

**Sabbatical Study –  
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**Purpose:**

1. The purpose of my Sabbatical Leave Application is to support my professional learning in the areas of:
  - a. How can student achievement be improved through e-learning, in Rural, Remote and Isolated Schools.
  - b. To investigate what is available for our students in primary schools for reading, writing, mathematics, Maori te reo and any Pacific Island languages through e-Learning. This could be through DVD, Internet, CD ROM, WEB based language learning, and any other on-line tutorials.
  - c. To share with my fellow colleagues, in particular, of remote and isolated schools.
2. The implementation of the New Zealand Curriculum provides opportunities for schools to make positive changes in teaching practice. Sole charge and remote schools with common area, such as size and location, have specific issues of encouraging their staff and students to explore other ways of interacting with students of the same age from other schools.
3. Remote schools have the opportunities to provide their students of personalised learning programmes. They also have the opportunities of access one computer per students, as is the case in my current school. Therefore, to provide other opportunities to help students improve their achievement through successful programmes through ICT. A key task for a teaching Principal is to develop programmes and document them into a unique, visionary plan for the students to excel.
4. To attend ICT Conference for educators.
5. To improve my personal skills using ICT, Video conferencing so I can pass them onto students.
6. My Board is supportive of this process and recognises that as a Teaching Principal it is simply not possible to carry out the investigations outlined in this application.

**Professional Learning**

**Programme Outline**

1. To contact other remote, isolated schools to see if they are using any e-Learning opportunities.
2. To contact other primary schools to see they if they are using any e-Learning programmes.
3. To work with ICT experts involved with education, such as any ICT contracts in the South Island first then the North Island.

**Questions I want answers for.**

1. What advantages, disadvantages does e-Learning provide for the rural and remote student, and those of Maori and Pacific Island backgrounds?
2. What would be the typical elements of e-Learning material?
3. What resources are available on-line for isolated rural students to use to improve their reading, writing, and numeracy skills?

4. What resources are available for e-Learning for Maori and Pacific Island students in isolated rural areas?
5. What interactive ways are available for students to be in touch with other students the same age in other parts of remote and isolated New Zealand Schools (and the world) but would still keep them safe?

### **Time Commitments**

<b>Time Commitment</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>
10 hours per week	Contact Remote and Isolated Schools regarding what they are doing for their students in the e-Learning area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in constructive dialogue</li> <li>• To use the Internet to look at their programmes other schools are using effectively.</li> </ul>
6 hours travel ( 3 trips)to Hari Hari	To connect up with schools with video conferencing abilities to discuss questions from my proposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have face to face conversations with other colleagues regarding e-Learning</li> </ul>
6 hours travel and 10 hours to Greymouth – 2 trips	Work with Eric Martini, ICT West Coast, to improve my ICT skills when looking at e-Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To become skilful in working my way around the websites and programmes for e-Learning.</li> </ul>
2 days Conference, 2 days travel	Attendance at an ICT Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at workshops and speaker presentations will improve my understandings of e-Learning and how it can help students in isolated and rural schools.</li> </ul>
10 days to investigate e-Learning opportunities	To use the Internet to work through e-Learning opportunities for Maori and Pacific Island students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find suitable programmes for students to use to improve their language learning – Maori and Pacific Island.</li> </ul>
10 days to investigate e-Learning opportunities	To use the Internet to work through e-Learning opportunities for all students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find suitable programmes for students to use to improve their student achievement in reading, writing and maths.</li> </ul>
10 days to write and collate findings	To write about findings and collate for schools involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have findings collated in digital format on my findings for e-Learning for remote and isolated schools.</li> </ul>

### **Benefits**

The outcomes of this sabbatical will show benefits in a variety of areas.

### **Issues Important to the School**

1. The knowledge, skills and understandings generated through and by this research will provide practical solutions to how:
  - a. Our students learn
  - b. Provide personalised learning programs for all students
  - c. To raise student achievement in reading, writing and maths through e-Learning programs.

- d. Refine Fox Glacier School's Curriculum to include e-Learning for all students, including Maori and Pacific Island students.
- 2. School Strategic Planning
  - a. To share knowledge with other schools
  - b. To enable Principals and Boards of Trustees to include e-Learning in the School Curriculum.

### Costing Schedule

#### **Estimated Costs**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Travel to Hari Hari twice to use Video Conferencing	\$230
Travel to Greymouth twice	\$460
Attend ICT Conference and accommodation	\$2 000
CD's. stationery, postage, printing	\$300
<b>Estimated Total Costs</b>	<b>\$2 990</b>

Most schools pay for the costs of the Sabbatical but I haven't asked Fox Glacier School to do this.

