

Latest News



Welcome to Kim Slack, our new part time Learning Specialist. She comes to us with strong Librarian and teacher experiences. Kim will be working with Adult learners across the Learning Centres and within the Children's area at Linwood Library. She is looking forward to teaching classes here and sharing her skills and knowledge with you.

Book Talks

Have you heard about www.booktalks.org.nz ? BookTalks is an initiative using online technology Skype to link authors and readers. It was launched on May 10 to coincide with the New Zealand Post Book Awards.

South Learning Centre is trialling this and thus offering to pay the author's fee for a group of students (up to 30) to come for up to an hour (for free) to chat with an author on line/screen. If you are interested in registering your group we have a limited number of sessions available. There are 30 NZ authors participating; if your class has the passion and desire to communicate with a key NZ author via Skype then make the most of this opportunity. Contact Gill Gratton at 941-5140 by 11 June and we will organise the booking and links for you.

Numeracy Support Horizons Term 2

We have places still available in our Horizons Numeracy Support programme, for students needing support across a range of mathematical concepts. Starting 1 June and running for 5 weeks, on Tuesdays from 9am-10.30am for Open Year 6-8 students, cost is \$20 per student. Phone Gill immediately on 941-5140 for further information or to book spaces.



Christchurch Digital Learning Trust (CDLT) Update

The CDLT is now an officially registered charity. The trust meets monthly on a Wednesday 5-6.30pm. The trust membership comprises John Truesdale (Chair), Tim Scandrett (Acting Treasurer), Mary Richardson, Ann Brokenshire, Derek Wenmoth and Nick Major. Geoff Barnes was on the trust but has resigned due to work and personal commitments. A management committee exists to support the trust in the administration aspects of the role and the members are: Phil Clearwater, Tim Scandrett, Dorothy Hayward, Pat Street and Jenny Hughey.

To date the trust has focussed on

- ensuring all legal requirements are signed off
- establishing communication processes. Contact address:
CDLT
PO Box 7275
Sydenham
Christchurch 8204
- securing domain names – available soon
- trialling processes with Waltham and Rowley Primary Schools
- conducting a fundraising assessment
- next meeting 9th June.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dorothy Haywood for her continued passion, commitment and energy. Dorothy has been supporting Waltham and Rowley Primary Schools in their trial of CDLT processes. We are thrilled to see CDLT take it's first footsteps and look forward to continued developments and opportunities to work more closely with our school community.

Pat Street
Programmes and Learning Manager
Te Rōpū Poutama
Christchurch City Libraries
Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi



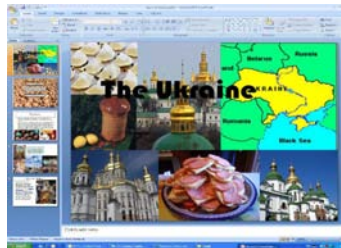
What Makes Christchurch Christchurch?

Students from Beckenham and St Peters primary schools enjoyed a 6 week course finding out about Christchurch attractions and icons. They went on a photographic tour of the central city and took digital photos of historic places and statues important to Christchurch. Their mission was to create a piece of literature advertising all the great things that make Christchurch what it is today. Students came up with great ideas creating excellent work which included brochures, photo stories and a website. Presentations were made to parents and classmates to finish off the course. Well done to all who participated.



Our Global Village

A group from Mt Pleasant school worked last term on the "Our Global Village" Horizons programme. Using David Julian Smith's book, "If the world were a village: a book about the world's people", as a starting point, the group looked at World statistics regarding quality of housing, water access, literacy rates, life expectancy etc. Email contacts were established with peers in a variety of countries and Google Earth was used to "tour" the hometowns of the contacts. Each participant took a country of interest and found out about life in that country, the similarities and differences, beliefs, ideas, culture etc that typifies life in that country. Discovering some of these differences certainly made the group appreciate how privileged we are to live in New Zealand. Each participant produced a PowerPoint to share their discoveries back at school.



The Greater Christchurch Schools Network (GCSN) continues to gather momentum and the South Learning Centre is quickly becoming a hub of activity to test and explore this new fibre connection.

Some of the workshops and initiatives taking place include:

- Principal and teacher workshops on Web 2 Tools such as Google Docs, Doodle Poll and other web based applications which encourage online collaboration.

- Video Conference opportunities with Linwood College and Shirley Intermediate School.

- GCSN website development, for teachers to share ideas and develop both projects and programmes between schools within the Christchurch area.

- The GCSN website will be accessible from Tuesday 1 June, with the official launch taking place on this day from 4pm-5.30pm at Burnside High School.

Climate Change Video Conference

Due in large part to the advancements of communication and technology, we are becoming increasingly aware of the effect of climate change around the world. It is through hearing first hand stories from the people living in these affected areas that we truly understand the scope of climate change and its implications, especially the impact on indigenous people. To be effective, stories with both a local and international focus required a reliable and integrated forum. On Thursday, May 6th, the South Learning Centre played a key role in making this happen. Equipped with video conference (VC) capabilities, students from Linwood College and Shirley Intermediate School gathered together at SLC to hear and share stories about the impact of climate change. Other schools around Christchurch also contributed, as well as individuals from across New Zealand, Canada, Alaska (USA), Brazil and Guatemala.

Led by Terry Goldwalt in Edmonton, Canada, students and teachers took turns sharing their unique experiences, questions and concerns about climate change, and how we might share ideas in reaching solutions. Supporting resources were available at <http://avc.tiged.org/ICCGIC> and students were able to blog and post questions to the learning community around the world.

Students were also given an opportunity to continue their discussions via the Taking IT Global site, an online environment designed to engage youth in global issues.

As part of our new fibre connection, video conferencing at SLC will only improve in the coming weeks and months. Our goal is to continue to empower our youth to use these tools to build awareness and enrich our understanding of real world issues from across the school hall, around the city and country, and throughout the globe.

