

A P R I L 2 0 1 6

the OVER the BACK FENCE Programme NEWS

Kick the Can

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Over the Back Fence Project has now been around for nine years. The project started in April 2007 by providing a weekly physical education lesson, taught by the Rosmini College students, for the younger students at St. Joseph's School, Takapuna. That activity has now grown from one class to eight classes,

and

in October OtBF will proudly celebrate its 5th year of on-line weekly video lessons (see more below).

It has been quite a journey for all of us. Thank you for being part of the OtBF journey.



KICKING THE CAN News and views from Over the Back Fence

It has been some time since we sent out our last can kicker. A lot has happened at the Over the Back Fence Project since then.

Physical and on-line lessons continue weekly. Older students are teaching younger students, and we receive lessons from OtBF member's students and classes.

New Initiatives in 2016 – see inside for detail

Tagalog Lessons

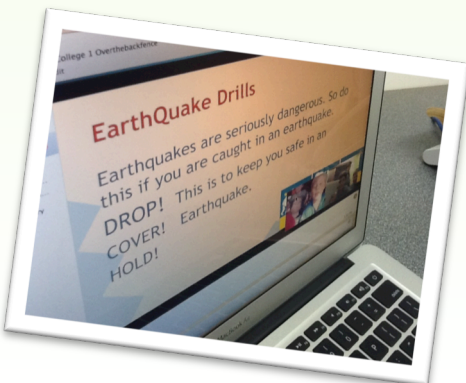
Part of the ALLis Asian Languages Initiative, **John** and **Cole** teach Tagalog (Filipino) lessons...

NCEA Mentors

TKU graduates meet with **Jacob**, **Reinhart** and **Zheng** for help with NCEA lessons

Environmental Project 2016..

Almost 600 students collaborating...





NCEA PEER MENTORS

Rosmini College Year 13 students, **Reinhart Bate**, **Zheng Tan** and **Jacob Snellaert** have committed 2016 to work with **Martien**, **Tiana** and **Brandon** Year 11 students living on Mitiaro Island, Cook Islands. Mitiaro is an hour flight northeast of Rarotonga, not exactly the place you would find students studying NCEA subjects.

Tiana, **Martien** and **Brandon** are working with the Rosmini students to gain a better understanding of the *in's and out's* for success with NCEA. The three Mitiaro students were part of the weekly *Te Kura Uira-Rosmini Connection*, first established in 2014. Mitiaro Principal, **Christopher Story** said that "OtBF and TKU has enabled my students to be more confident in their work and are more proactive with tasks at hand, always anxious to be on their laptops with the students at Rosmini."

Magandang araw

Cole and John, Year 12 & 13 Rosmini College students teach Tagalog as part of the MoE-Virtual Learning Network-Primary Asian Languages Initiative.

Mabuhay!

*Learning a foreign language is exciting, but teaching it is ever more exciting, reported **John Yap**, Year 12 student at Rosmini College. Teaching Tagalog, my native language, to primary students has opened my eyes to the challenge and excitement that teaching offers. You are tasked with not only imparting knowledge but seeing how you can impart that knowledge in an interactive and engaging way has been an invaluable experience which has made me appreciate the efforts that teachers make on a daily basis.*

