

Invited guests

- The Rt Hon Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand.
- Principals and pupils from local south schools.
- Our sponsors' representatives from TelstraClear, Hewlett Packard NZ, Microsoft NZ and Technology Leasing and Computers.
- Sydenham school ex-pupils.
- Garry Moore, Christchurch Mayor and CCC members.
- Heathcote Community board.
- Library management.

South Learning Centre's Opening

Prime Minister, Helen Clark was part of the learning experience on opening night, Tuesday 9 September 2003.

The Prime Minister and guests had the opportunity to interact with, and view the students at work in the South Learning Centre. 'I am simply blown away by what children can do with technology,' said Helen Clark. Guests also enjoyed the performances by the cultural groups from Beckenham Primary School and Opawa Primary School.



A student's perspective: *'The new South Learning Centre asked two people from each local school to come and work on the computers and see the new Learning Centre. We all got to pick a job to do. The choices were Media Interviews, Sydenham School History, The Library Building, and People and Services. The group I chose was the media group. We were very lucky because we got to interview the Prime Minister, Helen Clark. We were very nervous but once we had asked the first few questions we were not very nervous. The time went quite quickly.'*

For Your School

School Sessions

Each school in the South Christchurch area has an allocation of time to use in the Learning Centre. Session focus will be determined by the classroom teacher in consultation with the Learning Centre staff. Your school has a **co-ordinator** for the South Learning Centre and this person will be our main communication channel.

School Info Packs

In week one of term four information packs are being distributed to all schools in the South area. These give full information relating to the South Learning Centre



What's on? Programmes Not to Miss!

Professional Development for Teachers

⇒ **Gifted and Talented Workshop**
7 October, 1.00 to 4.00pm

To develop and refine your school's identification process of the needs in this area. This workshop will assist in planning what the centre can do to meet the needs of these learners, across the schools, in 2004. No charge, afternoon tea will be provided.

⇒ **Tuesday sessions, 3.00pm – 5.00pm**
These sessions for teachers will be held in consultation with schools. *Please make your needs known!*

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GlobalNet Programme for students

Dates and times set by arrangement

1 1/2 hour weekly sessions on themes: Waste Management, Feeding the World and Peace.

Biodiversity Mid-term, Term 4

Bookings are available for this two week programme from 9.00am – 12.30pm Monday to Friday. Linked with the LEARNZ programme and CCC staff, we will investigate what biodiversity is. In particular, we will look at how we can save the endangered blue duck, and compare their natural habitat with the natural environment around the South Library. This process will clarify what we can learn from the blue duck experience and how technology can help us.

Cultural Heritage, 13-24 October

Cultural Heritage is inherited from the past, enjoyed and protected in the present to be handed on to future generations. This two-week programme is fully booked for Term 4. The programme will be available again in 2004, in weeks 2 and 3 of each term.

Check out our website:

<http://learningcentre.christchurch.org.nz>



GlobalNet and Astro Report Back

The purpose of **Pūtahi Akoranga Kura Newsletter** is to provide updates and information to everyone involved with making South Learning Centre a success. Two issues will be sent quarterly to all schools in the South area and an electronic copy to your school co-ordinator. A community newsletter is in the pipeline to highlight forthcoming programmes and events.

Please send your comments, ideas or feedback to:

learningcentre@ccc.govt.nz

Phone 03 941 5140

For those of you that haven't met up with **Astro** (pictured left) before, we'd like to give you a brief introduction. Astro is GlobalNet's website mentor, an asteroid with a birdseye view of earth. Astro has Phaser Rings which enable it to float effortlessly through space and time. This way Astro is able to travel at great speed. Astro has many other remarkable body parts that allow it to sense things, 'sniff out' new information, receive information and travel around the internet.

Astro had the pleasure of meeting guests and students attending the official opening of the South Learning Centre. Astro has also been very busy visiting Bangladesh, Malawi and other very poor countries to see the causes and effects of poverty and hunger in these places. *You can learn more about this issue by retracing Astro's travels in the archived [Web Quests](#) in GlobalNet's website.*

Astro's recent holiday programmes at the South Learning Centre focused on writing a web quest - a competition for the website. *If your class would like help writing a quest contact me at astro@globalnet.org.nz* Suitable quests can be used on GlobalNet's website!

Here's an opportunity to publish your student's great work on an issue relating to their community/city/country/world. Astro's Achievers section will be on the GlobalNet's website from 13 October 2003. It's there to showcase student's work. Please remember all work submitted for Astro's achievers must be the student's own effort and not copied work. Prizes are available for authors to the website.

Brain Bag is a wonderful feature on GlobalNet's website. Students can answer the questions on-line and follow this up with an analysis of the answers and discuss the reliability of data gathered in this way.

Check out the website today!

Holiday Programmes

We've had a great response to our first set of six holiday programmes running from 24 September to 4 October. The sessions included: "I'm bored", Give IT a Go, Family Internet, CreatelT, Astro's World and Quilts, Quilters & Quilting. A popular session was 'Give IT a Go' where children were able to try digital cameras and videos, explore the new computers and ask their many questions.

A project for your class...

South Learning Centre is planning for **After School Programmes** and the **Christmas Holiday Programmes** and we would love to hear your students ideas. We have attached a sheet that can be completed as a class activity - brainstorm a wish list, select the top four ideas, then summarise (include details and thoughts relating to these four ideas). You can fax back this sheet to us at 941 5155 so that the children can enjoy some of their own ideas here.

Meet the team at South Learning Centre

Just to confuse everybody we now have two Andreas working in our small team of four! **Andrea Isitt** has the role of the Learning Centre's Assistant and handles administration, including your bookings and general enquires. **Dorothy Haywood** is the GlobalNet Programme Developer (refer above). **Andrea McDowell** and **Pat Street** are the South Learning Centre Managers with accountability to individual schools.

Thank you to all the school staff that attended our informal open afternoon on Friday 12 September. It was great to get your ideas and feedback. Please read our Information Pack for more details on the centre and feel free to phone us with any questions. We look forward to working together.



www.globalnet.org.nz