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Hands-on science lesson

Photo: Dave Jackson

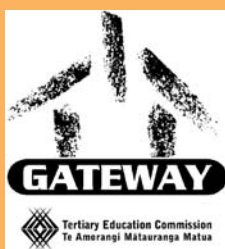
Students get hands-on science lesson

TCS students (from left) Nellee, Robbie, Sophie and Stevie had the chance to get a hands-on science lesson during the recent annual conference of The Correspondence School Parents' and Supervisors' Association (TCSPSA) in Wellington.

Under the supervision of teacher Delene Holm, the years 7 to 9 students mixed different inorganic salt solutions together to see them change colour. The colour in the test tubes pictured was the result of mixing all the solutions together.

TCSPSA's annual conference saw around 40 families get together to learn, share ideas and network with one another. Keynote speaker Lance King ran workshops over the three days with both supervisors and students in years 7 to 13. TCS staff worked with TCSPSA members to develop a programme of fun learning activities for students whose parents were attending the conference.

For more information about TCSPSA, contact secretary Joyce Wyllie on (03) 5248 364 or email kaihoka@xtra.co.nz



You can get experience and earn standards while you're still at TCS, through Gateway.

For information, go to www.correspondence.school.nz, click on Study with us, Full-time students and Gateway-work experience, or ring the Gateway co-ordinator, Kathryn Smith, on 0800 65 99 88 extension 8552.



Three new faces on TCS Board

Education Minister Chris Carter has announced the appointment of three new members to the School's Board of Trustees. Carol Moffat, Nori Parata and Wayne Bainbridge joined Board members Trish McKelvey (Chair), Russell Ballard, Roger Taylor and Roger Drummond after Claire Hague, Ian McKinnon and Polly Schaverien retired from the Board in April.

TCS Board members

Trish McKelvey CNZM MBE (Chair) is an experienced board chair with a reputation for achieving results. She is a former chair of Career Services, the board of the Local Government Industry Training Organisation and the Wellington Regional Sports Trust. Other past positions include Hillary Commission Commissioner and Governor of the New Zealand Sports Foundation. Trish was Principal of Wellington High School for seven years and is regarded as having exceptional skills in negotiation and communication.

Russell Ballard (Deputy Chair) has acted as Chief Executive of the Department of Child, Youth and Family and held positions as Chief Executive Officer, Land Information New Zealand, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Director General of the Department of Education, and Secretary of Forestry.

Carol Moffatt, MNZOM, is the former manager of the Ministry of Education's information and communications technology (ICT) strategy for schools. Carol is also the former principal of Oxford Area School and the former deputy principal of Lincoln High School.

Carol is currently a director of Research and Education Advanced Network New Zealand Ltd, which operates a national and international high-speed data network linking research and tertiary education institutions. She is also a director of the Multiserve Education Trust, a charitable trust providing services to the education sector.

Nori Parata is the Principal of Tolaga Bay Area School and is Ngati Porou, Ngai Tahu. Nori is actively involved in education management. Her school is part of the Stepping Stones Cluster for the Ministry's Extending High Standards Across Schools project. Nori is a member of the Maori Principals' Group Developing Leadership Potential In Maori Secondary Students pilot study. She was a member of NZQA's Maori Reference Group for Te Rautaki Maori a te Mana Tohu Matauranga – the Maori Strategic Plan.

Wayne Bainbridge is the Principal of Matipo Primary School, Te Atatu, Auckland. Wayne was a Fulbright Scholar in 1987, a University of Auckland Research Affiliate Scholar in 1992, and the holder of West Auckland Principals' Association Study Awards in 1995, 1996 and in 2001. He received a Rotary Vocation Award in 1996 for services to primary education. Wayne has been active in professional associations and New Zealand Educational Institute matters. Wayne's community involvement includes being Chairperson of the Kotuku Trust, and trustee for the Western Districts Community Trust and for the Te Atatu Youth Network Trust.

Roger Taylor is a chartered accountant with 30 years' consulting and auditing experience, primarily involving financial and corporate advice, including matters of governance to a wide range of organisations. Government appointments have included the former University Grants Committee, QEII Arts Council, The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, the Commerce Commission, New Zealand Steel Development Limited and the Wellington College of Education.

Roger Drummond is a consultant in the Commercial division of law firm Gibson Sheat. Roger is past president of The Banking and Financial Services Law Association Limited, and is on the editorial board of the Journal of Banking and Finance Law and Practice.

