

Hunger

LUCY'S DAD HAD BEEN GIVING HER A HARD TIME so she decided to build a robot to get back at him. One afternoon Lucy brought out her robot, turned it on and used her remote to control it.

The robot was equipped with a marble shooter, tazer, and a staple gun. First she commanded her robot to stand around the corner, pop out, shoot a marble, and then go back into hiding. Lucy's dad looked around mystified but thought nothing of it and went back to painting. So seeing another opportunity to fire, she reached for the staple gun button. . .

Lucy made the robot jump out and shoot again but this time her dad saw the robot's retreat and came storming around the corner. He raised his fist. . . so her robot shot the tazer straight into his chest.

Put it this way. Lucy's dad found it very difficult to give her a hard time after that. The rest is, as they say, history.

Liam Ottley



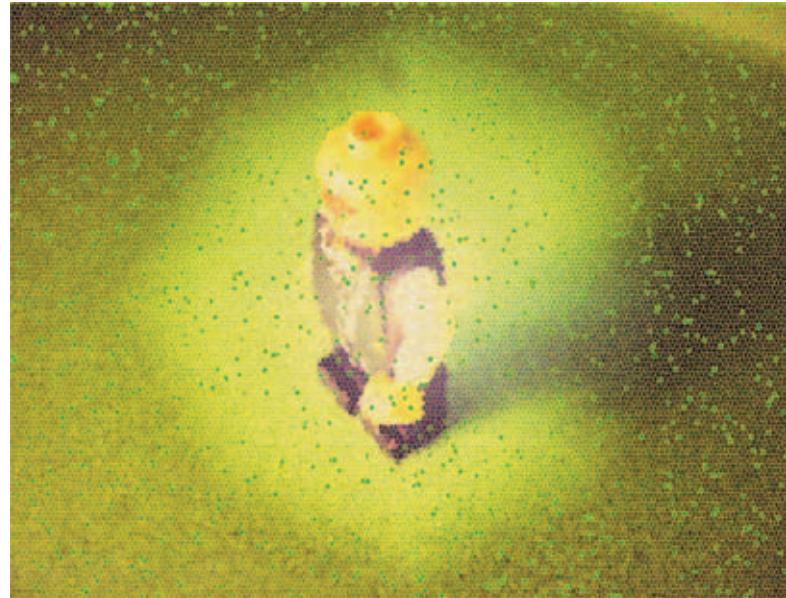
Dylan Petherick 7L

What Hunger Means to Me

Helpless people are
Undernourished with their
Nutrition starved, which stunts their already meagre
Growth.
Eating less is a matter of survival which
Reeks of lost opportunities and life.

Hunger shouldn't be allowed as it makes the world look selfish and cruel. We DO have enough to eat for everyone. However, only the fortunate few get the privilege. I feel sorry for those people who go hungry. It makes me sad.

Xavier Paul



Jacob Hughes 7L

Hunger

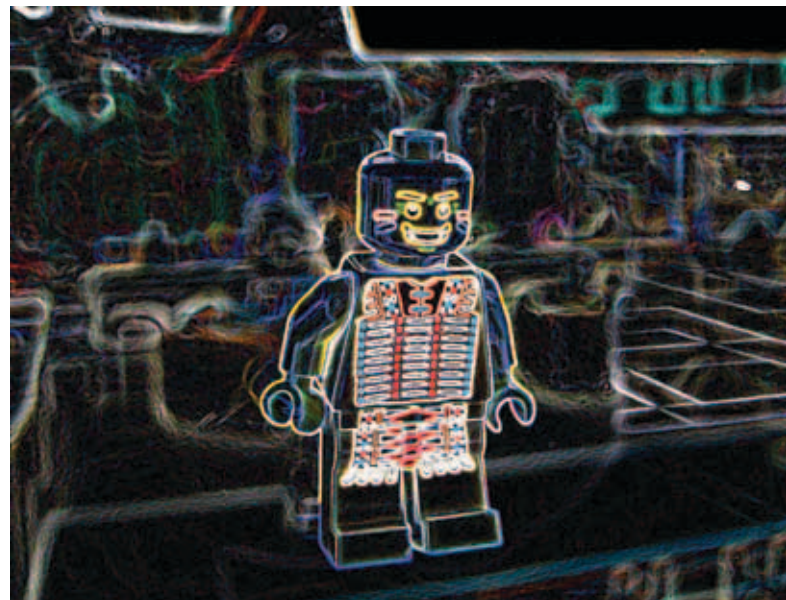
I can't imagine a life where I am hungry,
 Yet people all around the world are.
 Children under the age of five, dying in the streets,
 Just because there was no-one there to help

In a world that claims to be fair and civilised,
 There are parts of it that have been ignored and excluded from these entitlements.

Thousands each day
 Millions each year.
 Lost forever from our world,
 All because WE didn't help.

My personal thoughts must be heard!

Liam Ottley



Dennis Tafu 7L



Jamie Rowney 7L



Faafetai Tino 7L



Richard Toa'i 7L

My Trip Around the World

HI, MY NAME IS HUNTER and I am going to take your tastebuds on a magnificent journey around the world. Delicious food from New Zealand, Malaysia, France, San Francisco and Mexico await you.

I have been producing these extraordinary trips for three years and everyone who has participated has loved every moment. This is a chance to have cuisine from countries you may have never been to or thought about and never had the chance to visit. A once-in-a-lifetime experience awaits you. You will learn a lot about food and the different cultures. You will be travelling on one of the extensive and luxurious cruises on the planet and hotels that rival the most expensive five and six star establishments.

You don't want to miss out on this unique opportunity. Be quick as places are very limited.

Hunter Sutter

World Vision

Hunger doesn't mean much to me
I feel a deep sorrow for the hungry
Deprived people who suffer every day
Without food and water.
We can change it
We have to change it.

Helpless
Undernourished
Needy
Gone
Excluded
Ruined

Jonathan Haydon

The Fields of Dilworth

The beautiful, wavy grass collides with the pale, white clouds and calm blue sky.
Bacon's unique scent makes my nose tingle with enjoyment.
Feeling the calm wind brush against my hair and face relaxes and comforts me.
The sound of rushing traffic almost blends with the simple sound of the carrying wind.
I can almost taste the luscious bacon that the graceful wind blows to and for me.

Jason Southern-Holden

Outside

The rustling trees flow in the wind as the traffic cruises down the road
The grittiness of the grass rubbing through my hands leaves green stains
The scent of greasy bacon floats through the air
I see birds dancing in the distance, waiting for worms to pop out of the ground
I can taste sweet fresh air flowing through my mouth.

Jonathan Haydon

Destruction

ONCE UPON A TIME there lived a girl named Isabel. Isabel had a very unusual interest for an 11-year-old girl – she was interested in robots. She'd spend days studying robots, watching robot movies and even making robots. One day she decided to make her own robot. Isabel also had another interest – mischief.

The next day she tested out her robot on her dad. Her dad was painting the house. Isabel commanded her robot to throw the tin of paint on her dad, and so the robot did. The next day Isabel went downstairs and turned on the news. She was shocked to see that her robot had developed a mind of its own and was terrorising the city!

Isabel went down to the city and saw her robot, but it was too late. The robot saw her and tried to shoot her, but Isabel jumped behind cover. She saw something in the dark. It was a stick of dynamite. Isabel knew what she had to do. She got the stick of dynamite and, while the robot wasn't looking, she jumped out and stuck the dynamite in the robot's back and within seconds it was completely demolished.

