

Effectiveness of class whiteboards backed up by Southland research

By SOPHIE SPEER - The Southland Times | Friday, 9 March 2007



INTERACTIVE LEARNING: Project ACTIVEate northern facilitator Janet Yalas speaking to Invercargill school teachers about the benefits of interactive whiteboards.

Schools in Southland are leading the way in the research of interactive whiteboards.

Since 2005, interactive whiteboards have been introduced into many Invercargill schools through Invercargill Licensing Trust funding.

These whiteboards are used throughout the world, however, until recently, research into their effectiveness was only anecdotal.

Project ACTIVEate, a group from New Zealand, including teachers, technological facilitators and research facilitators, have undertaken research on the whiteboards, and how they work within classrooms as a teaching tool – the first research of its kind carried out anywhere in the world.

Their findings have confirmed that using the boards during lessons was a positive tool, and kept pupils interested in learning, using a technological medium which was familiar to them.

The whiteboards are connected to a computer using a digital data projector, and had the capability for pupils to interact with other schools, both within New Zealand and around the world.

Four Invercargill schools, Aurora, St John's Girls' School, Waverley Park School and Southland Girls' High School, are involved in the research, along with St Mary's School, Hato Petera College, Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Rawhiti School, Hauraki Plains College and Waikowhai Intermediate in Northland.




Project facilitator for the southern region Robyn Garden carried out a study at Southland Girls' High School, from which she is currently on leave, and found that using the whiteboards "significantly raised student achievement".

Ms Yelas believed New Zealand's type of teaching, which she said was more holistic and interactive, was the ideal place to carry out research such as this.

The first of four professional development days was held at Venture Southland, attended by teachers from the four Invercargill schools, and northern facilitator Janet Yelas, who presented the project's findings in the United Kingdom. Last year, 120 more interactive whiteboards were put into Invercargill schools. The ILT has yet to negotiate the number of whiteboards they would purchase this year.



Key to Symbols

-  Single Sex Girls
-  Single Sex Boys
-  Girls and Boys
-  Boarding Hostel
-  Homestay
-  Student Roll

Southland Girls' High School	2
James Hargest College	3
Central Southland College	4
Menzies College	4



Volume 9
May 2007

Contact: Rex Capil,
Venture Southland,
Ph 64 3 211 1400,
email:
rex@venturesouthland.co.nz,
PO Box 1306, Invercargill
New Zealand

Update on International Education at Southland Girls' High School – 2007

Contact Details:

Mrs Barbara Poff, Director of
International Students

☎ 64 3 211 6030 📠 64 3 2169 010

🌐 www.southlandgirls.school.nz

‡ Girls Year 7-13

🏠 Enwood House & 🏠 Homestay

👥 1220 Students

The first term was very busy helping the girls finalise their subject options and assisting with their day by day requests.

This year we have students from Japan, Thailand, China, Tonga and Korea.

We are thrilled that Peachy is a Hostel Prefect this year at Enwood House. Tasorn also lives at our hostel and the other girls are with homestay families.



Pisila took part in the Year 13 Leadership Camp at Pounaweia, at the beginning of February. The aim of the camp was for students to get to know each other better, to develop their leadership skills and to look at the roles they could take within the school. Students were encouraged to set personal aims and goals. They also made 'sand cars' in their spare time.

*Pisila at Year 13 Leadership Camp
at Pounaweia, Southland*

Maki and Akiko, our Japanese students spent two days in Te Anau and Milford Sound joining in on the Year 12 Geography trip.



Maki and Akiko at Milford Sound

As our weather has been so beautiful during February and March, many of the girls have been lucky enough to visit places of interest with their host families. Tarn's host family spent a week in Arrowtown and she really enjoyed the beauty of the Autumn colours.

At Easter time, Jane was lucky enough to walk the Kepler track with her host family. This was a very big walk for her, it took 4 days, carrying her own pack. She says it was a wonderful experience she will always remember.

Grace's hosts took her up to Dunedin for a few days.

Akiko's host family were in Wanaka during the holidays and Maki went along with them as well.

Jasmine and JeeEun had a lovely time enjoying the sights of Queenstown.

Tasorn's family came to New Zealand for the last school holidays and they travelled with her all around the South Island, right up to Nelson.

Peachy joined with the family of her Kiwi friend and they spent the holidays right up at Cable Bay at the top of the North Island – they stayed straight across from the beach.



