

## Enviroschools at Coastal Taranaki School

2010 has been an exceptionally eventful year for EFS (Education *for* Sustainability) at CTS. The school has embarked on a journey that engages the hearts, minds and hands of the students, teachers and community involved.

It provides us with the skills, knowledge and values to create a way of living that respects the delicate and complex balance that our planet's survival depends on.

When you ask the students where beetroot comes from, or garlic, or basil, they will probably tell you, "the supermarket"...but students at CTS will now likely tell you about how it all begins, from soil structure, planting the seed to watering, mulching and harvesting.

During garden outings, the students engage in the process of growing vegetables, fruits and herbs, there is an infinity of lessons in the garden. The students learn things about soil structure, plants, seed saving, weather, health, history, watering, where seeds come from, the importance of nutrients... you can never run out of things in the garden to teach. And the students are rewarded with pesto, stir-fry or beetroot salad made from the vegetables they planted, prepared and eaten in the foods room. It is the culmination of a powerful lesson about the origin of food.

Below is a reflection of our journey and various lessons the students have engaged in:

### Year 10

- Designed and constructed garden boxes
- Filled the boxes up with compost from Return to Earth NP
- Researched what organic and nutrient dense means.
- Researched heirloom apple and citrus trees
- Designed a planting plan for the fruit trees..
- Ordered fruit trees from Edible Gardens and Copperfield.
- Dug large holes for fruit trees, filled them up with organic compost.
- Planted fruit trees
- Research companion planting and predator plants.
- Planted coriander, chives and calendula's around fruit trees.
- Designed bamboo frames for peas to grow up.
- Gathered Bamboo
- Harvested vegetable and herbs for cooking classes.

### Year 9

- Designed Picket fence for the orchard.
- Discussed what Sustainability means to the students.
- Construct pea frames
- Plant peas

### Years 7 and 8

- Class discussion on what sustainability looks like in our school.
- Students produced a large vision map using coloured pens. Lots of

- discussion.
- Planted garlic
- Researched heirloom organic vegetable seeds from Kingseeds.
- Ordered seeds
- Propagated seeds in tunnel house.
- Designed a logo and slogan for the plant packaging
- Planted vegetables and herbs
- Harvested the vegetables
- Mulched all gardens with wood chips.
- Trimmed back herb gardens
- Gathered parsley seeds, discussed seed saving.
- Designed envelopes for seeds.

#### Years 1 to 6

- What sustainability looks like in our school?
- Students talked about identity and the importance of their community.
- Designing gardens, drawing vision maps.
- Propagation of seeds
- Propagating cuttings from local coastal zones, for replanting next year on the coast.
- Growing herbs parsley and chives.
- Propagated various school plants and replanted them
- Regularly maintain the grounds by collecting and sorting rubbish, the importance of recycling.
- Flower planting and weeding.
- Maori perspective of Ranginui and Papatuanuku and their relationship to the environment
- Te reo has been intertwined throughout the program.
- Sustainability has been integrated into performing arts...

It has been an exceptionally gratifying year with bountiful gardens and stories to share.

“Go for it, it’s so worth it”.

*Written by Sandi Hickey, Teacher, Coastal Taranaki School*