

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER, 2023

Te Totara Primary School PO Box 28134 Rototuna, Hamilton 3256

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Kia Ora (Maori/NZ), Hello (English), Bula (Fijian), Welkom (South African), Huān yíng (Chinese-Mandarin) Ayubowan, Vanakkam (Sri Lankan), Namaste (India), Bem-vindos (Brazil), Marhaba (Arabic), Hallo (Dutch), Choum Reap Sour (Cambodia), Geiá sou (Greek), Mbote, Jambo (Congolese), Konnichiwa (Japanese), Hola (Spanish), Annyeonghaseyo (South Korea) Israel Shalom (Hebrew)

LAST NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR

This is the last newsletter of the school year and it is a <u>bumper</u> <u>edition</u> with lots of information. Any further updates will be done via our facebook page, website or school app.

As we come to the end of my last year as Principal of this fantastic school, I have really appreciated the real sense of partnership that we enjoy in our 'big family school'. I look forward to celebrating this with you next Monday night at our End of Year Celebration evening, we hope the weather will be kind to us so this can go



ahead. We are very fortunate to continue to share wonderful learning experiences with our families: we really value the help and support that has been provided in so many ways e.g. curriculum trips, learning plan discussions, sports team coaches and managers, the Arts exhibition, library volunteers, and covering our literacy resources.

To any of you who are leaving our community, thank you for your contribution and we wish you well in your future. Year 6 students, keep in touch as we love hearing about your learning journey and the great people you are becoming.

To our amazing families, inspiring staff and our students who are our 'shining stars' - thank you for another excellent year of learning at Te Totara Primary School. It has been such a privilege for me to be part of your children's education. I have loved my 16 years in this community and wish you all well for the future.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas break with your families, take time to enjoy all that summer in New Zealand offers to us, please stay safe and the staff look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 31st January, 2024 when the new school year begins.

Naā mihi

Anne Fraser

Principal

NEW DATE!

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION - MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER AT 5.45PM (weather permitting)

This is our annual event to celebrate another great year at Te Totara. Here is some information to help make it a special event:

- It is a school event, so children need to be in a <u>clean and tidy uniform.</u>
 <u>Students must be at school by 5.45pm and meet their class at the back field.</u> Please leave your child with us; we will take care of them.
- Students will need to stay through the whole event.
- There will be very limited parking available at the school car park and none in the turning bay. It will be best to find a car park on a nearby street and walk.
- It is like a concert in a park so bring a picnic, a rug to sit on, something to eat and drink and enjoy
 a variety concert. You are welcome to come earlier than 5.45pm if you wish to eat with your
 child before the concert.
- We use the hill behind Ra and Earth as outdoor stages where children perform.
- Toilets are open in the Ra and Earth blocks.



- Pre-schoolers are welcome to use the playground away from the performers so they don't distract from the performance.
- Other children not involved in the school are asked to be respectful and if they want to play, then the court area is a good place. There are likely to be over 2500 people at the event so we strongly advise walking to the event.
- Please <u>NO umbrellas</u> as it blocks the view of people behind. Low set chairs only are advisable if needed and should be set up towards the sides and back of the field.
- NO dogs are allowed on our school grounds.
- We will have a "Paparazzi" section at the front for parents/caregivers of those performing to use to get a good photo.
- Notifications will be put on the school Facebook page, school app and the website.
- The event is weather dependent, so may be cancelled at the last moment, but we will do our best to let everyone know as early as possible.
- At the end of the event we will need to stagger people leaving due to Health & Safety, so please be prepared to wait a little time. Announcements will be made by our Principal to ensure everyone moves off safely.