Many of the girls are taking part in extra-curricular activities: Femme choir, Table Tennis, Soccer, Rugby, Badminton

Our SGHS team of Pisila, Maki and Simone won the girls competition at the recent Southland Secondary School Table Tennis Championships.

Kumagaya visit us in August and our school group visit them in September.

Winning Table Tennis Team, Maki, Simone and Pisila

Update on International Education at James Hargest College

Exchanges During 2007

March – May: Thai Exchange Group here for nine weeks

July – August: Kumagaya City Hall Exchange group from a variety of schools

August: Exchange visit from Kumagaya Nishi High School, our sister school

Contact Details:

Jenny Elder - Deputy Principal

☎ 64 3 2176129 📠 64 3 2170351

🌐 www.jameshargest.school.nz

👤 👤 Co-educational Year 7-13

🏠 Homestay

👥 1750 Students



Thai Exchange students visit the Catlins



Thai Exchange students visit Bluff

Exchange Students:

We have thirteen Exchange Students from the official exchange programmes of Rotary, AFS, EF and STS.

Our students come from Germany, France, Sweden, Finland, Costa Rica, Switzerland and Canada. The new “Outdoor Education” Programme has been very popular with our exchange students.



Kayaking at Lake Mavora



Camping at Lake Mavora

International Students (Fee Paying):



Above, our two newest International Students - Tor (left) from Thailand and Hikari (right) from Japan

Currently there are 23 International Students. They are mainly from Korea and Thailand. However, the market in Japan, Hong Kong and Europe is growing. We also have students from Fiji, Slovakia and Bangladesh. Ages range from 11 to 18 years old with students based on the Junior and Senior Campus.

International Students really add a positive dimension to the cultural awareness and interactions at Hargest. They all look forward to a new International Student / ESOL area planned for completion in 2007.



Central Southland College

International Student Profile

Name: Irina Hartig

Age: 17

Home town & Country: Niemetal, Germany.

My mother works in an office at the City Council and my father hauls logs from the forest. I have a younger brother (15) at school

Time in NZ: One year, leaving for home in July 2007.

Most enjoyable experience in New Zealand: Going to Milford Sound (four times!) and Deep Cove.

Least enjoyable experience in New Zealand: None! I love the place.

Places visited: Everywhere – both the North and South Island, and, Stewart Island

Favourite NZ food: Pavlova – I love it

Least favourite NZ food: White bread.

Things I miss about Germany: People – my family and friends, and being surrounded by people.

Things I will miss when I go back to Germany: People! My friends.

What I like about Central Southland College: The people - friendly and helpful students and teachers. We all know everyone and it is like a family.

On return to Germany: I have 8 weeks holiday – in summer, then back to school for 2 more years. I will be 20 years old when I finish. I don't have any ideas about career but I do want to come back to New Zealand when I have the money.

Contact Details:

Peter Turnbull—Assistant Principal

☎ 64 3 2367646 📠 64 3 2367645

🌐 www.csc.school.nz

♂ ♀ Co-educational Year 7-13

🏠 Homestay

👥 700 Students



Menzies College

This year at Menzies College we have International Students from four countries.

Two of our international students, Matthew and Amy Poulter, are from Great Britain. They are visiting New Zealand with their parents and have chosen to come and live in our quiet country town. They are appreciating the opportunity to be away from the pollution and noise associated with a large city in England. Amy is enjoying participating in dance and drama classes and has found the relaxed, friendly atmosphere in our school has made her transition into the school much easier than she had expected it to be.

Three of our students are in New Zealand on International Exchange Programmes:

Cecilie Jensen is from Denmark and has nearly completed her time in New Zealand. Cecilie has contributed to our video marketing efforts and has really enjoyed her time at Menzies College. Cecile has found her home stay family have been a great help to her in her time with us.

New to Menzies College this year are Gloris Rosales Salas from Costa Rica and Sarah Naiman from the United States of America. Both girls are settling into life in Wyndham and at Menzies College.

Later in the year we are hopeful of having a visit from a group of Thai students who want to experience life on a New Zealand farm.



Gloris with her art class at the Dunedin art gallery



Cecilie joining in the fun on Athletics Day

Contact Details:

Ferg Harding—Principal

☎ 64 3 2064979 📠 64 3 2064470

🌐 www.menzies.school.nz

♂ ♀ Co-educational Year 7-13

🏠 Homestay

👥 350 Students