



FRESH LEARNING SPACES DURING REFURBISHMENT



The challenge: When the Ministry of Education Building Improvement Programme came to Gladstone Primary, several of its buildings were found to be in need of improvement.

Principal Dave Shadbolt says that the building was built during the 'leaky' era and that the investigation revealed moisture in some of the walls.

"It was a bit of a shock for us, we pride ourselves on providing a beautiful learning environment - inside and out," he said.

"We were using the buildings as three classrooms, a resource room, and as a library. It was important to me, as much as everyone else, that we found alternative facilities right away so the necessary remediation work could be carried out."

The solution: Portacom Buildings Solutions was able to meet the schools urgent needs with new, ready-made buildings available for hire.

Within just six weeks five new temporary buildings were set up on the school premises, complete with surrounding decks, ramps, and steps.

"We didn't have to worry about a thing as Portacom Building Solutions handled everything from start to finish, and informed me at every point," said Dave.

"I was certainly impressed at how they were able to ensure the safety of the students, despite working on a tight site with little wriggle room."

"The team even preserved the large trees surrounding the driveway when bringing the buildings in - each tree was carefully pulled back rather than chopped down."

Dave expresses his gratitude to Portacom Building Solutions for lending a container to the school so they could store resources and equipment while the new accommodation was established.

Managing Director of Portacom Building Solutions Martin McLeod, says that having complete control on turnkey projects such as this is where he and his team can complete projects ahead of time and exceed client's expectations.

"In this instance, we organised all of the required sub-contractors on behalf of our client and completed the design, build, and site set-up ahead of schedule – a result that pleased the school so it could use the summer break to get the rooms ready for the start of the 2014 school term".

The result: Dave says they have only been back at school a few days but already the staff and students are enjoying their brand new facilities, especially the heat pump which has come in handy to cool the rooms from the high temperatures.

"It's brilliant that we were able to obtain alternative accommodation so quickly, it's brand new, and it fits perfectly on school grounds," he adds.

Gladstone Primary has around 130 students using the hired buildings and will continue to do so for the next six months while its main buildings are refurbished.

FAST FACTS

Project Name:

Gladstone Primary School

Client Name:

Ministry of Education

Industry:

Education

Size:

5 x 10 x 6m buildings

Year:

2010

Location:

Auckland



Features

- Carpet, heat pump
- Acoustipin lined walls
- Deck, ramp, steps, and handrails