# Totara College

# News

Term 4 Week 5 6/11/2025

#### This Term at Totara

Theme:

All things Dannevirke

Value: Integrity

#### Scripture:

"And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it: for in its peace you will have peace."



#### **Vision**

Reaching our God given Potential





#### From the Dr's Office...

Greetings everyone. Nga mihi aroha kia koutou.

We're halfway through the term and everyone I speak to remarks how quickly it is racing along. The main reason, I think, is that we have so many fun and involved activities planned for the students.

There has been a lot of talk in the media recently regarding the new curricula the Minister is bringing in. We are still working on the details, but please be assured that learning continues for your children at the level they are capable of, as we transition. We are 'laser-focused' on learning achievement, and consider it constantly, despite what you might read sometimes about education in NZ in the newspapers.

However, learning is more than just reading, writing and mathematics. Learning covers a huge range of activities and we are tasked with giving the students every opportunity for learning skills and knowledge that will help prepare them for the person they will grow into and the careers they will enter.

A great example was the musical last week, and I would like to reiterate my huge thanks to **Mrs Ruth Peters** who gave a huge amount of time and effort, from start to finish, to having this be so successful for our school. The primary and secondary musicals were productions for our community, but the reality is they were wonderful learning opportunities for our students. Classes can only teach so much, and so these sort of real life experiences are a welcome addition to a curriculum which focuses on full learning, not just the basics. Some of the 'learnings' (rugby's new word) which come from musicals are:

- Resilience
- Bravery
- Opportunity to perform
- Opportunity to be involved in a whole which is bigger than the parts
- Growing together with peers in a different context
- Acting as a group rather than as an individual
- Learning how to do things without any mistakes
- Learning from the disappointment which occurs when mistakes are made
- Learning how to communicate and enunciate clearly
- Learning how to sing in key
- Growing the ability to memorise (an undervalued skill in our modern world)
- Having fun while learning
- Learning to be proud of yourself
- Learning how to express yourself creatively

- Learning more about the gospel of Jesus
- For some, they may go into a career in performance and so this opportunity is vital for their development.
- Etc.

These are all wonderful things for students to practice at school.

We've got other opportunities coming up too. Thursday saw our athletic sports happen and my thanks to **Jonny Max** for all his efforts organising this. Again, there are many learning activities that come out of this such as being physically active, learning how to run and throw, but again, a number of our students may consider a career in sports science or such like and so these activities are important opportunities for them.

In Week 7, we have the secondary camp (for all Year 9-13 students) at Taupo. There will be many learning activities and teaching sessions as a part of this.

In Week 8, we are fortunate to have a team doing a French language trip to Tahiti. The students have all been working on their French speaking, but soon they get thrown into the deep end in a country which only speaks that language. Who knows but some of them may have a career in international relations or in tour guiding?

So Mathematics and communication are vital parts of learning at school and we have a strong focus on these. But, it can be unwise to think that this is the be all and end all of schooling. Schools are diverse places and teachers work diligently to ensure numerous opportunities are available to students, (don't get me started on the importance of values education!).

I hope you all have a lovely weekend in the rapidly warming weather.

Peter

#### From the Admin Office...

Hello

Just a couple of quick notes:

- The vision and hearing people are booked in to see a group of Year 7, 8 and 9's. If you do NOT want your student tested, please contact the office.
- Please remember that if your student is riding a bike to school, they MUST wear a helmet.
- Getting ready for the ball (especially for the girls) is a special and potentially timeconsuming time. We understand this. Appointments for beautifying will need to be
  made outside of school hours if possible as there is a lot of schoolwork needed to be
  done for the end of the year. Please consult with the teachers if this is not possible.

Blessings

Danielle



A lovely, long line of super excited students have received certificates for 'Working Safely in a Kitchen', a prerequisite course for earning credits next year.

## Totara College

# Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee is run voluntarily by parents and staff of Totara College. We need more parents to come and help us out. Our current project is to replace the chairs in the hall. We have contacted the Dannevirke Regent Cinema to enquire about holding a movie fundraiser. They are more than happy for us to do this. But we need parents to organise and run this for us. We would like to hold the movie night in Term 4.

Please contact Danielle in the Office if you are able to help out with this.

