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“Road Trip” to the Snow!

This has to rate as one of the better Field Trips! We squeezed 30 Dreamers and 17 parents and volunteers onto a very fancy bus on Friday Sept 9th, and headed 5 hours south to Mt Ruapehu. Although the kids seemed to do very little sleeping at the camp that night (nor did the adult helpers!), everybody had plenty of energy for the snow-sliding and snowball fights on Saturday. As you can see in these photos, it was a beautiful day. Just as well, because we all had thoroughly wet gloves, socks and almost every other item of clothing by the end of the day.

Sunday was another beaut, which meant that the kayaking rapidly degenerated into swimming and dunking! The flying fox and motor-bike riding were also hugely enjoyed by the Dreamers.



Lexile Reading Programme

We learned about this fantastic reading programme through a friend of IHAD NZ, who'd seen it in action at her child's school. Check it out at www.lexile.com. Basically, it's a system that integrates on-line evaluation, the child's own interests and preferences, the school's library system, and a personalized tracking system and reward scheme to develop a customized reading programme for each child. Schools that have implemented it report a surge in reading ability, reading enjoyment and time spent reading from the children involved.

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So as a fond farewell and “thank you” to Wesley Primary School for hosting IHAD NZ for the past 3 years, we are implementing it at the school. We are also going to fund implementation at Wesley Intermediate School, where most of the Dreamers will be going next year.

Parents Programme

Wednesday 7th September saw the first of a planned 7 nights of workshop for the parents of the Dreamers, and the broader Mt Roskill community. Courses include nutrition, child behaviour and discipline, homework, anti-bullying and advocacy. These courses have been developed and delivered in conjunction with the School Nurse and other community resources.



IHAD Promotional CD Available!

Yes, it's been said before that my exposure to US-style marketing activities at Intel occasionally shows through . . . However, it's all for a good cause, so we will carry on! Accordingly, we are pleased to announce that we have an excellent CD available for you. It contains a lot of information on the IHAD programme, and a copy of the documentary that was shown on TV3 late last year. Please note this would be a good tool for you to share knowledge of the IHAD programme with workmates etc. who might be interested in becoming a Mentor to one of our Dreamers. We are recruiting 30+ more Mentors to join the 12 we already have, so please spread the word. We can confidently assure people that Mentors earn a huge ROI on their investment of time and caring/sharing! Please reply to Scott or Ant if you'd like us to send you one – don't be shy, as we have 500 to give away!

Dreamers Dancing Their Way To The Top!

Four of our Dreamers (Amanda, Ruth, Robert and Levaula) who are part of the Hip Hop Group "W-UNIT" run by Urban Hope Wesley Trust placed third in New Zealand during the National Schools Aerobic & Hip Hop Championships held down in Gisborne during the weekend of the 17th and 18th September! This now qualifies them to compete in the Australasian School Challenge held in Wellington on the 29th of October. Outstanding talent - well done and good luck team! Donations to help get the kids to Wellington can be sent to Urban Hope Wesley Trust, P.O Box 27-501, Mt Roskill.



Volunteer Appreciation

We continue to be blown away by the dedication and generosity shown by our team of volunteers (currently over 85 strong!). From the high school students who help with after school tutoring to the professional people who have started mentoring relationships, it is this kind of personal commitment and involvement that will help these 50 Dreamers succeed in their educational, career and life goals.

As a small sign of our deep appreciation to these wonderful people, we have given two movie tickets to each of our volunteers. This offer was kindly assisted by Village SKYCITY Cinemas, who donated 20 tickets to the cause!

Volunteer Profile

We've been blessed with the quality of people signing up as Mentors for our Dreamers. Typical of these is Ben Walton. As mentioned briefly in a prior issue of the newsletter, Ben owns a small computer systems company (www.tiger.net.nz), and has been repairing the Dreamers' home PCs for the past 8 months. He recently decided to step up his involvement with the programme by undertaking the Mentor Training Course, and has started what we hope is a long-term relationship with Talilotu.

Ben probably speaks for many of us when he explained why he decided to become involved: "I'd see these kids hanging out on the streets, and wonder why no-one was doing anything for them. Then I realised – maybe I should be doing something about it!"



Quote of The Day

He who opens a school door, closes a prison.

- Victor Hugo

"The "I Have a Dream"® Programme helps children from low-income areas reach their education and career goals by providing a long-term program of mentoring, tutoring, and enrichment, with an assured opportunity for higher education."