

The "I Have a Dream"® Charitable Trust



Welcome to 2004 everybody! The "I Have a Dream" project at Wesley Primary School in Auckland is looking forward to its second year of operation, and we look forward to sharing our news with you as the year progresses.

Key Events

Key items in this issue of our newsletter are:

- Transition of Dreamers
- Visitor from IHAD US
- Recruiting session at the local High School
- Two great Field Trips
- HP donates more computer equipment
- Great article on the benefits of education

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Transition – the Achilles Heel of Education

As we start the new academic year, we are sad to report the departure of two of our Dreamers. Tavita Peo's family is moving to Australia, and Janita Siva has moved to another school. While it is often necessary for a family to move, for employment or other reasons, academic research suggests that this kind of transition, from town to town and school to school, can be very disruptive in a child's education.

However, the IHAD philosophy is "Once a Dreamer, Always a Dreamer" so we will be maintaining contact with Janita and Tavita, and their families, in the hope that they will continue their focus on graduating from High School and taking advantage of IHAD's university tuition assistance.

And the good news is that 6 new children have joined the class, so our Dreamer roll is now up to 40 students in Year 5 at Wesley Primary.



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Trustee of IHAD US Board Visits Mt Roskill

We were thrilled to have a visit from Peter and Bette Fishbein in February. Peter is a Trustee on the National Board for IHAD in New York, and graciously made the time to visit us when he and his lovely wife were in NZ. The Dreamers enjoyed hearing their NY accents, and realizing that the Dream is a global phenomenon.



Recruiting Volunteers at Mt Roskill Grammar School

We wish to thank the staff and students at our local high school for letting us hold a recruitment session during the School Assembly. With the help of Bonnie, Rowan and Dawn, we had expressions of interest in volunteering from 98 students! 35 of these have attended our Volunteer Orientation Training, and are now helping out with our new After School Tutoring Program. We are so appreciative of the efforts of these new volunteers!

Field Trips to "Bike Day" and Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World

All of the Dreamers and many family members had a great experience at the Auckland City Council's Bike Day event on Thursday evening, Feb 19th. Sadly there were only 4 bikes to transport to the event, so if you have any unused bikes in your garage, please contact Ant or Scott!

On Saturday March 6, we had a day of learning and fun at www.kellytarltons.co.nz. As you can see in this web link, there are any number of scary, entertaining and educational creatures and displays to look at. We followed this with a couple of hours of fishing off the pier – although the local fish population didn't seem too attracted to our handlines.



More Donations from HP

We have received further generous donations of computer equipment from HP. They provided 2 laptop PCs for Program Staff, 4 digital cameras for the students to experience the multi-media world, 2 new printers, a digital projector, and a DVD burner. We are very grateful of organisations like HP who share our educational goals.

The Benefits of Education

There was an excellent story in the December 20, 2003, issue of the New York Times, entitled "**How to Save the World? Treat It Like a Business.**" Here's the key extract from the article:

When J. B. Schramm talks about getting poor kids into college, he sounds less like a bleeding heart than a corporate shark pitching a moneymaking scheme. He talks about market opportunities, about talent that is "undervalued by the marketplace" and "economic muscle that's not being harnessed."

Mr. Schramm, a divinity school graduate, is the founder of College Summit, an organization in Washington that helps low-income high school students with B and C averages, who might not otherwise continue their educations, apply to college. As schooled in the science – and lingo – of market domination as any well-trained M.B.A., he wants to eliminate what he calls the college "market gap" and put a dent in the poverty rate at the same time. And not just in his community but in the nation at large.

"A kid who enrolls in college over the course of his life contributes \$300,000 more in federal taxes alone and a million more in lifetime earnings," Mr. Schramm explained. "And getting that kid who's the first in his family to go to college effectively ends poverty in that family. That's irreversible progress."

"The "I Have a Dream"® Program 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."