New Chief Advisor role

Margaret Gamlin has been appointed to the new position of Chief Advisor. Margaret is responsible for Board services and support, liaising with the Ministry of Education and Minister's office, overseeing internal and external communications, and providing strategic advice on a wide range of issues.

Margaret has held a variety of senior management roles at TCS. She has been an English teacher and has experience in the provision of student support across all student types.



I felt scared and endangered when I did abseiling

By Thomas Priestley, year 10

Do you enjoy adventure sports? If so, I think you might like to give abseiling a try.

Guess what my friends and I did in March at Correspondence School camp at Camp David in Hastings.

We did abseiling off a wall that was about 25 metres tall.

The instructor who was taking us was Jason or Abseiling Dude, the nickname that we gave him. He wore a red bandana, a studded belt, black t shirt, shorts and Chuck Taylors. We thought Jason was in his early 20s; he's very encouraging and funny. Everybody thought he was very cool!!!

For safety reasons we had to wear two types of harnesses, one went over our shoulders and the other around our waist. We also had to wear a helmet to protect our head. The wall that we had to abseil down was made of wood slats. To get to the top of the tower we had to climb up a black cargo net tunnel, which was hard because the last climb was straight up. As soon as I got to the top of the tower I felt tired, and I said "I'm half way there" to myself.

Once I got up to the top of the tower I started to talk to Jason (Abseiling Dude) about how he tried to get his cat to climb the tower. Then he said it was my turn to face the wall. As soon as I stepped out to the side of the wall my legs started to wobble like a big bowl of jelly, my heart pounded like a steam engine and my mouth went dry like a desert. I was a bit scared, but I leaned back and walked backwards towards the ground. After what seemed a minute I touched the ground and my legs were like a tumble dryer; also my mouth was still dry and my heart probably stopped pounding after three minutes.

The friends I made at camp that helped me face my fear of abseiling were:

Sophie: she gave everything a go. Even though she was scared on the abseiling wall, she made it to the bottom and went for another

go. She did it by herself with lots of encouragement.

Allie: she gave everything a go too. She powered down the wall like there was no tomorrow.

Robbie: gave everything a go mostly in bare feet, because he lives on a farm. He made it halfway down the wall then got lowered because he was too scared. He tried his best and that's the point.

I would recommend this to all outdoor adventure lovers. Bring friends to support you and have a go even if you think you might not be any good at it.



Another TCS student, Luke (year 9) had a go at abseiling at Camp Adair in Auckland in term 1.

Photo: Anne Wiltshire.

Well done!

Congratulations to seven TCS students who won scholarships in the nationwide exams at the end of last year.

A full-time TCS student was one of only two in New Zealand to be awarded an outstanding scholarship in Te Reo Maori. Outstanding scholarships were also earned by dual students in Economics and Chinese.

Standard scholarships were also gained by dual students in Economics, German, Te Reo Maori and Chinese.

And the winners are . . .

Winners of a draw for students and supervisors who took part in a pilot survey have been sent their prizes. Carmine, a supervisor of Henderson, Auckland, won \$150 in petrol vouchers and Lydia, a student of Kawerau, received an MP3 player.

The pilot survey about student engagement with TCS was developed in partnership with the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, to replace the satisfaction surveys done previously. The survey went to 100 randomly selected students in years 10 and 12, and their supervisors.

A survey will be sent to all students in year 7 and above, and their supervisors, in late June. Please fill in and return these surveys, as we want feedback on how we can best support you.

All returns will be entered into a prize draw.



Regional Managers appointed

Regional Managers have been appointed for each of the four regional teaching teams. Peter Lee is the Northern Regional Manager, Jen McCutcheon is the Central North Regional Manager, John Nisbet is the Central South Regional Manager, and Beverley Jackson is the Southern Regional Manager.

Peter Lee has a Master's degree in Public Management and comes to TCS from his recent role as Associate Director (Secondary) for School Support Services at Victoria University of Wellington. Peter has taught secondary English and has twice served as a secondary school principal.

Jen McCutcheon is currently Deputy Director Student Support at TCS. Jen, a former economics teacher, has been a review officer for the Education Review Office, deputy principal, head of department for commerce and past president of the PPTA.

John Nisbet was recently acting head of department for science at TCS and is a former senior teacher in agriculture. John is currently studying for his Master's degree in Educational Leadership.

Beverley Jackson was recently Manager of Government and Sector Relations at the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand. She has also been senior advisor (Secondary Schooling) at the Ministry

of Education, and was academic director at Samuel Marsden Collegiate. Beverley was originally a secondary maths teacher.

