

- TOMARATA SCHOOL -



Newsletter Week 9, Term 4

December 7, 2023

Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou,

The end of the year is approaching, which is typically a very busy time at school. It is also a time for looking back on the year that has been and reflecting on some of the highlights, of which there are many.

At the end of my first year as principal, I feel very proud of Tomarata School. Our school environment is looking amazing. Our gardens are thriving, thanks largely to our Garden to Table programme, and a lot of work by our teachers and students, who have spent time planting and weeding and harvesting.

We have a new 'Legacy Garden', featuring a turtle seat, which has been designed by our Room 7 students. Allan has been helping out, and Mrs Usher has also contributed a lot to the organisation of this group of students, as they designed and refined their vision for this space.

After an extremely wet start to the year, the grounds have now dried out, and the school is looking lush and alive. Our newly planted fruit trees have adjusted to their new home at Tomarata School, and are putting on lots of new growth. There are dozens of fruit on our plum tree in the chicken run, which we will be able to harvest in the new year.

We have recently had a new heat pump installed in the Rata Room, as well as an extractor fan in our Garden to Table room. There is new carpet scheduled to be put into the Rata Room in the new year.

Another big project that the school has worked hard to make happen, is the renewal of the drain that runs the full length of the field. As some of you know, this drain has not been effectively draining away, and after a few serious downpours at the start of the year, there was a fair amount of water just sitting in that area. With the help of Andy Dwen, who hired a digger and gave up a day to dig out the end of the drain, the water now drains away, but the whole drain needs to be redone to make sure that our field remains usable all year round. This project is scheduled to happen over the summer holiday.

There have been so many memorable events over the year, including Tabloid Sports, our open day, Rodney Rural Schools speech finals, cross country, soccer/hockey, netball/touch, Matakohe Kauri Museum trip, show day, athletics, and Tomarata fireworks. It has been really heartwarming to see how our tamariki have carried themselves during these events; showing our GROW values, and representing our school with pride.

In 2024, in response to our community feedback, we are aiming to increase our involvement in Kapa Haka and Te Reo Māori, as well as offering students more sporting opportunities, where they can compete against other schools. We are looking to continue our Garden to Table programme, and further utilise our Nature Classroom to enhance the learning of our students. I would also love to see our performing arts continue to flourish, as they have done under the guidance of Mrs Clark. There will be a lunchtime Library group, who will organise the issuing of books, and activities for students wanting to enhance their reading skills.

Tomarata School's roll has been very stable this year, and looks to be starting to grow, which is very exciting. We currently have a large group of Year 1's due to start next year which will add to the feeling of Tomarata School as a vibrant, engaging and exciting place to be for our tamariki.

Sadly, our school roll needs to continue to grow in order for us to maintain staffing for 4 classrooms, and as such, 2024 will see us start the year with only 3 classrooms. While this can pose some challenges, I am confident that as a team, we will continue to offer an individualised educational experience for all of your children. To help us achieve this, the school is working on its Strategic and Annual plans. These documents give us focus as a school, and help us to make strategic decisions to ensure that ALL students make progress with their learning, and are supported and challenged by their teachers in an engaging environment where their needs are understood and met.

As the leader of learning at Tomarata School, I am strongly focussed on delivering positive outcomes for all of our tamariki. In a time of change in the education system, there is an increased emphasis on student progress, and its links to wellbeing. This remains core business at Tomarata School; supporting students to progress by providing them with quality teaching programmes, built on a foundation of strong, learning focussed relationships.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns. I'm happy to discuss these with you at any time.

Finally, reports and stationery lists will come home with students on Tuesday December 19.

I'd like to wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back to Tomarata School in 2024.

Nga mihi nui,
Chris King
principal@tomarata.school.nz

What's coming up?

Friday 8 December	Sausage Sizzle @ lunchtime. Free!
Friday 8 December	Singing Assembly @ 2pm
12th to 15th December	Room 7 Camp
Wednesday 13 December	Whole School Surf and Beach Day with Aotearoa Surf @ Te Arai
Thursday 14 December	Year 5-8 Blue light EOTC activities at Tomarata Lake
Thursday 14 December	Room 6 sleepover
Friday 15 December	Year 5-8 EOTC activities at School
Friday 15 December	Sausage Sizzle @ lunchtime. Free!
Tuesday 19 December	Prize Giving/Graduation @ 1.15pm
Wednesday 20 December	Last day of the year. School finishes at 12.00. Buses will be running.

Fantastic Kids Doing Fantastic Things



Room 7 and Room 1 enjoying the Life Education learning experience this week.



Room 7 students have been busy cleaning and tidying up in preparation for their camp at our Nature Classroom next week. Fingers crossed for nice weather guys.



Board Update

The Board of Trustees is next meeting on February 28, 2024

A Huge Thanks To Our Supporters

Tomarata School would like to thank the following sponsors:

