



Welcoming Schools Programme

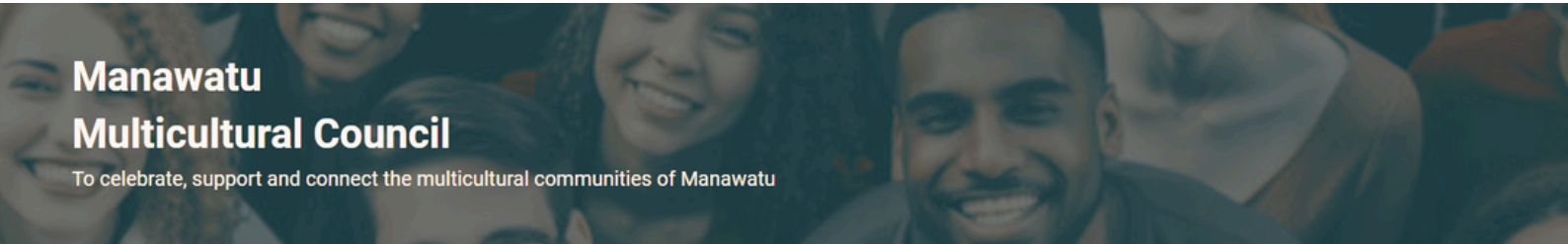


NEWSLETTER

We are excited to publish the second termly Welcoming Schools Programme newsletter for 2024! We'll share some amazing initiatives that took place in term 2 and also to give you a heads up about a few exciting activities that lay ahead.

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PNINS First Voice - 11th June 2024

We are excited to share the highlights of the 25th annual First Voice event, hosted by Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School (PNINS) that took place on June 11th at the Palmerston North Convention Centre. This event celebrates students whose first language is not English, offering them a platform to showcase their written use of their native languages.

Encouraging the active use of one's first language has been proven to positively impact children's self-esteem, their relationships with their parents, their proficiency in other languages, and their overall learning.

This year's event was a tremendous success, with 66 students participating and representing a total of 26 languages. Students were assisted by volunteer mentors who also spoke their first language, helping them complete their writing pieces. These works will be published by the Palmerston North Central Library during Term 3.

MMC and the Welcoming Schools Programme are honoured to continue our collaboration with PNINS and the Palmerston North Central Library. A special thank you to all the mentors who supported the students in writing their pieces in their native languages.

We look forward to the next round of this wonderful event in 2025.



Looking back:



Riverdale School Cultural Day - 21 June 2024

Riverdale School invited the Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) to collaborate in their vibrant Cultural Day event on 21 June 2024. We were delighted to see representatives from three of our community groups showcasing their rich cultures through various engaging activities.

Ling Wang from our Chinese community led a Tai Chi session, providing a serene and graceful start to the day. Maimoona Fawad and Hina Humayun from Pakistan prepared an interactive display that included traditional clothing, music, and dance, captivating the students with their colorful and lively presentation. Hitomi Wilson, along with some amazing Japanese exchange students, hosted an Origami workshop and a Kendama workshop, offering hands-on experiences that the students thoroughly enjoyed.

It was wonderful to participate and witness the richness of cultures on display, especially as the students proudly dressed in their traditional clothing.

The Manawatu Multicultural Council and the Welcoming Schools Programme look forward to seeing what Riverdale School has in store for 2025. Thank you for inviting us to be part of this beautiful celebration of diversity!





Refugees as Survivors NZ Workshop - 3 May 2024

Refugees as Survivors NZ (RASNZ), a specialist mental health agency based at Te Āhuru Mōwai o Aotearoa (Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre), organized a practical workshop aimed at school staff, including leadership and teaching personnel and focused on enabling effective practice based on trauma responsiveness principles for refugee background students in schools.

This workshop provided a valuable opportunity for various organizations to share their efforts in assisting the integration of newcomer students and their families into their new communities. Among the presenters were the Welcoming Schools Programme Coordinator, who shared insights about MMC's initiatives and services. The Ministry of Education, Welcoming Communities, and The Red Cross also presented, highlighting their roles in supporting newcomer students and families.