CLASS ORGANISATION FOR 2024

Orion Year 1	Room	Neptune Year 2	Room	Earth Year 3/4	Room	Milky Way Year 5/6	Room
Julianne Wink	7	Jennifer Dalton	24	Natalie Gillies	34	Niki Collins	18
Shontae Black	8	Komal Kumar	25	* Krissy Tantrum	35	Rebecca Gardyne	19
*Sarah Gill	9	Bridget McLaughlin	26	Chantelle Lindsey	36	*Kristy Hanks	20
Julia May	10	* Suzie Goile	27	Anna Livingstone	37	Jim Baker	21
		Tina Walter	28	Ashleigh Campbell	38	Rochelle Lingard	23
Matawhero Year 0/1	Room			Ra Year 3/4	Room	Marama Year 5/6	Room
* Bridie Carr-Neil	4			Erin Stewart	29	Daniel Turner	12
Ruth Crackett (when required)	5			Sarah Brister	30	Dori Villasol-Alonso	13
To start in 2024	3			Learning Support	31	* Renee Morgan	14
To start in 2024	2			* Kāren Langley	32	Tracey Smith	15
To start in 2024	1	* = Team Leader		Jessica Grimson	33		

- Full-time Support Teachers Jemma Shannon & Jane Moroney
- Part time Teachers Kelly Fletcher, Deb Klein, Morgan Hunter, Nerida Laybourn, Brenda Wollen,
 Mary Silverton, Brittany Linn & Kobie Pretorius

Some points around our classes:

- We do realise that this is a time of change and that this can cause anxiety, it can also be viewed
 as an opportunity to experience new classmates and a teacher with a wonderful range of new
 skills
- We deliberately "mix up" our children so by the time they progress through the school they have been exposed to a wide range of their peer group, building valuable and important relationships within the year group cohort
- We do find that the first transition within the school i.e. Year 1 to Year 2 can cause some concern
 as the children may be with others that are unknown, similarly moving to a new area of the
 school. This is understandable and we ask that families support the move with a positive
 approach
- We do ask that if there are any issues around class placement that families support what is in place and if there are any challenges then liaise very early with the new teacher in 2024.
- If there are ongoing concerns then please feel free to contact School Leaders after three weeks of the new school year which allows for the child to settle in and build valuable relationships
- Any requests to change a class from now on is highly likely to be declined as a class change can
 create a "knock on" effect and not give an opportunity to the child to take on the challenge of
 a new teacher and make the most of this new opportunity
- To find out more about our approach to how we put our classes together, please see our website. How we put our classes together

OTHER STAFF CHANGES FOR 2024

With the retirement of **Anne Fraser** at the end of the 2023 school year a reshuffle of the Senior Leadership Team will occur until the new Principal appointment process is complete:

- Jo Stewart, our current Deputy Principal will be Acting Principal
- Maree Lewis, our Assistant Principal will be Acting Deputy Principal
- Caron Ace, Team Leader of Orion Team will be the Acting Assistant Principal. Caron will be released from the classroom throughout 2024 working on Junior School curriculum implementation and assessment projects. Sarah Gill will be Acting Team Leader of the Orion Team in 2024.

We are also farewelling another foundation staff member **Michele Gordon** who is also retiring from a long career in education. Michele has made a significant contribution to our school over the past 15 years, most particularly through her role as Mentor teacher to our teachers who are starting out in their teaching career. She had a passion for supporting teachers starting their careers in schools, at Te Totara she has mentored 25 of our teachers to become excellent educators that foster successful student achievement. Throughout her career Michele has guided hundreds of teachers who have gone on to make a positive impact in the lives of children. Many of these are now senior leaders and Principals.

We also wish **Sarah Kovacs** well in her new position at Woodstock School. Sarah has been with us for the past six years working part time with Reading Recovery and Ongoing Resourced students. She has done wonderful work with our learners whilst working in two other schools. She is looking forward to being able to work increased hours in one school from the start of next year.

We are saying farewell for now to **Kurdt Webber** as he moves off to explore some new more flexible opportunities across education. Kurdt has been with us for the past 3 years developing into a skilled teacher who is passionate about making a difference for those who find learning difficult through circumstances or physical and emotional barriers to learning. He is looking forward to focusing on this side of education in a variety of learning environments, he may often pop up here as a guest teacher.

