

SOCIAL SOCKS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3



*Creating Caring
Connected Kids*



Above - Jo and Zak helping out

Below –sock puppets for one class



What a productive year!

- ✚ In 2016, Social Socks was delivered to 253 children in 11 classes at Our Lady of Lourdes, Somerset Crescent, Milson and Terrance End Schools!
- ✚ We would like to thank our dedicated facilitators, helpers in the classroom and all the other volunteers who have made Social Socks run so smoothly and successfully.
- ✚ The ongoing classroom evaluation shows the Social Socks continues to engage children and make a big difference in the classroom and playground.
- ✚ This year has seen the completion of the Teachers Manual, recording of three Social Socks songs (including the theme song), running of the first Training Workshop and making of the Stop, Pause Play pocket resource.

✚ Social Socks website update

In early 2017, we plan to expand the website to include short clips of the puppets and an parent information video. There will also be a place to make donations. Check it out at www.socialsocks.co.nz.

✚ **Trustpower Community Service Award for 2016, Education Sector.** Social Socks again won an award recognising the work that we do through a large amount of voluntary hours.

✚ Feedback from the Children

- *"I know now how to brush the unkind words that do not belong to me."*
- *The ladies have taught us how to be kind to each other."*
- *We are learning how to make right choices and not hurt other people with our words or hands, if we are feeling upset."*
- *I enjoy the activities we do in our workbooks, as they help me understand my feelings."*



Above - Lucy and Zak proudly show off the Trustpower Award.

Below – The Social Socks containers used for the children to plant their own sunflower seeds.



Thanks to our funders:

- **Eastern and Central Community Trust**
- **PN Community Development Fund**
- **COGS**
- **T G Macarthy Trust**
- **Catholic Charities Organisation Group**
- **Manawatu Musician Makers**
- **St Albans Church**
- **Private donors**

Contact:

info@socialsocks.co.nz
www.socialsocks.co.nz or check us out on our Social Socks Facebook Page.

Message from the Chair

Warm Greetings. Social Socks continues to grow from strength to strength with encouraging and affirmative feedback on the powerful positive impact that the programme is having in schools. When I talked to Robyn Toothill, the Principal from Somerset Crescent School, she recommended the programme to any school looking to complement their positive behaviour programme. The teachers spoke highly of Social Socks, the children were engaged and enjoyed making and using their sock puppets. Most importantly the children were able to apply the strategies learnt after the lessons.

Thanks to all the teachers and children for being so welcoming.

I would like to thank Mark and Ali Angel, who stood down from the board this year, for their massive contribution to Social Socks. We are excited to welcome Kiri Clark and Nathan Cross on to the board.

We look to 2017, where we plan to train additional staff so that Social Socks can be taken into more schools. We continue to critique the programme to make it the best it can be, catering for all the social and emotional needs in the classroom. Ultimately, our dream is for Social Socks to be available to all children in Aotearoa, initially by reaching out from the Manawatu region. This means completing policies and the training package, talking to more government agencies and schools, and seeking long term financial support from businesses and the community. Keep an eye out for a Social Socks Christmas Socking (yes, without the ‘t’) fundraiser.

Once again, Social Socks could not function without the wonderful team of volunteers who have supported us from the outset. Thank you and have a Joyful Christmas.

Blessings for 2017

Mike Clark

Chairperson,
Social Socks Charitable Trust