# November Events

Monday	Tugsday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
					1 & 2
3	4	5	6 Athletics BOT Meeting 6pm	7 Kahui Ako Cultural Exchange	8 & 9
10	11	12	13	14 Swimming Years 1-10	15 & 16
17	18	19 Senior Camp Interschool Athletics	20 Sgnior Camp	21 Senior Camp Swimming Years 4-8	22 & 23
24	25	26	27 Tahiti Trip	28 Tahiti Trip Swimming Years 1-10	29 & 30 Tahiti Trip

#### December Events

Monday	Tugsday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
1 Tahiti Trip	2 Tahiti Trip	3 Tahiti Trip	4 Tahiti Trip	5 Swimming Years 1-10	6 & 7
8	9 LC5 Customer Service Course	10 LC5 Customer Service Course	11 Splash Planet	12 Prizegiving Last day of Sehool	13 & 14
BOT Meeting 6pm	16	17	18	19	20 & 21
22	23	24	25	26	27 & 28
29	30	31			

### Term Pates

Term 4: Monday 6 October – Friday 12 December

Term 1 2026:

Tørm 2 2026:

Tørm 3 2026:

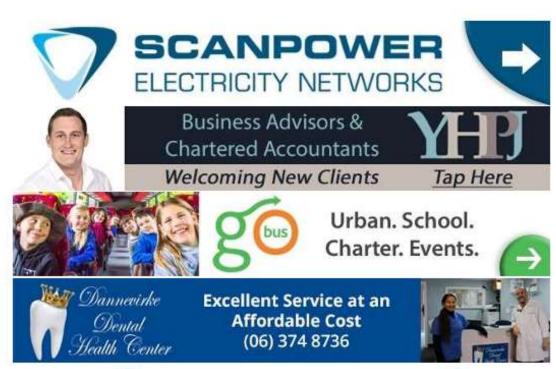
Term 4 2026:





### **Totara College**

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:





If you would like to advertise on the Totara College
Skool Loop App please email Content@skoolloop.com
To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search
'Skool Loop' & choose School once installed.





Gain vital knowledge on safe and responsible driving.

Course Criteria:

- Open to all licence holders
- All four sessions must be attended
- 50 hours of driving practice is recommended
- 1:1 practical driving session after the course
- Homework to be completed before each session

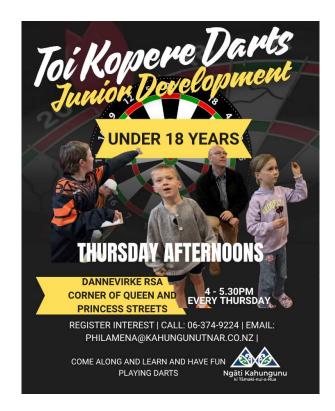


#### **Details**

- 6:00 pm 8:00 pm
- Nov 24, 26 & Dec 1, 3
- Bluey, 17 Gordon St
- § \$190 (Subsidised)

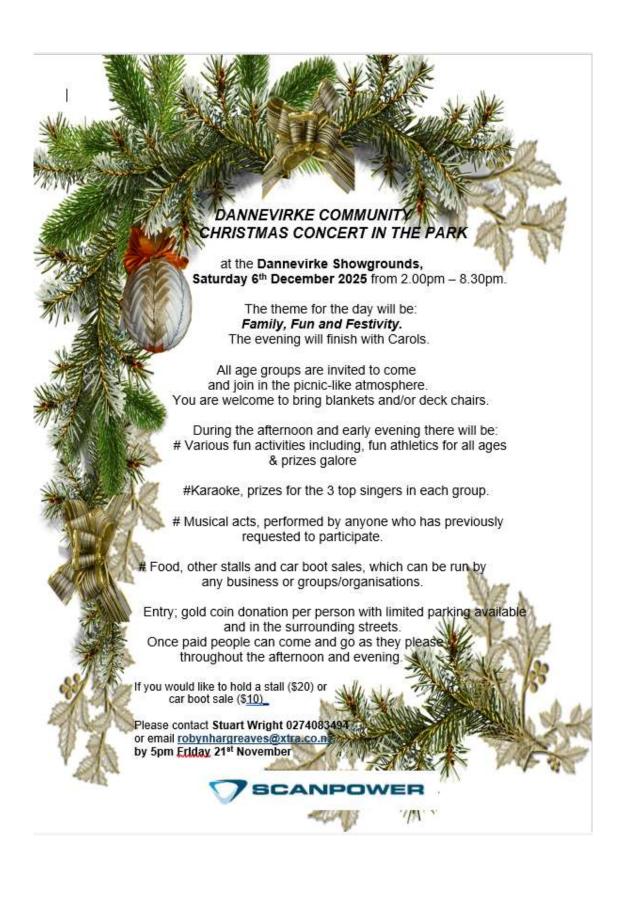
Registration & Payment to Tararua REAP





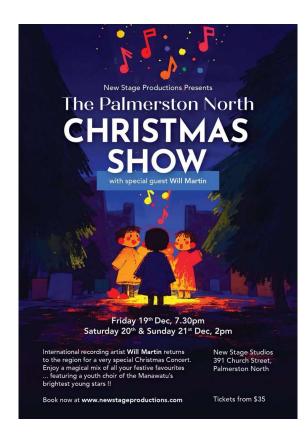
















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