A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP…
AN INTRODUCTION

Ko Gatineau te māunga
Ko Mississippi te awa
Ko James Telford Sterling tōku tīpuna
Ko Williamson-Sterling tōku iwi
Ko Williamson tōku hapū
Nō Almonte, Canada ahau
Ko Ron rāua, ko Leslie ōku mātua
Ko Rachel Allyson Williams(on) tōku ingoa
THE CHALLENGE

Writing 2015 - 2016 tracked students

Overall e-asTTe Writing Score

Year 4 data; Year 5 data; Year 6 data; Year 7 data; Year 8 data; Year 9 data; Norm; Baseline
STEP 1. PROPOSE A SOLUTION
A DIGITAL BLOGGING PROGRAMME

TIMELINE: 2 YEARS

GOALS:
(1) To design an interesting and engaging blogging programme for students
(2) To successfully implement the programme in schools
(3) To improve the writing and reading ability of student participants

PARTICIPANTS: YEAR 4-8 MANAIAKLANI SCHOOL* STUDENTS

*Schools have adopted a digital pedagogy
STEP 2. DESIGN A PROGRAMME
THE PILOT PROGRAMME

1. Met with teachers/students + literature review

2. Designed the programme
   Hosted on Google+ site
   Responses posted on school-sponsored blog sites

   Thematic
   Flexible
   Numerous activity choices (n = 45 -60 activities)
   Variety of activity categories

   Responsive
   Daily contact with expert commenter, teachers and students

   Incentivized

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Summer/Winter Learning Journey site
Welcome to the Summer Learning Journey!

I (Rachel) am really excited to share this adventure with you and Curious Kiwi, our project mascot. Together we will travel around the world and learn about the people, customs and cultures present in various countries.

The entire journey takes approximately four weeks. Each day you are invited to choose from three different activities – two main activities and one bonus activity. Each activity is worth points. You can complete one, two or all three daily activities and then blog about them. The more you post, the more points that you earn!

You can also earn points by commenting on other student’s blogs. Any positive, thoughtful, and helpful comment that you post is worth 2 points. I will count up the points at the end of the holiday period. The three bloggers in each school with the most points will receive awards!

Are you ready to explore the world? Let’s GO!
PROGRAMME CONTENT
SAMPLE ACTIVITY – WEEK 1

Day 3 - Packing Up

It's official! You've chosen your country and bought your ticket. Now it's time to pack for the big adventure! Think about where you are going and what the weather is going to be like when you arrive next week. You can learn more about the weather by going to the World Map and clicking on the pin for your country. It will open up the 'Quick Facts' page. Scroll down the page to the 'Climate' section and read what it says.

Day 3 Activities

You can do any of the following activities. The more activities you do, the more points you get.

Activity 1: Create a list of everything that you will need to bring with you. Most airlines let you bring one big suitcase with you; you'll have to think carefully about what you want to bring. You can’t bring too much!

Once you've completed your packing list, put a star (*) beside the 5 items that you think are the most important. When you are done, upload your complete list to your blog.

Blog (Activity 1) = 4 points
SAMPLE ACTIVITY – WEEK 2

Day 5 Activity 1: Once you have read these phrases you will be ready to leave the airport and head to your hotel. Take a moment and imagine how you might feel if you were standing in an airport in a foreign country and you didn’t speak the language. Would you be scared? Would you feel confident? Write a short poem that describes how you might be feeling (i.e. excited, happy, scared, nervous, etc). Post your poem on your blog.

Blog (Activity 1) = 4 points

Day 5 Activity 2: Take a selfie that captures how you might be feeling. Post the selfie on your blog. I’ve posted an example to show you. This is me looking scared!

Blog (Activity 2) = 4 points

Day 5 Bonus Activity: Go back to the table with all of the words and phrases. Choose five of the words or phrases and translate them into i’a or into a Pasifika language of your choice (i.e. Tonga, Samoan, Niuene, etc). Post the English word/phrase and the translated word/phrase on your blog.

Bonus Blog = 10 points
SAMPLE ACTIVITY – WEEK 3

Day 12 - Powerful People

You are now fully recharged having spent the last few days watching TV and movies in your hotel room. You decide to go for a walk. As soon as you step outside you see a big bus go past. On the side of the bus is a huge picture of the leader, the president/prime minister, of the country. They are the most powerful person in the whole country. Scroll down to learn more about the prime minister and/or president for your country.

Canadian Prime Minister – Mr. Justin Pierre James Trudeau

Justin Trudeau is the current Prime Minister of Canada. He became prime minister on 4 November 2015. His dad, Pierre, was the prime minister of Canada in the 1970s. Before Justin became the prime minister he worked as a teacher.

President of Chile – Ms. (Veronica) Michelle Bachelet

The current President of the Republic of Chile is Michelle Bachelet. She was first became president in 2006 and is the first woman in the history of Chile to be the president. She speaks five languages - Spanish, English, German, Portuguese and French.
STEP 3. IMPLEMENT + EVALUATE
RESULTS – STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Students completed 119 blogs in Week 1, 84 blogs in Week 2 and 58 blogs in Week 3 for a total of 261 blog posts.

