadly had to farewell several year 6's and the year 8's as they move onto their new schools. With the year 8's we spent the evening at Twiggers celebrating their time spent at North New Brighton and wishing them the best in the future.

## CENTRAL NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

At Central New Brighton this term I have been focusing in on the leadership group as my main port of call, I have helped out on a sailing adventure and gone on camp.

After a year of learning about leadership with a group of 9 up and coming leaders at Central the leadership group put into practice what they had learnt by putting on a fun afternoon for nearly the entire school. The group had to do everything with us adults simply there to assist and guide when needed. The group planned, budgeted, listed, wrote up and debriefed the afternoon. They ran a successful tabloid food event where every activity had food involved in it! Every young person found it to be difficult which I was stoked about as it is only when you are pushed that you really grow. They all did their parts fantastically and really put into practice what they had learnt over the year. It has been great to see how these young people really can step up into leadership roles.

With the year 5/6's I went along to help out with a sailing adventure. I went along expecting to have to sail the young people around, however I was pleasantly surprised when the fantastic team at Can-Sail took the young people under their wings and got them to make the boat sail and even steer in through Lyttleton harbour. It ended up a good morning to watch the young people enjoying a new experience while I was able to connect with them without needing to keep the activity running!

Later in the term I went along with the year 4/5 class on camp to Woodend. Woodend is a fantastic campsite that feels a bit like a second home to me, the staff out there made the whole group fit right in and have a great camp experience. This was one of the easier camps I have been along on with only 18 young people it allowed more opportunity to get to know some of the young people that I didn't yet know quite so well.



## SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

At south New Brighton I have been very busy. I have been along on camp, ran lots more ABL, helped out with the Sports Acadamey, helped out with general school life, kept up Man Skills, joined in the leavers formal and YAT ran a fun afternoon for the whole school!

Man skills has been a great success at South this year with the third group of boys finishing up their course just before the term ended. When asked what did you most like most about the program one responded "The challenges that Matt gave us." Another's highlight was "the everyday skills that we learnt." All three rated it a 5/5, all tried something new and there were no complaints except that one wanted to keep doing more of it.

Continuing on this term with the year 5/6's I have been running two ABL (activity based learning) groups doing all sorts of activities filled and followed with discussions to provoke thought and learning in an alternative environment. A highlight for the groups was our grand final for the year where we had an awesmore (awesome smore) competition, where the challenge was to use the epic ingredients that they were issued to create the most amazing smore they were able to. I saw and tasted some fairly awesome smores that morning, which were judged on taste, creativity and design. While this final session was a lot of fun even in running an activity like that they young people are still able to draw learning out of it as you discuss with them during and after the challenge. Some feedback from this program suggests that the young people involved hugely enjoyed it as well as learnt lots. When asked what do you most like about the program one responded "That it was fun but at the same time we are learning stuff", another responded "I liked how it was hard and fun at the same time."

This term I also went along with all of the year 5/6's on camp to living springs. This camp was fantastic just like last years. It allowed lots of opportunity and time for getting to know people – young people I didn't know so well I now know better, parents I hadn't met I know more about and they know more about me and my role, and the staff that I work alongside you get to connect with also. The camp really is a huge highlight of the year (and often their time and SNBS) when I talk to the young people about it, they love getting to spend time doing all of these exciting activities in a very exciting environment.



This term I have also helped out with the Sports Academy, which provides further sporting opportunity for those young people that are performing at a higher performance level in their sports. I ran some ABL sessions with the group to facilitate learning around the leadership sides of sports, which the young people absolutely loved and reflected on really well. I was also able to pull in a favour by getting one of my friends along who has recently returned from America studying and rowing for Harvard. He has won many medals and lays claim to the title on the youngest person to be selected for the NZ Junior rowing team which also won Gold the year he went. He provided a real life show, tell and ask story about a young person similar to themselves from Christchurch and what he achieved when he put his mind to it. The young people involved really loved to opportunity. We then finished up the term with the sports academy by going to the sports testing centre at the University of Canterbury. The young people were tested on the same equipment as high performance athletes and see how they compared.



