



POPPY SEEDS

The George Parkyn Centre
Charitable Trust for Gifted Education

NEWSLETTER—SEMESTER 1, 2007

Head Office News

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The task... "Write a letter to Jupiter explaining that one of his thunderbolts has destroyed your house, asking him politely to repair it."

To Jupiter

I am writing this **very** angry letter to you because our house is totally demolished. "Why should I care?" I hear you say. Because it's **your** thunderbolt that wrecked it, that's why. Apologize **immediately** and repair our house **at once!** It better be **exactly** how it was, and it better not smell smoky.

From Lizzie and Co

PS If you throw hundreds more thunderbolts at our house, I'll understand.

PPS Please calm our parents down. They think we set fire to our house, and they don't believe in you.

PPS Please don't kill them either.

Aristotle (384BC—322BC) is credited with stating "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts", and I feel he must have been prematurely considering the Head Office of the George Parkyn Centre as he scribed!

In the 12 months since I was appointed as Director, I have daily marvelled at the dedication, knowledge and 'we can do this' attitude that has emanated from the 4 full-time, 2 part-time staff that comprise what we call 'Head Office'. Wrap this mix with a thick layer of sensitivity, caring and humour, and you will begin to see where the strength of Head Office comes from—the 'whole' being so much greater than merely the sum of the parts (which are all pretty spectacular on

their own!)

This newsletter will showcase points of interest to the Centre nationwide over the past 2 terms. It will also give you more insight into the range of services offered by the centre, more specific information about One Day School, and our plans for the rest of 2007.

It is hoped the new format and mode of distribution will allow us to reach more parents, teachers, caregivers and communities than we have been able to in the past.

So, go and make a cup of coffee, find a few spare minutes and a quiet space...sit back and catch up with the news...

Katley Williams



One of a set of multi-layered sarcophagi currently residing in the Owairaka ODS classroom.

New ODS Venues 2007

As we come to the end of our first semester, we can reflect on the success of opening new venues in North Canterbury, Nelson and Carterton (our Wairarapa venue). 33 children have had the opportunity to be

nurtured, celebrated and grow under the guidance of their ODS teacher.

Opening any new venue is not without its challenges, but thanks to the ongoing support of all concerned, we can look forward to

these venues becoming sustainable and growing further as they reach out to other gifted children in their geographical area.

See pg 3 for some glimpses of the 'Wairarapa Journey'...

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

We have been pleased to be able to offer the 2007 Entertainment Books in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. Money raised has been targeted for the region/venue they were purchased from.

Books sold to date:-

Christchurch—29
Wellington— 45
Hamilton— 11
Owairaka— 12
Puni—3
Pakuranga— 3
Mangere Bridge— 9
Matakana— 1
Sunnyvale— 1
Target Road— 2

Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou!!

There are still Auckland books available @\$60 each through Head Office.

"Thank you for giving us our child back"....ODS parents from Wellington after less than one term for their daughter at One Day School

SHREK 3 A HIT IN THE 'BAY!!

Well done to the team in Hawke's Bay where they recently raised around \$800 for their ODS venue.

WELL DONE JO AND SHARON!!!

(There are still a few spaces left in the classes based at St Joseph's in Hastings, and an assessor is down your way early July—contact Jo **now** to get your application pack!)

Jo can be contacted at:-
jakk@clear.net.nz

The Conceptual Curriculum



I use an umbrella analogy to help explain the Conceptual Curriculum to students and our new teachers. The overlying concept is like the material of an umbrella. It covers a wide area and gives us a big picture. Concepts might include Value, Progress, Change, Beauty, etc. The topics

studied each day are similar to the ribs of the umbrella. They are all individual, but work to make up the whole. These are the topics chosen by the students and teacher. Topics for the concept of Value might include Money, Photos and Memories, Bamboo, and Treasure. The teacher is like the stretchers that help to open up the umbrella. We have to join or link the topics together under the main umbrella, while extending the students beyond their knowledge and perceptions of each topic. When all three

parts work together, the students gain a deeper knowledge of each topic and further understanding of the concepts. The students hold the handle to direct the umbrella, which is why we provide choices each day to cater to their individual strengths, needs and interests.

