

# **Principal's Sabbatical Study**

## **Proposal**

Investigate and research the recent Kiwisport Funding Initiative introduced into primary schools in 2009 and to investigate and analyse how this funding is being used to encourage and enhance primary school children to be more involved in sporting activities in and out of school.

Rob Soar  
Principal  
Whangarei Primary School

July, 2011

# Introduction

## About Kiwisport

Kiwisport is a government funding initiative to promote sport for school aged children. It was launched by the Prime Minister in August 2009.

Kiwisport provides funding to schools for Year 1 – 8 students and Year 9 – 13 students through the Ministry of Education and SPARC, (Sport and Recreation New Zealand ), who funds regional sports trusts.

It aims to:

- \* increase the number of school-aged children participating in organized sport.
- \* increase the availability and accessibility of sport opportunities for all school-aged children.
- \* support children to develop skills that enable them to participate confidently in sport.

Common priority areas being identified through community consultation are:

- Movement and basic sport skill development.
- Coach and volunteer development.
- Local competitions and events (addressing transport and access issues)
- Addressing drop off at transition stages (between primary-intermediate and intermediate-secondary).
- Enhancing school-club links.
- Modified sport and games.
- Sport for non-participating youth.
- Student coaching and leadership programmes.

The Kiwisport Funding comes in 2 forms:

**The Direct Fund** goes to schools to use on initiatives that lead to more children and young people participating regularly in organized sport.

This funding of \$13 per primary student and \$21 per secondary student is paid to schools through their annual funding allocation and paid quarterly.

**The Regional Partnership Fund, (RPF)** will be allocated to Regional Sports Trusts by SPARC and administered by the RSTs for use in their communities. This allocation is also based on the number of students in each RSTs region.

RSTs are expected to use this fund to encourage new partnerships involving schools, clubs, local and community groups that will get more young people involved in organized sport.

## **Sport / Kiwisport at Whangarei Primary School**

Sport at Whangarei Primary School has always been an important part of the wider curriculum and part of the culture and tone of the school. A sport block is scheduled on the timetable for each syndicate – (Juniors, Middles & Seniors) each week and this involves teachers and pupils participating in a wide range of modified games, activities and sports. Syndicates and classes also have timetabled fitness and physical education periods to develop fitness and skills which allow children to participate in their sport.

During lunchtimes we have teachers rostered on to sports duty and these teachers are out in the playground taking organized sporting activities for children who are interested as well as encouraging and supporting those on the fringes who may be a little less confident and reluctant to join in. Interclass sports competitions in modified, Kiwisport type games like ripper rugby, soccer, hockey, netball, miniball, tapuwae, T-ball is also an organized part of these lunchtime activities.

Groups of children also organize themselves into minor games with a ball on the field or court during lunchtimes and intervals. It is amazing to see 3 or 4 different games being played by 3 or 4 different small groups on one field at one time with their own agreed boundaries and rules. Equipment, mainly a wide selection of balls being readily available, is key to creating these opportunities.

Our school is also a member of the WPSSA – (Whangarei Primary Schools Sports Association) which organizes interschool sporting events and tournaments throughout the year. Events include swimming, summer and winter sports tournaments, cross country and athletics. Our school enters and encourages all eligible pupils to participate in these events.

In recent years an interschool sports challenge has been organized between Whangarei Primary and St Francis Xavier Schools and this involves swimming in March and winter sports in August. A challenge shield has recently been put in place for this challenge where there is competition for places in the teams to represent the school.

We also organize school teams to participate in local Saturday and afterschool sporting competitions. Teachers, with support from interested parents organize school teams in hockey, netball, miniball and T-ball. These teams are coached and managed by teachers and/or parents, train after school or during lunchtimes and wear the Whangarei Primary School sports uniform with pride. Results from games played by these teams, along with a player of the day, are published weekly in the school newsletter. Other sports like rugby, soccer, cricket etc are not organized in school teams but children interested are encouraged to join local clubs.

We have also invited, organized and welcomed sports codes to work in our school coaching children/classes at all levels in the basics and skills of their sport. Over recent years we have had coaches from hockey, cricket, baseball, golf, rugby and swimming working with children and classes at all levels of the school. This has led to increased interest, confidence and skill level of all children resulting in larger numbers of children wishing to play the sport. ( e.g. Hockey, 2010 - 6 teams, 2011 - 10 teams). These activities also led to children becoming involved in afterschool competitions and activities in that sport.

In February 2011 we welcomed instructors in the Swim for Life Programme through Sport Northland. This programme had trained instructors working with classes daily over 2 weeks while teachers observed and gained new ideas, skills and activities for swimming instruction. This programme will continue to offer support in the next 2 years. We have also been invited to work with instructors from Sport Northland in Term 2, 2012 working with basic movement skills for junior classes and basic sports skills for senior classes.