### Reporting

A report outlining the major findings will be written up at the conclusion of the sabbatical. The Board of Trustees will also receive a copy of the report. Schools involved will receive a digital copy of the major findings.  
L.M. Holmes

Learning Maori Language –

[www.maorilanguage.net](http://www.maorilanguage.net)

This website has simple pronunciations for vowels with real people on video speaking the vowels, consonants, greetings, phrases, numbers, colours, commands, questions, days of the week, weather, fifty words every New Zealander should know etc. The website is simple to use and very comprehensive. Students could be guided to use each part of the website. An electronic whiteboard would mean that the learning could be all done together. Students could also use it at home and on their individual computers at school.

The whole course could be written on a checklist sheets of where the students could tick off the parts they have achieved.

[www.korero.maori.nz](http://www.korero.maori.nz) for learners . Has sounds and basic words.

This website is slightly more advanced. It still covers the same as above but with more advanced words. Because you only hear the sounds and not see someone speaking them it is not as user friendly for junior students as the one above. Senior students could cope with this and the pronunciation is very clear.

Both website are very comprehensive and the Maori language could be learned through listening and looking at these websites. It has interactive tests for learning words and phrases.

The website is arranged to cover:

- Basics,
- Pronunciations,
- Interactive conversations,
- Meet and greet
- Family and friends
- Food and drink
- Work and school
- Around the home
- Everyday things

Then it looks at the:

- Protocols
- History
- Myths and legends
- Proverbs
- Song – waiata – there are four songs that have been produced with permission so they can be used at school.
- Test yourself
- Tips

[www.tewhanake.maori.nz/home.cfm](http://www.tewhanake.maori.nz/home.cfm)

This website has resources that can be purchased – dictionaries, newsletters, audio cd's.

[www.tewhanake.maori.nz/audio-tekakano.cfm](http://www.tewhanake.maori.nz/audio-tekakano.cfm)

This website has audio cd's that can be purchased that have been produces by the Waikato University for \$115.00

[www.onlinecreativeconcepts.com/Resources/MaoriCurriculum.pdf](http://www.onlinecreativeconcepts.com/Resources/MaoriCurriculum.pdf)

Gives a very clear outline of Maori tikanga and protocol with great coloured photos.

[www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture/maori-language-week/100-maori-words](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture/maori-language-week/100-maori-words)

This website goes through 100 words every New Zealander should know. It is verbal pronunciation as each word is clicked on. The words are arranged in chapters such as

- The Marae
- Concepts
- People and their groups
- Components of place names
- Greetings
- Body Parts – which does include private parts

All parts of the pronunciation can be downloaded on an MP3 player.

This website is more suited to older students. It covers learning a word a day, History of the Maori language, a quiz to test your words.

Population of Maori, and history of the media in Maori can also be found on this website by clicking the media link.

## **Learning Samoan or Tongan**

[www.queenstownart.com/~educator/susulu.htm](http://www.queenstownart.com/~educator/susulu.htm) this website offers CD's at \$25.00 to learn Samoan. I could not find any free websites to learn Samoan. There were no free Tongan language learning sites but the Open Polytech offered courses in both languages.

### **Science On-line**

[www.scienceonline.tki.org.nz/](http://www.scienceonline.tki.org.nz/)

This website is from tki and offers a lot of help for teachers. At the page on Contents, Resources and Rich stories then to Building Science Concepts there are booklets about what concepts to teach and what levels are appropriate. Most schools have these booklets in their school. However, from this part of the website teachers can go straight to the Assessment Resource Banks for assessments relating to the topic highlighted from the Building Science Concepts online booklets. This is a great shortcut for teachers.

Teachers can register for the Science Hub from the science online site and this is for teachers. The Science Exemplars are set out in levels and are another form of assessment.

[www.primaryschoolscience.com/](http://www.primaryschoolscience.com/)

This website has lesson plans based on the subjects below for teachers. There are learning intentions and success criteria for the students to achieve. These are quite comprehensive and are for teachers to cover the objectives from the NZC. Being in an isolated rural school this website could be quite valuable for teachers.

There is a literacy component to this Science website that shows students how to write up an experiment, writing reports for various forms of scientific experiments.

#### **Biology**

It has pictures of mammals, plants and amphibians for students to use for projects.

#### **Chemistry**

It has pictures for Changing Materials, Classifying Materials, and Colour experiments.

#### **Objects**

It has pictures for weights and measures, materials

#### **Physics – Earth and Beyond.**

It has pictures of the planets.

[www.primaryschool.com.au/](http://www.primaryschool.com.au/)

There is a very comprehensive list of Science Units that are catalogued in year levels. When you delve into the website deeper there are many links to help teachers and students learn about science. E.g. Ice cream pain – this sheet gives, from Suzy's World,

- The Facts,
- Did You Know and
- Experiments for students to try.