The Regional Managers are responsible for ensuring the delivery of high quality teaching to students within their region using a range of methods, including online delivery. They are also responsible for the pastoral care of all full-time students within each region.

Bryce Pedersen, Deputy Chief Executive Learning Delivery, says the four Regional Managers "are all highly skilled and will be very effective leaders of their regional teams. Along with getting to know their regions and their teams, a key task of the Regional Managers this term is the appointment of Kaiarahi, who will be based in the regions."

The Kaiarahi will work with communities, schools and government agencies to support student learning. They will coordinate regional initiatives and ensure that in-region staff and supervisors gain access to the support they need. They will also oversee the organisation of camps and events for students in their region.

If you have any questions or concerns about the changes happening at your school, please email us at info@correspondence.school.nz or write to us at Freepost 10010, Private Bag 39992, Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt 5045.



Peter Lee, Regional Manager Northern Region



Jen McCutcheon, Regional Manager Central North Region



John Nisbet, Regional Manager Central South Region



Beverley Jackson, Regional Manager Southern Region

Curriculum Manager appointed

Liz Eley has been appointed Curriculum Manager in the Design and Quality wahanga.

A trained primary school teacher, Liz has been a researcher on the National Education Monitoring Project, a Review Officer and Senior Education Analyst at the Education Review Office, and most recently, Team Leader Evaluation and Research at the Ministry of Justice. She is also a published education researcher.

As Curriculum Manager, Liz is responsible for ensuring the design, development and quality assurance of curriculum delivery across

the School in ways that help engage and motivate students and meet the requirements of the New Zealand Curriculum. This involves providing strong curriculum leadership, establishing high expectations and standards, providing curriculum professional development, and implementing quality assurance systems. Liz will lead a team of Curriculum Leaders in the curriculum learning areas of the arts, English, health and PE, learning languages, mathematics and statistics, science, social sciences, and technology. At TCS, there are also Curriculum Leader positions in integrated teaching and special education.



First regional teaching team up and running

The first of TCS's four regional teaching teams is now up and running.

Around 40 teachers whose students live in the Central South region (which includes Taranaki, Manawatu, Wanganui, Wairarapa and the greater Wellington region) are now grouped together in the first phase of TCS's new regional structure for teaching and pastoral support. Since the start of term 2, the Central South region teachers have been working together in four teams: one focused on students in years 1 to 6 and Special Education, another focused on students in years 7 to 10, and two focused on students in years 11 to 13. Each group of teachers reports to a team leader, who is also a teacher, and all are led by Central South Regional Manager John Nisbet.

The Central South region is also the first to offer students in years 7 to 10 an integrated learning programme that covers a range of subjects and can be personalised to the needs and interests of individual students. Students in the integrated programme can also choose to study individual subjects. A few students in years 7 to 10 have opted to continue to study separate subjects. This is all part of our personalised approach to curriculum design and student choice.

Students in years 7 to 10 and their supervisors were invited to attend an event in their area during May where they could meet face to face and find out more about integrated learning. Team Leader Sarah Whyte said the events in Palmerston North, Wanganui and New Plymouth were a great chance for teachers, students, supervisors and Liaison Teachers to get to know each other. "We had three action-packed days and the students are looking forward to more!"

TCS aims to have all teachers working in their regional groups by the beginning of term 1, 2009.

Chief Executive Mike Hollings says he is delighted with the progress that has been made to date to implement the changes. He has also been very pleased with the response from parents he spoke to at the three school camps last term and at the annual conference of The Correspondence School Parents' and Supervisors' Association in Wellington.

"It's been great to see how enthusiastic parents and supervisors are feeling about the new way of working. They can see the benefits of a stronger regional focus and working together with us at the regional level to help us connect more with our students, their whanau and communities," said Mike.



Viv Rogers, Deputy Chief Executive Capability Services

Meet Viv Rogers

Viv Rogers is TCS's Deputy Chief Executive Capability Services. A chartered accountant, Viv has a solid background in all areas of corporate services. Her most recent role was General Manager, Corporate, at the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority. Before that, she worked in senior roles in a number of public sector organisations, including Child, Youth and Family, Land Transport and the Department of Internal Affairs.

At TCS, Viv has overall responsibility for support services within the School, including human resources, information communication technology, finance, enrolment and building services.



Haiku by Zara Graham, year 2

The National Young Leaders Day



A day of inspiration

Year 10 student Dreenah Heller-Tamakaha lives in Taranaki, but she visited Wellington for the first time in March for a different sort of learning experience that's really inspired her.

