

St Josephs - Waihi

St Josephs in Waihi is a small primary school and the Young Vinnies is held as part of their class time with 26 students eagerly taking part. The group decided that they wanted to put on an afternoon of entertainment for the elderly that live at Hetherington House. The term was spent learning about the challenges we face as our bodies get older alongside practice sessions to perfect their performances.

Performances included a dance to Boom Boom from the girls, acoustic guitar and solo performances by the boys with other groups using cups and pencil beating to make music. The highlights were all the songs sung by the group choir which were overwhelmingly sweet and melodious. After an hour's entertainment the Young Vinnies stayed to share home baked cake and a cup of tea. The children had a chance to meet and talk to the residents.

It was a very empowering and moving afternoon for all that were involved. All the hard work the Young Vinnies put into practicing their individual acts

St Thomas More Primary School

St Thomas More Primary School is our smallest group of Young Vinnies. This project is run by three very dedicated students, Ellen, Sophia and Melissa whom involve their whole school. The first project they decided to support was to raise money for CARITAS.

This years support goes to support one of the Island of Papua New Guinea and the community. The local people earn their moneys through growing and selling cocoa beans.

The Young Vinnies decided it would be apt to sell chocolate mousse and chocolate fudge slice at a lunch time to the hungry pupils, who could not resist the sight and smell. To ensure that the school could raise more money they encouraged the house leaders to get involved to help create a coin trail. In the weeks before the fundraising day we brought in the house leaders to take charge of collecting coins to create the longest trail in the playground.

The Young Vinnies designed posters, encouraged house leaders, discussed ideas on how to run the fundraising day, helped make cakes and ran a stall. This was a very successful day and I am very proud of our young

Aquinas College Seniors

There are 9 dedicated Senior Vinnies aged between 15-18yrs that volunteer their time every Thursday lunchtime at Aquinas College. We get together to discuss topical welfare issues and the impact these can have on the people in our own community.

The first project the Senior Vinnies wanted to concentrate on was spending time with the elderly. Over the next few weeks we discussed the changes that have been seen over the last century. Comparing how it was in their day and how it is now for young people. We looked at the changes of fashions, fads and the explosion of inventions over the ages. We looked at the changing body and mind and some of the effects old age has on people.

The Senior Vinnies decided they wanted to visit two retirement villages The Oaks and Greerton Retirement Villages for a knowledge sharing afternoon.

The Senior Vinnies designed a range of questions that they wanted to ask the elderly residents. These questions ranged from what had been invented in their life time, who inspired them, to describing an important event that happened in their time. We asked the residents to share any other knowledge and words of wisdom that they thought would be valuable to be

Aquinas College Juniors

The Junior Young Vinnies meet every Tuesday lunchtime at Aquinas College and range from 12-14years. This group is forever expanding, with news of the fun we have and the great causes the Young Vinnies get involved in. New faces are joining every other week and the group has swelled to 18 members.

The first project this group got involved in was to give back to the SPCA volunteers who help care, clean and feed for the animals that are in need. Initially we spent several sessions learning about the SPCA and animal welfare. The core of the project was to raise funds to buy gifts and organise a school collection scheme for donations of cat and dog food tins.

We had a very successful lunchtime running a Sausage Sizzle, with drinks and zombie chews. We sold out of everything within 30 minutes and learnt not to underestimate the support of others. On the day we were joined by an SPCA volunteer and dog. This brought in the crowds, lots of pats and doggy cuddles were available.

With the money we raised the group bought some small gifts, then spent a lunchtime making biscuits and designing thank you cards. After decorating gift boxes in May the Young Vinnies presented 18 boxes of



St Mary's School

The St Mary's Primary School invites students from all the senior classes to join the Young Vinnies in their spare time. We have a bubbly group of 20 students aged between 9–12years who give up half their class time and half their lunch time to help those in need.

This groups first project in term 2 was to create a food bank appeal for the St Vincent de Paul support centre. After the Young Vinnies learnt about poverty, being poor and the reasons why so many people in our community need a helping hand up, they came up with a brilliant idea.

The Young Vinnies decided that they wanted to host a range of fairground games to give back to those that gave food to the food bank. After spending a few weeks designing and making games we gave out game tickets in exchange for food items.

The campaign was an awe–inspiring success that beat every ones expectations. Our shelves were empty now they are over flowing. The Young Vinnies also sold slushies and



St Josephs - Matamata

St Josephs is our smallest primary school were the youth coordinator has the privilege to work with 8 Young Vinnies in Matamata on a Wednesday afternoon during class time. This group wanted to give back to the St Vincent De Paul Society who supports the Young Vinnies. The first task that was completed within three weeks was to help the Cameron Road Op Shop in Tauranga sort through, clean and test 15 boxes full of donated toys before they went out for sale.

The second task involved labelling blank tins that have been donated to be given out at the St Vincent de Paul support centre. Alongside these projects the Young

St Vincent de Paul Society YOUNG VINNIES WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY



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