Ripper rugby has become the most popular sport in our school over recent years. About 5 years ago we were able to employ a ripper rugby coach based at our school throughout the winter season and working with every class during each week to develop ball skills and game skills at their level. Our teacher in charge of sport, Mr Hensen, and other teachers have continued with this coaching and interest so that it is a game in our school enjoyed by boys and girls of the Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 levels. Regular interclass competitions are played and a large number of teams are entered into local ripper rugby tournaments organized by the Northland Rugby Union.



## Kiwisport

With the introduction of Kiwisport Direct Funding we have, in the last 2 years, (2010, 2011) employed Ben Farr, a professional gymnastics coach to work in our school. This funding has allowed us to offer a series of 4 or 5, 45 minute lessons to every child in the school during the winter terms.

Through evaluation questionnaires following the gymnastics sessions, both teachers and pupils indicated that the gymnastics had been enjoyable, valuable and successful.

Some comments from teachers were:

- made the children think outside the square and try new things.
- attitudes and behaviours were always positive.
- success gained by keeping trying has carried over to other things.
- children try new things – learn perseverance, gain confidence and feel great about themselves.
- coach well organized and had good discipline.
- children were more focused and settled after gymnastics
- provided opportunities for children to who may not have been noticed before to “shine”.
- helped to motivate and challenge children.
- children loved it before / during / after the activities.
- all really keen to get out and give it a go.



Children were asked “What benefits have you gained from doing gymnastics?”

Their responses were:-

gained confidence, more flexible, keep fit, better upper body strength, listen to learn, opportunity to use new equipment, improved eye-hand co-ordination, concentrate / focus, good posture and balance, having a go / doing your best, doing handstands, cartwheels, forward rolls, bridges, etc.

Children were also asked during the survey –

“What do you think are the main benefits of being involved in sport?”

Their responses were:-

being on time, meeting new friends, having responsibilities, winning / getting trophies, getting better, having fun, learning good sportsmanship, gets you out / off the couch and active, uses energy, working in groups, using your brain and body, learn new skills, getting fresh air.

Children were also asked –

“How many children enjoy being involved in sport –

- a) – at intervals / lunchtimes at school - 55% said yes
- b) – during class / school sport, fitness, phys ed times at school - 94% “
- c) – during weekends, after school, evenings, holidays - 92% “

The final question asked in the children’s survey was –

“Do you think doing sport, Kiwisport, gymnastics, ripper rugby, etc helps you have a better attitude, get on with others and work harder at school?

- 88% indicated they thought it did.

Our Kiwisport Direct Funding is also used to assist our children participate in interschool sports tournaments with entry fees and some transport costs.

I believe that in our school the Kiwisport Direct Funding has certainly given children more opportunity to participate in different sports and from the indications given by teachers and children also helps our children have a better attitude, get on with others and work harder at school.



## **Kiwisport Direct Funding in other Whangarei Primary Schools.**

From a questionnaire returned from 11 other Whangarei Primary Schools the following data has been collated.

Kiwisport Funded programmes run: -

Gymnastics – 3, Swimming - 3, Athletics, Squash, Golf, Ripper Rugby, Sailing, Badminton, Hockey, Netball, Soccer, Dance, Ki O Rahi, Surf to School, Beach Education, Tennis, Cricket, League Tag, Kiwi Kick.

Feedback also indicated that management staff, teaching staff and pupils have all viewed the Kiwisport Funding concept in a very positive way for the following reasons:-

- frees up other budgeted money.
- expert outside coaches viewed very favourably by teachers.
- pupils respect and value outside coaches.
- sport is an expected part of school and expectation of community.
- exposure to different sports codes.
- learnt new skills.
- develops school culture.
- enjoyed trying new things.
- beneficial to target an area of need.
- kids love having outside experts take them for lessons.
- pupil participation high and enthusiastic.
- teachers see sessions as learning opportunities and have developed skills and confidence to continue to use these on their own.
- pupils continue interest and skills learnt into interval / lunchtime activities for some time after event.
- supports skills of the PE programme very well.
- taught physical skills as well as team building and co-operation.

Schools in the area are all very positive about Kiwisport Funding and exploring the opportunities that are available to extend children's opportunities to experience a wide variety of new sports. Possibly a forum or opportunity to share what is available and what other schools are doing would be a valuable exercise.

## **Regional Partnership Fund**

The Regional Partnership Fund, (RPF ), which is allocated to Regional Sports Trusts, ( RSTs ) by SPARC and administered by the RSTs for use in their communities is still being explored and developed by primary schools.

Our RST – Sport Northland has held some meetings and consulted with the community to discuss and develop new partnerships involving schools, clubs, local and community groups that will get more young people involved in organized sport.

