



August 2017

Kia Ora!

Our President, Raewyn Maher is currently unwell, so I am the next in line to report on all things "literacy" in Canterbury at the moment. I hope you have all been staying warm and enjoying a great book over the winter! It's also a great time to keep up your PD reading.

It was fabulous to see so many of you at the Murray Gadd event at the end of May. The Cotswold Hall was packed - in fact, the event was full before the RSVP date! It is heart-warming to know that we are offering appropriate professional development opportunities led by sought-after and stimulating presenters. More information about Murray's presentation is included in this newsletter.

Last week the CLA committee ran an after-school event for Year 1 - 4 children. "The Mo Show" offered an afternoon of activities and fun. The pigeon from the Mo Willems picture book "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!" was on hand to help! This was a free event offered to four children from each of our member schools. We run a children's event each year so, don't forget to renew your school membership each year to have access to these fabulous events.

Are you attending the NZLA conference in the next school holidays?

A different format is being adopted by the Waikato Literacy Association... a roadshow with a one-day conference in Christchurch. We look forward to hearing from internationally acclaimed speakers such as Ralph Fletcher, Kyle Mewburn, Sheena Cameron and Louise Dempsey. Further details are in the newsletter and on the NZLA website. Registration closes soon.

Our final event for the year is Best & Worst Books, run in conjunction with Christchurch City Libraries. This will be held on Wednesday 29 November, 7pm at Bishopdale Library and Community Centre. Details are in the newsletter and also, look out for the flier which will be sent out soon.

A big thank you to the CLA committee for their hard work this year! We are a small group of dedicated literacy lovers committed to the promotion of literacy. We have another new committee member join us recently - welcome to Chloe Williams. Feel free to join our small, but passionate organisation!

Mā te wā

Karen Amyes.

May 2017 - *Inspiring the Reading and Writing – What is critical for reluctant readers and writers?*’ Dr Murray Gadd–

Wow, what an opportunity to be able to listen to someone so passionate and knowledgeable in the field of literacy. Murray’s presentation was centred around: *Inspiring Reading and Writing – What is critical for all learners?* With a focus, also on the underachieving and reluctant learners.

Murray started by covering who our underachievers and reluctant learners are likely to be: boys, non NZE students and English Language Learners. Whether this is due to a lack of confidence, or that students just do not see the relevance and are unable to make connections, or they simply do not understand what has been asked of them, it still remains that they are the vulnerable ones. He presented ideas about how we as teachers can be effective in ensuring that these students can achieve success in this very important learning and life area.

One of the things that has stuck with me since the presentation was a question that Murray suggested we ask our students regularly: ‘Of everything I’ve taught you, what was the most effective?’ For me this really made an impact as it should be what drives everything we do and say as teachers. He also talked about the questioning and probing we do as teachers, do we simply use surface level questioning that just ticks boxes, or, do we delve deeper and really get our students thinking critically about the ideas and conversations we are having in the classroom? Murray went on to suggest that to get the students more involved in the learning we ask them, ‘What task could we do, or would you like to do on this theme/learning area?’

In his research, Murray identified eight dimensions of effective practice that have the biggest impact on student learning. The eight dimensions are: expectations, learning goals, learning tasks, direct instruction, responding to students, engagement and challenge, organisation and management and lastly, self-regulation. Murray also found that a select few of these dimensions had a greater impact still, especially when combined with high teacher proficiency. Strongly impacting learner gains were; learning tasks and direct instruction, and decreasing the achievement gap were; self-regulation, responding to students and organisation and management.

So, how do we as teachers implement these dimensions in our literacy programs so as to increase engagement, motivation and to provide challenges to our learners? Firstly, we must select texts and topics carefully, considering students interests, personal experiences and instructional levels, while also looking for opportunities for cross-curricular links. Murray’s research also found that by including the students in the decision-making process for text selection and themes for writing was a great motivator and engaged students because they had something to say on the topic.

Secondly, we need to have clear learning goals for all lessons, reading or writing, that have been co-constructed with the students so that the learning is visible to all. Knowing what skills will be required to complete tasks and learning how to do these is also important as otherwise success could be difficult for some. Another important aspect to ensure success that effective teachers do, is demonstrate the learning processes and outcomes, which can be both active and receptive. This fundamentally shows the students that we are active members of the teaching/learning community, problem solvers and risk takers – we all make mistakes and have the opportunity to correct them. We also need to be asking our students a range of questions that require them to think deeply and go beyond the surface. In other words, we need to get our students thinking meta-cognitively, not just skimming the surface. Teachers need to adjust their questioning to suit the level of their student’s ability, while at the same time differentiating instructions depending on the needs of individuals or groups at that point and time in their learning. In other words, we need to be flexible and willing to change direction in a lesson at any given moment; we need to know our students.

Murray ended his presentation with some excellent examples of organisational ideas for literacy programs and the suggestion that children should be silent reading for a sustained period of 20 minutes per day. Another couple of questions to ask our students in the literacy session are; Where are you up to? And, what are you going to work on today? This helps us as teachers to gauge the where, when, what and how of the lessons: what do our students need from us in that lesson? This really was a fantastic and worthwhile event, with so many examples of how to implement changes to ensure success for all students. Many of CLA members have had very positive feedback from those who attended and we are looking forward to the next event.

Rachel McLaughlin



Congratulations!