She was one of 1000 students from 73 schools who gathered at the Wellington Town Hall to listen to high-flying achievers speak on the subject of leadership at the Halogen Foundation's National Young Leaders Day.

"I didn't have any ideas before I went in but I came out with many ideas. There were many interesting speakers, and they were all cool!" Dreenah said.

One that stood out for her was Dr Brad Jackson, the Fletcher Building Education Trust Professor of Leadership at the University of Auckland Business School. He spoke about leaders and what

they should do, but he also said that to be a good leader you first had to be a good follower. That idea appealed to Dreenah.

Other speakers at the Wellington secondary schools day included the head of World Vision New Zealand, Lisa Cescon, Academy Award-winning sound engineer Mike Hedges (*Lord of the Rings, King Kong*), celebrated scientist Professor Paul Callaghan, and adventurer Mark Inglis.

Dreenah said she would encourage students to attend next year if they were nominated.

"I would also definitely recommend students to work toward their goals. I used to think school was a waste of time. But now school's cool!"

A teacher's view

Thirty-two TCS students attended National Young Leaders Days, along with some teachers and parents, at events held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, in term 1. It was the first year TCS students have had the opportunity, but from the feedback received, there should be plenty of interest in next year's events.

Teacher Kamu Vasan went to days for primary students in both Wellington and Auckland, and said the events were beyond her expectations.

"Both days were dynamic," she said. "I found them to be so informative, uplifting and meaningful. I just came back buzzing.

"Students found out about leadership skills, the training, commitment and also the disappointments experienced. The presentations were so interesting, so alive and relevant."

Kamu judged the presentations as "very polished, very student-oriented, and pitched at the students' level and interests" including sport, music and broadcasting. They were high-tech with video clips, and it was evident from the students' response that they didn't want the day to end.

"There were roars of excitement, and the music hyped them up, but they were well behaved."

She said the students asked great questions, and individual students were chosen to thank the speakers. The level of support the students gave their peers was impressive. It showed, she said, that if students were involved and a subject was made meaningful for them, they were very receptive



Building bridges

How strong is a bridge made from one piece of paper? This one, created by TCS year 10 student Sterzi (left) could support five rolls of tape with the paper folded accordion style. Teacher Alan Graham (right) put it to the test at an event day in Wanganui. Sterzi's was the strongest paper bridge made at recent event days held in Wanganui, New Plymouth and Palmerston North for students in years 7 to 10. In the background, year 9 student Jahsyntar works on another bridge design.



Honey Lee Blakeney was one of 32 TCS students to attend a National Young Leaders Day. Here is her report on the Auckland programme.

The National Young Leaders Day (Auckland) by Honey Lee Blakeney, year 9

Rob Harley

Rob Harley is a motivational speaker and documentary maker. He talked about taking risks; his view is that people do not take enough risks.

He also showed a documentary he had made, about these two brothers, who got the same type of cancer, at the same time, at the age of fifteen and sixteen. The documentary showed the trauma and pain that these brothers and their family had to go through and how they were triumphant in the end. They talked about their new way of looking at life, after they had had to fight for theirs. The older brother told how his life had been all about drugs, alcohol, and sex, and how he is now able to reflect on his life to help him become a better person.

Although Rob was talking about very serious matters, he made it humorous, so it did not seem dull or boring – he knew how hard it can be to get teenagers to listen and absorb the importance of helping others.

The main things Rob was pointing out were take more risks, reflect on your life, and think about and make the right decisions.

Lisa Cescon

Lisa Cescon is the CEO of World Vision of New Zealand. She talked about doing the right thing. At World Vision, it's all about doing the right thing. Helping people is doing the right thing.

She talked about the people from other countries like some in Africa and how hard it is for the people of those countries to survive.

World Vision is also about teamwork, they all work together as a team to help people who need help. She talked about how important it is to work as or with a team, especially when you are trying to 'move mountains'.

Lisa also said that another important thing to do in life is to find yourself a mentor, a mentor is great, when you are stuck with something and you think that you can't go on, think about your mentor and what they achieved and what you want to achieve.

Her main focus was getting the message across that we can help as individuals, or as team, to change the world.

Dr Lester Levy

Dr Lester Levy is the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Accelerator Leadership Institute at the University of Auckland and adjunct professor of leadership at the University of Auckland business school.

He told us all about how a leader's courage goes way past fear, and how a good leader sees that more needs to be done, so more shall be done. Good leaders know what they believe in and they try their hardest to live up to it.