Guneesh Jubal



Jonathan Haydon 7L



Jacob Hughes (left) and Jonathan Haydon

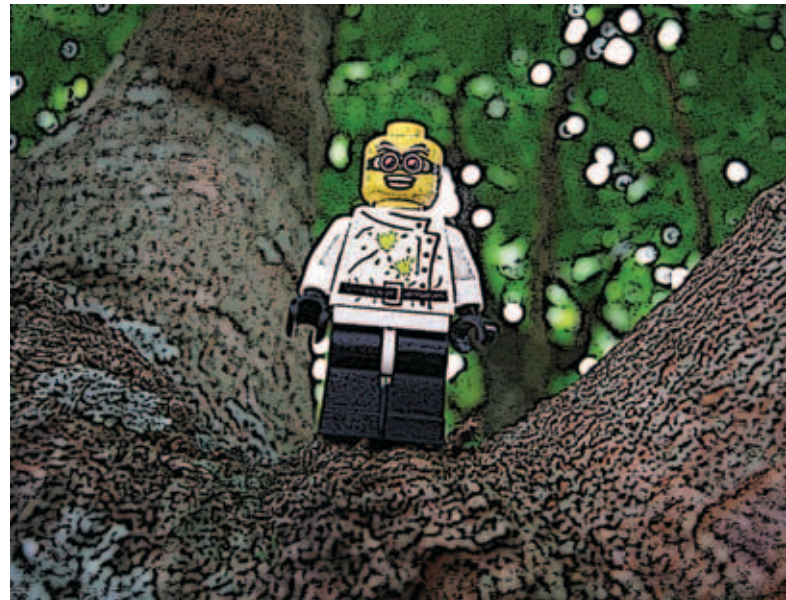
Olympic Picture Prompt

THE STAGE WAS ENORMOUS and the stadium surrounding me was colossal in size. The performers who were entertaining the vast crowd either side of me were going NUTS! They were head banging, chanting, hooting, boogying and they all seemed to be having a blast and the vibe was rubbing off on me! I could feel every muscle in my body buzzing with excitement and I felt like I was going to explode if I didn't start to break out some moves.

The performers themselves were a bunch of about 30 people, all dressed in suits with vibrant colours and fluoro strips. They looked like a load of spacemen from the future with wacky glasses and metallic looking wigs to me! Russell Brand was there as well. He was sitting right in the middle of everything, chanting something but I could only see his lips moving because of all the noise around me. Everyone around him was bubbling with enthusiasm and bouncing round the stage. The expressions on their faces were indescribable! It was like they were a group of half-stoned party rockers who had time travelled from the late 70s! In the background I saw a few women (who looked like men) in costumes with loads of feathers, which made them look like gigantic prehistoric birds with pearlescent colours on their backs.

This would have had to be the most extraordinary moment ever!

Liam Ottley



Guneesh Jubal 7L



Lolomana'ia Liava'a 7L

Olympics Closing Ceremony

MY FAMILY AND I CAME INTO THE ENORMOUS STADIUM to watch and enjoy the closing ceremony. It was quite cold so we had to bring our blankets to enjoy the event.

When all the athletes were waiting under the stadium, cars were driving in circles covered in newspaper. It was really weird. I couldn't quite understand what it meant.

After the cars had stopped driving around, One Direction sang their song on the trailer of a big truck. I couldn't hear anything due to all the girls shrieking and squealing at the top of their lungs. Once they had finished their song, the noise level dropped suddenly and the girls that were screaming were now crying. Thank goodness the screaming was over! All the boys then started screaming with happiness because the girls had stopped yelping.

It was really amazing watching all the camera flashes flickering around the stadium. There were so many different and magnificent colours.

When the lady gymnasts came into the middle of the stadium my mouth dropped and started dribbling. My friend told me to snap out of it (by slapping me on the face). I accidentally spilt my can of coke on his pants. I acted like nothing happened and went into daydreaming mode again.

The athletes from all the various competing countries came into the middle of the stadium in one big group. The people who gained a medal from winning an event got to walk at the front of the gigantic group of 10,952 people. It was like a sea of bodies.

They joined together as a big group standing on the blue of the colossal British flag. On the white of the flag there were hundreds of people performing. Many of them were girls and one appeared on a flying eagle. My mouth started to drop again, but my friend didn't want to slap me this time, considering I had two hotdogs in my hand. Would have been extremely messy.

Once the show finished, everyone stood in silence for the torch of the Olympic games to get puffed away. Slow music played as this historic event closed.

Loud music from Rio began to play, as they are to be the next hosts for the 2016 Olympic Games. They have a certain flair to their culture, which really lifted the already hyped up crowd. Lots and lots of wonderful lights were glowing around the whole stadium. Flames in the background shot up into the air. Pianists, guitarists, drummers and obviously the singer were performing on a big stage in front of thousands of people.

It was really amazing to watch and I hope to go to the next Olympic games.

Jonathan Haydon



Liam Ottley (left) of 7L

Bullying

MY STOMACH HURTS and I have headaches every day. The girls are spreading rumours and telling secrets, and it just doesn't feel right to me. Is there something wrong with me, or am I really what they say I am? Could I be a victim of bullying?

As you may have noticed, my speech is about bullying. So let's get started.

Have you ever been bullied? Has it happened to your peers or have you just seen or heard about it on TV? Many people have different opinions on what bullying is. Some say it is kicking or hitting someone; others say it's when you say mean things or call someone names. All these aspects are correct as there are different ways you can get bullied. However, they are not the official definition of bullying. Everyone has a different opinion, but the definition I follow is: 'Anything that a person does on purpose to upset or hurt another person (the victim)'. The victim is the person that gets bullied. To be honest, bullying is just like a disease because you don't make it happen and it does not just go away overnight.

Bullying even makes you feel like you are sick or something is wrong with you! This, however, isn't true at all. It is not your fault if you get bullied. Did you know that one out of five students gets bullied everyday? Many people are unaware of the bullying that happens around them. That just shows how bad it is. Here are some myths and facts about bullying.

Myth number 1: "If I tell someone, it would just make it worse."

Fact. Research shows that bullying will stop when adults in authority and peers get involved.

Myth number 2: "Just stand up for yourself and hit them back."

Fact. While there are some times when people can be forced to defend themselves, hitting back usually makes the bullying worse and increases the risk for serious physical harm.

Myth number 3: "People are born bullies."

Fact. Bullying is a learned behaviour and behaviours can be changed. Some people that have been bullied all their life decide to leave their old life behind because they don't appreciate it and commit suicide. Suicide! That just shows how out-of-hand this can get; bullying is that serious! You may be thinking, wow, how can you stop bullying when you can barely see it happening? I mean how are you supposed to put an end to it when it goes on 24/7? The best way for you to make a start is to talk to your friends and have a discussion in your class and make a set of rules to put an end to it. Then present the idea to your whole school.

Remember everything I have told you today and you will not be a bully or be afraid to stand up for yourself! Just be strong, keep your head up high and do your best to stop bullying once and for all! Remember, school bullying is everyone's business!

Guneesh Jubal

Hunger

HUNGER MEANS PEOPLE live on the street and go hungry each day. I feel very sorry for the innocent people, especially the kids, that try to find food every day from places I walk past and never think about. People that are struggling to find food should live in a better place where food is available, along with clothing, shelter and a comfortable home. Hunger does not mean so much to me, as I have not felt as hungry as they do in the countries all around the world that have less than mine does.

Whenever we feel hungry, we go to the shop and buy food here.

We could donate money for those who are struggling with their lives. Survival and finding food are their priorities. What are yours?

Antonio Payne-Lupe

Older Siblings

YOU OPEN THE FRIDGE and take your box of chocolates out of your secret stash. The box is empty. Only one thought crosses your mind as your face turns a blood red: I am going to kill my brother.

It just so happens that my lolly and chocolate stashes are never safe. If I hide them in the same spot too much, my brother will find them. I always think I have found the perfect hiding spot; I'm always wrong. I buy my lollies, chocolates and chips with my own money, and I care about them. My brother SWOOPS in when I least expect it, and the gobstoppers I bought from the British Lolly Shop are gone in a flash. There is only one word that summarizes what I'm thinking when my brother steals my sour snakes, and that word is *kill*.

You may think that is a bit over the top, but if about one hundred dollars worth of *your* lollies disappeared 'mysteriously' you would be angry too.