[www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/)

This website has many literacy adventures that are interactive for students to use. E.g. spelling – and endings – this game is a fishing game to pick the right endings to words. There is an explanation to the rules first before the students could start playing.

There are teacher lesson plans for each category.

Chapters covered in the website are:

Words and Spelling -Spellings, plurals, letters and alphabetical order, cvc words, days and months, compound, synonyms, reading key words, letter formations and sounds, clusters and blends, phonemes, homophones, word games, prefixes and suffixes

Then there are chapters covering grammar – making sentences, nouns, pronouns, punctuation, capital letters, full stops, question marks, commas, speech marks and apostrophes.

- Chapters covering Writing Text – traditional fairy stories, myths, instructions leaflets, letters recounts, argument, similes, writing stories, dialogue, plays, poems, newspapers, labels alliterations, proverbs.
- In the Writing a story section– there are story starts, settings, characters, planning and beginning and endings all with pictures. This web site would be great for those children who have a difficult time getting started and having ideas. These would be suitable for Year 4-6. You have to build a brick wall, which has the ideas in it and then write the story yourself. The English accent could be a bit annoying for teachers.
- When choosing a setting a picture comes up with a story start and some words to help the writer continue. You can write directly onto the page.
- The Story Plant game is great. As you water the plant ideas pop onto the leaves, then a worm writes sentences to go with the ideas. Then you print it off and finish the story.

I found the maths part to this website based on places and events of British history and places so, I felt it wasn't very suitable for small remote schools in New Zealand.

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/magickey/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/magickey/index.shtml)

This BBC website has interactive games for rhymes, spelling, reading and Maths. It is very simple to use and the games are graded for ages. This website could be part of a section of the reading programme in a junior school although there are some parts suitable for older children who are struggling.

- I think the best way to use this site is to make cards with directions on where you want the students to go so they click on the right ones.

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

A phonic literacy programme that is interactive. There is an amazing range of topics, all with a literacy base.

Chapters of:

- All About Me,
- Art Gallery – this part is about famous artists e.g. Vincent Van Gogh and looking at compound words using 'self'.
- Magic – goes through words used by a magician
- Music – looks at famous composers like Ludwig van Beethoven – his ninth symphony and the literacy is about numerical order – first, second etc.
- Mozart – words that end in 'ay' His music plays and the instructions are very clearly spoken in a child's voice.
- Poetry – suitable for 5 and 6 years olds. The program reads the poems or you can read them yourself.
- Tongue twisters – clearly written and read.
- Bird Riddles

The next Level is - I am Reading.

There are games for learning letters and their sounds for pre-schoolers and games for new readers. There are plays for two people, where the script can be read or if students click the 'ear' the script will be read. Individual words, once highlighted can also be listened to. The plays cover the first two lists, magenta and red, of the basic words.

This site would also be a great part of the reading programme for a group to do, as long as it was all set out and directions of where the children are to go. Also a great homework site.

### **Recommended Cd's from other small rural schools.**

From Putere School - EdAlive: reading for literacy, typing tournament, Braintastic Maths, Word Skills and Reading Success, Manic Maths, Maths Invaders, and Maths Made Easy, PM readers CD's, Jump Jam

### **From Makuri School**

The list is constantly growing but here are some of them

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/>

Reading Eggs

Intrepica

Hectors World

Kerpoof Studio

<http://www.khanacademy.org/>

<http://www.mathsweek.org.nz/>

/SchoolJournalListeningPost/index.htm

<http://www.rif.org/kids/readingplanet/gamestation/poetrysplatter.htm>

Mathletics

StudyLadder

<http://www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz/>

Clicker 5

<http://www.kids.net.au/>

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/welcome/start.htm>

[http://www.iboard.co.uk/curriculum.htm#maths-year1numstrategy\\_yearreception](http://www.iboard.co.uk/curriculum.htm#maths-year1numstrategy_yearreception)

<http://www.sumdog.com/>

Spellingcity

### **Maths**

[www.nz.ixl.com/maths](http://www.nz.ixl.com/maths)

This is a NZ maths site for 5- 13 year olds. There are many parts to the website from basic counting to Multiplication tables.

e.g. For Year 5 - Number Sense, Time, Measurement, Addition, Subtraction Money, Geometry, Logical Reasoning, Multiplication, Division, Fractions and Mixed Numbers, Decimals, Probability and Statistics, Data Charts and Graphs, Mixed Operations are all covered.

Because this website is quite comprehensive there needs to be some teacher direction to keep the students on track of what is needed for them to achieve.

- I think the best way to use this site is to make cards with directions on where you want the students to go so they click on the right ones.

