



Digital learning journeys

Can your students do a remix or a mash-up? Three upcoming NZTA competitions aim to get secondary students creating some new road safety resources for teens using the latest digital technology. Great prizes are up for grabs.



Road safety going digital

'Safer Journeys for Teens' is the theme for the NZTA's three competitions aimed at encouraging schools with year 9-13 students to create resources about road safety in an advanced digital way.

The competitions are for:

- Auckland year 9-13 schools
- rural New Zealand year 9-13 schools
- all other year 9-13 schools in New Zealand.

Enter any of the following categories:

- Creative remix (video/music/animation)
- Data mash-up (info graphic)
- Literary remix or mash-up based on Shakespeare

Prizes up for grabs include:

- \$10,000 vouchers (of your choice) for the school
- \$2000 to support a teacher and students to present their school's entry at the ICOT International Conference on Thinking
- 5 x \$500 vouchers for members of the winning team.

visit education.nzta.govt.nz for more details.

Entries will be accepted for judging from 1 September until 31 October 2012. Start now!

FIRST WALK A WINNER

The story of a five-year-old Samoan boy's very first walk to school has won the 2011 Feet First story book competition.

Sione's First Walk to School was written in both English and gagana Samoa by a group of students at Fruitvale School, New Lynn, Auckland. The students, aged 9-11 years, had a workshop with children's book editor and writer Don Long and illustrator Nikki Slade Robinson.

The book will be printed and sent to all year 1-8 schools in April.

Other finalists included:

- *Can You Always Lick a Lollipop?* from Korauui School
- *DJ's Disco Day* from Otumoetai Primary School
- *The Amazing Race* from Nelson Central School
- *The Day the Aliens Came to School* from Verran Primary School
- *The Mix Up* from Leeston Consolidated School.



HELP:
nzta_remix@nzta.govt.nz



Authentic context for vehicle safety

Two new secondary English resources will be available later this year aimed at helping students change their road safety behaviour for the better.

The units, one aimed at year 9–10 and the other at NCEA Level 2, have been developed by e-learning consultant and former Head of English Karen Melhuish.

She says the resources aim to help students change their road safety behaviour, particularly vehicle safety, in a way that appeals to their sense of community and belonging, as opposed to using shock tactics or scaremongering.

‘The approach is constructive, positive and focused on the fact that when we take an action or make a decision it will have repercussions, possibly unforeseen, on our friends, family and people that we don’t know.’

The year 9–10 resource is called ‘We Travel Together’ and has a learning focus on how language is used to persuade people.

‘Essentially the unit asks students to consider the vehicle journeys they make themselves and compare those to other teenagers’ stories. They then produce a text – perhaps a letter, blog post or video – to persuade peers or family to make some kind of change in their behaviour,’ says Karen.

Head of English at Tawa College in Wellington Nigel Mitchell trialled the unit with his year 10 class last year and says it gave an authentic context to writing, thinking and presentation. One of his students, Ashley, says she learned that everyone is responsible for keeping each other safe on the road and that crashes can happen to anyone.

‘The Party in the Car’ unit is focused on Achievement Standard 2.10 of NCEA Level 2, which asks students to unpack how a visual or oral text works.

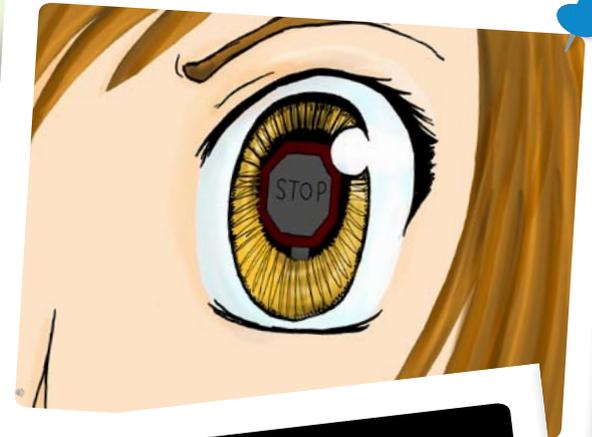
Students select a road safety advertisement, analyse the message within it and bring in what they know about road safety through their own behaviour and that of friends and family.