If you have an older sibling, I know how you feel. If you don't, make the most of life while you can. Remember that a lot of the time, the fights are your fault, and to keep your temper. Even though your sister makes you wear clothes that make you look a bit...weird, she is trying to help. And when you're left with the dishes, remember that everyone gets a turn...unless your sister runs away whenever they're mentioned saying, "I need to do my homework."

Another thing. Even though it is annoying when your brother turns you away from your conversation saying 'You're a 2000's kid!', be proud to be a member of the noughties club. We do have a lot of technology, us 2000's kids.

Remember to treat your older siblings better. It's not their fault they are so difficult not to insult.

Samuel Brown

Yohan Blake

YOHAN BLAKE IS A JAMAICAN SPRINTER of the 100 metre and 200 metre sprints. His fastest time for the 100 metres is 9.69 seconds. Yohan Blake got a silver medal in the London Olympics. He is the second fastest in the world. Yohan Blake is 22 years of age and was born on December 26, 1989. He is known by the nickname 'The Beast'. He's going to be the next Usain Bolt and beat his records in 100 and 200 metre races in the future. He might retire after that year.

Euese Toomaga



Euese Toomaga 7N



7N as France win the Skipping Olympics



7N as France in action at the Skipping Olympics

Artifacts

WHEN WE LEFT BOB'S HOUSE, he gave us free Camalon plants to take back home. He also told us there was a cave full of jewels, but it was also filled with booby traps. He showed us where to go and we said our final goodbyes.

It was kind of scary, but Ironman and Jorge were with us so I felt safe. We ran into so many traps we couldn't count how many there were. Another thing: the cave was gigantic and very long. We soon got to the end. It was tiring. Then the floor collapsed. We all fell. It was a hard landing. We were very sore and tired and had to go on another long journey through the traps again.

After a while we finally reached 'the real end'. I thought to myself, "Thank God!"

There was a wall, so we let Ironman and Jorge do the work and with one big 'KABOOM!' there was no more wall.

Inside we found a room filled with jewels and artifacts. We took as much as we could. There were three very interesting things we took. They were: golden wings that attach to you, a gun blade that shoots lasers and a very unusual looking box that looked like you had to decode it to open it.

Satisfied, we got out and prepared to go back to the ship to make our long journey home to Earth.

Vili'ahio Vi

Day Five of My Mission Diary

Time: 1:30

Date: 7 August

Year: 3034

Location: unknown

We have already entered the black hole. I think we will never get out of this horrible disaster. I think we are half way, or even at the start of the hole. I don't know how we are going to survive. I think I saw an exit (or is it just my imagination?).

Then we burst out of the black hole and we were back in space. But our ship looked weird. I thought that it would have been ripped into pieces. We didn't know where we were or which solar system we were in. Our scientist said he might know where we were. I went and looked through the window and saw this shining planet. Yes, we will land tomorrow at Gold Planet.

Sebastian Ma'u

Having a Meal

DELMO SOON ASKED US TO EAT WITH HIM. We followed him inside his little cave-like house. In his house, it was creepy and weird. He had dead animals and little tiny holes in his walls. His kitchen had plates all over the floor with eyeballs from dead animals. On the kitchen table was a gutted pig, its head with big ears. The table was made from broken equipment, including glass. His fridge had rats and other dead animals in it. He must like animals or something!

We sat down at the dining table. He got out some bowls and got a big jug filled with something and poured it in the bowl. He gave it to us. I tried it. It was delicious! He also gave us a plate of 'Delmo Fingerfood'. We tried it. It was okay, but not the best. I asked him what it was and he said, the soup was cockroach and beetle soup, and the Delmo Fingerfood was pig ear, rat and cockroach kebab, and rotten goat cheese. I was sick.

Steven Sieu



Carlin Autagavaia 7N

Dear Mr Norton

I am very excited that I am in your class this year. You sound like a really nice person. This year is my first year at Dilworth. It is also my first year in a boarding school for boys only. There's only one problem: I have a broken leg! I broke it in a car crash. I have broken my tibia and fibula bones in my lower right leg, so I've had two 't.e.n.s.' (titanium elastic nail system) nails fitted.

This letter is to let you know a little about me. I am 11 years old. I was born in Germany but I moved to England before I came to New Zealand. I have no pets. I am an only child and I live with my mum.

One of my favourite memories was going to the South Island last year by car, boat and train. It was so much fun. The only problem is that I have an uncle that has a brain trauma. They can't save him so he is going to die.

My favourite type of food is homemade burgers. My favourite place is Rangitoto.

I went to Cockle Bay Primary School. It was awesome there, but Dilworth is a whole heap better, even if I didn't get to go to Camp Merc. I still had a lot of fun here with the Year Eights. It was fun getting to go with Mr Vos and I can say 'I did it,' for going on the beach this year.

In my spare time I like to phone my friend Logan (he used to go to Cockle Bay with me) and play on the computer with him. We normally play a game called Box Head Bounty Hunter.

I like to play rugby, basketball and I used to do swimming but I stopped so I could carry on with scouts. In my family is my Mum, Nan, three cousins, Uncle Anthy, Auntie Cutriner, Uncle Con and there's more that I can't remember at the minute, so that's my family.

I am looking forward to the year ahead. It sounds like it is going to be a wonderful. I hope we get to know each other really well because you sound really cool.

Yours sincerely
Simon Heath

Apple

HAVE YOU ALL HEARD OF APPLES: sweet, juicy and refreshing? Have you all heard of the different types of apples: granny smith, royal gala, rose, jazz, etc? And all of the different languages to say apple such as apfel, manzana, pomme, mela, aporo and able? But I know you've all heard of the biggest apple yet. Apple Incorporated. So today I am going to talk to you about Apple.

Apple was invented in 1976 on October 23. It was founded by two people. Their names were Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. They both had something in common: their first name. Now people, you may leave with one question. But that's not going to happen. That question might be, where did Steve Jobs get the name Apple from? Well I am going to tell you right now. He got the name because he was on a fruit diet and he had just got back from an apple orchard. So he said the name Apple sounds fun.

Jobs has invented a lot of technology and software such as the iPhone, iPad, iPod, Macbook Pro, iOS 5, eMacs, Apple TV etc.

Apple employs over 60,000 people, bringing in 8.8 billion US dollars every year. Their products are sold all over the world, being designed in California, and assembled in China. Then they're sent straight to Dilworth school (but obviously not all of them).

Steve Jobs wasn't just a technician. He was also an animator for Walt Disney's Pixar.

Last year he died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 56. Now Tim Cook has taken over.

Reid Hokai-Rapira

May 2037, Day1

I HAD RECEIVED THIS MISSION to find a key. I was very happy as I went around my rusty ship looking for my crew, although I was very exhausted and tired. My stomach was very empty, telling me of my overwhelming hunger.

When I was exploring space I saw a USA flag on the moon. I told my crew to come have a look at the skeleton. There was something so suspicious about the skeleton, but then I took my eyes off it. I saw a huge asteroid coming towards us. I was so frightened and I didn't know what to do. Then Gohan said, "Kamaimaiha" and destroyed the asteroids. The asteroids turned into millions of pieces. I told Albert to come fly the rusty ship while I had a rest. What a day it had been.

Jonathan Pritchard

Dear Mr Norton

I was very confused that I was in your class. I thought that I was in 7P because 7P people said that you could not go into the same class as your brother. I was very happy to be in your class and nervous.

I was born in Auckland and moved to Wellington for three years, but then moved back to Auckland. I grew up at 96 Grand Drive. I made a lot of friends there. I went to Meadowbank School. In Year Four I was accepted to Dilworth. I was happy to go to a different school.

I remember Miss Bell, she was so nice to me and my friends. She let me move and sit where I wanted to sit. She was awesome – the best teacher I had ever had. I got into no trouble.

I cannot wait to be in your class. I enjoy maths, reading and I like to do jobs. I do not like writing and working alone. I work well with others and like sitting on a table with friends because they can help me with writing.

