

Term 4 Week 3

1 November 2024

TOTARA COLLEGE NEWS

This Term at Totara

Theme:

Space

Value: Diligence

Scripture:

**The heavens declare
the glory of God; the skies
proclaim the work of his
hands.** *Psalm 19 v 1*



**TOTARA
COLLEGE**

Vision

*Reaching our God-
given potential*





From the Dr's Office...

Greetings everyone

School is running smoothly as we continue with our many varied activities to take us to the end of the year.

Our Board met on Tuesday for the second to last time this year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their service and dedication to our school. The Board is composed of: Clayton Locke, Ricki Carnie (Deputy), Isobel Omundsen and Calder Woodfield (Chair) as parent members. Gavin Welsh and Trevor Viljoen as proprietor members and Ruth Peters, myself and Adena Green as the school-based members.

We meet twice a term to discuss the way the school is performing and to consider governance issues for the school going forward. Some of the things we have focused on recently have included:

- Reviewing all our policies. Most recently we updated our curriculum and our complaints policies.
- Setting the direction for next year in our annual plan.
- Authorising the end of year camps and considering the financial, health, and safety aspects of these.
- Considering further proprietor developments including things like extending the kitchen area to house more students and recarpeting the secondary area.

With all of these, we have had some fairly robust discussions and try to find a unified way through for the good of the community and the students – generally we're pretty good at discussing and resolving the issues.

At our last meeting for the year in December we'll be looking at things like:

- Continued full policy review (set to be fully updated by end of term 1 next year hopefully)
- Budget ratified for 2025
- Looking at the data of student learning for the year and see how it compares with what we targeted
- Further consideration of proprietor priorities for building.
- Considering the safety of LC1 students and their proximity to the driveway.

It may sound a bit dull, but we actually have a good time and it's all for a really good cause: our school. At each meeting the key orders of business which generate discussion are my Board report, which focusses on what has happened and where we are in relation to our goals, and the finance report, which focusses on how our funding and expenditure is tracking against the goals we set in the annual budget. We are blessed to have Gavin Welsh, a chartered accountant, on the board to oversee the finances for us. Board meetings are actually meetings in public, so anyone is allowed to attend these if they see the need, although generally speaking, rights are reserved for Board members.

Have a wonderful weekend

Peter



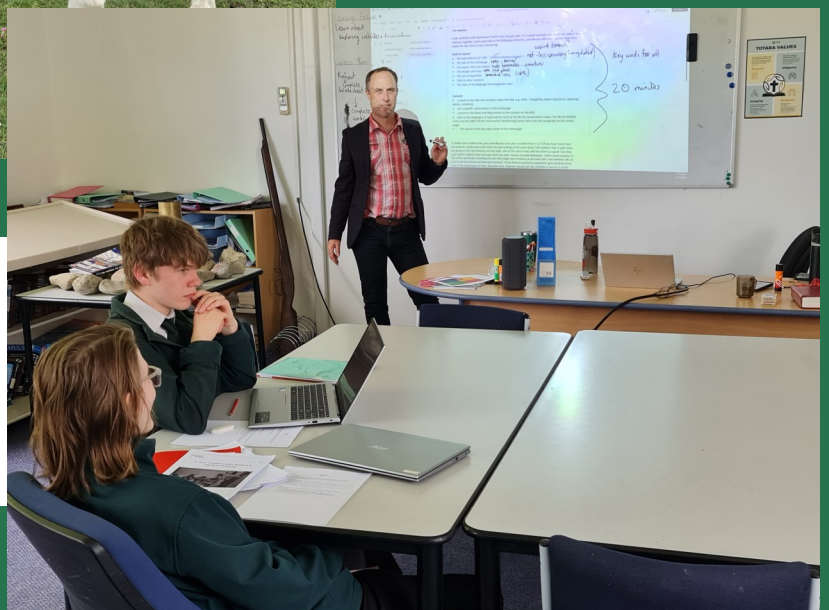
**Seven little alligators sitting
on a log...**

**Alani and Mrs Patu
getting ready for every-
one's favourite time of
day...lunchtime!**



**Miss Sophia leading a
cute pony.**

**Looks like a thought provoking
Social Sciences class led by the
famous Mr Mac.**





**Mrs Ryklief surprising
Oliver with some exciting
maths problems.**



**Our school was super blessed to
have Brody Walters, a past pupil,
come in and talk to us about how
God has transformed her life.**

Tāmaki-Nui-Ā-Rua

Kapa Haka Festival

2024



Communicating your concerns

Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19

In our school we have students, parents, volunteer adults, teacher aides, office staff, teachers, and senior leadership (assistant principal, deputy principal and principal). With so many people there are always going to be the odd times when something goes wrong.

