

Mara ki te tēpu - Garden to Table at Cardinal McKeefry School

In March, the EJP Commission hosted a Three Dimensions (3D) of Laudato Si' Day looking at the spiritual, lifestyle and public sphere dimensions of caring for creation. During the Lifestyles section of the 3D Day tamariki from Cardinal McKeefry School delighted the participants with a presentation about their School's Garden to Table programme. Here is a snippet of what they shared.



Garden to Table (GTT) was Established in New Zealand in 2008. It now works with over 6,000 primary-school-aged tamariki all across New Zealand, helping them discover a love for fresh food and skills that will last a lifetime.

The Motto is: **GROW, HARVEST, PREPARE and SHARE**

At Cardinal McKeefry the site for the garden was chosen in 2018. First, we built the planters and filled them with soil. Meanwhile a pantry was established, and we purchased and collected donations of bowls and utensils for the kitchen. We then established a compost area and learnt all about composting. Cardinal John came to bless our garden and kitchen in 2019 and share some prepared kai.

Each Wednesday Room 2 (Yrs 4, 5 & 6) spend the morning doing GTT. Half of the tamariki work in the garden and the other half prepare the bounty from the garden for a shared meal. The benefits of GTT are:

- learning to grow our own food and how to cook vegetarian cuisine
- eating the food we grow saves carbon emissions
- preparing vegetarian cuisine at garden to table
- learning how to cook and how to be safe around the kitchen
- learning how to serve food and do dishes

The wider community benefits are:

- When children bring home information about what they are growing, cooking, preparing, and harvesting the families might try it out.
- We get volunteers to help in the garden and the kitchen, so it involves the community.

It isn't Reading, Writing or Maths but GTT covers many of the Key Competencies of the New Zealand Curriculum:

Thinking

Using Language, Symbols and Texts

Managing Self

Relating to others

Participating and contributing