Nikau Coromandel

Gold City

WE'VE REACHED OUR DESTINATION. It has only taken fifteen orbits of the sun. Our ship has come to rest on a cliff. This gave me a fantastic view of my destination. There was a horrifying sea. It had humongous waves, like a giant just stepped in a puddle. It was outrageous; the water was dark like coffee. It was like the devil had cursed the lake. The dazzling sky was beautiful, and so was the bright moon. There was no sun at all. The moon was as bright as a light bulb. The air was fresh.

I was surprised to see that all the clouds were different colours and they were in patterns. It went green, black, purple, pink, red, orange, blue, yellow, grey then white. As I walked along the sparkling grass, there was a golden hill. It looked beautiful. The breeze was calm like a lake going to sleep. The rocks were real silver and the sand was real gold. It felt like heaven because it was so quiet and everything was beautiful.

It was strange because there was no sign of life around us. We weren't expecting that. When we had seen enough of the scenery we went back to the ship. This was amazing – nothing like what I had expected.

Jake Christiansen



Arran Kupu 7N



Arran Kupu 7N



Jake Christiansen 7N

The Cursed Bed

IT WAS A DARK NIGHT and an anxious boy was lying on his comfortable bed. The curtains were open and you could see the brightest moon and stars in the background. The light was on in the hallway and nobody was there. The little lamp in the room was not on, which left the whole left side of the room in total darkness. The boy looked very scared that something or someone was close by. Under the bed was a hairy monster with very sharp claws and teeth. He was waiting and waiting for the right moment to strike the poor little boy. The boy was covered by his blanket, shivering in fear, unsure if someone or something was in the same room.

Reece Piakura

Hygiene

BEING SICK ISN'T FUN! And when people don't wash their hands after using the bathroom it is downright disgusting! But never fear, I'm here to give you tips on keeping clean with hygiene.

Basically, hygiene is all about maintaining a healthy and clean body. People tend to spread nasty bugs around because of poor hygiene, and when that happens, someone can get sick and if you are one of those who don't wash your hands after using the bathroom, let me tell you that no matter how lazy you are, it is very important to do so! Why? Because if not, you are literally picking up germs onto your hands and imagine just how many things you touch a day! If you think about it, no one likes being sick and what you do when you don't keep to the rules of hygiene is unfair on others.

Just like washing your hands, taking a bath, brushing your teeth regularly and covering your mouth or nose when you cough or sneeze is just as important. Other ways of practising hygiene include keeping your hands away from your face and getting a haircut every couple of months, clipping your nails, washing your face and cleaning your ears counts too! And if you are one of the many people who pick their noses, then you need to stop!

Hygiene is important in everyday life. In hospitals, they have hygiene-themed posters stuck on walls in just about every room! Medical professionals like nurses and doctors must keep to the rules of hygiene since a lot of sick patients are under their care. Unlike normal people, they even have special items like surgical masks and hand-sanitizers to reduce the chance of germs flying all over the place.

Being clean is a good thing because it's not just healthy but it makes you feel good about yourself. With proper grooming you can even become the most dashing boy alive or the most beautiful girl in the world! And believe me, it can become a habit too, a good one. Just ask my sister – she's all about hygiene.

The point is, healthy eating and cleanliness go hand-in-hand towards a healthy lifestyle and until you die, hygiene should be practised all the days of your life.

So keep clean and spread the word, not the germs.

Arran Kupu



Steven Sieu 7N

Dear Mr Norton

I feel very excited to be coming into Room 3. I am looking forward to seeing new people and my cool teacher, and the cool new classroom. When I first walked in I was shocked. I felt like nobody. After a few days I was learning new things and I started to feel happy at Dilworth.

Mr Norton, I am going to tell you about me. I was born in Auckland. I have four brothers and one sister. I live in Mangere and there is an old park just up the road where my finger got cut off because a door slammed on my finger. I was crying so hard, just like rain coming down from the sky. My family likes going to the park to have some fun and a good time.

I did a trick on a skateboard and I felt very happy. My dad showed me how to do an 'ollie' and I felt the 'I did it!' feeling. When I was learning how to do the trick I was not so happy but when I did it I just felt good and proud about my trick.

I enjoyed my Year 6 teacher. Her name was Miss O'Brine. She was so cool. We went to cool places for our trips. We went to Rainbow's End. She was the captain of a sports team and she was smiling all the time.

I used to have a dog but it ran away. When I woke up, we had to try to look for him, then after a few days or weeks we got a new dog. I have forgotten its name. When we first got it, it did something on the mat (you do not want to know).

My hopes for 2012 are to beat some people at chess and try to get into the rugby team, and try very hard on my work in class. I want to get lots of badges and see new people at Dilworth and give everything a go and keep on trying.

Yours sincerely

Hosea Togiatau

Dear Mr Norton

I felt very excited to get into Dilworth. I am looking forward to being in your class. I was very excited and then nervous. When I got here I was really nervous but now I know more people I'm fine.

I was born in Hamilton on the 28th of October, 2000. I had a little sister but she died in birth. She would be 10 now. I grew up in Raglan with my mum. My dad lived in Raglan but now he lives somewhere else. I went to a daycare near Raglan. It was cool. We then moved to Hamilton so my first school was in Hamilton. Then we moved to Foxton and then to Levin.

One of my favourite memories was seeing my cousins from Australia for the first time. We went to Te Kaha for ten days. It was really, really fun. We went swimming, played, and we did lots of stuff.

At my old school my favourite teacher was Mr P. He loved playing sport. We went out and played games often. I learnt lots of maths, reading and writing. I was in an iClass – that means you do most of your work on the computer. If I was good I got free time on the computers, and I learnt a lot that year.

I have a cat, a dog, a bird, a fish, a mouse, a guinea pig and three rabbits. My mum and I always go to my dad's in Taupo. One year when it was my birthday my dad got me a transenic model for my model train set. Dad, Mum and I always go to the pool if it's open and if it's not open we go swimming in the lake. We mostly always get sushi for lunch and sometimes for tea.

I love soccer. It's my favourite sport. Last year I got to be in the best team. The other sport I like is touch rugby. I am in the B-team for touch. My first game I won 6-5. It was great and I hope I get in the 1st Soccer XI in winter.

My hopes for 2012 are to get in the Soccer team, to get better at writing and be better at maths.

I hope I will have a good time in your class.

Yours sincerely

Joshua McPake

Kayak Competition

LONG BAY BEACH, north of Auckland's harbour bridge, was the sight of the world's largest kayaking competition: twelve Dilworth boys versus two tutors and two instructors.

It was Group Five's turn to battle the undefeated adults of camp M.E.R.C. So many people tried to stand but so many failed.

BANG! Two kayaks collided. BANG! Somebody whacked someone with a paddle. SPLASH! Somebody went overboard. The crowd went wild when a kayaker named Jonathan stood up and surfed his flipped kayak.

At the end of the day, Group Five came out victorious. However, not everyone was happy. "The instructor is crazy," said Jason, a participator in the competition.

Jai Selkirk



Charlie Leota 7N

Dear Mum and Dad

Thank you for this opportunity to get into Dilworth Junior Campus. Term One is nearly over and it's almost the holidays. Throughout the year there's been a lot of good things and some difficult things to adjust to.

The good things are, that I've been getting on very well and it's been cool this term, and I've made heaps of friends. I've joined a few of the activities, like rugby, kapa haka, cricket and House touch. My favourite subjects are Physical Education, Religious Education and Technology (which is really fun and awesome).

The difficult thing is that when we train for sport we get trained like adults, we get trained really seriously.

The homework we get is okay, but we have lots of homework and little time. My most challenging subjects are Maori and French – they're really difficult to understand.

Yours sincerely
Alatise Leiataua

Mr Norton

I love Room 3. It is fun and I am really happy to get put into this class. Before I came to 7N I was really nervous, but as soon as I settled in I just got used to it. I was really excited to see the new boys, as well as Sam, Cameron, Nikau and Arran again.