Levi O'Hallahan has been granted a year's leave to travel to Canada with her family and explore a different country and education system as she will also teach during her time away. Safe travels Levi, enjoy your new adventures and we look forward to seeing you again in 2025.

We would like to thank the following teachers for their wonderful work in fixed term positions for the 2023 school year:

Carol Flower, Angela Sweeney, Jodie Hansen, Hannah Rowden & Marna Bothma

We are very grateful to these teachers for all that you have done for our school community over the past year in the way you have taken over or established a class. It has been fantastic that we have high quality teachers able to step in and continue the learning programmes and keep our students secure and happy through a time of change.

We hope to see you all again soon within our staff, guest teacher or wider school family or as a visitor to our school.

We welcome new teachers **Jim Baker**, **Tina Walters** and **Erin Stewart** into Te Totara School in 2024. We are excited to be working with Jim, Tina and Erin and know you will enjoy getting to know the staff and your new students at the beginning of next year. We also welcome back **Rebecca Gardyne** to Te Totara who will be teaching in Room 19 next year.

STUDENT CLASSES FOR 2024

LIVE ON PARENT PORTAL ON FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER, 2023 @ 3.00PM

To find out what room your child is placed in next year:

Log onto your @school Parent Portal www.atschool.co.nz

Enter your user ID and Password (these were emailed to you on Friday 1st December, please check your spam/trash folder if you have not received this)

· Go to My Child and you will see "Class for Next Year"

A REMINDER.... Please check the Parent Portal to ensure we have all the correct details on file for your child/ren including mobile numbers, home and email address. If there is a change to make, please contact the School Office on 07 853-0039.

Note: Students will meet their new 2024 classroom teacher on Tuesday 12th December between 1.30pm - 2.00pm. New students to Te Totara in 2024 are welcome to attend as well.

LEARNING PLANS ONLINE NOW VIA THE PARENT PORTAL

A Learning Plan for each student was uploaded to the online Parent Portal on Friday last week. However, if your child started at school in Term 4 (or late in Term 3) you will not receive a Learning Plan yet.



We sent emails on Friday 1st December to the email address we have on file, it contained your User ID and Password details for the Parent Portal. Once you have successfully logged-in, we recommend you change your password. Please check your spam or junk folder for this email if you do not receive it.

Please download a copy of the Learning Plan from the Parent Portal and save it to your computer. If you did not receive an email with login codes, please contact Marise Crow by email at receptionist@tetotara.school.nz It may be that we do not have your correct email address on file.

For those families who will not be receiving a Learning Plan for their child/ren, you are still able to log-in to the Parent Portal to see your child's 2024 class.

STUDENT STATIONERY FOR 2024

Order your child's stationery now and avoid the rush!

We know getting ready for the first day back at school can be a challenge for parents and kids. That's why we've teamed up with OfficeMax to make your back to school shop super easy.

If you order before 31st December, you'll go in the draw to WIN 1 of 5x \$1000 cash prizes *

* Terms & Conditions apply, see myschool.co.nz for details. Exclusions apply, see myschool.cop.nz/delivery for details

You can choose to receive your order straight away or in January.

You'll find your child's school stationery list **online by** visiting: www.myschool.co.nz/tetotara

Myschool

Beat the rush and order back to school stationery now!

Class lists are ready to shop at myschool.co.nz

<u>Simply select your child's year level in 2024</u> and follow the instructions on the website.

Please note: You do not need a Student ID, please leave this field blank. If you have a 5-year-old new entrant starting in Term 1, 2024 your child will be classified as a Year 1.

