

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*

Please remember to
bring back any trophies
you have at home. We
need them ASAP please.





From the Dr's Office...

Greetings everyone

We've had another great week of school with many happenings and opportunities for the students in the improving weather.

This week we had the school athletics on Tuesday and it was wonderful to see all the students competing hard, and the older students looking after the younger ones. Many thanks to all the parents who turned up to watch, and particularly to **Mr Jonny Max** who coordinated the whole event. Congratulations to the parents who won against the staff in the relay. We hope to carry this out again next year ... with a different result.

Swimming lessons continue to be a highlight this term on Thursday afternoons for primary students. I often comment that we live on an island where water is never far away and so it is important for the children to learn how to swim. It's also a lot of fun and a nice way to break up the learning week.

End of year trips and camps are in full preparation, examples include: a course trip to local businesses for our senior engineering students, LC3 camp to Wellington and LC1/LC2 day trips next week. LC5 surf camp to Castlepoint occurs in Week 7.

Remember to calendar the school's prize giving on Thursday night in the last week of term. The following day we'll all be off to Splash Planet in Hastings.

Please note that next week (Week 6), I'll be in Christchurch for a professional development course and Ruth Peters will be acting principal in my absence.

Space

Our Term Four theme is space and we have been learning about the objects in the night sky with a particular focus on our memory verse from Ps 19:

The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day by day they pour forth speech, night by night they display knowledge.

In assemblies I've mentioned such concepts as: the comet recently in our night sky, the planets that can be seen at night right at the moment, how years, days and months occur and the constellations.

Unfortunately, LC3's trip to the Timmins' farm on Thursday to view the night sky and see the celestial bodies up close, particularly the full moon, was cancelled due to the weather. We hope to have this on another night but the end of the year gets busy fast and it may not happen.

Teacher only day Friday

Please remember there is a TOD on Friday and your children should stay at home. This is part of an understanding between the teachers' unions and the Ministry of Education and is for the purpose of understanding and preparing for some of the changes set to occur for next year.

In primary (Years 1-6 - but some of the changes include Year 7-8), these changes will be around the Minister of Education's plans for the new Literacy and Mathematics curricula which has had a lot of attention in the newspapers recently. These curricula are in draft form and include some changes in emphasis. I am expecting that these will improve the learning in the school and will be a positive change for our kids.

In secondary, our teachers will plan for the new 2025 secondary courses which mostly will be set at NCEA Level 2. Students have chosen their courses from a range of options and our specialist teachers will organise courses to meet each students' needs. ACE programs will still be running and many students have chosen to complete a path which includes both an academically focused NCEA Level 2 certificate (our national qualification) and their appropriate ACE certificate. If you were wondering, ACE stands for Accelerated Christian Education and NCEA stands for the National Certificate of Educational Achievement.

Tree climbing is now a thing at Totara after the parent consultation earlier in the year. At the moment there is only one tree that is allowed to be climbed, it has the rules attached to it. You can view these on the next page.

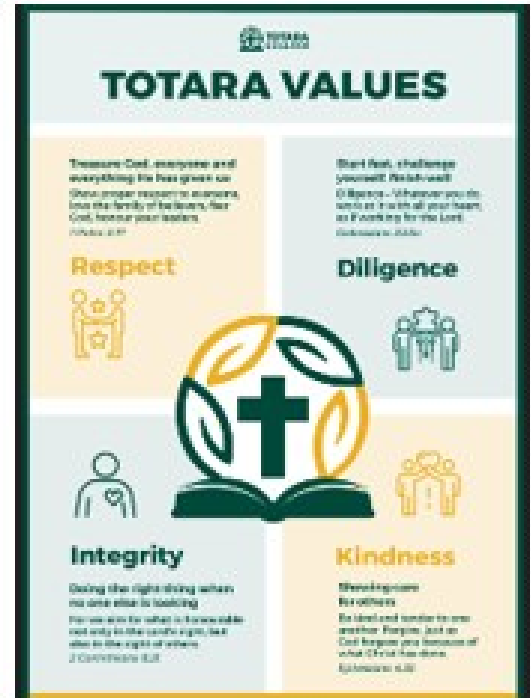
It's going to be fun and school life and learning doesn't stop until the final day.