I grew up in Papatoetoe at 47b Cambridge Terrace with my mum and dad. When I was four my sister was born and at the age of seven my brother was born, then I was the older brother. I love being the oldest. Sometimes me and my siblings fight and some of us end up crying, but we always find a way to say sorry. When I was five I broke my right arm falling off a bunk, then when I was seven I broke my right arm again after trying to jump off the playground at my old school and they ended up having to call my mum and the ambulance and that was the first and only time I went in an ambulance.

I can remember a few cool things from my childhood. When I was little we used to always go on walks around the park. There was a pond there and we used to feed the ducks. It was so much fun. I used to be in a soccer club for Papatoetoe. My sister was as well but she was in the younger group.

I will be very happy to tell you about something that made me feel really good. At Camp Merc I broke the record for 'Stack'um'. The record was 22 and I got 24!!

The class teacher I've enjoyed the most in Dilworth would probably be Mr Valvoi because he was so nice and funny in Year Six. Even though he was away for a long time, I still say he was my favourite teacher.

I will tell you about the pets I have and about my family. I don't have any pets except my goldfish at home. The reason I don't have a dog or a cat is because we are renting and the landlord says we're not allowed ground pets, so we have never had pets ever.

The sports I love are soccer, cricket and sometimes touch. Me and my dad like to play soccer or just play around with a soccer ball or rugby ball.

Before I finish this letter I will tell you some of my goals for 2012. One of my goals is to be deputy Head of Cotter House. I am really happy to be in 7N and I love it so far.

Yours sincerely
Carlin Autagavaia



Vili'ahio Vi 7N

The Curse of the Killer Snapper

ON THE 17TH OF FEBRUARY TWO BOYS from Dilworth Junior Campus went snorkeling at Camp Merc on Long Bay Beach. Whenever the boys put their heads under the water they sang or rapped out of their long snorkels. This may have been the reason why the boys were surrounded by millions of snappers, like an audience at a concert. The instructors tried to chase away the snappers, but the fish returned, getting braver and braver. They circled and came attacking in groups of two or three.

We were afraid because the snapper kept swimming up to us with open mouths. Fortunately one of the instructors had a spear gun and scared some of the fish away. The boys had to eventually swim back to shore and safety. Later Mr Barrows said, "I can go deeper then anyone else, I can beat the world record." And swoosh, off he went. He went as deep as going into a sinkhole.

Charlie Leota



Drae Himiona 7N



Charlie Leota 7N

Attack At Sea

AT LONG BAY BEACH, 40 minutes north of the Auckland Harbour Bridge the amazing DJC Year 7 boys went on camp.

"It's been a blast," said Mr Hosea. "The best adventure was sailing. My men had to get their boat into the sea. All of us got in then we saw birds. It was like a war."

Mr Hosea said millions of sharks came and surrounded them. Euese, a very brave boy, jumped into the sea like a Greek god. One of the sharks bit him and he had blood running all over the boat. Mr Hosea said he was very proud of his boys. No one was seriously injured apart from Euese.

Ethan Tuaiti

Yohan Blake

YOHAN BLAKE WAS BORN on December 26, 1989 in St James, Jamaica. He is the son of Veda and Shirley Blake. Yohan went to St Jago High School and loved to play cricket, but the principal saw how fast he was and asked him to sprint for the school.

Blake is the youngest sprinter to beat ten seconds – he is just 19 years old. He is coached by Glen Mills and trains with Usain Bolt and Daniel Bailey. Yohan competes in the 200m and 100m. His personal best for 200m is 19.26 seconds and his personal best for 100m is 9.75 seconds.

Blake has just won silver in the 200m and 100m. He also helped Jamaica win the 4x-100m relay at the London 2012 Olympics.

Yohan is still looking to win gold in his events and beat Bolt. I chose Yohan Blake because he comes second often but never gives up.

Bradley Egglestone

Captain's Log: Day 40

NOISES ARE ALL AROUND; we are close to the world of death. We gathered round to say our last goodbyes to Scooby Doo, the linguist of the team. Scooby Doo had died from the evil spirit contained in the food he ate. It would not be the same without Scooby Doo.

As we said our speeches a sea dragon attacked us and ate the dead body of Scooby Doo.

The ship was sinking. All hope was lost. A giant whirlpool came out of nowhere and sucked us all up, leaving three people dead and the rest of us lying in the world of the dead. Fortunately there were no signs of demons anywhere.

I hope we don't encounter any miserable creatures until we reach the darkest bit of the land.

This has been a disturbing day.

Drae Himiona

Jaws
Large, dangereux
Gnashing, crunching, chewing
Terrifiant

Sam Brown

Beach Dreaming

ON A SIZZLING HOT DAY we were sweating in the car traveling to Whangarei Beach. As we hopped out of the car we felt amazing. I sprinted like a cheetah to the freezing cold beach. Steam was rising. Joy was spreading. As we swam deeper, large waves grew bigger than ever. A wave crashed my brother down into the sea. Suddenly a boisterous wave knocked me over like bowling pin. I swam slowly back to shore like a turtle. As I opened my eyes I caught the smell of fresh hot sizzling chips flowing in the gentle air. I asked my mum to buy some hot chips on the way home. So we bought some chips and headed back on the road to Whangarei City.

Waikauri Heteraka

IT WAS A SCORCHING HOT DAY as we were driving to the beach in the car. I was sweating and just could not wait to get in the water. Finally we arrived at the beach, and the first thing I did was run straight to the icy cold water. I felt like I was in heaven as the palm trees gently swayed from side to side, massive waves crashed together and there was the sound of birds swishing past like lightning bolts.

Dillon Henry

AS I WALK ALONG THE BEACH waiting for my friends to catch up I can hear girls as hot as the sun laughing in their pink bikinis in the water. When I find a hot spot on the sand I put my crunchy hot chips on the sand and pull the sour lollies out of my sand-filled board-shorts pocket. When my friends finally catch up with me we start munching on the sandy hot chips. After the hot chips are all gone we start to eat the sour snakes of heaven. As we rush down to the placid ocean after some choice kiwi kai we try to spot some tropical schools of fish. When the water gets too cold we try to make a sand hotel.

Connor Howard



8P as China: Excitement before the Skipping Olympics

IT IS A BURNING HOT SUMMER DAY as I look out the window at glistening water. Waves are crashing against the golden sand. I love the delightful feeling of the scorching hot sun warming my back. I really enjoy the beautiful smell of the icy cold salty sea and the thriving taste of a freshly cooked BBQ. Family and friends are having so much fun like a bunch of kids being boisterous. Fishermen are as eager as hungry seagulls diving to get scaly scrumptious fish. I see urchins floating around near the bottom of the sea waiting for someone to find them.

Ethan Te Moananui

I FINALLY GET TO THE BEACH in my limo. As I walk on the crystal clear sand, the waves push against the broken shells and I smell the sand and sea-salt. Standing on the sand I can feel the warm breeze and hot sun. The dried up seaweed and the crusty shells get crushed beneath my feet. The freezing water and the sea-salt sting my body. The people playing volleyball (mostly girls) sound like very boisterous children. And finally, to end my day, I leave Crystal Cove Beach.

Vivela Fusitu'a

IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER and as we arrived at our destination I caught site of the sparkling water. I hopped out of the car, stretched and yawned. As I opened my eyes a ray of sun hit them. I looked around. All I could see was seagulls, pretty girls, smiles and the water smashing against the rocks. I waited for my friends to get out of the car. The sand was as soft as a marshmallow. We ran down the beach to get into the water. It was as cold as ice. We had a game of rugby in the icy cold water. As we were playing, my mum set up a tent to lie in. After putting the tent up she got the chilly bin out so we could have lunch.

