

Moulding entrepreneurs

Marc Greenhill

A business mind is never too young to train as three Kirkwood Intermediate students will find out while taking part in the eTime Entrepreneurs programme.

Teams from six intermediate schools in the Year 7 and 8 category and six primary schools in Year 5 and 6 category are taking part in the pilot which runs each Tuesday for 18 weeks over terms two and three.

eTime director Faye Le Cren said a two-day programme developing young entrepreneurs was held last year. New Zealand Trade and Enterprise has funded an extension of the programme for 2005.

"They want to develop enterprising skills in New Zealand school children so they can look at further career opportunities as they develop," Le Cren said.

"Our programme is about



PHOTO: MARC GREENHILL

Kirkwood entrepreneurs Yuqing Zhang, Victor Liu and Ed Mitchell with teacher Mat Jenkins.

matching their strengths and calling on support in areas where they

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creating excitement; about being entrepreneurial, challenging that excitement in a competitive business context, and looking at the whole idea of being able to create a whole business around their own strengths."

Students, with the aid of one of their school teachers, will take on series of challenges. Teams select a different leader for each challenge.

"Each challenge will be

introduced and judged by an appropriate entrepreneur or business or community leader, and depending on the challenge it will focus on success in developing a product or service, or a financial aspect."

Support and expertise will be provided by eTime.

"What we want to do is develop in them the ability to be creative and use their ideas," Le Cren said.

Students will look at initiative, responsibility, managing risk, deadlines,

are not strong, media training, financial systems and stress.

"It's everything you would go through if you were looking at establishing your own business. It's a very exciting project."

The 12 teams were chosen using specific criteria.

"Given this is a pilot, the intention was to select schools and teams that represent a wide range of experience in innovation and enterprise."