- Research team blogged back with students, replying to every single blog comment for a total of 261 comments.

- Overseas bloggers (recruited to participate) blogged with students. They produced a total of 128 blog comments.

- SLJ participants posted 43 comments on their fellow participant’s blogs.

TOTAL BLOG POSTS/COMMENTS = 693
RESULTS - IMPACT

Figure 1. EasTTle test scores for Summer Learning Journey participants and matched control (baseline) over three consecutive terms. Note: Students were matched on school, year level, gender, ethnicity and Term 4 2015 e-asTTle overall literacy scores.
STEP 4. REFLECT ON THE RESULTS
How do we increase student participation and engagement in the holiday blogging programme?
ESTABLISH ‘PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT’

1. CONCEPTUAL DESIGN – LEARN, CREATE, SHARE

2. ADVERTISING + RECRUITMENT

3. PROGRAMME CONTENT [CURRICULUM]

4. COMMENTING NETWORK

5. ACCESS

6. ACKNOWLEDGING PARTICIPATION
STEP 5. RE-DESIGN THE PROGRAMME
WINTER LEARNING JOURNEY

Theme: Olympics

Participants: Year 4-8 students from Pt England, Panmure Bridge, Glenbrae, St Pius X, Ruapotaka and Stonefields

GOALS

1. Raise programme profile across cluster
2. Double participant numbers (schools, individual students)
3. Double rate of online activity (blogging) and commenting
4. Promote literacy learning over the holiday period

STEP 6. IMPLEMENT AND EVALUATE
## RESULTS – STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winter Learning Journey</th>
<th>Summer Learning Journey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of participating schools = 6</td>
<td>Number of participating schools = 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of registered students = 257</td>
<td>No. of registered students = 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of active participants = 138</td>
<td>No. of active participants = 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of activity blog posts = 1350</td>
<td>Total no. of activity blog posts = 261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of comments (students) = 451</td>
<td>Total no. of comment (students) = 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of comments (Rachel) = 886</td>
<td>Total no. of comments (Rachel) = 261</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total activity = 2651 posts/comments</td>
<td>Total activity = 693 posts/comments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STEP 7. REFLECT AND RE-DESIGN
DESIGN AN ‘INFORMED’ PROGRAMME

General Design + Content
• Travel and Adventure theme ~ 10 countries
• Open for duration of holiday
• Four weeks of activities, three activities per day (n = 60 activities)
• Points per activity (Standard/Bonus) and per comment

Advertising and Recruitment
• Parental information sessions
• Individual site visits
• Multilingual advertisements

Commenting
• Researcher
• University students (2)
• Former programme participants (2)
• Manaiakalani school students
• International contingent*
DESIGN cont’d…

Access
• Partnered with local libraries

Acknowledgement of participation
• ‘Top 3 bloggers’ design
• Certificates, online badges
STEP 8. EVALUATE UPDATED PROGRAMME
SUMMER LEARNING JOURNEY 2.0

1. EVIDENCE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
   • Significant, sustained

2. EVIDENCE OF STUDENT ENJOYMENT
   • Personal tributes, emails

3. EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING + ACHIEVEMENT
   • Literacy learning and achievement

4. EVIDENCE OF SCALABILITY
   • TAKA – Lower Hutt Council SLJ programme
   • Wild Lab Ltd., Wellington (NZ on Air)
   • National, Regional libraries
## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

### Summer Learning Journey 2.0

- No. of participating schools = 9*  
  [3.0]
- No. of registered students = 387  
  [7.7]
- No. of active participants = 141  
  [6.1]
- Total (activity blog posts) = 2439  
  [9.3]
- Total (student comments) = 1493  
  [34.7]
- Total activity = 3932 posts/comments  
  [12.9]

### Summer Learning Journey

- No. of participating schools = 3
- No. of registered students = 50
- No. of active participants = 23
- Total (activity blog posts) = 261
- Total (student comments) = 43
- Total activity = 304 posts/comments
‘HARD-TO-REACH’ STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
Hi Rachel,
I really enjoyed and learned heaps of experiences in the summer learning journey!! I loved every activity even the ones that I found challenging!! But anyways I really want to say THANK YOU & YOUR TEAM SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING AND BUILDING A FUN/AMAZING BLOGGING PROGRAM!! My best friend *von* and I love the blogging program you guys created! You guys should be proud of yourself and also you guys is family!! I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE WINTER LEARNING JOURNEY!! I know you guys took your time and commented on every post throughout the 12 schools and I thank you for that!!

Z

P.S Say hi to your son for me and say that he should be proud of you for making a great blogging experience for kids like us!
Alex C @ Glenbrae School

I am a Year 6 student at Glenbrae School in Auckland, NZ. I am in Room 10 and my teacher is Mrs. Mespanen.