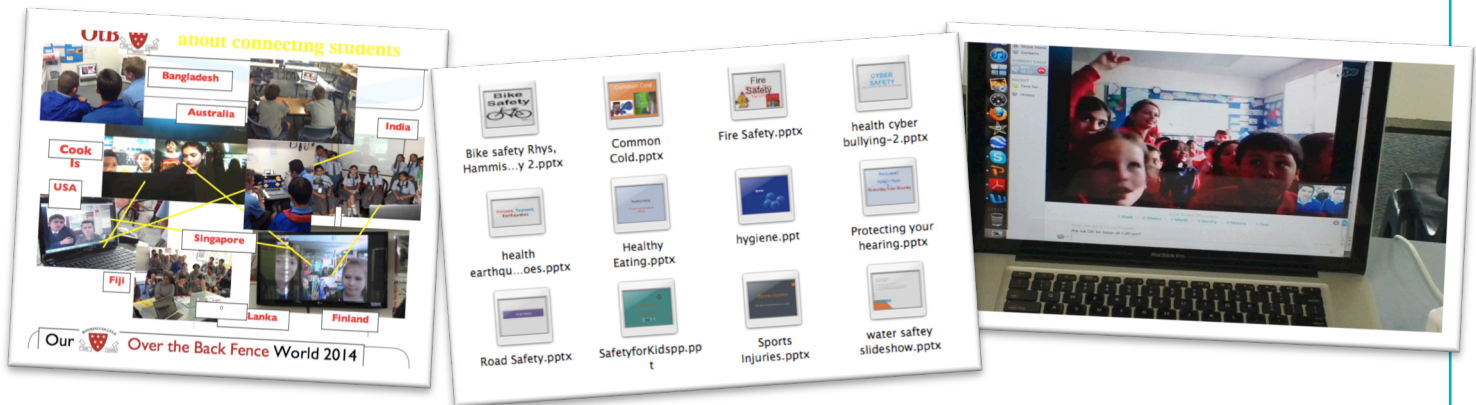
***Cole Reyno** and I are teaching Tagalog to our first class of five students from Oakura (Taranaki) and Tahakopa (Southland). It is a rewarding experience that has allowed me to be more confident as an individual.*

We meet with our class once a week for about 35 minutes and together we are slowly building our skill in teaching the main language of the Philippines. One of the things I have learned, said Cole, is that it is true what people say – the best way to learn is to teach! This is proving to be a wonderful experience for us as we seek to find the best way to teach our students. Some of our Filipino classmates are envious that we are actually doing this and having fun doing it.

We hope that our class will expand in the future.

If you have students who are interested in joining this class, please contact **Ginette Van Praag**, National Co-coordinator and eLearning Support Facilitator at: ginette.vp@vln.school.nz

See: www.primary.vln.school.nz



Over the Back Fence Term One -- 2016

Our First Term Totals: Thirty-four (34) weekly lessons to 25 different locations. (Several schools have more than one classroom participating -- OtBF visits Mangatawhiri School in the North Waikato for five lessons each week.)

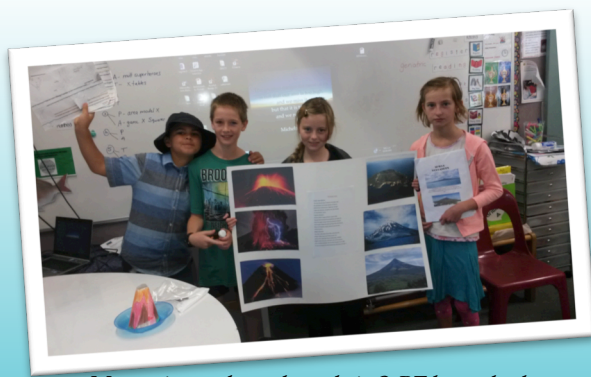
Welcome to the 7 schools joining us for the first time (see list below). We look forward to reconnecting with other classes (new and old) in Term Two and joining the list of 37 schools in 12 countries we have connected with regularly during the term.

The video programme, like the weekly physical activity programme, started *over the back fence*

separating Rosmini College from St Joseph's School in Takapuna. Explaining to another teacher how we connected with a classroom for a health lesson led to the thought: Why not!!

OtBF has spun off the:

- *Te Kura Uira – Rosmini Connection* with the Cook Islands (since 2014)
- *Our Environment: Our Health 2016* collaborative inquiry (Year 8's—since 2013)
- *Safe Journeys* (Year 7's—since 2013)
- Tagalog lessons on the *Virtual Learning Network*



Moantaira students share their OtBF lesson back to the Rosmini student teachers.