Patrick Crombie

Haiku



Connor Howard 7P

Trees growing new leaves
The weather getting warmer
Eating strawberries

Weather very hot
Going swimming at the beach
Now it's Christmas time

Leaves falling from trees
The weather is cooling
Our jumpers ready

Trees are bare and cold
Jackets and trackpants are on
Snow and rain falling

Harrison Rode

It is like a fridge
Snow is falling, ice is fun
Hot milo is out

The bare trees are cold
The leaves are Brown, Orange, Red
Days getting shorter

New life is all around
Blossoms are in the new trees
The snow is melting

The days are warmer
The beach is hotter again
Butterflies are out

Sean Feeney

A warm day outside,
The sun shining down on me,
People relaxing.

The leaves are falling,
Trees dancing around naked,
It is really windy.

The snow is falling,
Westerly wind blows wildly,
And rain thumping down

Trees regrowing leaves,
Yellow, green, gold, white and red,
Can't wait till summer.

David Nanai



Dillon Henry 7P

BBQs and surf
The beach is hot and burning
Find a shady tree.

Snow falls from the sky
Warm fires burn to keep me snug
Snug and cozy in bed.

Leaves are starting to fall
Brown, golden, red and orange
All the bright colours.

Lambs, flowers bloom
New life sprouts this time of year
All the pretty colours.

Phillip Toriente

Weather getting cold
The warm fires keeping me warm
Snow falls from the sky

Today was golden
We had sausages for lunch
Swimming all day long

With the daffodils
Pollen making people sneeze
All the bright flowers

Howling windy nights
Warm blankets to keep me snug
Inside the fire

Siosifa Vaitohi



Harrison Rode 7P

There is a winter breeze
Making snowmen in the cold
No sun in the sky.

Beach days getting hot
BBQ on the warm sand
Nice big juicy steaks.

Flowers are growing
Leaves are going to be green
Not falling off new trees.

Flowers are falling
They're turning brown and orange
Trees going naked.

Tane Scott-Tipene



Thomas Cross 7P



David Nanai 7P

Take a big bowl and pour in a day a 'Rainbow's End'
 Add a Go-Cart crash
 Mix in a day of sleep to taste
 Blend it with a trip to Laser tag
 Knead in a day on the computer
 Whip up a BBQ with all the ingredients
 Simmer slowly for eight weeks.

Brandon Spratt

Take a bowl of scootering and mix in a trip to the islands
 Beat the X-Box until smooth and crack in a few swims at the beach
 Dice a computer game or two and dissolve them into a game of paintball
 Add a pinch of dirt-bike riding then sprinkle a bit of possum hunting over all
 Bake on a ferry ride to Waiheke.

KaHana Ngawati

Holiday Recipes

Whip up 5 grams of 'X-Box360'
 Add a purée of movies
 Leave to set, then sprinkle over some skateboarding
 Add three weeks of Australia
 Simmer until beginning at Dilworth.

Thomas Cross

Dice some bike rides into a bowl
 Mix together with some sleepovers
 Pour some swimming pool into the mixture
 Add ten movies and melt in some BBQ
 Chill in the fridge for eight weeks then serve at Dilworth.

Sio Aho

Start with half a cup of family BBQ at the beach
 Mix in a tablespoon of skateboard park
 Pour in some movies and blend with a touch of Playstation
 Whip a quarter cup of staying in bed all day
 Sprinkle a pinch of staying up late over everything
 Bake for eight weeks.

Taniora Noble

Start with 'Ragamuffin' in a bowl
 Mix in a few mince and cheese pies
 Add five grams of waking up early
 Pour in some time at the beach
 Mash up a whole lot of PS3 to add to the mix
 Blend with cousins at the park
 Sprinkle Christmas ham on top
 Then cook in a treehut overnight.

Tae Krivan

'Woof' or 'Meow'

'WOOF' OR 'MEOW,' THAT IS THE QUESTION. I'm sure you have a cat or dog at home or you at least know someone who does. Well today I'm going to tell you why boisterous hounds are better than feral felines. Dogs are extremely playful and loads of fun at the park, and, well cats are either sleeping on the couch all day, or out all day and don't come back till late at night.

"Where's my cat? WHERE'S MY CAT?"

"Don't worry, he's probably out with his mates in the alley!"

Sure cats are great if you're an old granny that knits all day, because cats just sit around and sleep on your lap. But there are dogs that can do that to. Pit-bulls are big and scary but can be tamed, Shitzhues are small and playful and like to cuddle up to you and the Chihuahua likes to go everywhere you go.

Dogs have always been very popular all over the world. In Egypt dogs were worshipped as gods. (I am the mighty Anubis, god of death) Dogs are also much more useful than cats. In places like the Arctic the Eskimos use dogs to pull their sleighs. Some dogs are specially trained to help the blind, these dogs are called guide dogs, and some dogs can be great dishwashers at cheap restaurants (wait forget I said that last part.)

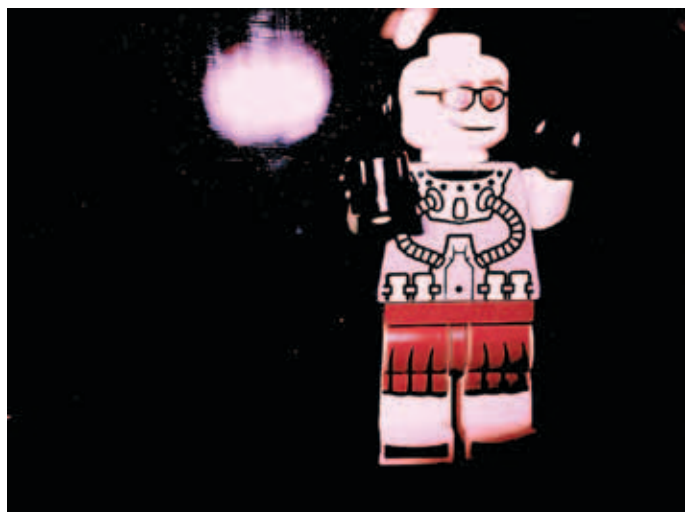
Now if you're a little girl that loves cute little puppies then listen up. I think that one of the cutest puppies in the world is the 'Shitzhu' poodle because it has a cute little nose and stubby little feet. But there are many kinds of cute little dogs like chihuahua or poodle.

Let's talk about strange types of breeds. What might you get when you cross a Beagle with a 'Staffy', or a Labrador with a Greyhound? (or a sheep with a kangaroo, well that's a woolly jumper of course!) Some of the strangest dog are, the Puli which has more dreads than Bob Marley, or the Bermasgo which has hair that looks like scales all over its body. Last, and probably thought to be the least, there's the Chinese Crested; this dog has always had the rap for the worlds ugliest dog. (but it only takes a little bit of TLC and some grooming sessions to understand the sweet thing it really is.)

Dogs are also really great for your exercise because you have to regularly take them for walks. Have you seen anybody walking a cat on a leash lately? I don't think so!

So today I've told you why dogs are more fun to play with, different types of dogs and why dogs are better for our community. But the question still remains, which do you like more, the feral felines or the howling hounds?

Tobias McMillan



Vivela Fusitu'a 7P



Ethan Te Moananui 7P

Woodchopping

UNDERHAND, STANDING, JIGGER AND SAWING are all events of a sport that has been in my family for at least four generations; the sport of wood chopping. Over 100 years ago, bushmen, after a long day of work, would have a bit of fun by seeing who could saw the fallen trees the fastest. From this, the sport of woodchopping was born. Before long, New Zealand and Australia were having small competitions with each other.

Back in the day, before the trees could be cut down to size, they had to be stripped of all their branches. To do so, the bushmen had to cut little pockets in the sides of the trees to put in boards to climb up called 'springboards.' They did this one after the other until they reached the top, cutting the branches off on the way up. This is like the modern day jigger event. Then, because there were no chainsaws, one man would stand at the bottom and hack away at the trunk with his axe. This is like the more modern standing event, but the blocks are a lot smaller. Then when the tree is on the floor, a team of men would come and stand on the tree and cut away at the tree beneath them to turn the trees into logs. This is like the underhand event. By this time the size of the logs has been reduced but they are still several metres long. Because the logs were so big, they used oxen to pull the logs to the nearby sawmill where the wood was further processed.

