

Notes from PD held at Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate on 6th June 2015

Bevis Hanson, Librarian at Otara Public library and special guest at Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate's Library on a regular basis.

Storyteller and now published author. Writes and illustrates his own stories particularly for Pasifika and Maori students. His first books were simple laminated A4 sheets that he used to illustrate his stories but he was urged to publish them. It was a long journey to finally have his books published but he now has 4 books available. They are mostly 'scary stories' that the children loved most.

His advice for working with Pasifika and Maori students was

1. Listen to them
2. Be interested in them
3. Find out what they like and want
4. Follow through (very important)
5. Remember their name

Bevis told us several gripping stories using a soft voice – each story had a surprise at the end and was very engaging.

David Riley, teacher at Tangaroa College since 1998, grew up in Mangere and has many Pacific and Samoan friends, and his wife is also Samoan.

His company is Reading Warrior, website is <http://readingwarrior.com/>

Writers that influenced him include: Enid Blyton and Barry Crump. David wrote his first book because there was nothing for his Niuean students on their own heroes and their families didn't want to share what they knew, preferring that the student integrate into New Zealand culture.

His Guiding statement:

'The classroom is a community and everyone in it is a resource', Bell Hooks

Discovered a knowledge gap in Pacific culture for children growing up in NZ of Pacific parents. Wrote 'We are the rock' and published. Only got \$3.00 per book sold. Decided to do it himself instead.

'Reading changed my life forever', Dr Ben Carson

'If there's a book you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it', Toni Morrison

His student's asked him to write a book about Benji Marshall = 'Steppin' with Benji Marshall'.

When he writes these books he focuses on what students would like to know. He always gets permission from the person (or management) to write the book and contacts their teachers and friends to learn more about them.

David also mentioned 'Read and achieve with the All Blacks', a free resource to aid boys who have difficulty with reading that he has made available on his website.

David recommended two magazines that boys particularly love to read, Rugby League weekly offers great articles, not only about sport, and WWE magazine (wrestling).

David's books also include:

Samoan heroes (recently published)

Jammin' with Steve Adams

Off loading with SBW (Sonny Bill Williams)

Reflecting on Maori and Pasifika students in our library environment (Pam Lilley)

Supporting Maori learners' in the library.

Share yourself with your students, and show you care

Greet them with their name

Have an open door policy

Be interested in your students

Model warm, trusting and reciprocal relationships

'Maori students have a lot of no's in their life – say yes to them' (Whaea Rowena)

A map of all Maori tribes is available – from Mapco at <http://www.mapco.co.nz/maps/maori-maps-pukapuka>

A suggestion was made that Maori students put themselves on the map. However you first need to know if Maori students know their iwi? Do they identify with their Maori culture? Make connections first.

Also, urban Maori are less likely to know their iwi than rural students who are probably more Marae based.

Suggestions to help make connections with your students

1. Show the history, myths and legends of the library space and your community
2. Tell your stories
3. Consult Maori stakeholders
4. Survey your Maori students to learn what they want from the library
5. Use Te Reo yourself
6. Have staff training to ensure that Maori students are engaged in a culturally sensitive way
7. Display Maori proverbs in the library (in Maori and English)
8. Consider Myths and legends displays
9. Buy Maori language books
10. Have a language wall with Maori words and phrases
11. Have Maori signage – check that it is accurate for your local iwi.
12. Have a separate Maori language collection to highlight the resources you have and to give it importance - identifies your Maori body of knowledge and affirms their place. Create a comfortable space around it, 'learning nest', perhaps with a couch or other comfortable seating.
13. Consider displaying your Maori and Pasifika collections face out.
14. Display a modern carving piece – perhaps created by students
15. Have excellent signage so students can easily find what they need, asking where something is can be very scary for students.
16. Review your Library Management policy – should reflect kaupapa Maori value systems and world view and have a commitment to biculturalism.
17. From lip service to making it happen. (Pam's suggestion)
18. Matariki is coming up – begins on 18th June, see <http://www.mch.govt.nz/nz-identity-heritage/matariki>, have display in the library with accurate stars (one participant mentioned that she had a cave in an area of her library where she has lined the ceiling with an accurate map of the Matariki stars using tealights.)

Mauri (essential vitality and essence of a person) is very important. We need to reduce students' fears and anxieties, and especially counteract their negative self image.

Resources:

'Down the back of the chair', Ministry of Education provided resources.

http://www.thechair.co.nz/servlet/Srv.Ecos_Process_HTML_File?P1=/graphics/moe/signon.htm

Watch Russell Bishop - brother to Gavin Bishop- (Waikato University) excellent video at

<http://www.edtalks.org/video/culturally-responsive-pedagogy-relations>

The June 2015 Library life magazine from LIANZA <http://www.lianza.org.nz/library-life-issue-435-june-2015>

LIANZA research paper <http://www.lianza.org.nz/kaupapa-m%C4%81ori-new-zealand-public-libraries>

National Library Maori signage suggestions can be found at

<http://schools.natlib.govt.nz/sites/schools.natlib.govt.nz/files/Maori-signage-for-the-school-library.DOC>

National Library's 'Supporting Maori readers page

<http://schools.natlib.govt.nz/creating-readers/creating-reading-culture/libraries-supporting-m-ori-readers>

We need to provide a range of relevant resources, that present an authentic Maori perspective and that reflect their historical and cultural beliefs.