As the term progressed YAT ran for the whole school a fun afternoon with lots of our volunteers also helping. We had many activities such as skate ramps, a BBQ, a horizontal bungee and even a magician come along. After the event we had lots of feedback from young people and staff, from young people we had lots of “man that was fun” sorts of comments. From staff we got “what perfect timing, it was such a blessing to have you come in and give us a bit of a break during such a full on term!”

To round off the term I went along and helped out with the formal to farewell the year 8's. It will be sad to see several of them leave however at the same time it will be exciting to see where they end up.

Some Recent feedback from the teachers at South said that they hugely valued the input that I Bring to the school, and they find the support on a Friday to be absolutely fantastic! They also mentioned about how my passion for seeing young people playing basketball has rippled through from the top down with some on the year 6 boys coming to the senior year 7/8 teacher asking if next year they would be able to run a development/skills program with some of the juniors so that when they are old enough for the leagues they will already have the skills to play well.



## OTHER INVOLVEMENTS OVER TERM 3

### SOCIAL BASKETBALL

The social basketball program was a great success this term with many young people trying out the sport that had never played before. We sat with an average of 20 young people coming along every Wednesday to get involved. It's been great seeing young people from 5 schools in the area come together and become friends over the enjoyment of playing a single sport.

### ROCK SOLID

Our final term of Rock Solid for the year has seen more of the usual, or not so usual as the case seems to be with Rock Solid. The highlight of this term would have been our evening over to living springs where it felt like we crammed a camp into a long evening. Over the year it has been great to see so many of the young people that I work with at the schools then coming along and getting involved with this program, which provides yet another level of connection with them!

### MENTORING

Mentoring this term has been continuing along well. I have been catching up with this boy for nearly two years now and he values the time hugely. This past term has been the tail end of some tough circumstances for him and his family. I recently received the feedback from his supervisor through Big Brothers Big Sisters that if I wasn't connecting with him then he doesn't feel like he would have anyone that he would be able to really open up and talk to. In a Christmas card from him and Big Brothers Big Sisters he writes "you're the greatest mentor I could wish for."

## 2013 IN NUMBERS



TEZA Art Evening



Pimp My Trolley



Getting Messy

43,000	The all inclusive cost to keep the Male Mentor position going for one year
1000	Young people contacts
200	Young people worked alongside
186	Savouries consumed
50	Teachers supported
20	Various different programs ran by the Male Mentor
9	Camps Attended
10	Schools young people come from
3	Guys Day's Outs ran
170	Volunteers worked with
2	Basketball teams coached
78	Different games and sports played
3642	Photos taken
23	Morning teas
10	Focused young people contacts
36	Events involved in
Not measureable in numbers	The lasting effect from this role on the people worked with

## 2014

After a few weeks of restful holidays I will be back on board for Kids Camp with CDN Trust, then followed up with two weeks of holiday programs.

It seems hard to perceive that 2014 will shortly have begun. 2014 is shaping up to be an exciting year building off everything that has been set in place from the last two years of work in this amazing community. I am looking to improve the service offered to be even better than before! I have new potential camps, trips and programs planned for the New Year and intend to keep successes of this year such as Man Skill running and improving.

The only potential danger to the year ahead would be the ending of my main funding shortly after the end of Term 1, however with a funder wanting to continue to fund such a beneficial position as the Male Mentor for this community I will no doubt be around to serve for many years yet.

Thanks again for all the support over 2013, have a fantastic holiday season and look forward to the exciting year ahead of us!

*Matt Barnes*

**This year of my position has been made possible thanks to the generosity of both the Todd Foundation and the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal. From the feedback I have recieved from talking to people in the community, the entire New Brighton community thanks you for your support of this position.**