In data provided by Sport Northland the proposal appears to be to allocate funding in the following general areas:

1. Regional Sports Groups.  
eg. WPSSA, Far North District Council  
Kaipara District Council  
- Sport organization  
Travel Support Fund
2. Secondary Schools  
- Sport Co-ordinators  
Supplementary Funding
3. Sports Codes, Clubs, Groups  
Eg. Cricket, Hockey, Rugby, League,  
Gymnastics, Surfing, Cycling,  
Swimming, Golf, Touch, Bowls,  
Squash, Netball, Tennis, Badminton,  
AFL Kiwikick, Athletics.  
- Coaching and organizing  
sports programmes.
4. Primary School Clusters  
\* Groups / Clusters of primary schools  
pooling Direct Funding resource and applying  
for Regional Partnership Funding to deliver a  
variety of new sports to the children in their  
schools.  
- Sport cluster delivery

The Regional Partnership Fund is an area where primary schools need to investigate further, with support from the RSTs, to develop clusters, partnerships and plans to utilize this scheme fully in the future.



## **Conclusion.**

From the time spent investigating and researching the Kiwisport Funding Initiative, I believe it is still in its infancy and that everybody involved with administration of funds, programmes and partnerships is still exploring and learning how it can best be used. There are some organizations that have set up good models which can be used and further developed in the future.

The feedback from schools, principals, teachers and pupils has all been very positive and I believe the benefits to all primary school children is an opportunity to experience and be involved in a wider range of sporting activities in and out of school.

## **Attachments**

Whangarei Primary School, Kiwisport – Gymnastics Questionnaire  
Kiwisport Pupil Survey  
Kiwisport Questionnaire

## **Acknowledgements.**

SPARC Website – Kiwisport  
Staff & Pupils of Whangarei Primary School  
Principals & Sports Teachers of local Whangarei Primary Schools  
Grant Harrison, Sport Northland  
Matiu Barton, WPS, technical support

I also acknowledge and thank the board of trustees of Whangarei Primary School and the Ministry of Education for this opportunity of sabbatical leave and to undertake this piece of research.

**Whangarei Primary School**  
**Kiwisport – Gymnastics Questionnaire**

Room \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers please respond to the questions from a discussion with your class rather than all children doing a questionnaire.

1. How many children from your class enjoyed the gymnastics lessons?  
\_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many children would like to do gymnastics again next year?  
\_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_
3. What were the best 3 things the children liked about the gymnastics lessons?

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4. How many children think they got better at gymnastics over the 3 lessons?  
\_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many children thought Mr Farr was a good Gymnastics teacher?  
\_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

Why was he a good gymnastics teacher?

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6. How many children would be interested in joining a gymnastics club as an after school activity?  
\_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

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7. If we had other chances to get a coach in to do a similar thing to the gymnastics what other activities would children like to do?

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8. How many children felt that they were able to concentrate and focus on their work back in class better after doing a session of gymnastics?  
\_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

9. How many children felt they behaved better back in class after they had had a session of gymnastics?  
\_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Teachers, what are your thoughts about the gymnastics related to the work attitude and behaviour of your children?

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11. Teachers, what are your thoughts about future Kiwisport activities in our school?

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# Kiwisport – Pupil Survey

Room \_\_\_\_\_ Year Level \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children \_\_\_\_\_

1. How many children enjoy being involved in sport:-

- A) at intervals/ lunchtimes at school \_\_\_\_\_
- B) during school sport, phys ed, fitness times. \_\_\_\_\_
- C) during weekends, after school, evenings, holidays. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What sports do you enjoy playing or doing?

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3. How many children play these sports for a club or team on Saturdays or after school?

Netball \_\_\_\_\_, Rugby \_\_\_\_\_, Soccer \_\_\_\_\_, Hockey \_\_\_\_\_, Miniball \_\_\_\_\_,  
Table Tennis \_\_\_\_\_, Badminton \_\_\_\_\_, Gymnastics \_\_\_\_\_, Dance \_\_\_\_\_  
Swimming \_\_\_\_\_, Athletics \_\_\_\_\_,  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many children are involved in a sports team for the first time this year?

5. What do you think are the main benefits of being involved in sport? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Recently you have had lessons in gymnastics in Kiwisport.

How many children enjoyed the gymnastics sessions? \_\_\_\_\_

What benefits have you gained from doing gymnastics?

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7. Do you think doing sport, Kiwisport, gymnastics, ripper rugby, etc helps you have a better attitude, get on with others and work harder at school?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ / No \_\_\_\_\_

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# KIWISPORT QUESTIONNAIRE

School \_\_\_\_\_ Sports Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

My study topic for a sabbatical in Term 2, 2011 is around the new Kiwisport initiative. I would appreciate it if you could give me some feedback on Kiwisport in your school. Anything you can tell me is valuable. Either leave your response with me today or fax to Rob Soar at Whangarei Primary School 438 3175 (Fax).

1. Are you aware of the funding amount for Kiwisport for your school for 2010 YES/NO Amount  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. What Kiwisport Programmes have you run in your school this year?

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3. How are other ways your school has used their Kiwisport funding?

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4. How have staff/management felt about fitting Kiwisport activities into the school programme?

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5. How have teaching staff generally viewed any Kiwisport programmes run in your school? Why?

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6. How have children felt about their involvement in Kiwisport and what has been the benefits to them?

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Thank you for your help.

**Rob Soar**