What's Happening in New Zealand Schools?

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Some Context

- About 4.3 million in entire country
- Primary Schools (years 1-6 or 1-8), Intermediate Schools (years 7-8), High Schools (years 8-13)
- Focus on Literacy, Maths
- Diversity (Maori, Pacific Islanders, etc.)
May Experience 2015
Key Takeaways from Visit

- Teachers/ Teaching
- Students
- The Environment
- Literacy
- Multicultural Education
- Technology
Teachers
Curriculum

- More flexible for teachers

- Room to integrate culture into all lessons

- Space to work dynamically with technology
Students
Kiwi Students

- Students begin school on their 5th birthday
- "Student-Centered" learning
- Classrooms with mixed age groups
Kiwi Students

- Engaged learning
- Learn at their own pace
- Differentiated Instruction
Special Education

- Designed around inclusion
- Students’ needs are equally valued
Reality?

♦ Parent from continuing education facility
♦ Many students end up in private schools, especially more severe disability types
Spectacular Scenery
Tourism!
Nature Enriched Learning Environments
Literacy
Classroom Layouts that Foster Literacy
Themes that Foster Literacy
Examples of Work
My Personal Experience

GLOBAL PEN PALS
Multiculturalism
Maori Culture

• Maori is the dominant minority culture in New Zealand
• New Zealand’s Ministry of Education promotes Maori language
• Powhiri Welcoming Ceremony
Other prominent cultures in NZ

• Pacifica (Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, etc.)
• Asian
• These home languages are fostered at school in a supportive, Multilingual environment
• English is taught alongside native language to increase students’ vocabulary skills
Pūrongo

Rūkapuka

Te ahua o te wahi
Te Kaikiripuaki Matua

Te Kaupapa

Kōrero whakakapi / Kōrero whakatika.

Te wahanga o te pūkapuka

KIA TAU TE RANGIMARIE

Panui

BELONGING-

Mā te tuakana te teina e tōtika.
Mā te teina tuakana e tōtika
Both tuakana and teina have valuable knowledge to share

BRILLIANT-

Mēnā, ka whakapono koe, ka tūtuki koe.
If you can believe it, you can achieve it!
Technology

- Technology is frequently used in New Zealand schools
- Laptops, iPads, QR codes, green screens, and even a 3D printer
- We saw that the use of technology fostered student centered learning
Technology Tools

- BYOD - Bring your own device
- School funding
(Left) Year 4 students writing letters to their principal

(Above) 3D printer in the library

(Left) QR codes connected to student speeches
Students skyped with students from other countries

Schools put emphasis on how to use technology because they are 21st century learners
The same school that had the 3D printer had a green screen for students to create landscapes.
Morning Tea
Our Favorite Pastime
A Break from the school day
30-45 minute in the morning
The teachers and staff gather together for tea and coffee
Yummy treats (biscuits, fruit, cupcakes, pizza bites, etc.)
Children eat snacks (some schools provided)
What Happens During Morning Tea

- Outside or Inside
- Minimal supervision, lots of responsibility
- Conversations with Teachers:
  - Classroom Set Up
  - Personal views on the education system
- Meeting individual student needs