Sandi Purdie
Lead Teacher
One Day School

*If you have any questions about the ODS curriculum, you can email Sandi next term at:
spurdie.ODS@georgeparkyncentre.org*

Statistics and Subsidies

We end semester one with 410 students in classes across our 10 regions— 39 face-face classes and 2 on-line (GO) classes.

53 families are receiving subsidies through the MOE, 10 through the Lion Foundation, 5 through Trust Waikato, 9 through ECCT (Hawke's Bay), 12 through the MPA (Manawatu Principals

Association) 3 from Trust House Wairarapa, and 2 from the Winton and Margaret Bear Trust (Wellington). A few others are supported by their school, or local service groups, eg Rotary.

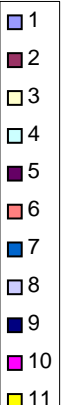
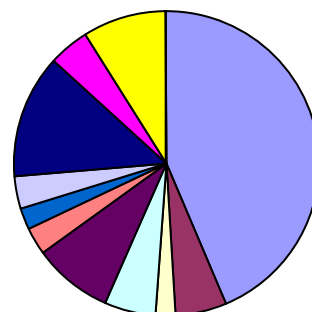
Head Office seeks national funding opportunities (eg Lion Foundation and MOE) and our regional staff are actively pursuing any local

opportunities they are aware of. If you know of any potential sources of funding in your area, please contact either your regional coordinator or Head Office. So many of our families are reliant on this assistance to allow their child to attend One Day school—your local information would be very much appreciated.

Where Does the Money Go?

1	Teacher's Salary	44%
2	Cancelled Days	5%
3	Reliever	2%
4	Stat Days	5%
5	Classroom Rental	9%
6	Class Materials	3%
7	Marketing/Advert	2%
8	Head Teacher	4%
9	Co-ord—Salary/Costs	13%
10	Bad debts	4%
11	Contrib to Head Office	9%

Where Does the Money Go



NORTH CANTERBURY NEWSFLASH!!!

Canterbury ODS will be holding an Open Day at Ashgrove School, Rangiora on 26 July.

This is a great time for your children to 'sample' One Day School, and for parents and teachers to come along and ask their burning questions!

As spaces are limited, it is important to book. For inquiries please contact Terri (03) 352 8138 or email her on druss@xtra.co.nz

"It has helped his focus, interest and concentration and decreased his boredom at regular school"...ODS parents from Auckland.

NELSON ODS COMMUNITY

Look out for our Assistant Director, Sheryl Burns and Sarah Casey (Admin Manager) at the Women's Expo 14-15 July.

They'll be on hand to answer your questions about the Centre and One Day School—and the very nature of giftedness.

Both are parents of gifted children, some with complex learning difficulties alongside—they know only too well what your concerns are!

Jackie Tackles Mayoralty!



"Mayor" Jackie Hair of Wairarapa ODS

On Wednesday 20 June, Gary McPhee, Mayor of Carterton visited our ODS venue based at South End School. (As you can see this visit was preceded by a visit to the Mayoral offices!)

An innovative figure in business and cultural circles, Mayor Gary was keen to find out more about this new addition to his town's educational services. He spent his time enjoying activities with the children, and was obviously both impressed and astounded at the calibre of thinking that was evident within a class of gifted children. It is our hope he will visit on a regular basis!

Carterton is a small NZ town with a population of less than 7000.

Originally a rural service town, it is 16 km from Masterton and 100 km from Wellington. The isolation of two ranges means that access to ODS venues in either Palmerston North or Wellington is not viable, but

when we met with the community last August, they were adamant that there were sufficient 'numbers' to get the class started—and on February 14th, our first Wairarapa class was opened. Many, many thanks to the parents and teachers for their support—and of course, to Jackie Hair—who is so much more than 'just' the teacher!



Discussion group within Wairarapa class

Bulletin Board

Vacancies for One Day School teachers can crop up unexpectedly. If you are, or if you know of, a NZ registered teacher who is interested in this exciting teaching experience, please contact our Lead Teacher, Sandi—spurdie.ODS@xtra.co.nz

Many classes have ongoing need of clean **'Dress-Ups'** and boxes, cardboard, tubes—of **recycled materials**. Please just check with your ODS teacher—and remember, one person's trash is another person's treasure. (And we go through a lot of treasure in a term!!!)

GIFTED & ADHD???

