

Quake wikispace in aid of Christchurch victims

GRANT'S Braes School pupils have marshalled their IT knowledge to help educate and inform people, in support of Christchurch earthquake victims.

Year 6 pupils at the school recently designed and created a wikispace with information on the Christchurch earthquake, as well as earthquakes in general, and have already drawn a global audience.

The site, which contains facts and information about fault lines; a glossary of earthquake-related terms; explanations as to why earthquakes happen; advice about what to do in the event of an earthquake; and a range of photos and videos, has been live for about two weeks.

The site also allows people to leave messages of support for the people of Christchurch.

Grant's Braes School year 6 teacher Craig Kemp said the wikispace, which was spearheaded by year 6 pupils Emily Paterson, who came up with the idea, Hannah Moore and Andrew Clarkson (all 10), was "hugely popular" and a great source of information by children, for children.

"It is entirely their idea, and all of it is their work — there's been no adult assistance.

"The site got about 400 hits in less than 10 days."

Emily said she came up with the idea because she wanted to do something which would benefit people throughout the world.

"We wanted to make something that teachers could use to help educate their students, and parents could use to help inform their children," she said.

Hannah said the wikispace was a way to show support for the victims of the Christchurch earthquake in a "sensitive" manner.

So far, people from New Zealand, Japan, the United States, Canada and Thailand had visited the site. Andrew

said the pupils would like to keep the site running as long as possible to reach as many people as possible.

□ The Grant's Braes School year 6 pupils' earthquake wikispace can be found at <http://christchurchearthquake2011.wikispaces.com>

