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One 'classic beauty' tastefully restored, then 'wickedly modified'. \$4,000

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Getting all shirty is a \$200 success

By Tessa Johnstone, tessa.johnstone@age.co.nz | Saturday, September 22, 2012 6:00

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Kahutara School students got behind their classmate, Olivia Clark, yesterday - loudly.

The school raised \$200 for Loud Shirt Day, the annual appeal for The Hearing House and the Southern Cochlear Implant Paediatric Programme.

Students were told by 8-year-old Olivia what it was like to be able to hear, thanks to two cochlear implants.

"You have 16,000 tiny hair cells for normal hearing and I have 22 channels.

"When I'm wearing my cochlear implant I can hear the clock ticking, birds chirping, cows mooing, sheep baaing, dogs barking, cats meowing.

"I can hear talking, Rory crying, Rhiannon and granny singing, Archie mucking around and mum and dad chatting."

Olivia's teachers wear a device which helps her pick up their voice.

Martinborough mum Corina Lawson was also at the event with 18-month-old Emily Robinson to tell their story.

The students reacted with awe that before Emily got her first cochlear implant she could not hear a jet plane go past, but now she could tell her parents when she was stuck.



HEAR THIS : Olivia Clark (left) and Emily Robinson on mum Corina Lawson's knee are surrounded by pupils in their colourful gear.

LYNDA FERINGA