

# Leadership to improve education?

A Tauranga teacher is questioning the Prime Minister's view that leadership is the key to improving educational outcomes.



Aquinas College art faculty head Graeme Bridges. Photo by Tracy Hardy.

In his first speech of the year, John Key announced the Government will be investing \$359 million into the New Zealand education system during the next four years.

He also plans on introducing four new key leadership roles – executive principal, expert teacher, lead teacher and change principal – which he says are designed to share the expertise of “excellent teachers and keep good teachers in classrooms”.

Aquinas College art faculty head Graeme Bridges asks what happens in those areas of the country where there are fewer schools and it is not so easy to go back and forth between schools.

“I can see big centres taking the lion's share and not much left for the struggling schools who sit outside.

“Teachers have been asking for relevant and effective professional development for years and these new roles won't do much to address that either.”

Graeme says John Key identifies leadership as the

key to improving educational outcomes.

“I would say while clear leadership is a strong component for lead administrators and teachers, it is more about the expectations that they bring to the job that make the difference.

“They expect a lot more from their students. It is that expectation that drives their fundamental belief that every student, no matter who you are or where you come from, can improve.”

Graeme believes poverty is not just physical but a way of thinking.

He says if you go through life thinking that you will never amount to much then it is no surprise if you achieve very little.

“There are too many who think that if you tell people what to do, then they will and should improve. But they also need people on the ground with expectations working alongside them.”

By Letitia Atkinson



Andrea Sinden and 10-year-old student Sean Coyle making a splash during swim instruction.

Photo by Bruce Barnard.

# Swim for your life

Making sure every child has the ability to swim 200-300 metres could save many lives, says Tauranga Swim School owner Andrea Sinden.

Andrea believes placing a higher importance on water safety education and learning to swim is the key to bringing down the region's drowning statistics – figures she says are ‘way too high’.

Water Safety NZ statistics show eight people drowned in the Bay during 2013 – ranking the region fourth in the country with 10 per cent of the NZ total (81 deaths).

“We can't completely drown-proof our children but we can reduce the risk by teaching them swimming and water safety skills,” says Andrea.

She believes the lack of free or affordable swimming lessons means too many children don't learn to swim – missing out on potentially life-saving skills.

Following the statistics' release, she's making a plea to the public to help her get the numbers down.

“As a swim school owner I am absolutely committed to and work tirelessly on developing people's swimming ability and raising awareness around water safety.

“My goal is that I want everyone to have the opportunity to learn to swim, so I try making it as affordable as possible, and parents do struggle with coming up with the extra money for swimming lessons.”

Andrea offers her lessons for as little as possible, and is working on a family water safety programme to further educate children and parents.

“I'm launching an intensive water safety programme that will focus on all aspects of how to stay safe in the water and in all conditions.

“Any drowning is a tragedy and I wonder if some of them could have been prevented with better education.

“I think some basic rules about where to swim are not being adhered to, such as not swimming alone and making sure we swim between the flags. If we could just have more education, we can get these statistics down.”

By Corrie Taylor



PREMIUM FORMULATION FOR CATS

PF5

## 5 PREMIUM FORMULATIONS FOR CATS

Cats (felines) have been on earth for about 25 Million Years. The domestic cat evolved from Panthera Lineage (lions, jaguars, leopards, tigers) over 3 million years ago. Cats, including domestic cats, are obligate carnivores. They must eat animal flesh and organs to survive. Cuts of meat aren't enough. In natural life cats would eat all of their prey (head to toe) to obtain balanced nutrition. Cats' bodies are designed to eat and process meat; they have a powerful specialised jaw, teeth adapted for tearing and shredding meat, a short digestive tract and stomach acids to facilitate the digestion of meat only. They even obtain minerals by digesting animal bones.

Modern day dry cat food is mostly grain. Many list a meat as the first ingredient but it's the following ingredients like Corn, Wheat, Gluten, Soy, Cereal and Barley that make up the bulk of the food. Dry cat food is also extremely low in moisture, less than 10%. In natural life cats would get the majority of their water ingestion from their prey (i.e. a mouse is over 70% moisture and less than 8% carbohydrate). Cats have a low thirst drive and do not drink

much water naturally, let alone to compensate for a high carb, dry diet. Many cat owners are now concerned about the increase of diseases in cats such as Urinary Tract Disease.

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