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*Kimi Ora School*

Term 4 2017 - Final Newsletter!

# And that folks....was 2017!



## **Last day of term for all Kimi**

**Ora Sites:** Friday the 15th  
December at the usual time!

## **First day of 2018 for students:**

Wednesday the 7th of Feb  
2018.



This year we ran our first 'Community Classroom' from Laura Fergusson Trust. This has been a great success and our students have learnt so much being in the adult community that is LFT. Unfortunately LFT are going to need the space that Kimi Ora has been using and we are going to be moving on.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and clients at LFT. What a wonderful experience it has been working alongside you all this year. We have all learnt so much from each other and we will miss you all.

You may have thought you would never see another Kimi Newsletter but never fear! We have found the time to pack in a full to brimming newsletter for the end of the year!

This has been an incredibly busy term for all at Kimi Ora as we prepare for a new and exciting year in 2018 that is full of exciting growth and change.

In 2018 our new satellite classes will be opening at Pomare School in Taita. We have two primary aged classrooms opening and we are incredibly excited to join up and be a part of such a wonderful community and school. Students and staff starting at Pomare next year have had a couple of visits and we have been blown away by the incredibly warm and excited reception by all tamariki there. Both our students and Pomare students can't wait to spend more time with each other and learn more about each other.



Another exciting opportunity that is happening next year is our new 'Community Classroom' that is opening up at Hutt Valley Disabled Resources Trust (HVDRT,) located in Lower Hutt right opposite the Library. Our students who are moving into their 'transition' aged years will be moving to HVDRT. Here they will be able to access not just everything that Kimi Ora School provides in teaching and therapy, but will be in a community based setting that is close to all the awesome resources our students in this class use on a daily basis.

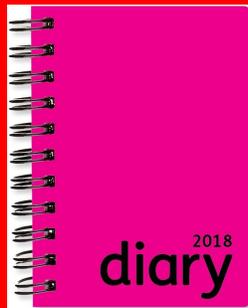


We are incredibly grateful to both Pomare School and HVDRT for welcoming them into their whare and whanau. Our students are extremely lucky to not just get the holistic approach to their education as a Kimi Ora student but also to be out in their local community and schools with peers of their age.

Also a special thank you to all the Kimi Ora staff who have worked hard to make the transitions to the new classrooms a success for all.

In 2018 we hope to have the new build underway at Naenae Base School. We will be getting a brand new classroom and bathrooms as well as a new therapy office and resource area.

We are all SO excited about the new and exciting changes that Kimi Ora has coming up. We are so happy that we are able to have more students and whanau join our school and wider community next year.



If you are hunting down some Boxing Day bargains please remember to purchase your chiLd a 2018 home/school communication book that they can bring with them at the start of 2018 - Thanks!



Over the holidays feel free to share some holiday pics or stories with our private online Kimi Ora whanau through our Facebook page.

If you have not joined then please do so by searching for 'Kimi Ora.' Our Profile picture is our school logo. You must ask to 'friend' us as we are a private page just for those in our community. We use our FB page to share information, events and photos of our students and their wonderful achievements. Our page is run by our two admins Dave and Jess - just so you know who is on the other end of the computer! See you online!

## Saying goodbye is never easy...

### Goodbye to our 2017 Graduates: James Smith

James Smith will be leaving Kimi Ora this week and heading out into his life 'post Kimi.' James, aka. Beans, Jimmy Beans, Jimbo and a multitude of other nicknames has been at Kimi Ora for 2.5 years after moving here from Nelson. He has been a hilarious student to have in the class with a great sense of humor. He has been a super star swimmer and recently the 'man about the community' getting out in his power chair to catch buses around the Hutt. We will miss you James!



### Darlene Yousif

We will be saying farewell to one of our 'smiliest' students, Darlene at the end of this week. We will miss her beautiful smile and infectious laughter. Over the years that Darlene has spent at Kimi, she has proved herself to be very easy going, flexible and happy to join in all activities. She is a bright and social young woman who we will miss.

### Te Kauri Solomon

15 years ago Te Kauri started at Kimi Ora School in Thorndon. An enthusiastic and charming student, Te Kauri has made many achievements during his time here. He is a friendly, happy and social guy who loves getting out and about, hanging at the mall and checking out what everyone is up to. We cannot quite believe that when we come back next year Te Kauri will have moved on, life at Kimi will not be the same without him. We will miss you so much TK - Don't be a stranger and please still catch up with us. You are an awesome young man and we wish you the best of luck. Shamba!



James, Darlene and Te Kauri will be joining the Spectrum Care 'Aspirations' services in which they will be in a vocational setting being supported to develop skills in communication, advocacy, education, personal development, making and keeping friends, interpreting social situations and preparing for employment. Both James and Darlene hope to get out and about as much as possible and continue to build on the life long skills they have learnt at Kimi Ora School.

