

Thank you for taking time to read our newsletter, we hope you'll find some of it useful for your teaching.

Some activity ideas to engage children's thinking about how to stay safer in, on and around water this summer.

- See the interactive water safety games on the website (Kids Stuff) <http://goo.gl/YpsXea> . In WaterSense follow Sione and his Dad through 10 challenging games as they prepare for a day at the beach, out on a boat trip and fishing from the rocks.
- Play the beach safety game to focus the children's thinking on safer and unsafe beach behaviour.
- The pool safety game challenges the children to identify risks around the pool area.
- Anchors and Flares is a fun board game to reinforce the children's understanding of key boat safety messages.



Oakley Creek in Keith Hay Park
Photo: WaterCare Services

Visit an aquatic environment

- Take the class to visit a local aquatic environment (eg. Oakley Creek, Western Springs Park Lake, Stonefields (wetland system), Mangere Lagoon/WaterCare Coastal Walkway, Lake Wainamu at Bethells Beach, Lake Pupuke). Take photos during the excursion so that back in the classroom the children can illustrate, talk and write about being safer and having fun in this aquatic environment.
- This activity, and other ideas can be found in, Bubbles to Buoyancy: Aquatic Education: Years 1 – 3 (Ministry of Education). Also see, *H2O – Here We Go! Aquatic Education: Years 7 – 8*. These two resources can be downloaded from www.tki.org.nz

Find a beach – look at the hazards and tides before you go

- To check conditions and other hazards at your favourite beaches visit www.findabeach.co.nz
- Learn about the different types of waves and rip currents, how to recognise them and what do you if you are caught in a rip current.
- Record and then graph the tides for a week or fortnight. What patterns are emerging? It is best to swim on an incoming or outgoing tide and why?

To find out more about Beach Education and Surf to Schools visit Surf Lifesaving New Zealand's Beach Ed <http://goo.gl/aqVWP5>



The mechanics of a rip current
Photo: Rob Brander SLS Australia



Saturday, November 9
10am-4pm Mangere Bridge Reserve

AKSPLASH – a water safety FUN DAY for all the family...and it's FREE

Get ready for summer with water safety tips, rescue demonstrations, kids fishing competition, pool fun, bouncy castle, slip'n'slide and lots more fun activities.

Earn your own family Water Safety Passport and prize pack, 500 lifejackets to be given away and lots of other giveaways.

When you're ready for a break you can grab some food, chill out on a bean bag in the MAI Zone and be entertained by MAI FM.

Check out www.facebook.com/aksplash for full event details and updates.

AKSplash is brought to you by WaterSafe Auckland, Surf Lifesaving Northern Region, Coastguard Northern Region, the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust in collaboration with the Committee for Auckland, Auckland Council.

Professional Learning and Development

- If you are planning to have a TOD or staff meeting based around aquatic education including ideas for work across the curriculum, water safety or learn to swim refreshers contact us for bookings at no cost.
- State Kiwi Swim Safe bookings can be made with us for any term. This is the latest Swimming New Zealand programme. It has a holistic approach to school aquatic education as it has classroom, pool and beach sections.

Lifejackets are in the news again

- Lifejackets can be used for work in a classroom as well as a pool environment.
- Students could follow the discussion in the media, then investigate the cost of them, how to fit them properly, how they assist the HELP and huddle positions, the materials used and their design, why they float, as well as slogans and advertising campaigns used in the media.
- Lifejacket Loan Scheme – lifejackets are available free of charge for a two-week period during term 4. For more details or to download the Lifejacket Request Form visit the Loan Scheme page on our website (Education section) <http://goo.gl/jlgFeQ>



Just a few of the hundreds of lifejackets available for schools to enhance their aquatics programmes.

Contact

For further information on any aspect of water safety education or to discuss any resources you would like please contact Jan or Lynley.

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