Have a great weekend

Peter

This tree can be climbed!

1. Any worries: see duty teacher or office.
2. The school's values must be followed.
3. Only sensible/safe behaviour allowed in the tree.
4. Only slow movements in trees.
5. Only balance on sturdy branches. Don't jump up and down on them.
6. 8 students maximum in the tree at one time.
7. Any misbehaviour will result in loss of the privilege.
8. No climbing further than halfway up the tree.
9. No hanging upside down.





Such determination!

What a great action shot!



**Oh! the places we go
oh the faces we'll see!**



Go Lara! Go!





Maddie getting ready to release the discus

Great focus on getting the precise measurements.



The kids listening intently to Mr Mac giving high jump instructions

Our Leaders participating in Armistice Day.





**The engineering class
on an engineering trip.**

That looks fascinating!



**The little engineering class
that could.**

Please Remember...

- Friday 15 November—TEACHER ONLY DAY
- Friday 15 November—Senior Ball
- Wed 20-Fri 22 November—LC3 Camp
- Sat 23 November—Christmas Choir
- 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



Positive Parenting Programme

Sleep Solutions

This free session provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn strategies to manage bedtime with kids. This includes how to teach your child to stay quietly in bed, and what to do if they keep getting up!



"Great programme. Really digestible, not too long or intense. Short, sweet and impactful!"

Feedback from previous participant

Monday 18 November 9:30am - 12:00pm

Tararua REAP, 15 Gordon St, Dannevirke

Register today!

06 374 6565 | office@tararuareap.co.nz

www.tararuareap.co.nz

TARARUA REAP
Rural Education Activities Programme

Positive parenting Programme

Help your child to listen

Discover positive tips and techniques and develop a personalised family plan to address and prevent disobedience.

This free session offers parents and caregivers a chance to explore effective strategies that will work for them.



"Great support for parents, informative, easy to understand, good length of time and skilled facilitator"

Feedback from previous participant.

Monday 25 November 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Tararua REAP, 15 Gordon Street, Dannevirke

Register today!

06 374 6565 | office@tararuareap.co.nz

www.tararuareap.co.nz

TARARUA REAP
Rural Education Activities Programme





The Incredible Years®

Be empowered!

2025

The Incredible Years® is a FREE parenting programme that promotes positive parent-child relationships.



14 weekly sessions starting 19 February



10.00 am - 1.00 pm



Woodville



Lunch provided



For parents of children aged 3-7

Offered only once a year!
Register today to book your spot!

If you are finding your child's behaviour challenging and would like to broaden your parenting skills...

The Incredible Years is for you!

This course will help you feel more confident guiding your child through the big emotions of growing up.

REGISTER NOW

**Tararua REAP 06 374 6565, or
Tararua Community Services
06 376 7608**

“It has come to be like a friendship situation, where we talk about a problem, and try to solve it. It feels nice that there's no judgement”.

Feedback from 2024 participant

TARARUA REAP
Rural Education Activities Programme



**Tararua
Community Services**

COUNSELLING, COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK,
PROGRAMMES & WORKSHOPS

anglican care | waiapu
Fulfilled Lives. Connected Communities

MO-VEMBER SPECIAL!



**RECEIVE A SMALL POPCORN IF
YOU HAVE A MOUSTACHE!**

**Valid for Thursday and Saturday
Screenings during the month of
November only**

***Limit one per paying ticket**



“Viking Choir” and “Stand Up And Sing”

Presents

A Kiwi Cracker Christmas Mass Choir singing



Special Guests:

***Mangatainoka School Choir**

***Totara College Singers**

Venue: Anglican Church Dannevirke (High St)

Date: Saturday 23rd November @ 7pm

Cost: \$10 Adult, Children under 13 FREE

Cash door sales only (No eftpos)



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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PGG Wrightson Real Estate

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.