

THE DOMINION POST  
www.dominionpost.co.nz

THE Hutt News

## Handwash timers wins St Oran's girls Youth Enterprise kudos

By PRIYANKA BHONSULE - Hutt News    Last updated 12:14 23/06/2010

Preventing swine flu was behind the winning idea of a St Oran's College Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) team.

Erika Clarke, Chastity Roberts, Harriet Turner and Laura Hewson were brainstorming in class about what immediate problems society was facing, and the swine flu pandemic came up.

Working off the idea of singing toothbrushes, which time how long the user should be brushing, the girls came up with a hand-washing timer.

Their oral business presentation at the regional finals earlier this month impressed judges, though the girls say it was "quite nerve-racking".

"Half the marks were for innovation and the judges said it's one of those ideas that make you think, 'Why didn't I think of that?'," says Harriet, the team's sales and marketing director.

The product (patent pending) is like a touch light, which, when pressed, flashes for 20 seconds the amount of time people should spend washing their hands.

The idea was supported by the girls' mentor Sean Sharman and business studies teacher Shirley Grieve.

There has been a lot of good feedback from parents of young children, says managing director Chastity, along with schools who have requested the product in their bathrooms.

The hand-wash timer wasn't the only offering from St Oran's, with another team putting forward a plan for an all-in-one personal organiser.

A square mirror, which opens like a book to reveal a cork noticeboard and whiteboard, the idea came about because "everyone looks in the mirror every day", says production manager Brooke Carson.

The initial design, with three separate panels, was proving too expensive, so the girls decided to make it two panels like a book.

The product can be personalised to the buyer's taste, says managing director Lydia Coe.

The all-in-one personal organiser will retail for \$29.95 while the timer will cost \$15.

For the winning team, the Trade Fair is next in August, when they will show off their product, followed by submission of an annual report in September and national finals in November.

0 comments

[Post a comment](#)

[Expand All](#)

[Oldest First](#)

### Post comment