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Corporate Plan Output: Community Activities 3.1 text 23	

The purpose of this report is to outline further progress on “What’s the Big Idea” and to request the Board to consider funding Cashmere Primary Schools “What’s the Big Idea” project.

BACKGROUND

At the August 1999 Community Affairs Committee meeting Cashmere Primary School presented their “What’s the Big Idea” project about recreation opportunities for children between the ages of 10 and 14 years. Their research highlighted that:

- More recreation opportunities for children aged 10 – 14 were needed
- Better information on what was available was needed
- Recreation opportunities needed to be affordable
- Parents were concerned about childrens’ safety when partaking in recreation activities
- Recreation activities were a good way to encourage interaction between children, developing social skills such as co-operation, organisation and communication skills.

All schools that participated in the project were given \$500 to use for school resources or field trips. Cashmere Primary School has used this money to go towards a class field trip to Wellington to visit Te Papa, Parliament, the Carter Observatory and Karori School at the end of the year. The class is undertaking various fundraising activities to help towards the cost of this trip.

PROJECT SUMMARY TO DATE

The “What’s the Big Idea” Team was very keen to see the project come to fruition. Since the Community Affairs Committee presentation teacher Les Morgan and students have been in contact with various recreation/leisure providers and have a commitment from 11 providers for cheaper, or two for one vouchers. Les Morgan will be present to give an example of the booklet of vouchers that could be produced. Quotes for the printing are included in the attachments with the funding application form. The quotes are based on printing 1,300 copies of the booklet and distributing them free to all year 7 and 8 students in Spreydon Heathcote.

The benefits of this project addresses the following concerns highlighted in the research:

- Affordability of recreation activities
- Two for one vouchers ensure children will be socialising out of school time
- Increase awareness of activities available in Christchurch

The Team has also presented the project to the School Board of Trustees and received a favourable response. Les Morgan and Service Centre Staff are keen to evaluate the project if it is able to go ahead.

POLICY OUTCOMES

Supporting the “What’s the Big Idea” project helps to meet the following Board Objectives and Performance Indicators -

6. To promote a healthy community
- 6.4 Identify, liaise with and support community initiatives which seek to enhance the physical and mental well-being of local people of all ages
7. To promote community education
- 7.2 To enhance working relationships between schools, the community and the Board,

as well as the following Recreation and Sport Policy Outcomes:

2. Christchurch residents are aware of and have access to a broad range of recreation and sporting activities
9. Services, facilities and programmes meet the recreation and sporting needs of the Christchurch community, particularly its children and youth, and also its people with disabilities and people with limited incomes.

Recommendation: That the Board allocate \$1,137 to Cashmere Primary School for the printing of 1300 voucher booklets to be distributed to all year 7 – 8 students in Spreydon Heathcote.