This important event organized by RASNZ, not only providing essential information and perspective of newcomers, but also created networking and bridging opportunities for those who attended the workshop.

Welcoming Schools Programme findings

Challenges faced by Newcomer Parents

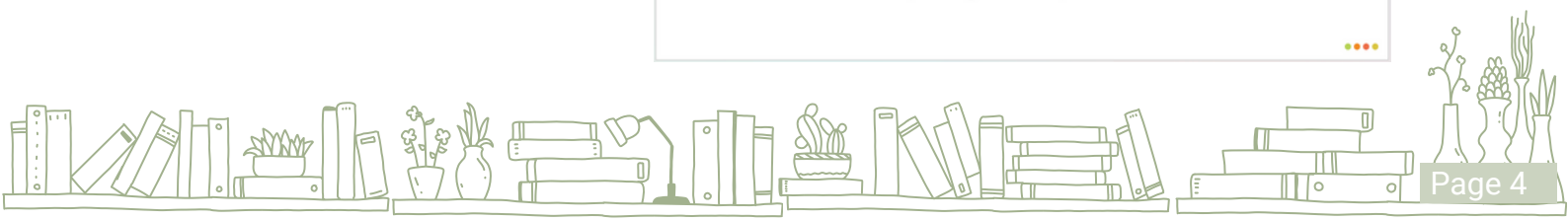
1. Language Barriers throughout the School Integration Process
2. Lack of Knowledge of the NZ Education System
3. Isolation
4. Cultural Differences
5. Not knowing how their children can or should be supported



Welcoming Schools Programme findings

Engaging Parents in their Child's Education

1. Building Trust
2. Cultural Sensitivity
3. Create Welcoming Environments
4. Accessible Communication and Support
5. Encourage Parent Involvement
6. School Leadership driving the above processes



Looking back:

Pop Up Play Event - 11 July 2024

The Manawātū Multicultural Council recently collaborated with Global Parents Support and the Palmerston North City Council for the first Pop Up Play event, held at Rangiora Community Hall. Attendees engaged in play and learning experiences that broadened their understanding of the world.

If you would like to arrange a similar event for your school, please contact the Manawātū Multicultural Council's Welcoming Schools Programme Coordinator at: este@mmcnz.org.nz



Kids Market and Global Market - 21 July 2024

Another successful Kids Market and new Global Market took place at Te Manawa. The event, hosted through a collaboration between the Multicultural Council, Global Parents Support, and Te Manawa took place during the winter school break and featured over 30 stalls run by both kids and adults.

The market saw an amazing turnout from the public, eager to explore the diverse offerings from our kids and communities. It was a joyous occasion filled with creativity and community spirit. We look forward to the next Kids Market event!





Looking back:

Massey / Kindai University Students visit MMC



The Manawatū Multicultural Council had the pleasure of hosting 16 business students from Kindai University, Japan, who are participating in Massey University's International Short Courses. These enthusiastic students are here for a 14-week program and made a special visit to the Manawatū Multicultural Council to learn more about our work within the community.

Our Service Manager and staff gave an engaging presentation on the various services we offer. This was followed by a lively Q&A session where the students had the opportunity to ask questions and gain deeper insights into our activities. The event concluded with some kai and a few piano performances.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to Massey University for their continued partnership with MMC. Their support helps us maintain this wonderful tradition of cultural exchange and learning.

If you would like to arrange a similar event for your school staff or students, please contact the Manawatū Multicultural Council's Welcoming Schools Programme Coordinator at: este@mmcnz.org.nz





Upcoming events:

Manawatū Primary ESOL PLC

The Manawatū Primary ESOL PLC, led by Gwenna Finikin (Hokowhitu Schools' Literacy Support and ESOL Lead), is a group of educators of all types who meet each school term to share best practise, and gain new ideas around supporting students with their English language learning process.



