



# COBHAM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



10 July, 2011

Paul Stevenson and the members of the Starfish Foundation

Cobham Intermediate and its Future Problem Solving Team would like to sincerely thank you for your support of the team and its academic endeavour to compete in the International Finals of Future Problem Solving which was held in La Crosse, USA in June, 2011.

The team members worked incredibly hard to study and research to the level required of the competition. The topic was Emergency Planning, such a relevant topic for a team that has lived through many thousands of earthquakes over the preceding months. This made the preparation more difficult due to school closures and personal circumstances but made the commitment to helping the local community and those in need very personal. In the process, we were able to observe processes in action and think about what may be possible in thirty to forty years time when the Future Scene of the competition was set. It also made fundraising very difficult and without your support behind us the team could not have gone.

There were sixty teams in their division of the finals and in the three components we competed in we scored:

- First place in the dramatic action plan meaning the team performed at the closing ceremony in front of approximately 3,000 people, a huge accomplishment.
- Second place in the Alternate Competition in which our individual student joined with three other students from three different US States to compete in the written booklet competition
- Fifth place in the team booklet competition, an excellent result.

In addition all five students were wonderful ambassadors for New Zealand and I was complemented many times on their manners, warmth and focus.

It meant a great deal to all of us Paul to meet you at Auckland Airport and for you to send the team off with such heart-felt words. The koru pendants were beautiful and I know the students treasure them.

Helping able students excel is my goal as a teacher of gifted and talented students and to see the growth of these students over the last eighteen months, I have worked with them has been rewarding.

Thank you for your support of these students who will go on with their learning and become important people to New Zealand's future.

Yours sincerely  
Julie Rogers  
Gifted and Talented Coordinator

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