Head of English at Hutt International Boys’ School Jane Dewar trialled the unit with a year 12 class last year. She says it went down well with her students, providing them with an authentic context.



“ We thoroughly enjoyed doing it and that’s got to make it a winner. ”

Jane Dewar
Head of English
Hutt International Boys School



If you're gonna sleep,
Don't do it in the driver's seat.

Students at Tawa College created a PowerPoint presentation about the dangers of driving while tired.

Look out, zebra crossing

DRIVERS IN THE TASMAN AND NELSON DISTRICTS COULD HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN FOR THINKING A HERD OF ZEBRAS HAD ESCAPED FROM THE ZOO AFTER A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN TO REMIND THEM TO LOOK OUT FOR CHILDREN ON THE ROAD.

The *Black and White* campaign featured two costumed zebras, cut-out zebra figures and balloon zebras joining students crossing the road at zebra crossings at the start of the new school term.

Radio advertising supported the campaign with the theme 'It really is as simple as black and white – speed kills – reduce your speed around schools.'

Road Safety Coordinator for the Tasman District Council Krista Hobday says the campaign was a reminder to drivers to help keep journeys safe for all school children.

Children and their families were also reminded of the importance of using zebra crossings and how to use them safely.

Schools, students and teachers were encouraged to have a black and white theme on the day the zebras visited the schools, from black and white hair to black and white socks. The students running the school crossings were given t-shirts with the slogan 'look out – zebra crossing!'

'The schools thought it was a great way to highlight the crossings to drivers, and families and students thought it was a fun way to start or finish the school day,' says Krista. 'There was also a good response from drivers, with many waving to the children as they crossed the road and a few even beeped their horns!'



Zebras join children from Waverley Street Kindergarten in Richmond to remind drivers to look out for children on the road and keep their speed down around schools and kindergartens.

School travel planning culture

School travel planning has been handed over to individual school boards of trustees in Christchurch in a move designed to embed the process in the culture of the school.

After evaluating its school travel plan programme last year, Christchurch City Council decided to give oversight of both the development and implementation phases to individual boards of trustees.

'Council staff still provide assistance to schools but don't exercise control over the process, as was a tendency in the past,' says Road Safety Coordinator Joy Kingsbury-Aitken.

'We found that effective school travel planning needed to be embedded into the culture of the school, with a high level of teacher support. Parents told us they have limited opportunities to influence the travel behaviour of one another, whereas the teachers of their children can inspire their pupils to discover the benefits of safe, sustainable travel.'

The council encourages schools to use the curriculum-linked resources available from the NZTA:

www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/school-travel-plan-coordinators-guide/
www.feetfirst.govt.nz/curriculum/student-inquiry



There to help

Road safety issues were one of a myriad of problems that schools in Christchurch had to deal with in the aftermath of the February earthquake last year.

There to lend a helping hand were police education officers such as Senior Constable Debbie Wilson, who found herself being a 'jack-of-all-trades'.

With her usual road safety education programmes deferred, it wasn't unusual to find Debbie serving sausages at lunchtime 'Blue Light Bangers' events, running urgent training sessions for new school road patrols and dealing with collapsed zebra crossings.

When schools reopened after the earthquake there were many serious road safety issues that schools called on Debbie to assist with.

'I had one school contact me about a sink hole that had collapsed in the middle of their pedestrian crossing. We got on board to help make it safe and contacted the right people to get it filled.'

Liquefaction swallowed road markings, making it difficult for children operating road patrols, and in many cases students who had trained as road patrols had left the area, leaving a gap for schools to fill.

With many businesses forced to leave the central business district and move out to the suburbs there was also a large increase in traffic volumes around schools.

'We had lots of complaints from schools about the volume and speed of traffic which they hadn't had to deal with before,' says Debbie.

Helping to reassure shaken and often stressed school children has also been part of her job. Police



Need road safety expertise in your school?
Talk to the Police.

education officers went into schools at lunchtime to help with sausage sizzles, play games and hand out stickers.

Debbie is looking forward to resuming her regular road safety education programmes this year.

'We hope to put it all behind us and move forward this year. Schools had to do some extraordinary things so I'm sure they're looking forward to it as well.'

NEED HELP?

To see how Police Education Officers can assist you, contact your local police station or visit the website:

www.police.govt.nz/service/yes



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