



Welcoming Schools Programme



NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our Welcoming Schools Programme newsletter for Term 1 of 2024! We are thrilled to share with you some amazing initiatives that took place so far this year and also to give you a heads up about some exciting activities that lay ahead.

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Summer Reading Programme Finale - 25 January 2024



MMC and the Welcoming Schools Programme had the privilege of participating in the

Summer Reading Programme Finale organized by Palmerston North Central Library. The Finale took place at the Esplanade on the 25th of January. Well done to all the children who actively participated in the programme. It turned out to be a highly productive day, with MMC and the WSP hosting a stall featuring various activities and games for families to participate.. A big thank to the Palmerston North City Library for allowing us to be a part of this enriching event.





Festival of Cultures Lantern Parade - 23 February 2024



On Friday 23rd of February the Square was lit up with lanterns, live music, and fun activities in celebration of the Festival of Culture's Lantern Parade.

The stage was buzzing with cultural performances from Brazilian Kids Carnival to Highland Dancing, Colores Latinos, and Sidequest.

Food trucks served up delicious bites, and as the sun set, the lantern parade filled the night with magic and unity.

What an amazing start to Festival of Cultures this was!!



Festival of Cultures

World Food, Craft and Music Fair - 24 February 2024



Festival of Cultures 2024 drew in incredible crowds proudly celebrating diversity and the vibrant communities thriving in Palmy. From captivating live performances to mouthwatering food stalls offering diverse cuisines, and a myriad of crafts to explore, there was something for everyone to enjoy at this iconic event.

A big thank you to all who played a part in organizing this fantastic event that brought together the diverse cultures of Palmerston North. Special gratitude to the Palmerston North City Council, MMC staff, and volunteers.



Festival of Cultures

Teas and Coffees of the World - 25 February 2024



Teas and Coffees of the World 2024 was a celebration of diversity, and we welcomed people from all backgrounds at Caccia Birch House. Whether you were a tea or coffee enthusiast or just curious about different cultures, this event was also a fun and educational experience for all.

Thank you to everyone that joined us to explore the world's most iconic teas and coffees and celebrate our community's diversity.

Teas and Coffees of the World was part of the Festival of Cultures 2024.



Heritage Month

Open Book Event - 16 March 2024



An "Open Book" event was hosted on the 16th of March at the Palmerston North Central Library marking 31 years of service by the Manawatu Multicultural Council.

Listeners had the opportunity to delve into the unique backgrounds and stories of some of our ethnic community members. From tales of resilience to moments of triumph, these individuals painted a vivid picture of their experiences, offering invaluable insights into the diverse fabric of our community.

Anne Odogwu from Italy, Meriam Findlay from the Philippines, Chuda Ghimire from Bhutan, and Mohammad Ali Karimee from Afghanistan shared their journeys, facilitated by Lyal Brenton.



Community Activities

Kids Market - 28 April 2024



Kids from all over Palmerston North again had the opportunity to get the entrepreneurial skills going with the opportunity to participate in the Kids Market Event at Te Manawa.

The event, which takes place during school holidays, is a collaboration between hosts MMC and Global Parents Support.

On behalf of both organizations, MMC would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the parents and children for their enthusiastic participation. It was an absolute joy to see all the smiling faces and creative energy throughout the day. Thank you to everyone who attended and visited our market - we hope you had as much fun as we did that that you found some wonderful treasures created/brought by the talented kids. We can't wait to welcome you back to another Kids Market next school holidays!

We would like to thank Te Manawa Museum of Art, Science & Heritage for their accommodation, collaboration, and support.

Keep an eye out on our page for the registration of the next Kids Market!



School Activities

Primary School Colouring Competition 4 - 22 March 2024



The Welcoming Schools Programme and Global Parent Support had a lovely collaboration during Heritage month for the Cultural Dress Coloring Competition. We would like to thank all Primary Schools that participated and would like to give special mention to Riverdale School, Roslyn School and Winchester School. We were delighted to award your your best in category winners for this competition.





CULTURAL COMPETENCE & CAPABILITY WORKSHOP

29 Feb to 28 March

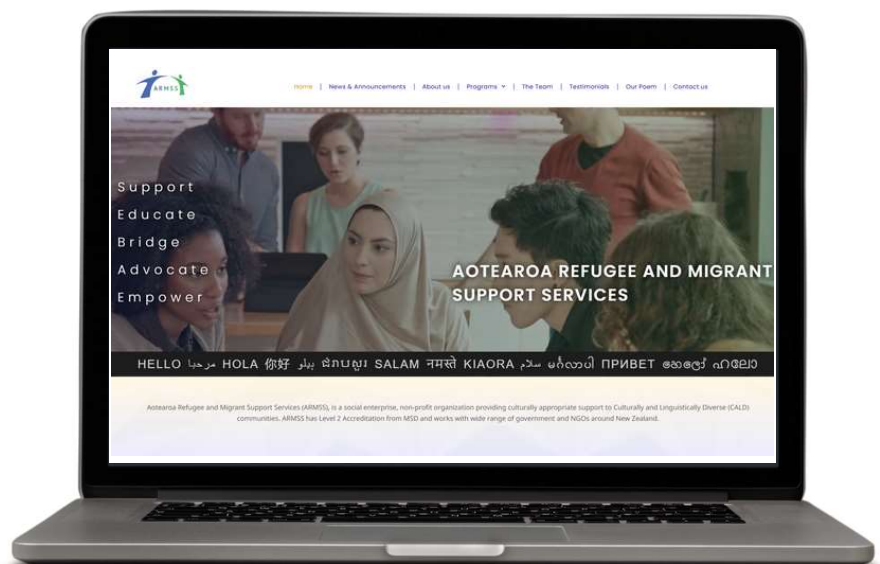
The Welcoming Schools Programme recently concluded the second round of the Cultural Competence and Capability Workshop, held from 29 February to 28 March. This workshop, a joint effort by the Ministry of Education and Aotearoa Refugee and Migrant Support Services (ARMSS), focused on topics essential for integrating newcomer students and families:

- Introduction to culture
- Challenges of relocation
- Broader issues in the classroom
- Recognizing and addressing diverse challenges from a teacher's perspective

A big thank you to all participants, including School Leadership, ESOL Teachers, Learning Support Coordinators, and Teaching Staff from Awatapu College, BestStart Kelvin Grove, College Street Normal School, Milson School, Monrad Tirohanga, St Claudine, Te Kura o Takaro, Terrace End School. Your dedication to enhancing the integration of newcomer students and families is truly commendable, and we value your feedback following the workshop.

Workshop attendee feedback:

"I believe that The Welcoming Schools Programme is a great project that offers support and guidance for many teachers who are desperately seeking guidance on how to support ESOL and refugee students and families. I really appreciated both Dr Zainab and Este for the mahi they have put in, and for the aroha and respect that they show all who they engage with."



Community Activities Nepali School Visit



MMC visited the Nepali School and had an enriching experience immersing in Nepali culture, language, and traditions. The Nepali School provides a warm learning environment through their commitment to preserving and promoting Nepali heritage is truly commendable.

MMC extends our gratitude to all the students, teachers, and staff for their hospitality and for sharing their knowledge and experiences. This visit was not only educational but also a celebration of cultural diversity and unity.

About Us

Manawatu Multicultural Council

The Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) is a well-known and established charitable organization that has served Palmerston North for more than 30 years, offering vital support for new migrants, refugees, and newcomers to the city.

Functioning as a central hub, the Council brings together various ethnic and cultural groups, offering information, resources, and activities to help individuals learn about all aspects of life in New Zealand and fostering social connections.

Welcoming Schools Programme

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