The **Term 3 meeting** will take place on **Thursday, August 8th at 3:30pm**. There will support for those with questions regarding Literacy and ESOL Support, after which the focus will be on learning about Lego-Based Communication Skills for ESOL. This is an approach used by Terrace End School and is based on the Lego-Therapy-Model, used for teaching peer interaction and social skills.

If you would like to attend the session please email: g.finikin@hokowhitu.school.nz

MMC English Classes

Manawatu Multicultural Council Inc.

English Classes

at Hancock Community House (MMC), 77-85 King street, Palmerston North

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	10 - 11.30 am	1 - 2.30 pm
Wednesday	10 - 11.30 am	
Thursday		1 - 2.30 pm

Please ring/email us if interested to attend the classes. Days and times might change due to availability of volunteer teachers.

06 358 1572 77-85 King street, Palmerston North admin@mmcnz.org.nz

Whatever your level of English language, MMC has an English conversation group for you. Our groups are about learning new language skills and having opportunities to practice with both native English speakers and other multicultural learners. Great for migrants and refugees in Palmerston North.

You will feel welcome and comfortable in any one of our language classes. Your confidence to participate in the New Zealand community will grow as you improve your English language skills with our dedicated facilitators and fellow students.

Our English classes and other activities at MMC are FREE for everyone to join.

For more information about the classes hosted at MMC please contact us. Contact details available on the last page of this newsletter.





Upcoming events:

SONGS AND PRAISES

CULTURAL FAITH PERFORMANCES

Sat, 21 Sept
2pm - 5 pm

 *location*
Speirs Centre,
PNBHS



We are excited to announce an upcoming event hosted by the Manawatū Multicultural Council that promises to be a vibrant celebration of the rich tapestry of cultures and traditions from around the world. Join us for an afternoon filled with the beauty of ethnic songs, praises, and spiritual traditions as we come together in harmony and celebration.

Event details:

 21 September 2024

 2 pm - 5 pm

Speirs Centre, Palmerston North Boys' High School

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the diverse melodies and rhythms that unite us all. Spread the word and invite your friends and family to join us for an unforgettable afternoon of music, culture, and community!

Keep an eye on the Multicultural Council Facebook Page for the announcement of ticket availability. We look forward to seeing you there!





Upcoming events:



The Palmerston North Interfaith Groups warmly invites you
to join in our

Religious Diversity Day

*Come and plant some trees with us to care for
our common home.*

About Us

The Palmerston North
Interfaith group exists
to foster friendly
relationships between
people of different
faiths. We welcome
you to this interfaith
space.

Saturday

1-3 pm

August 3rd, 2024

Edwards Pit Park

*Bring gardening tools, water bottles and
sturdy footwear.
Refreshments provided.*



Palmerston North Interfaith Group



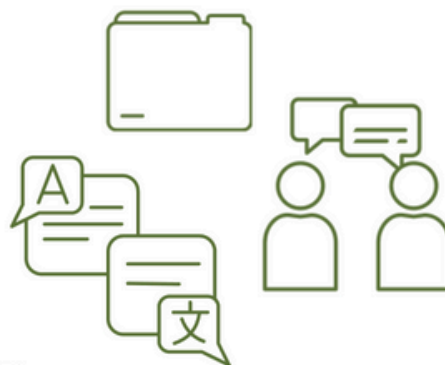
Welcoming Schools Programme

As part of the Welcoming Schools Programme, the Manawātū Multicultural Council would like to offer Schools access to Language Assistance Services, available through our Community Connectors. This service is available for a limited time.

Language Assistance

Translation Services Available *

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Group Sessions
Standard Notices / Posters



Booking process:

Email the Welcoming Schools Programme Coordinator at este@mmcnz.org.nz

Include:

- Language required
- Date & Time (for face-to-face assistance)

*Language and capacity limits apply



Hancock Community House
77 - 85 King Street
Palmerston North

06 358 1572

www.mmcnz.org.nz





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

WSP Coordinator: Esté van der Merwe

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Phone: 06 358 1572

Address: 77 King Street, Palmerston North

Web: www.mmcnz.org.nz

FB: Manawatu Multicultural Council Palmerston North



Welcoming Schools Programme

