



2016 Sister Cities New Zealand Award for a School Cultural Project: Winners

We were thrilled to win this award! The Air New Zealand travel prize was used to include as many of our students as possible. The school cultural leaders ran a cultural awareness competition for our students. The topic was to suggest new ways to welcome students from abroad to our school. The 10 winners and 2 staff flew to Wellington for a varied fun cultural day.

We had a very special time at Parliament, including a fish and chip and salad lunch with Ruth Dyson.

After a windy walk we were guests at the Korean Embassy. We were honoured to be hosted by Sang Jin Kim (Second Secretary and Counsel) and Youngjoo Kim (Researcher Economics) Here we heard about the work the embassy does, saw Korean art and watched an interesting video about Korea. Some of our students visited Korea last year and had a wonderful experience as well as performing at the Baekje Cultural Festival as part of our Sister City celebrations in Songpa Gu. We were hosted by our sister school, stayed in Korean homes and made lasting friendships. The school has since visited us and we had more special times together. Many Halswell students have made Korean friends through our International Student programme and keep in touch. Our relationship with Korea is very special!

At Te Papa we visited the impressive Gallipoli Exhibition. It was lovely to meet and chat to Hiromi Morris (Sister Cities NZ President). She encouraged us to become Sister Cities NZ Youth Ambassadors as well as International ambassadors! Being part of Sister Cities NZ has been inspiring and added to the internationalisation expectations of the NZ curriculum.

Penny O'Connell
International Student Director