A Waikato University student is doing a thesis on gifted children who have been diagnosed as having ADHD. She would like to interview some children who have this diagnosis, and their parents, over the next few months. If you are happy to participate, please phone Sheryl at Head Office, Ph 09-8454176.

-GO-

GO is the acronym for our Gifted Online programme, a vehicle by which we are able to bring a One Day School class to those who are unable to attend at a venue for reasons (mostly) of geography. Currently we have students enrolled from the West Coast, South Canterbury, Taranaki, Taumarunui, Gisborne and the Coromandel—and other areas! Students work within their regular school, attend purposeful chat room

sessions twice each week, and produce a wide variety of 'products' and ideas!

The collective 'pooling of these ideas' within a monitored chat room provides a great deal of stimulation, and opportunities for higher order thinking—and no doubt some pretty cool humour some days!!

Currently we have two facilitators working on the programme—Miss Anna and Miss Debbie. Anna has been

with the programme since its inception, and Debbie currently works with both an ODS class and her online class. Karen Yeo is the National Coordinator.

If you'd like to have a glimpse at what they get up to, log on to:- www.giftedonline.edusearch.co.nz and have a look around.

For further info please contact Karen directly:- karen.yeo@georgeparkyncentre.org

Where do Schools Fit in?

"In December 2003 a notice in the *New Zealand Gazette* advised that NAG 1(iii)c had been amended with a footnote that states: " including gifted and talented students".

From Term 1, 2005, it will be mandatory for all state and state-integrated schools to demonstrate how they are meeting the needs of their gifted and talented learners, as they are currently required to do for students who are not achieving, who are at risk of not achieving, and who have special needs."

(Taken from the Ministry website www.minedu.govt.nz)

While it has been mandatory for schools to identify and provide for your gifted and talented children, it is not always an easy task! The Centre believes that there is great power in collaboration—to share our knowledge, and our 11 years of successful experience to enable us to assist the schools wherever we can to meet these requirements—not simply because they are legislated, but also because the root lies in our core values—to recognise, identify and support gifted children.

We offer a range of Professional Development (PD) options to schools, both through our contractual arrangements with the Ministry of Education, and our own pool of expertise.

It is our long term goal to work alongside schools to assist them in meeting the specific needs of their gifted and talented students.

Please contact kathy.williams@georgeparkyncentre.org for further info on PD available.

Breaking News!

The Boards of Small Poppies and the George Parkyn Centre are delighted to make public the news that the services developed and offered to pre-schoolers by Sue Breen (creator and founder of Small Poppies) will come 'under the umbrella' of the Centre as from the beginning of term three, 2007.

This will mean that the Centre will now offer classes for 4–6 year olds,



Small Poppies
"Growing with a gift"

at venues across Auckland. It is our intention to spend the next two terms 'refining' the processes, while maintaining and growing the existing classes, and to begin to open in other regions during 2008.

Sue will initially continue to teach some classes, while training and mentoring new teachers. She will remain very much the 'heart and soul' of Small Poppies—a brand (and expert!) that we will retain.

With well over 10 years of success in this field, Sue's expertise is truly valued by all. We would like to assure existing parents of enrolled students that the same quality of understanding, empathy and opportunity will remain under the new structure.

But how exciting is it to see the opportunity for growth—not only in Auckland, but also across the country, as parents of gifted pre-schoolers see a viable option to allow their child to celebrate their gift amongst like-minded peers.

If you are in Auckland and wish to find out more, please phone the Small Poppies service line (09) 837 5937 and leave a message with your contact details. You will be contacted as soon as we are able.

For those of you in other areas, please just keep your eyes open! There will be an update in the new newsletter to keep you informed as to how things are progressing re plans to expand.

Small Poppies
(09) 837 5937

**Check out our
website
www.georgeparkyncentre.org**

Nearly every day we receive a phone call—starting somewhere along the lines of "I don't know if my child is gifted, but...." and here's an anecdote from one parent after observing her pre-schooler....

"He was playing in the sandpit with a whole group of others. I was a little troubled—the others were making huge constructions with the sand. My son was digging a hole. However, when I asked him about it....he was looking for the water table!"

An important part of our work here at Head Office is to provide an 'ear' for parents and/or teachers—sometimes it really does help just to talk things over—and you never know, we may even have a strategy to help!

Head Office
(09) 845 4176