Home

World Map

Thursday, 12 January 2017

If my teacher ask me to tell the class about my trip Summer Learning Journey Week 4 Day 20

If my teacher ask me to tell the class about my trip, I would say the things that I have learnt from my travel is how the Australian people celebrate their national day. I also learnt about music and arts. I went to the zoo and I had an elephant ride. I took a picture with a python. I feed giraffes and I also learned about the great barrier reef. I made videos about my summer activities. I interviewed my brother. I learned about the big landscapes in Australia. I also made my own national holiday. I learned three interesting facts about Hillary Clinton. I watched Australian shows. I also learned about Richie McCaw and much more. I learned what Australian people eat for breakfast. Summer learning journey was a great holiday activity. I learned lots from this program especially about Australia and this program kept me entertained throughout the holidays. I wish this program carry on for a long time.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - WRITING

Figure 2. Differences in mean, standardised e-asTTle writing scores from the norm for Summer Learning Journey participants and matched control students over three consecutive terms. Note: B2016 = Term 1 2016; E2016 = Term 4 2016; B2017 = Term 1 2017
Figure 3. Differences in mean, standardised PAT reading scores from the norm for Summer Learning Journey (full programme) participants and matched control students over three consecutive terms. Note: B2016 = Term 1 2016; E2016 = Term 4 2016; B2017 = Term 1 2017
STEP 9. REFLECT (AGAIN)…
How do we promote sustained engagement in the holiday blogging programme?
STEP 10. RE-DESIGN, RE-LAUNCH and RE-EVALUATE
WINTER LEARNING JOURNEY 2.0

Theme: A Kiwi Road Trip

Participants: All 10* English medium primary/intermediate schools in MK

GOALS

(1) Promote literacy learning over the holiday period

(2) Raise programme profile across cluster

(3) Maintain school involvement

(4) Increase student participants by 25% [over previous WLJ/SLJ]

(5) Increase rate of blogging + commenting by 25% [over previous WLJ]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Winter Learning Journey 2.0</th>
<th>Summer Learning Journey 2.0</th>
<th>Winter Learning Journey (Pilot)</th>
<th>Summer Learning Journey (Pilot)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length of programme</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of participating schools</td>
<td>10*</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of registered students</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of active participants</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of blog posts</td>
<td>2438</td>
<td>2432</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of comments</td>
<td>2739</td>
<td>1493</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Activity</td>
<td>5177 posts</td>
<td>3925 posts</td>
<td>1801 posts</td>
<td>304 posts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is possible?

Does this programme, or one like it, have the potential to boost the achievement of students attending:

a) Schools without a strong digital focus?
   b) Secondary schools/Colleges?
   c) Rural schools?
   d) Your students?

Why? Why not?
What is possible?

If you were asked to design a digital blogging programme for your students, what theme would you choose?

What kind of activities would your students would most enjoy? (E.g. creative writing, poetry, etc)
Anything is possible…

We will continue to do what we can to help our students realise their full potential through improved access to, and participation in, literacy learning opportunities over the holiday.

We will get there…

One step at a time.
QUESTIONS?

Dr Rachel Williams

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Email: rachel.williams@auckland.ac.nz

Phone: 09 623 8899 ext. 46437
EXEMPLARS
Monday, 16 January 2017

SLJ 2017 W2:D8

Activity 1:
In the holidays I love to hang out with my cousins. We usually play hide and seek around the entire house. It's actually quite fun.

Activity 2: Summer Activities
I interviewed my mum and here are her answers.
1. Get out of Auckland
2. Go to the beach
3. Spend time with family
4. Eat food and relax
5. Catch up with friends

3 comments:
COMMENTS EXEMPLAR

Anna 15 January 2017 at 10:14
Hi Rachel,

I don't mind if Anniel comments to me because I really want to know more about her, So, I am sorry I never commented that much. It is because I was watching my little sister Guccsna play touch.

All the best for this week!
Bye!
From Anna

Rachel Williamson 16 January 2017 at 10:55
Hi Anna,

Thanks for being so open minded and for allowing Anniel to comment on your posts. I will defaulted there is no need to write to you directly and I am sure that he will send a message on your blog soon.

How do your sister's touch rugby go? Did they win?

Cheers,
Rachel
Denise

Anna 16 January 2017 at 14:34
Well my sister touch game was so bad but they lost every game. Also can't wait for Anniel to comment on my blog post.

Thanks Rachel
From Anna

Rachel Williamson 17 January 2017 at 09:55
Hi Anna, my name is Anna. I am 6 years old and live in cricket. My mom just bought me a cricket bat to play with. One day I want to be a good cricket player like you. Can you hit the ball pretty far?

Bye for now, Anna
Delete

Reply

Mark Bertow 11 January 2017 at 13:00
Hi Anna:

Thanks for the amazing blog picture. I had no idea you played cricket. When I was your age I just watched the cricket live, which is a Korean Martial Art. It was pretty good and I used to learn and spar with some of the old New Zealand Olympians.

I also like cricket, but mostly because I was going to the gym in Washington and hanging out with my friends there on a hot sunny day. Followed by a dip in the harbour, I think cricket might be fun to play, but a bit hard to watch in the cold weather.