[www.coolmath4kids.com](http://www.coolmath4kids.com)

This website is quite comprehensive and it also gives instructions on how to do the operations before the student partakes in the working the sums out with pencil and paper.

There are games that I would use as a reward.

[www.activityvillage.co.uk/new\\_zealand\\_for\\_kids.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/new_zealand_for_kids.htm)

This website has great maths at each year level for kids to do and submit straight onto the web site.

[www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com)

This is the best website I found and it is free. It is a NZ website and students have to register. It is very like the website Mathletics but it is free.

[www.tki.org.nz/r/wick\\_ed/interactives/maths.php](http://www.tki.org.nz/r/wick_ed/interactives/maths.php)

Lots of games from the NZ web Site available for students to play by themselves and with friends. Students can post their work on the site. There are themes to look at, like Rugby World Cup and activities to do. Books are reviewed too.

These maths sites were recommended by an American site.

It can be difficult for parents to keep maths on the front burner, especially when it is hard to gauge exactly what their child should be learning. Here are some of the best websites to help your child combat the summer math brain drain.

[www.mathforum.com](http://www.mathforum.com). This online community includes teachers, students, researchers, parents and educators who have an interest in math and math education. The site includes Ask Dr. Math, Problems of the Week, discussion groups and much more.

[www.AAAmath.com](http://www.AAAmath.com). Customized by grade level and topic, **AAA Math features explanations** of various mathematical topics, practice problems and fun, challenging games.

[www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com). This fully interactive site and allows the user to sharpen basic math skills, play games and explore new math concepts. Some of these games get very hard very quickly and are suitable for Yr 6-8

[www.figurethis.org](http://www.figurethis.org). Created by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, this site helps families enjoy mathematics outside school through a series of fun and engaging challenges. This website involves the whole family and can get quite challenging.

[www.mathcats.com](http://www.mathcats.com). Math Cats provides playful explorations of important math concepts through games, crafts and interactive projects. Includes a magic chalkboard and an art gallery.

[www.bbc.co.uk/education/megamaths/tables.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/megamaths/tables.html). This lively, interactive Web site, based on the popular BBC Schools Television series “Megamaths,” is for practicing and testing times tables.

[www.mathleague.com](http://www.mathleague.com). The Math League, designed for students in fourth grade through high school, specializes in math contests, books and computer software. The “Help

Facility” is handy reference guide for math topics complete with examples, definitions and explanations.

[www.fleetkids.com](http://www.fleetkids.com). FleetKids games teach elementary children several different aspect of money management. Games include Windfall, where a child can run an imaginary business and BuyLo/SellHi, where children can play the stock market. Students can sign up as an individual or as part of an elementary school team.

[www.funbrain.com/numbers.html](http://www.funbrain.com/numbers.html). This site includes 17 original games based on soccer, car racing and much more Other games include Math Baseball, where a child can score runs with correct answers and Operation Order, where students can build pyramids with their knowledge of algebra.

[www.moodle.school.nz](http://www.moodle.school.nz)

Moodle is an online Learning Mangement System or LMS. It is also known as a Virtual Learning Environment or VLE.

Moodle is the fastest growing system for delivering educational and training material online. Its success comes from the collaborative effort of thousands of people worldwide. This site has collected resources from around the world, and we have added some of our own, to make it easy for you to come to become competent in delivering e-Learning courses with Moodle.

[www.studyladder.com](http://www.studyladder.com)

Study Ladder is the most amazing programme for children. It is very much like athletics, where students have their own login and password. It is free. It covers maths, numeracy, English, music, French, Italian, health etc. It is probably the best sight I found and Jenny at Whataroa School recommended it to me.

### **The Ministry is planning the e-learning road map.**

“The e-Learning Planning Framework is a tool to help schools measure their e-learning capability. It can support regular self-review and subsequent improvement of e-learning skills and knowledge.

- The e-Learning Planning Framework will provide a ‘road map’ that enables schools to identify where they are, shows the practical steps they can take to improve their practice, and connects them to relevant information or services to support them in doing this.

e-Learning’ is learning and teaching that is facilitated by or supported through the appropriate use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

e-Learning can cover a spectrum of activities from supporting learning to blended learning (the combination of traditional and e-learning practices), to learning that is delivered entirely

online.

- Whatever the technology, however, learning is the vital element. e-Learning is not simply associated with modes of delivery or the functionality of a particular technology, but forms part of a conscious choice of the best and most appropriate ways of promoting effective learning.”

### **Conclusion**

I was disappointed that I could attend the ICT Conference, as it was moved to the North Island from Christchurch and that made it too expensive to attend.

I feel that I covered the questions I wanted answered and feel happy with the results. Can't wait to try these websites with my students in 2012.

Linda Holmes