

Young cooks to compete

FOUR Kio Kio School students believe they have the secret ingredients to wow the judges in next month's Maggi Intermediate Schools Kitchen Showdown.

Twelve-year-olds Bennett Sanson, Caitlyn Morrison, Phoenix Hughes and George Butcher impressed the competition's judges when they submitted their roast chicken and kumara couscous recipe earlier this year.

Now the 'mini masterchefs' will swap their classroom for a kitchen at Auckland's Seafood Training College on September 3, facing off against 11 other teams in the Upper North Island regional final.

PERFECTING RECIPE

But in order to present a perfect dish, that is both tasty and visually appealing, the aspiring chefs will first hone their culinary skills with help from teacher James White.

"When we first tried the recipe we forgot to do a few things like cooking the kumara," says Bennett.

"But we have two weeks to get the process right."

Phoenix, who claims to make "a mean macaroni and cheese", says they are all excited about competing, and hope to win the grand prize of \$5000 for their school.

This is the third year Kio Kio School has entered the nationwide competition which will be judged by Culinary Innovations manager Richard Brogan and chef Mike Lee from TV2's *Erin Simpson Show* plus a surprise celebrity guest.

FINALS

The regional finals will be aired on TV2's *The 4.30 Show* on September 16, giving the young chefs the chance to showcase their culinary skills on national television.

If the Kio Kio team wins, they will then need to prepare a new recipe for the national final in Christchurch on September 16.

Lee says: "Every year the judging gets harder and harder as school teams step up the quality and creativity of their submitted recipes."

"It will be exciting to see the delicious meal creations the teams conjure up."



CONFIDENT COOKS: Bennett Sanson (left), Caitlyn Morrison and Phoenix Hughes from Kio Kio School will finetune their cooking skills ahead of next month's Maggi Intermediate Schools Kitchen Showdown.

District welcomes new Kiwis



WELCOME HOME: A group of six people from five different countries were welcomed as new citizens of New Zealand and the Waitomo district last week. In the council's chambers on Wednesday, mayor Brian Hanna welcomed the group hailing from all corners of the globe including the United Kingdom, Samoa, Germany, China and Taiwan/America. They are Patty Lin (above left), Qian Cao, Sarah Peacock, Robert Gordon, Aggie Bell and Faitalia Menu. Mr Hanna (centre) says he enjoys being able to welcome new people to the district. "It is great to help make this the 'place they call home'," he says. "We wish them all the best." PHOTO SUPPLIED

POLICE DESK

August 6

A GROUP of 3-4 men burst into a Nettie St home in Te Kuiti and seriously beat a man using a ratchet and steel bar. The victim suffered cuts, abrasions and bruising around the eye and went to the Te Kuiti Police Station before being taken to Te Kuiti Hospital. He was discharged soon after. Police have the names of two possible suspects.

August 7

AN 11-year-old Centennial Park student was taken to Te Kuiti Hospital after being kicked in the head by a fellow student.

MORE than \$3000 worth of power tools

including, drills, jigsaws and sanders were stolen from an unsecure garage on Tahaia Rd in Otorohanga.

August 8

AN iPad and \$785 in cash were taken from a Colin Brook Pl home in Te Kuiti. Police believe the burglar(s) gained entry by using a spare key.

A 43-year-old Otorohanga woman was stopped while driving on Haerehuka St in Otorohanga and failed an evidential breath test registering 461 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath. The limit is 400mcg/l. She elected a blood sample to be taken.



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