OfficeMax MySchool makes Back to School easy for you with these great benefits:

- Order the easy way online at <u>myschool.co.nz/tetotara</u> OR call the OfficeMax My School Team on Freephone 0800 724 440 from Monday to Friday 8.30am 5.00pm.
- Pay now or in easy installments internet banking, credit cards, debit cards or pay in 6 weekly, interest-free payments with Layby*
 * Terms & Conditions apply, see myschool.co.nz for details
- **Price Match Promise** shop with confidence, if you find a lower price OfficeMax will match it. Conditions apply, see **myschool.co.nz** for details.
- Free Delivery for orders over \$70.00 ^
 - Choose delivery to your home or workplace. Receive your order during the holidays, straight to your door at a time that suits you. See **myschool.co.nz** for delivery windows.
 - ^ Exclusions apply, see myschool.co.nz/delivery for details
- **Beat the back to school rush** avoid busy shopping malls and traffic queues by shopping online from the comfort of your home so your child starts the school year with the correct stationery supplies.
- **School Rewards** —Buying through OfficeMax MySchool also earns "School Rewards" for our school which we can redeem for much needed educational supplies, equipment for our classrooms or to help those students in need.

Many of our families used this online system last year and will be familiar with the ordering process. This website is available from today for ordering at: www.myschool.co.nz/tetotara

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the School Office on 07 853-0039.

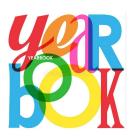


Please ensure you have placed your online order no later than Wednesday 10th January, 2024 to ensure delivery before school starts on Wednesday 31st January, 2024.

<u>Please ensure your child/ren have all their school stationery items before Term 1 begins.</u>

TE TOTARA YEARBOOK DELIVERY UPDATE

We can confirm that our Yearbook is currently with our printers being bound and collated. These will be delivered to the classrooms of the students who ordered them early next week. Very exciting!



DIRECT GROUP, SCHOOL UNIFORMS - 2024 PURCHASING

Our uniform supplier, Direct Group has advised they will be open weekdays from Monday 8th January 2024 onwards from 8.00am -**5.00pm** for all your uniform requirements. They are located at 6 Latham Court, Frankton, Hamilton. They supply all our school uniform items.



PAUIT

Sorry the store will be closed on Saturdays, however online ordering is available. Check out their new website: directgroup.co.nz

2024 YEAR 5&6 SCHOOL CAMP

School Camp is payable through KINDO ONLY. If you are not registered for KINDO KINDO, please refer to our school website www.tetotara.school.nz and follow the instructions in the red quick link tab labelled "Fees & Donations" OR access KINDO through our School App.

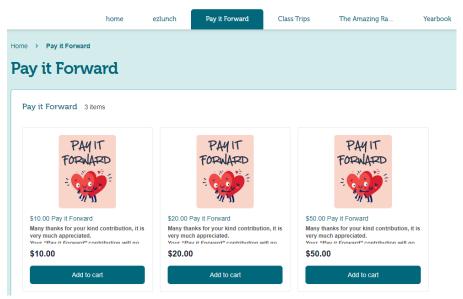


\$180.00 full payment OR pay in smaller installments through KINDO. Camp fees are now loaded on KINDO.

There is also a "Pay it Forward" option to contribute towards the Camp Fees of other students whose families are experiencing financial hardship. You can contribute \$10.00, \$20.00 or even \$50.00 if you wish. This option will be available to our wider school community as well. Thank you for your kindness, it is very much appreciated!

The 2024 MARAMA Team will be at Camp from Monday 12th February to Wednesday 14th February, 2024.

The 2024 MILKY WAY Team will be at Camp from Wednesday 14th February to Friday 16th February, 2024.





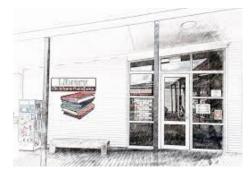
Ice Block Day Friday 1st Dec - Money raised towards Camp 2024 TOTAL RAISED: \$1,102.20

We would like to thank all the students that bought lemonade ice blocks last Friday 1 December. The money is going towards our Year 5 and 6 school camp next year.

SCHOOL LIBRARY END OF YEAR NOTICES

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS DUE BACK NOW PLEASE

All library books should have been returned last week, however we still have **357 books outstanding**. Could you please have a good look around the house for any overdue library books.



End-of-Year Borrowing

Our library will be closed over the summer holidays. We encourage you to visit and issue books from any of the Hamilton City Libraries instead (the closest are Rototuna and Chartwell Libraries).