Welcome

New schools joining the Over the Back Fence Project in 2016

Tae Seung Middle School, Seoul, South Korea
 Paparimu School, South Auckland, New Zealand
 Moantaira School, Thames, Hauraki Plains, New Zealand
 George Heriott's School, Edinburgh, Scotland
 Cobden School, Westland, New Zealand
 Glen Lake School, Michigan, United States of America
 Oakura School, Taranaki, New Zealand

What is?

Over the Back Fence Project

The project is an initiative started at Rosmini College in 2007 that enables older students to teach younger students. The programme is based on the concept that the best way to learn something is to teach. The something that we concerned with is advice on good health and safety. Since April 2007 Rosmini students have taught several thousand lessons to students in 48 classrooms in New Zealand and 24 classrooms overseas.



The Lessons

The **physical activity programme lessons** are weekly. The lessons usually last 40 minutes. The Rosmini College students meet the St Joseph School students at Rosmini. Groups of 10 younger students are lead through fitness, skill development and game activities by 3 older students. The lesson's focus is: safety, a good workout, teaching new skills, providing challenge and having fun. The classroom teachers and students provide feedback at the end of the lesson.

Video lessons covering a variety of health and safety topics usually last 8-10 minutes. The classroom teacher proposes topics. Our Rosmini students like to ask the younger students a lot of questions and present some visual material to reinforce the content they share. Each classroom is different and they ranged in size from over 60 students to classes of 3.

Interested in joining or setting up
your own OtBF programme?



*For more information on either of these programmes, contact
Geoff. Wood at Rosmini College: gwood@rosmini.school.nz*

Our Environment: Our Health 2016

How do you get six hundred students located in eleven countries all working together in groups?

Since early February... well that was the original plan! ...groups of up to ten students have been formed. The sixty-eight groups may be made up of students from schools in Scotland, USA, Finland, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Australia, India, South Korea, Bangladesh.

The Plan is that the groups get to find out a little about their members and learn of the group's interests and assets. The group then explores the issues related to their chosen topic and narrows those lists down to one issue that they can focus on. They discuss the impact of that issue and propose ways to produce a solution that will reduce the impact of human activity on the environment and avoid the subsequent health risks that issue creates.

At the time of writing, the groups were at the stage of learning of the health impacts and proposing initial action solutions.

We hope to wrap up the collaboration with group presentations before the start of the northern summer holidays.

At Rosmini College, the 164 participating students are blending their study across Health, Science, Digital Technology, English and Mathematics classes.

Challenges: The project is now in its third year, each year expanding the number of students and schools participating. With this expansion and despite efforts to have all students into their groups before the early February start, we found

that technology upgrades in schools made it very hard to get the students into the project's *Wikispace*. The late start meant that project momentum prior to holidays and examination periods was not possible and as progress was delayed for a month, as some schools were just not available.

The project requires a commitment of a set amount of time each week, where each classroom teacher will monitor his/her student's progress and contribution. This is especially needed when groups are waiting for other members to contribute.

So as the project works to complete the last lap, we hope to see the spirit of the students lift as they work together to bring the project to a triumphant finish.

In the next *can-kicker* we hope to prove readers the links so that you can see the project reports posted.

Challenges:

- + technology and connectivity upgrades
- + one or more schools always having a holiday or exams
- + time differences
- + language
- + exposure to the environmental issues

Positives:

- + different values and approaches to issues
- + learning and connecting with students around the world
- + agreeing on a common issue despite differences
- + respecting other students work

Joining OtBF

Teachers ask what they need to do if they join the Over the Back Fence Project.

The answer is simple!

Be willing to suggest, try out and work together to find better ways for using our resources to engage students in authentic learning (service-learning) opportunities for our students.

We are looking for other secondary schools in New Zealand and in other countries around the globe that would be interested in replicating the Over the Back Fence model – older students teaching younger students in their

Give it a Go!

Over the Back Fence Project

ROSMINI COLLEGE
36 Dominion Street
Takapuna, Auckland,
NEW ZEALAND

e-mail: gwood@rosmini.school.nz
SKYPE: Rosminiboy