Points to having your concerns heard appropriately:

The first adult you see about the issue should be the one closest to the problem.

Concerns are important to us. We may only know of a concern if you tell us.

If your concern is about another child. Please do not approach the child. Approach the school and we will handle it.

Please be respectful to staff. They are expected to be respectful to you.

Please don't approach teachers when they are teaching or on the way to a class – book an appropriate time – this can be done by email.

Please don't discuss your concerns through social media – we prefer to be able to sort them privately. Inappropriate use of social media can lead to unintended privacy invasions which, in extreme circumstance, may lead to court action.

When there is an issue/concern/complaint please follow this process:

Student concerns

See the person concerned in the first instance.

Most issues occur between children in the classroom or the playground and so generally the **classroom teacher** is the first person to speak to. Most issues can be dealt with at this level. The classroom teacher may also involve some professional support (e.g. senior leadership) if they need it.

If you are not satisfied with the response.

Please put your concern in an email to the office (office@totaracollege.school.nz), stating that you have seen the teacher and been unsatisfied with the response. You will be contacted by a person (usually senior leadership) delegated to handle the issue.

If you are still not satisfied with the response.

Write a letter (email) to the principal directly principal@totaracollege.school.nz

If you are still not satisfied with the response.

Write a letter to the Board of the school which will be tabled at the Board's next meeting (generally there are 2 meetings per term). Letters intended for the Board can be left at the front office for the Board secretary.

Staff concerns

If you have an issue with a staff member, please see the person concerned first then, if unresolved, a senior leadership member. If not satisfied with the response go to 3 above.

Senior leadership concerns

If you have an issue with a senior leadership person, please see the person concerned first then, if unresolved, go to 3 above.

Principal or Board concerns

Please see the principal first and follow this up with an email documenting your concerns. If the issue is unresolved, see another senior leadership person to assist. If issue is still unresolved, go to 4 above.

Please Remember...

- Friday 15 November—Senior Ball
- Wed 27-Fri 29 November—Senior Camp
- Thursday 12 December—Prizegiving
- Friday 13 December—Splash Planet—Last day of term
- Saturday 14 December—Christmas in the Park
- Monday 3 February 2025—First day of Term 1

Dates for 2025:

- Term 1: Monday 3 February—Friday 11 April
- Term 2: Monday 28 April—Friday 27 June
- Term 3: Monday 14 July—Friday 19 September
- Term 4: Monday 6 October—Friday 12 December

E-mail: office@totaracollege.school.nz

Phone: 06 374 6165



RADIO DANNEVIRKE

107 FM

"The Heart of the Tairāwhiti"



CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN THE PARK

Dannevirke Showgrounds
Saturday 14 December | 3pm to 10pm

WE ARE ALL ABOUT FAMILY, FUN AND FESTIVITY.

The evening will finish with Carols by Candlelight.

During the afternoon and early evening there will be:

Various fun activities including a tug-of-war competition, local businesses performing karaoke, fun athletics for all ages.

Food and other stalls from businesses or organisations.

All age groups are invited to come and join in the picnic-like atmosphere.

You are welcome to bring blankets and/or deck chairs.

If you would like to have a stall (cost \$30 food or other), perform for 20 mins, or have any other ideas for fun activities, please contact:

Stuart Wright 027 408 3494 | **Radio Dannevirke** 06 374 6601
or email robynhargreaves@xtra.co.nz by 5pm, Sunday 20 October.

Entry:

Gold coin donation per person with limited parking available
in the showgrounds and surrounding streets.

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Stress Free Summer

WITH THE POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM



A 3-Week Parenting Course from Triple P, including:

- Help your child to listen
- Fighting and aggression
- Sleep solutions

The long stretch of summer holidays can bring on a mix of emotions when it comes to parenting!

Join us over 3 weeks to focus on key aspects of parenting that can help give you a stress-free summer!



Suitable for parents of children aged between 2 and 10 years old.

Details

🕒 9:30 am – 12.00 pm

📅 Monday 4, 11, 18 November

📍 Tararua REAP,
15 Gordon Street

💰 Koha Appreciated

🍴 Refreshments available

**Register with Tararua REAP
by 25 October**

TARARUA REAP
Rural Education Activities Programme

📍 15 Gordon Street, Dannevirke

☎ 06 374 6565

✉ office@tararuareap.co.nz

🌐 www.tararuareap.co.nz