We are **open for end-of-year borrowing** and there are two ways to do this:

- 1. The library is open every morning from 8.15am-9am until the end of term so that parents/guardians can borrow books for their children, or
- 2. You can complete **this form** that gives permission for your child to borrow six books over the school holidays.

To borrow books students **must be returning to the school next year** and have no outstanding invoices or overdue library books. All books are due back by Friday 9 February (the end of the second week back at school).

Holiday Reading

Over the holidays, students can experience the "summer slump". This is a loss in reading achievement over summer if students stop reading. Providing some fun reading experiences during the holidays can help prevent the summer slump. Here are a few ways to encourage children to read:



- Participate in Hamilton City Libraries' free Summer Reading Programme (from December 18th)
- Read aloud to your child. It is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for their own success in reading. It stimulates their imagination and improves their language and listening skills.
- Encourage your child to read anything the TV guide, magazines, joke books, recipes, travel guides, video game instructions...
- Find a series for your child to get hooked on. This will make choosing their next book to read easier. A recent survey showed that the primary factor in choosing a book for 7-12 year-olds was a familiar character or series.
- Find books that match your child's interests e.g. arts and crafts, skateboarding, cooking, animals.
- Read graphic novels. These comic books can be really appealing for children.
- Give your child a choice between going to bed or having an 'extra' half hour to read.

LEAVING TE TOTARA PRIMARY SCHOOL? A notice regarding ezlunch / KINDO School Shop



If you are leaving your current school, here's some information to make your changeover streamlined:

If your family is leaving our school and has been using ezlunch or KINDO, please make sure to stop any regular automatic payments that have been set up before the school year finishes. You may also need to transfer or close your account which can be done as follows:

- Not sure if your new school is using KINDO? If you're not sure if your new school is using KINDO, you can either ask them directly or go to "My Details" in your KINDO account and click on the list of schools to see if your new school is listed.
- New school <u>IS</u> using KINDO. If your new school is using KINDO, simply click on the new school from the list in "My Details" of your KINDO account and you'll be attached to the new school's menu. Any balance on your KINDO account will remain available to spend with the new school.
- New school is <u>NOT</u> using KINDO, or you no longer need KINDO. If you need to close your KINDO account, use the "Close Account" button within the "My Details" section of your KINDO account. You can either withdraw your account balance or choose to donate your balance to the school. Please note that all withdrawals will be made via electronic payment to your New Zealand bank account. KINDO is unable to process cash withdrawals.
- If you are wanting to withdraw your KINDO account balance or make a donation that exceeds KINDO'S threshold (currently more than \$10,000 total within one year), KINDO may need to undertake some identity checks on you to comply with its obligations under the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Act 2009. Please action the withdrawal or donation in your KINDO account as outlined above and if these AML checks are necessary KINDO will advise of the next steps required in this regard. KINDO has endeavoured to make this process as pain-free as possible and appreciates your patience.

Kindo Questions? Contact the KINDO Helpdesk on 0508 454636 (toll free)



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE - 2024 BOOKINGS OPEN

Bookings for 2024 are now open! All bookings must be made online by going to the School website then clicking on 'Enrol Now' on the Before and After School Care page. Once registered and logged in you will be able to make all your 2024 bookings. Please feel free to contact Katrina on 027 8530032 or afterschoolcare@tetotara.school.nz if you have any questions or issues making your booking. Alternatively you are welcome to pop in to see Katrina at ASC in the Matariki Hall on a Wednesday or Friday afternoon.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Dear BSC/ASC Families: We wish to thank you for your continued support throughout the school year. Our commitment to you and your children is very important to us and we are dedicated to providing your child with quality care and a fun and safe environment. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your children's daily routine and we would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and New Years!



From the team at Te Totara Before and After School Care

2023 FEES. SPORTS REGISTRATIONS & DONATIONS PAID VIA KINDO

Please Note: Aquatics will be charged after your child's class has had their lessons.



