

Kia Ora!

Please find enclosed some resources to introduce our newly launched project, Open City. We hope that it inspires some great experiences for you and your students.

Open City is a celebration of undervalued, sweet, free things to do in Christchurch. It might be a good climbing tree in the Botanic Gardens, a quirky piece of street art or a great place for a picnic. Secrets can be accessed by visiting the Open City machine; a repurposed parking meter located in Cathedral Square or by using the Open City website.

How does it work?

Open City works in two ways.

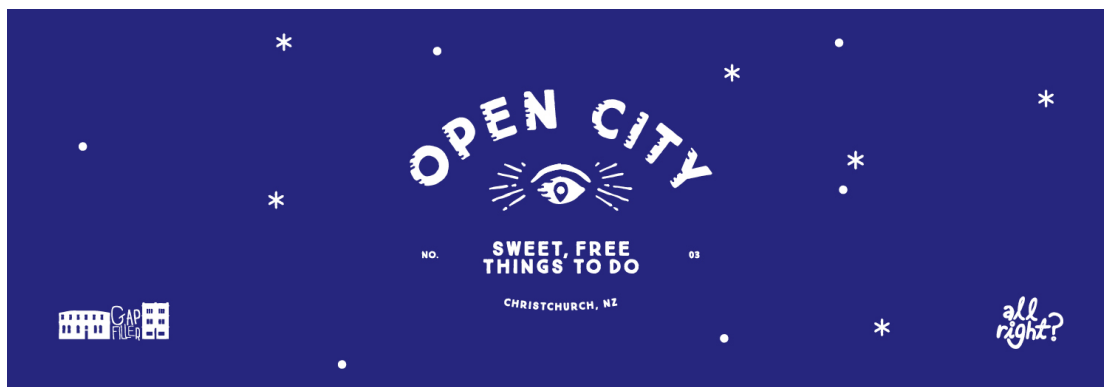
1) Christchurch locals have contributed to an online database of sweet, free things to do across the city. We've made a website where you can suggest more such things and upload them - opencity.org.nz. The website allows you to access/ input city-wide sweet, free things to do.

2) For a central city adventure, you can access a Christchurch secret suggested by someone else by visiting Gap Filler's amazing, repurposed parking meter in Cathedral Square. This unusual machine will issue you a parking ticket of a different kind, your own Christchurch secret (within the Four Aves) as revealed by a stranger to go and find and explore. In this way, you can get to know your city better, through someone else's eyes. So it's the perfect activity for a family or people visiting from out of town. What a neat way to discover more about a city, through the eyes of locals in the know!

Open City is a collaboration with the All Right? campaign. Together we are looking to actively promote the [Five Ways to Well-being](#) throughout the city (Connect, Take Notice, Give, Be Active and Keep Learning). Open City also questions how we give value to things in our city; very often the things we value a lot don't cost any money. It's also about connecting people with one another and with spaces.

To give your students an Open City experience in the classroom you can:

- Use/adapt the enclosed sample learning opportunity and activity
- Visit the website to view some of the sweet free things to do in our city OPENCITY.ORG.NZ and upload some of your own ideas
- Invite Gap Filler to come and facilitate a workshop in your school (we can provide open city tags like the one enclosed for your students)
- Visit Gap Filler and have a unique Open City experience- book online gapfiller.org.nz/what-we-do/education.



Open City Sample Learning Opportunities

Discover more about your city with OPEN CITY, a new project that helps you unlock your city's secrets. With this lesson plan you can unlock the sweet free things to do in your school or local community and build connections between people and place.

Curriculum Links

Key Competencies:

- Managing self
- Thinking
- Relating to others
- Using language, symbols, and texts
- Participating and contributing

Social Studies:

- L1-3 Contribution to Society- how does this project contribute to Christchurch
- L4-6 Identity- how do we see ourselves in our city/ community

Health and Physical Education:

- L1-8 Healthy Communities and Environments

Resources

- Access to Open City online for examples or to load local experiences
- Map of your school or local community / group
- Open City postcards photocopy template
- Open City tags (order from sally@gapfiller.org.nz whilst stock lasts)
- [5 Ways to Wellbeing resources](https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/home/ways-to-wellbeing/) (Mentalhealth.org.nz/home/ways-to-wellbeing/?)
- Sparklers Activities (Allright.org.nz/tools/sparklers/
 - [Favourite Places](#)
 - [Wellbeing Walkabout](#)

Tuning in (5 mins)

What are the little secrets that you love about Christchurch city? Those little, free, gems that make this place special to you? If you had a visitor from another city come and stay, where would you take them in the city? What would you show them? What is special about them or why do they make you feel good? (5 mins)

Discuss

Thinking about your school and your playground, discuss:

- If you were to show a visitor around the school what secrets would you share with them? What are some of the things that make your school special or different from other schools?

- Where is your favourite place in your school/ playground? It could be a place to sit and read a book, or hang out with your friends, climb or play with a ball or a place to watch or look at something...
- What are some of the stories you can share about your school/ community that make your school/ community special? Who could you ask/ talk to in order to find out about these special things?
- What are some of the things you could do around your school that help others?

Participate and Contribute

Break into groups and discuss your favourite places and things you like to do in them with your friends. Use the postcard templates enclosed or mark these on a map of your playground. Are there special places where you could tell a story about your school/ community? Think about experiences others may not have in their school. Choose your favourite 10 things.

For older students, it could involve the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. List your ten experiences. These should involve doing something active, taking notice, giving, connecting and learning. For younger students it might be creating a discovery trail or going on a Wellbeing Walkabout.

On a map of your school playground create a trail and trial it. Is there anything you notice on your route that you hadn't noticed before?

Share

Share your trails as a class - are there any common places/activities? Are there any surprises? Could you trial it with someone younger or older in the school and get their feedback?

Are there any secrets/ experiences they would like to share?

Decide on your favourite 'secrets' and find a way to encourage others to experience these activities or share their secrets. You could draw attention by using chalk, painted stones or tags (contact Sally@gapfiller.org.nz) if you would like to use a class set of tags similar to the one in this mail out).

Is there an interesting way to experience these things and how you might share them - where is the best place for people to find out about it? We used a parking meter and a website, but it could be a notice board, a trail, a guided walk, a school blog or an amazing race. You could use the Open City website to share some of your experiences.

Reflect

How do you think your experiences might differ from another school, community or suburb? Consider the connections with your school's cultural narrative.

