

A Great Learning Experience

Technology education presents students with exciting and unique opportunities.



As part of their core curriculum from Years 1 –10, Technology students of all ages produce impressive technological outcomes, some of which are published on the Techlink website.

At Techlink we believe it is important to celebrate student success and we would like to highlight the outstanding learning opportunities offered through Technology by sharing some of the student work currently featured on the Techlink site.



Making Outdoor Furniture Otaki Kindergarten, Early Childhood Education

Students at Otaki Kindergarten do their bit for the environment by designing and constructing their own outdoor furniture using recycled and donated materials. Students researched various chair designs and after some trial and error two prototypes were made.

“We all learnt from this exercise”, says teacher Sue Barrett. “There was communication of all sorts, opportunities for sharing and turn-taking, tools had to be used appropriately, and there were problems that needed to be understood and overcome but the students showed perseverance and patience”.



Spinning LED Display Burnside High School, Year 9

Year 9 student Logan Glasson created an award-winning and unique invention that earned him both first place in the 13-14 Years category and the People's Choice Award at the national Bright Sparks Awards 2009. He also won the Secondary Technology first prize at the Canterbury/Westland Science Fair.

Logan's invention is a user-programmable spinning LED disc that can display a variety of patterns, pictures and text within one unit. It is a huge improvement on the LED displays currently on the market which can only display one image or a set text per unit.

“Since the Science Fair I have demonstrated it to a marketing bigwig from Auckland and SICOM, both of whom think it has great potential in advertising. SICOM even suggested putting me in contact with one of their suppliers,” says Logan.



Factory-Quality Biscuits Saint Kentigern College, Year 12

Teaming up with Griffin's Foods Ltd to target the teen market, Year 12 students, Kate Morris and Estelle Johnson developed and produced a range of biscuits that both appealed to teenagers and met Griffin's production requirements. This project which was part of the 2009 NZIST Product Development Challenge gave students the opportunity to work closely with Food Technologist Shelley Banham.

“We learnt a lot about matching our product in our kitchen at school to the various checkpoints and methods of the Griffin's production line,” says Estelle.

Food Technology teacher Carolyn Norquay is proud of what her students have achieved. “The girls worked well together and they spent a lot of time trying to get the product right – their testing, trialling and modelling were the strengths of their work.”

Techlink is an initiative of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand in partnership with the Ministry of Education.