

THREE SMALL RURAL NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS, ONE BIG, INNOVATIVE IDEA!

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This seminar unpacks a thinking programme, incorporating “best practice” for gifted students, developed by three rural New Zealand Primary schools. Habits of Mind (Costa and Kallick, 2000) and a concept curriculum, underpin the caring, creative, critical and analytical thinking strategies that this one day a week programme develops. Student identification and selection procedures for the combined group of participants from all the three schools will be outlined. An overview of how the programme specifically focuses on and monitors attitudinal change over a three year period will be explained. Details will be included to demonstrate how a strong “thinking” learning community, involving all the schools, has emerged. This will lead us to reflect on the concept of ‘collaboration’ as a powerful tool.

The audience will be invited to record their “known unknown” questions relating to the programme. The seminar will attempt to answer these through a multi media presentation and a “hands on” challenge. This seminar targets educators and parents, and will be of particular interest to schools interested in establishing a collaborative learning community to support, nurture and “Celebrate Ability” with their gifted students.