



NEWSLETTER

December 2017

We couldn't do it without you!

It has been another incredible year at Social Socks with so many achievements, some listed below. First, a big thank you to the team that works in the classrooms and the other wonderful volunteers who put in well over 3000 hours during the year. This was recognised when for the second year in a row Social Socks received the Trust Power 2017 Runner-up for the Regional Education Child/Youth Development Volunteers Award. Well done team!



Second, thanks to the teachers and principals of Milson and Terrace End Schools, the children and their parents. It is such a privilege to be able to go into the classrooms at these wonderful schools.

Third, thank you to those organisations and individuals who have believed in us and provided ongoing sponsorship.

Lastly, what a great board at Social Socks who are so supportive and encouraging.

Merry Christmas.

Have a safe and happy summer holidays.

Classes



Social Socks continued to be delivered at Milson and Terrace End Schools during the year. Both schools were really supportive in helping us take the programme to the next level and complete a Social Socks Training Manual, so that Social Socks can be delivered by other teams in more schools in the future. The programme was also expanded to Year 4/5 which was a big success, and more classroom volunteers and facilitators were trained up.

Thanks to the team that made and then raised the new puppet theatre (see picture). The puppeteers find it so much easier to work behind.

Weighted Toy Workshop

A team of volunteers performed surgery on 42 soft toys and afterwards all of the toys found good homes! It was fun day with a yummy brunch. Nearly \$1000 dollars was raised for Social Socks so more children can attend our 7-week programme. Many children and older people were blessed by receiving the weighted soft toy. There will be another workshop in the new year.



Testimonies

- Two parents stayed in the class during the whole 7 weeks of Social Socks and enjoyed being part of the team.
- One boy who was upset and angry, shared in Social Socks how he was really sad because his koru had died. It was amazing to see the other children get around and support their mate, rubbing his back and talking about their own losses.
- One socially awkward and isolated girl opened up during the programme, writing about her feelings and sharing with the Social Socks team. She didn't want Social Socks to finish!
- An older lady in hospital was comforted after being gifted a weighted teddy bear.
- A boy with disability suddenly talked when he was given a weighted dog. He tucked it into bed and when he went to bed later the boy was noticeably calmer.

Social Socks Workshop

Nearly 30 people attended the 2nd Social Socks Workshop held on the 11th November. There were some excellent presentations on how to work with children who need extra support, safe practice, boundaries, self-regulation using sock puppets, cross cultural beliefs, telling a story and introvert/extroverts. There was great feedback and a number of those who attended would like to be involved in the future. Keep the 10th November free in your diaries for next year!



John Parsons



Social Socks was blessed to host John Parsons in Palmerston North over four days this year. John is New Zealand's leading expert in Internet Safety for Children and Young People. He was worked

hard, speaking to a wide range of people. His basic message was so Social Socksish! That children are to be treasured and loved, they are unique and that families need time connecting with each other.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

- The Palmerston North Local Initiative for their very generous donation to fund the John Parsons visit. Thanks also to Crest Hospital and the Palmerston North Postgraduate Society for also helping with costs.
- Eastern and Central Community Trust
- Community Organisation Grants
- T G McCarthy Trust
- Palmerston North Community Development Fund
- Other generous private donors and organisations

From Zak, Lucy, Jo and us all at Social Socks Charitable Trust.