

# Media Release

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## **Te Puke students to star in DVD**

A secondary school teacher's passion for student-driven health promotion will see five to eight year children take part in an interactive play called Mr Slobby and the girl from BEBO.

Te Puke High School Fuelled 4 Schools student leaders Miriamai Richmond and Sarah Williams, both in Year 13, are coordinating the project with help from Head of Health Education, Ms Carol Power.

"We wanted to do something different to get the healthy eating and getting active message across to primary school children. Children from Papamoa and Te Puke Primary Schools will watch the show and it will be recorded to DVD so they can each take a copy home," says Ms Power.

Miriamai and Sarah are confident that the play will be a big success.

"We know that children learn best through interaction and because we are recording the play to DVD, the message will keep going into their homes," says Miriamai. "Lots of college students will be involved and they will be able to earn NCEA credits as part of the project, in areas like textiles technology, ICT, music and drama," says Sarah.

In the run up to the play, the healthy eating / get active message will be reinforced throughout the region as the primary schools participate in their own student-driven health promotion.

The play has been written by media studies teacher Gavin Kennedy who says we can expect to hear from characters such as Mr Bouncy, Banana Boy and Lucy Greenleaf.

“The production shows that it can be easy to make healthy choices and gives the children and their parents ideas to make positive lifestyle changes,” says Mr Kennedy. “There is a lot of excitement around the school about the play and the students can’t wait to start auditioning.”

The project is a result of Te Puke High School’s successful application for funding from the Bay of Plenty District Health Board as part of the Healthy Eating Healthy Action (HEHA) Nutrition Fund. HEHA district coordinator Jessica Burke says that the funding gives schools the opportunity for creative health promotion.

“Most schools want to make positive changes but sometimes don’t know where to start. We help them through every stage of the application and it’s often going through this process that puts healthy eating at the top of their agenda. Te Puke High School’s application really stood out and we can’t wait to see the results,” she says.

#### **Other successful HEHA Nutrition Fund applications**

- Opotiki Kindergarten – installing a vegetable garden and water fountain to support classroom lesson demonstrations on healthy eating
- Otumoetai Playcentre – building a vegetable garden so that children and caregivers can learn along side each other
- Tauranga Intermediate School - changing their healthy eating policy to promote the rewards of eating healthily and eliminating unhealthy choices in the canteen
- Edgecumbe Playcentre – building a community garden for children and caregivers to learn together
- Te Kura o Te Motutere O on Matakana Island – building a vegetable garden for kohanga, kura and wider whanau to learn along side each other



*Fuelled for School student leaders Miriamai Richmond (front left), Sarah Williams (front centre) and Malesa McNearney (front right) receive the check from HEHA district coordinator Jessica Burke (far left), along with Te Puke High School Head of Health Education, Carol Power (second from right) and teachers from Papamoa and Te Puke Primary Schools.*

Anyone wanting more information on HEHA should visit the Ministry of Health website [www.moh.govt.nz/healthyeatinghealthyaction](http://www.moh.govt.nz/healthyeatinghealthyaction). For more information on the Nutrition Fund, please contact Jessica Burke on 07 579 8283.

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