

Food entrepreneur heads to Auckland

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AN Opotiki student is one of 74 entrepreneurs battling it out in Auckland this weekend.

Opotiki College student Zavannah Walker will head to Massey University's Albany campus to compete with other youngsters in the FedEx Express junior achievement international trade challenge.

Up for grabs are six places to represent New Zealand in Bangkok, Thailand, in August.

However, yesterday Zavannah was home in bed with a cold.

"I've been to the doctor and I told him I have to fly to Auckland on Friday – so he gave me some medicine," she said.

The entrepreneurial skills that earned her a place among the 74 contenders produced a lunch box built on the food pyramid.

"With the young enterprise company at the college, we hope to target primary school students – designing healthy lunches for each day," Zavannah said.

The aim was to take the lunch

boxes to schools, talk about the value of eating healthily and help Opotiki residents to learn more about the benefits.

If Zavannah becomes one of the six finalists, she will participate in a two-day training workshop in early August at the FedEx facility in Auckland, prior to the Asia-Pacific regional final in Bangkok.

FedEx Australasia managing director Kim Garner said the programme was a practical, educational platform to help New Zealand students achieve their potential by exposing them to the benefits of entrepreneurship, business and international trade.

"We are thrilled to be moving into our third year sponsoring this meaningful programme," he said.

"We have seen creative, fresh and exciting ideas presented by students in previous years and we are looking forward to more innovative and well-thought out international market entries from the students this year."