- 2024 Year 5&6 School Camp \$180.00
- Pay it Forward \$10.00, \$20.00 or \$50.00

Currently, any "pay it forward" monies we receive will go towards the 2024 Year 5&6 School Camp fees for some of our families who may be struggling to cover the entire camp costs

Kindo Questions? Kindo Helpdesk on 0508 454636 (toll free)



OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS FOR 2023 - TO BE PAID THROUGH KINDO

As at today's date, the following amounts are still outstanding:

Lost Library Books \$80 Mathletics/Mathseeds 9,400 Voluntary School Donation \$63,290 Aquatics \$4,974

We would really appreciate all outstanding fees being paid by the end of the school year. Voluntary School Donation payments can be made at the beginning of the year or throughout the year; the funds will be used for resources and activities for all the children.

Any queries regarding your invoice, please email Kylie Cocurullo, our Business Manager at kyliec@tetotara.school.nz.

2024 School Term Dates

Term 1 (Note: Teacher Only Days 25th & 26th January, 2024 - No school)

Wednesday 31st January - Friday 12th April (11 weeks)

Public Holidays (no school):

Tuesday 6th February (Waitangi Day)

Friday 29th March (Good Friday)

Monday 1st April (Easter Monday)

Tuesday 2nd April (Easter Tuesday)

Term 2 Monday 29th April – Friday 5th July (10 weeks)

Friday 31st May - Teacher Only Day (no school)

Monday 3rd June - King's Birthday Public Holiday (no school)

Friday 28th June - Matariki Public Holiday (no school)

Term 3 Monday 22nd July – Friday 27th September (10 weeks)

Monday 26th August - Our Mid-Term Break (no school)

Term 4 Monday 14th October – <u>Tuesday 17th December</u> (10 weeks)

Friday 25th October - Teacher Only Day (no school) Monday 28th October (Labour Day) (no school)



Fri 8 Dec PTA Ice-Block Day - \$2.00 each

Tues 12 Dec 1.30pm - 2.00pm Meet the 2024 Class Teacher

Thurs 14 Dec FINAL DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR -

SCHOOL FINISHES AT 3.00PM

Wed 31 Jan TERM 1, BEGINS @ 8.55am



kindo.



TE TOTARA PTA NEWS

EMAIL: <u>pta@tetotara.school.nz</u> <u>www.facebook.com/TTPTA</u>

Please 'like' our Facebook page to ensure you keep in the news loop: www.facebook.com/TTPTA



ICE BLOCK DAY

We have our second and final ice block day of the year this Friday 8 th December. Parents and caregivers please don't forget to give \$2 change to your kids for their ice block purchase.



ENTERTAINMENT APP MEMBERSHIP

Cyber Super Sale – 27% off all Entertainment Memberships

For a very limited time, receive an out-of-this-world **27% discount on all 3, 12 & 24 month** Memberships – saving you up to \$62.09! But guess what? The fun doesn't stop there! Whether you're craving a taste adventure, planning a day out, or just want to save on your weekly grocery run – An Entertainment Membership is your ultimate passport to a world of exclusive discounts on dining, activities, shopping, travel, and beyond!

If you use the link below, 20% of every membership purchased is donated back to support Te Totara Primary School PTA https://subscribe.entertainmentnz.com/fundraiser/15502m5. We thank you for your continued support.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ice Block Day – Friday 8 th December
Next PTA Meeting – Wednesday 21 st February 2024 at 7.30pm

END OF YEAR 2023

We are already approaching the end of another successful academic year at Te Totara. This will be our final newsletter for this year. PTA would like to thank all parents, teachers, staff and of course our awesome Te Totara kids for supporting all the PTA initiatives throughout the year. We will always be thankful for your immense support and encouragement. These events are a success because of all of you!

PTA wishes everyone a very merry Christmas, a Happy New Year 2024 and a safe and peaceful holiday season.

See you next year!

Your PTA Committee: Kerri, adelle, Navreet, Kerry and Garima

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

We are often asked to put Community Notices in our newsletter. Due to the large number of requests, we now have a "Community Notices" section on the notice board in the School Office, where you will find more information on the notices below. Please note that this does not necessarily imply School endorsement of these notices.