Congratulations Joy Hawke!

We are delighted to announce that Joy Hawke, our long-serving committee member and twice former CLA President, has been selected as the new President Elect for New Zealand Literacy Association (NZLA).

Joy currently works for Evaluation Associates and in her spare time, puts in many volunteer hours for Canterbury Literacy Association and NZLA. It is a very prestigious position to be selected as President on our national body - we have not had a Canterbury President on NZLA for many years.

Well done Joy - you have made Canterbury proud!

Karen Amyes

The Mo Show



Last Thursday (10 August) the CLA provided another great event for years 1-4 students.

The "MO SHOW" was a celebration and activity session focusing on the books of Mo Willems. We are so grateful for the support of staff at Waitākiri School that enabled this event to fly! Although Mo Willems was unable to be there the whole SHOW was 'driven' by the PIGEON (no bus in sight.)

Our thanks to Sophie O'Rourke for driving this event. Thanks also to those teachers who brought children along and stayed to assist at the craft tables. Hotdogs, cupcakes, juice & iced cookies, were made and consumed. Pigeon movies viewed. Balloon characters were carefully put together. Pigeon and Knuffle Bunny headbands were expertly crafted and Leonardo the Terrible Monster Paper bag puppets made.

Joy Hawke





Marie Clay Literacy Trust Awards 2017 Awarded to CLA teachers

Four 'Early Career' teachers

Sarah Lester Ohoka School
Chloe Williams Te Waka Unua School
Jessica Richards Redcliffs School
Rachel McLaughlin Linwood Avenue School

One 'Experienced' teacher (more than six years' experience)

Jude Edwards Ohoka School

Quality Reads. booktrailers4kidsandYA

Are you on the lookout for quality books to share with your students and to encourage students to read themselves? Here is a very informative blog written by a Desna Wallace, a respected school librarian and a passionate advocate of quality children's literacy in our region.

Search the Reviews, Author links, Book lists and the Blogroll.

The reviews are informative engaging and prompt you to reach for the credit card – just like shoes, you can never have too many books.

Thank you Desna.

Subscribe to/follow:

<https://booktrailers4kidsandya.wordpress.com/>

Scott Wolfe



**'The Power of Words'
NZLA 2017 One Day Conference Roadshow
Christchurch 4 October**



This year's the Waikato Literacy Association has organised NZLA with a conference with a difference – A One Day Conference Roadshow.

Keynote speakers include:

Ralph Fletcher, Kyle Mewburn, Sheena Cameron and Louise Dempsey.

It's affordable - For members (individual/schools) registration is only **\$250pp**. Non-members \$300

To register **Christchurch** – <http://tinyurl.com/NZLAChristchurch> *4th October*
Registrations close 15 September. Numbers are limited for each venue.

The programme

<http://nzla.org.nz/events/2017-conference-wla-literacy-the-power-of-words/conference-programme/>

If you have questions email: powerofwords2017@gmail.com

To become a member of your local Literacy Association follow the links on the NZLA website: <http://nzla.org.nz/>

The conference roadshow is being held during the **Term 3 holidays**.

Your whole staff could have some extremely valuable Professional Development from some leading literacy experts who will be focusing on **The Power of Words** and in particular the global concern of engaging our Boys in Writing.

Christchurch venue – Haeata Community Campus, 240 Breezes Rd, Wainoni

Further details <http://nzla.org.nz/events/2017-conference-wla-literacy-the-power-of-words/register/>

Best and Worst Books of 2017

Save the date - Wednesday 29 November 7:00-9:00pm



You know it's nearly Christmas when it's time for the annual CLA Best and Worst Books evening. A summer evening, laughter, Christmas cake and a refreshments as a selection of children's books are toasted and roasted by a panel passionate about children's books. Great ideas for Christmas stockings and holiday reading.

In partnership with the **Christchurch City Council Libraries** this is a time to listen and laugh as a selection of children's books are reviewed by people passionate about books.

It's also a chance to have a drink and slice of Christmas cake and ease yourself into Christmas.

Cost - Gold coin contributions for drinks and raffle tickets.

https://christchurch.bibliocommons.com/events/search/local_start=2017-11-29%20TO%20event/5979242a0986e13e008f3f82

All welcome: public, parents, teachers, librarians!



2017 CLA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October School Holidays

'The Power of Words' - NZLA 2017 One Day Conference-Roadshow

Hamilton – 30 September

Wellington – 2 October

Christchurch – 4 October

Ralph Fletcher, Sheena Cameron & Louise Dempsey, Kyle Mewburn

<http://nzla.org.nz/events/2017-conference-wla-literacy-the-power-of-words/>

Term Four

**Wednesday 29
November**

**Venue:
Ōrauwata:
Bishopdale Library
and Community
Centre**

7:00-9:00pm

The Best and Worst Books of 2017

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Canterbury Literacy Association Committee

President: Raewyn Maher

President-elect: Karen Amyes

Secretary: Sophie O'Rourke e: sophie.orourke@waitakiri.school.nz

Treasurer: Lesa McKenzie e: cla2014lesa@gmail.com

Committee: Barbara Aberhart, Joy Hawke, Jacqui Malham, Kate McClelland, Rachel McLaughlin, Kathleen Ryan, Lynnmaree Sopoaga, Chloe Williams & Scott Wolfe.

New committee members are welcome - feel free to contact a committee member to find out more