Totara College News

Term 4, Week 1

16/10/2026

This Term at Totara

Value: Integrity



He makes me to lie down in green pastures

TOTARA COLLEGE

Vision

Reaching our God given Potential

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of the righteous

For his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of

the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For you are with me;

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD

Forever

Hi Everyone

Welcome back to the new school term. Things have started off well and there is a settled, learning feel around the school.

This term is a happy one for the students when all sorts of fun things happen, e.g. swimming, ball, disco, camps, athletic sports, end-of-term trips, prizegiving etc. For teachers it's a busy one as we prepare for the year ahead including staffing and timetabling, calendars, consultation, selection of next year's head students, strategic planning etc. There's also plenty of things to organise in the last term such as reports and prizes and we also have students sitting external NCEA exams at Dannevirke High School.

Thank you to those who filled out the community consultation that we have sent out. It's given us data to be able to consider our strategic direction for next year and beyond. We are blessed to have plenty of interest in our school so will start next year with a full roll, which is heavy in the secondary area and our planning needs to incorporate this. For example, we tried streaming classes in English this year to better meet student needs, and it has worked so well that we are considering a similar thing next year. We're also considering some other things such as an enhanced house group competition.

You will have heard plenty in the media recently about the new curricula coming in and we have had meetings recently as staff and with the Board, proprietor and Ministry of Education to see the impacts on us. Requirements change and, as a state integrated school, we need to comply with them. The new curricula in Math, English, Science and Social Studies from Year 1-10 should see some new ideas in the classes in 2027 and these should promote engagement and learning. Some people have queried whether the election result will impact on this; I have been assured by the ministry of Education that the answer is no – the new curricula will be in place regardless of the minister at the time.

As we begin this term, I'm reminded of how blessed we are that you have chosen to partner with us for the schooling of your children. We're not perfect, but certainly trying our hardest to give them the best possible education in an environment which is based in the Lord's care for all of us.

Please remember that next weekend is both Hawkes Bay anniversary and Labour Day and so next Friday and the following Monday are public holidays. Enjoy the 4-day break.

Best wishes,

Peter

Hi Everyone

Please remember to check the calendar of events at the end of this newsletter. It holds important dates.

Danielle



LC1 having lots of fun with Bubbles. I was watching out the office window when they were doing this. Some of the bubbles they made were HUGE. One was about the size of a Swiss ball. Many the size of basketballs. And every student and adult that walked past or were involved all had smiles to match the size of the bubbles (the big ones 😊).

Danielle.

Calendar of events

- Thursday 22nd October—Secondary Ball
- Friday 23rd October—Hawkes Bay Anniversary **SCHOOL IS CLOSED**
- Monday 26th October—Labour Day **SCHOOL IS CLOSED**
- Tuesday 10 November—Athletics Day
- Wednesday 11th November—Armistice Day
- Thursday 12th November—School Photos
- Wednesday 18th November—Interschool sports
- Wednesday 25th to Thursday 27th November—Secondary Camp
- Thursday 27th November Junior Tabloids
- Tuesday 8th December to Wednesday 9th December—Senior retail course
- Thursday 10th December—Honour Roll
- Friday 11th December—Prizegiving