

No talking, no eating for those without

Senior pupils at Cotswold School have demonstrated the power of self-denial with a large number of its over eight-year-old students taking part in the World Vision 40 hour famine last weekend.

Out of 210 seniors at the school, 62 volunteered to take part in the sponsored fundraiser.

Students had the choice to take part in either a 20 or 40 hour event, which saw most go without food, electricity, technology and talking.

Cotswold School Room 12 teacher Liz Davies, who undertook her own 40 Famine from the Friday evening till the Sunday lunchtime, said the school had a tradition of participating in the famine fundraiser.

"It's heart-warming to see our pupils give up things they enjoy so they can display empathy and solidarity with the millions of children worldwide who don't go to school, or have access to safe water," she said.

Last year, Cotswold School raised \$2538 and in 2008, \$1507.

Before the event, students spoke of their excitement and in some cases apprehension at taking part in the famine.

"Not talking will be hard. We've got whiteboards to write on. I won't be able to talk to my brother, but that's OK," said one famine participant.

Famine fundraisers throughout New Zealand spent the weekend depriving themselves in order to raise more than the \$2.6 million raised last year.



Going without: No talking, no technology and no food – Cotswold School pupils joined in the annual World Vision 40 Hour Famine fundraiser. From left are Janelle McKenzie, 8, Bella Stewart, 10, Guss Tucker, 10 and Byron Heath, 10.

Third World facts:

- In 2009, the number of people suffering from chronic malnutrition exceeded 1 billion for the first time in history. That's 220 times more people than the total population of New Zealand.
- A billion people worldwide don't have access to safe water and around 1.8 million children die a year of water-related diseases.
- 1150 children are newly infected with HIV each day and nearly 12 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS.
- There are 90 million children worldwide who are not in school and only per cent of disabled children in developing countries receive an education.
- It costs \$62 to provide two families in Tanzania with a kit containing items like rice, blankets and soap.