They use their actions because they speak louder than their words, and in using these actions, they actually make a difference.

All great leaders need integrity and courage, and the capacity to collaborate. Great leaders have found a new way of thinking, feeling and being that are the opposite of fear.

It is quite strange that, even though Dr Lester Levy speaks and acts like a great leader and even though many people look up to him as a great leader, he does not consider himself a leader at all.

Mark Inglis

Mark Inglis is a mountaineer, researcher, winemaker, cyclist, skier, and motivational speaker. Mark's known very well for his mountaineering – he was the first double amputee to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world.

A great leader must always listen to the truth, they can't just push it away and not believe it – they must listen and understand the truth. Great leaders must have resilience to help cope with the problems that they may have to face. That leaves focus – all great leaders have focus, focus is crucial, if you lose your focus you could lose everything, in some situations it's your life. These are the things that a great leader needs, to be able to cope with the truth and have resilience and focus.

Jason Kerrison

Jason Kerrison is the lead singer of the New Zealand band Opshop. Being the lead singer of Opshop is cool, but it also involves heaps of pressure. He did not talk about anything else but he sang a song.

Overall, The National Young Leaders Day was a huge success; all the people that spoke were very inspirational and I am sure they would have helped all those students to become great leaders.

Student activities



The Tu Toa Charitable Trust combines study by correspondence with training and competition in sport at a high level. Established in 2005, it fosters academic achievement using sport and a strong Maori identity as motivation. Based in Palmerston North and Feilding, students compete at national and international level and are enrolled full-time with TCS. Here's the latest in Tu Toa sports results.

Tennis

Thirteen-year-old Tuteremoana Durie played as a wild card selection in the Australian Junior Tennis Open in March. He was also on the under 14 boys' team representing New Zealand in China in April at the world junior team Asia/Oceania Qualifying round. They lost games to Hong Kong and China but won against the Philippines.

Tutere will be travelling to Europe in June for six weeks with five other players, including his brother Matawha, for coaching and tournaments.



TCS golfer Adrian Burns

Golf

Adrian Burns, Kaylin Huwyler, Maraea Durie, Jesse Puru, Helen Handcock, Marama Baker and Keita Durie have qualified for the National Secondary Schools Golf Championships. They won the teams event at the Regional Inter-Collegiate Golf Tournament, which included students from Manawatu, Wanganui and Horowhenua. Adrian Burns placed first in Boys Gross, with rounds of 74 and 68, while Maraea Durie placed first in Girls Gross shooting 79 in both rounds. Maraea also won the National Maori under 19 ladies' golf tournament in Ngaruawahia in April.

Netball

Sheridan Bignall was selected for the New Zealand Secondary Schools team to compete in the International Schoolgirls Netball Challenge in Adelaide at the end of May. She faced three of her Tu Toa classmates, Micheyla Matapo, Whitney Cassidy and Laurretta Rooney-Cribb who were members of the Aotearoa Maori Secondary School team at the tournament.

All four girls were members of the Ikaroa ki te Raki Under 19 team, which won their grade at the New Zealand national netball tournament held in Whangarei over Easter weekend. The starting team for Ikaroa ki te Raki in the final was an all-Tu Toa team, comprising both current and former students.

Another Tu Toa student, Tori Ratima, was selected for the Ikaroa ki te Raki under 15 tournament team.



Photo: Don Laing

On the beach

Year 12 biology students (from left) Maraeatia, Ce'Nedra and Kairangi count the number of different plant species within a quadrat at Moana Roa beach during a field trip. They compared their findings with those for quadrats further from the high tide level to test whether the plant types change as they travel inland. About a dozen students went to the beach in May to investigate sand dune succession as part of an internally assessed achievement standard.

Join the club

If you want to meet other TCS students with similar interests, join the club!

Below are the School clubs now operating, and the teachers or other staff who coordinate them. Get in touch to find out how you can get involved. All of them can be reached on 0800 65 99 88. Their extensions are listed below.

Christian Club	Barry Jackson	ext 8521
or	Barbara Thomas	ext 8600
Cooking Club	Bernice Singh	ext 8540
Craft Club	Patricia Devenoges	ext 8171
Lone Guides (5 years to 19)	Cheryl Brownrigg	ext 8373
Lone Scouts (6 years to 18)	Malcolm Law	ext 8769
Maori Club	Lois Amaru	ext 8426
Snowboard/Ski Team Racers' Club	Leon Goldsmith	ext 8694