To be a chopper you need to have good technique, balance, good aim, strength and speed. To start with, everyone started their race at the same time. But as the sport grew, a handicapping system was introduced to make the races more fair. Four generations back, my great grandfather chopped more for fun. My grandfather was around in the time when the sport was more official. He was the New Zealand team selector and he was the president of the Northern Axemen's Union, which covered the North Island from Kumeu to Taupo.

My mum is in the third generation of woodchopping in my family. She has travelled to Canada for Jack and Jill sawing and handicaps some events in the North Island. And then there is me, a future champion. If you think you have what it takes, then I strongly advise giving it a go.

Cameron Honey



Tobias McMillan 7P



Siosifa Vaitohi 7P

Is The World About To End?

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS for the 21st of December 2012? Do you think the world is going to end? Well, if you do, are you going to hide in an underground bunker or hope that someone somewhere builds an awesome ship like the one in the hit movie *2012*? Well, don't bother, because I'm here to tell you why I believe the world isn't going to end this year. The main points I'll be covering are: 1. *Why* do people think the world is going to end? 2. The ways it could end. 3. Other people's predictions, and lastly, what does the Bible say?

Do you ever wonder why the date is this year? Or how they ever come up with this wacky prediction? Well, this date was taken from the Mayan Calendar; the Mayans were a highly-developed ancient South American civilization. The Mayan Calendar is different to ours because instead of lasting twelve months, it lasts for 5,125 years – that's a *lot* for one calendar, and at the end of that super-long time, the calendar finishes on the 12th of December 2012. The idea is that when the calendar ends, the world also ends.

Predicting the end is nothing new because there's been predictions from as early as the first century. Over 100 predictions have been made worldwide, and it's not just crazy people who make predictions – even famous geniuses like the scientist Sir Isaac Newton thought that the world would end in 2000, but even *he* was wrong! Then a man named Robert Weinland predicted the end twice in a row, once in 2011 and again in 2012, and clearly this guy got it all wrong too.

The world could end in so many ways, but these are some of the ways I personally think are the most possible. To begin with, a pandemic. You know, big scary disease that could kill everyone in the world? Or maybe an asteroid strike which could destroy the whole world in a single blast? Or maybe even an ice age like in the movie where everything freezes? If the mammoths can't survive an ice age, neither can we I guess. Lastly, there's nuclear war, where basically we blow ourselves up.

Well, to be honest, real life isn't like a movie because all that 2012 stuff is not true. Why? Because every prediction from the very beginning has been wrong. A verse from the bible states: "No one knows when that day or hour will come, neither the angels in heaven nor the son. The Father alone knows."

So, guys, you're not going to miss out on school, or even Christmas. Because what happens when a calendar ends? It starts all over again! So the truth is plain and clear: the world isn't going to end this year.

Tae Krivan



Thomas Cross 7P

'I Am' Poems

I am funny and respectful
I wonder if you can have a lion as a pet?
I hear an angel's voice
I see dead people
I want a PS4
I am funny and respectful.

I pretend I am a UFC fighter
I feel like a pro rugby player
I touch a unicorn's horn
I worry about violence
I cry when I laugh too hard
I am funny and respectful.

I understand that I will do my best at Dilworth
I say we are the future
I dream about anything
I try to do my best
I hope the PS4 comes out this year
I am funny and respectful.

Atama Ratana-Wilson

I am happy and kind
I wonder about what the future is like
I hear bombs from a battlefield
I see hope as a Warrior
I want to be a famous architect
I am happy and kind.

I pretend I am a famous rugby superstar
I feel love from my mum
I touch the hearts of wisdom
I wonder if our school will be safe forever
I cry when relatives fall out with me
I am happy and kind.

I understand that this is hard
I say we put a stop to this
I dream that my family will be safe
I try to do the best that I can
I hope my future will be wonderful
I am happy and kind.

Ezra Taia



8C boys, as the USA, prepare for the Skipping Olympics



Skyler Stokman (left) and Riley Howell

I am happy and sporty
I wonder about my future
I hear a phoenix fighting
I see my honeymoon in Hawaii
I want to win Lotto, a million dollars
I am happy and sporty.

I pretend I am rich
I feel a shark's fin
I touch big balls on Wipe Out
I worry about family
I worry about my grandpa in the hospital
I am happy and sporty.

I understand to do well you work hard
I say jokes to make people happy
I dream that I have girls
I try working my neatest
I hope I have a happy year
I am happy and sporty.

Kulima Tafea

I am polite and kind
I wonder how the world will end
I hear beds talking
I see Santa
I want an Apple Mac
I am polite and kind.

I pretend I am an eel
I feel unicorn's horns
I touch money in the air
I worry about violence
I cry for not having KFC
I am polite and kind.

I understand your love for me
I say do your best
I dream about me
I try to do better in my work
I hope for a better future
I am polite and kind.

Macen Stephens



Michael Loukoianov 8C

Scared

Extraordinary buzzing miracle,
 Enchanted illusion
 Maniac running
 Shadows. . .
 Slumped, miserable, scrawny
 She shrieked
 "Save him, save him!"
 Running, wild eyed, screaming, crying
 Soaking wet, gasping for air,
 Ripped
 Torn
 Shook.

Safe, scared
 Nightmares
 Memories.

Izayah Simi

Missing

Missing in action, judgemental
 Positioned, four-sided trapdoor
 The sun rising but stars are still visible
 Old and mysterious, quick glance
 Awkward shape

Half obscured
 Becoming a hermit, a recluse
 Sneezing violently, synchronised
 Hazy distance
 River bank

Morgan Grace

Found

Stretched out before me
 Reborn
 The quarantine unpleasant
 Heightened, undoubted, accelerated.

Decomposition, existence, miracle
 Emerging, restricted, resurrection
 Transformation in the laboratory
 Numerous times through the woods.

Morgan Grace

Hesitation

Intelligent, cunning monsters
 Killed; rolling alabaster hesitation
 Decision to stand, fight against doubt
 Consider expressions left grinning, strong ravenous greedy
 descriptions
 Giant ultimate warrior, flattened rocky kingdom
 Fussy meat eats strategist abruptly.

Riley Howell

War Hero

Darkness behind me
 What the hell
 Sympathy
 Unofficial
 Chuckles
 Canadian cross
 She walks forward into the
 moonlight
 Faith
 God
 Fingers to the trigger
 Inviting a bullet
 A fly settles on the sight
 Eating me alive
 Victoria Cross
 Military medals
 Authority in his manner
 Bloody simple
 In the second line
 Mad minute
 Tanks
 Mannlicher
 No man's land
 Dead.

Papatika Walter

Runaway

I gasped, kidnapped, shouts getting closer
 Spotlights crisscrossed fields
 Bawling eyeballs
 Darkness, bloodthirsty, obsessed, terrifying beasts
 Shaking
 Frozen
 In desperation.

Cain Tobin

Found

Calling out, trapped, searching
 Footsteps coming, getting louder
 Lights arc towards it
 Scrambling for it
 Spotted
 Done for
 Desperate. . .

Caine Tobin

Beginning of the end

Cream flowing with action
 Containing double pounds
 Long killed child street racing down
 Blew tugging fade straight late
 slope
 Tomorrow when the war began
 (The beginning of the end).

Quickly going to its passenger door
 You didn't get shot
 What the. . .
 We spread out
 Limping.
 Most of us who lived
 Miss
 Change forever
 Quick
 Very quick
 To my horror
 Waiting for bullets
 When the door. . .