You can find out more information about Spectrum Care's 'aspirations' programs here:

<https://www.spectrumcare.org.nz/about/what-we-do/our-services/aspirations-services/>

# More goodbyes.... Thank you to the following staff for your amazing contribution to our school....

## Goodbye Pip!

Pip our awesome TA from our Evans Bay site is going back to the UK. She has been a fab addition to the Kowhai team over the past couple of terms and has made a valuable contribution to the Kimi team as a whole. Pip has built a fantastic rapport with our students and will be sorely missed.

## Ka kite anō Brynlea!

We say goodbye to Brynlea who has been a SLT at Kimi Ora for 5 years! Brynlea will be sorely missed by students and staff alike. Her tireless work creating communication opportunities, understanding, resources and PD for our students, staff and community have been amazing. We wish Brynlea the best of luck with her Master's study next year and hope to see you soon - Christchurch isn't that far away Brynlea!

## See ya soon Freya!

We also say good bye and good luck to Freya who is about to have a visit from the stork! Freya leaves us on Friday for a year's maternity leave - she is expecting a beautiful bubba at the start of January! A big good luck to her and Steve for their adventure into parenthood. Congratulations to Freya to making it to the end of the term in very hot weather without one complaint! Whakamataku!

## See ya later cobber (Luc!)

Good bye to Luc who is leaving Kimi and NZ to head to the balmy shores of Brisbane! Luc has just got a job over there in a special school in Brizzy and we wish him the best of luck in his new land! Thank you for your work with the transition class both at base and this year at LFT. Keep in touch and we hope to see you again!

## Cheers Hollie!

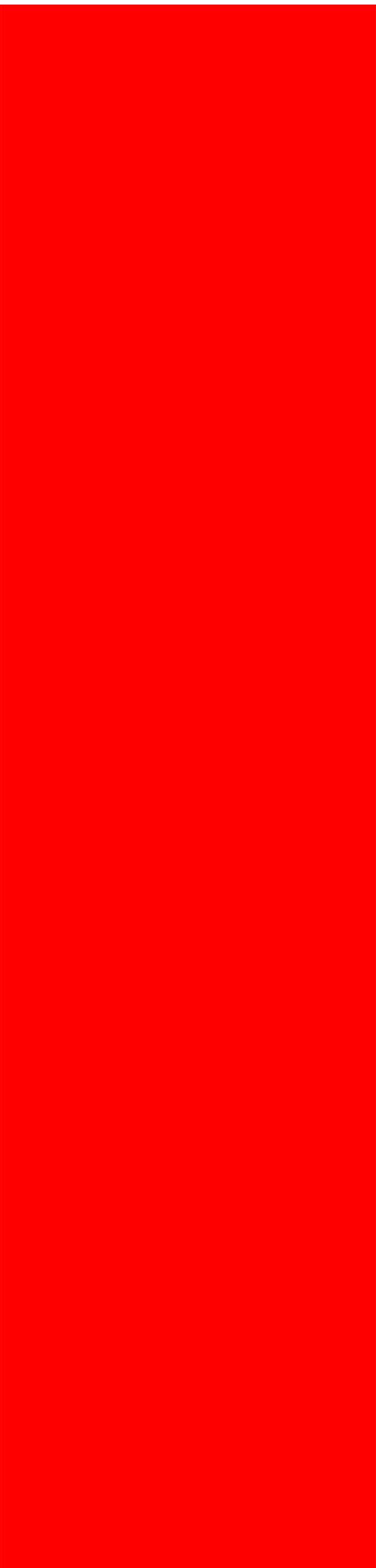
Thank you Hollie for your work at Kimi Base School over the last two terms. Hollie has been an asset to Kotuku class and we will really miss her. Although it is sad you are leaving we are super happy for your Education Psychology internship in 2018! We hope to see you again soon!

## Gone already but not forgotten Jenny!

This term Jenny left us for the wine filled sunny days of the Hawkes Bay. Jenny has worked at Kimi on and off for ten years and has now taken up a Physio job at Fairhaven Special School. Thank you Jenny for all your work with so many Kimi Ora students over the years. We hope you enjoy the Hawkes Bay .

Some school holiday ideas for you all:

- Laughalots Play Land in Lower Hutt - Kimi Ora Students are free and caregivers are \$3.90 with a free coffee or tea! Just let them know you are from Kimi!
- Huia pool has a brilliant new hydrotherapy pool that is perfect for wheelchair users - we highly recommend!
- Avalon Park in the Hutt and Waitangi Park in the city both have awesome water play activities!
- Staglands Wildlife Reserve and Cafe in Upper Hutt - Free for people in wheelchairs and their caregivers!
- If your student is starting at Pomare you can go and check out the playground there - If you see Colin, their caretaker give him a wave and let him know you are from Kimi - He will be stoked to meet you!



*Congratulations to all our amazing  
Ākonga this year - we are so proud of  
all your amazing achievements*