Jaxon Tauti



Sam Michie 8C

I am fit and sporty
 I wonder if I'm going to be a superstar
 I hear the crowd roaring
 I see my future uniform
 I want the world to be in peace
 I am fit and sporty

I pretend I'm a hero of the world
 I feel my family
 I touch my family's heart
 I worry about my family's lives
 I cry about my family
 I am fit and sporty

I understand that God is real
 I say my family is the best
 I dream for a sunny day
 I try to do my best at everything
 I hope I do well in the future
 I am fit and sporty

Moli Faiva

Untamed Waters

Illusion, exhaustion
 Wind-driven waves
 Snatch a few minutes sleep
 Heedless, freezing waters
 Assiduous fate
 Dark, rocky granite, breaking waves

Flash
 Inspiration
 Malaise helm
 Remorseless wind, freak wave
 Eyes to the heavens

Change the weather
 Philosophical attitude, joking with fate
 Quarrelsome, vexatious genius
 Lands of green, blue, white
 Failure
 Death's cold talons envelope.

Takerei Komene

Should the driving age rise?

August 1st, 2011. The government of New Zealand has officially decided to lift the driving age from 15 to 16. To many, it was a step to finally solving the driving age dispute. To others, it was a complete waste of time.

In my opinion, I think it should be raised higher because more people, particularly the younger drivers, are dying due to reckless driving. The driving age is too low, and we are losing more and more of our family and friends because teenagers are being too careless on our roads.

A lot of the teenagers in New Zealand aren't good role models as they choose to try things like alcohol and drugs, and they don't realise that in today's world, things aren't as easy as they seem. Some adults are very irresponsible, and this in turn is influencing the younger teenagers, which, in turn, is costing them their lives. They must learn to be independent.

In 2008, New Zealanders aged 16+ were involved in 14.5 percent of car crashes, 37 percent of them fatal, and 37 percent resulting in serious injury.

Even though those numbers have halved by 2011, the statistics that remain have been tested, and reports show the drivers have had over 12 times more alcohol in their system than the legal adult limit.

Statistically, there are more crashes relating to 15-17 year old teens. That age group also carries the highest death rate in New Zealand. This is clear evidence! The driving age **MUST** be raised! If not, New Zealand's reputation will be put at stake, and it won't return to the safe haven it has been.

To summarise, I think the driving age should be raised because there are more reckless drivers throwing their lives away, killing others, due to their wild driving habits. These fatalities are ruining New Zealand's reputation.

Takerei Komene



Izayah Simi 8C



Atama Ratana-Wilson 8C

Bullying

WE CAN ALL RECALL EXPERIENCES involving bullying whether we were the perpetrator, the victim, or a bystander and, chances are, we're embarrassed about it. More recently, "cyber bullying" has become prevalent in the lives of teens and young adults. In order to put an end to it, we must open our eyes and look bullying right in the face.

Cyber bullying is when someone is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, or otherwise targeted by use of the internet, digital technologies, or mobile phones. This can include anything from harassment via text and instant messages to discussions on message boards or blogs and even worse. As more and more student-aged children gain access to the internet, the social aspect of school expands far beyond the buildings in which they learn.

According to anti-bullying organizations, cyber bullying doesn't exist once anyone older than eighteen is involved. Maybe that's why this topic seems to be forgotten about after high school, and even in some areas, intermediate. The fact of the matter is cyber bullying doesn't just go away; it just takes on an uglier name with more severe consequences.

People, young adults most importantly, turn to the internet to voice their opinions about anything and everything. The problem with this freedom is that most young adults abuse what the internet has to offer.

Videos uploaded to You Tube can go viral within hours, seen by millions of viewers across the world. With just a click of a mouse, words can be uploaded to a blog that can then be read by anyone with access to the internet, reblogged, and circulated to reach even larger audiences. This takes bullying to a whole new level.

Children used to tease each other on playgrounds; now they do it on websites, namely social networking services like Facebook and Bebo.

You might be thinking to yourself: we're big boys, this stuff doesn't happen anymore.

Think again.

Young people who bully have a one-in-four chance of having a criminal record by the age of 30.

So what can we do about this issue? For starters, we can begin to accept people for who and what they are. We are all different, so what gives any of us the right to harass someone else? It's easy to turn a blind eye to cyber bullying but you don't have to be a hero to save someone's day. Report any harassment you might see on Facebook, blogs, or message boards.

Also, be careful what you put on the internet. Once you post something online, it can never be completely private again. Think about what you're saying before you hit the 'enter' button because no matter how many people 'like' it, your words could be hurtful and hold severe consequences.

Shaye Toa-Maxwell



Kulima Tafea 8C

I am sporty and kind
I wonder about being a sport star
I hear girls screaming my name
I see men wanting my fame
I want a good future
I am sporty and kind.

I pretend I am a rugby player
I feel the rugby ball in my hands
I touch the field grass
I worry about losing
I cry about death
I am sporty and kind.

I understand that life isn't perfect
I say nothing is impossible
I dream of being a dad
I hope for the best in life
I am sporty and kind.

Papatika Walter

*Two poems based on the book series:
'Warriors: The New Prophecy'*

The Abrupt Death of Smokepaw

Suddenly a wail rang out
And a rock fell endlessly
Into the abyss
Sending Smokepaw the cat
Plummeting into nothingness.
He twisted violently in the air
But disappeared into the darkness.

Skyler Stokman

Cats Dislike Horses

The large group of cats
Mourning Smokepaw's death
Looked at the lake
Wondering its depth.
Then next to them
They heard a neigh
And found a horse
Pigging out on hay.
For that moment they were scared
Then the horse saw them
And reared.
They turned and ran
They ran so fast
The wind felt like a fan.

Skyler Stokman

Precious Light

Precious vanishing light
Plunging into darkness
Burst of speed
Rapidly gaining
Halt, impenetrable jungle
Trapping the beast
Hunter becomes hunted

Grins appear
Delirious with hunger
Nothing can disguise
The fear

Spurred by life
Burns out when
Poachers block exit
Jammed
Forced into
Despised river
Heavily armed
Revenge

Sam Michie

To my loving wife Sophie

Leaving you at the dock was one of the hardest times of my life. I wish I could be there right now with you and the kids. I miss you so much, and Ella and Josh. The boat trip was terrible. There was no room at all on the boat and we had to sleep on the floor.

We are now on land. Being here in this messy dump is horrible. I am sitting inside our little old tent listening to the rain while eating my dinner. Tonight I will be on night shift with some other men. My clothes are stiff and soiled with dust and blood from when I was running out of the trenches and got shot in the leg.

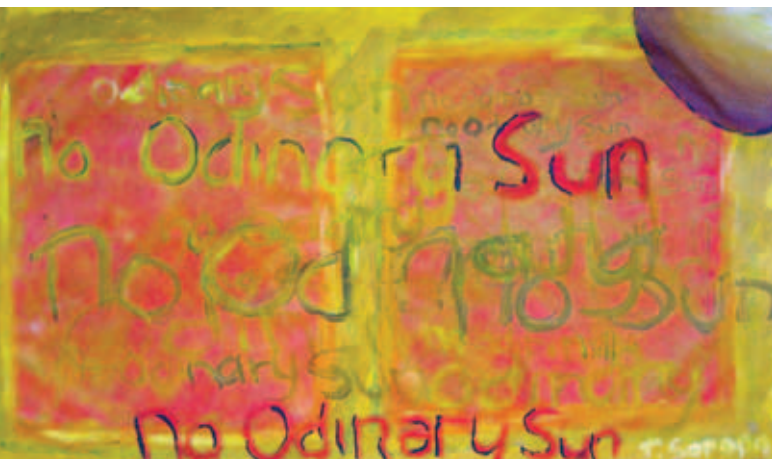
All the dead bodies are rotting, causing rats to come. It is not all bad because the rats are edible and are a hell of a lot better than stale biscuits and tinned meat. I have been in those trenches for weeks now. I am so scared because in a few days we will be switching posts and I don't know where I am going to be.

Today is Christmas day and I am missing you and the kids like mad.

Today we had a surprise. During the ceasefire one of our soldiers went out and started to kick a soccer ball around. After a while one of the enemy soldiers came out and joined in the game. Then all the people came out and we played a game of soccer. It was amazing.

I will think of you all the time while I am over here and will write to you soon with love.

Love always
Tom Kent



Takudzwa Soropa 8C