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WEEK 8 KAWERONGO - NEWSLETTER

26 November 2025

Kia ora koutou,

Over the last two weeks hundreds of kura across New Zealand have had to deal with an Asbestos in Kinetic Sand event. The sand should never have entered our country and more rigorous testing of products by government agencies is needed to protect our whole population.

We had to close a number of sites for a few days while the environments were tested, sand products removed, and a deep clean undertaken by Asbestos Professional Cleaners. We no longer have any sensory sand products in our classrooms. We followed the Work Safe NZ processes to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The professional disposal of the sand products and deep cleans, cost our school a minimum of \$15,000 and climbing. Any vacuum cleaners used had to be disposed of. While we are exploring cost recovery with our insurance firm, one can only imagine the massive cost across the country that could have been avoided.

Access to Ministry of Education information is available through our Story Park communications or directly through google.

Thank you to all those families who had to keep their child/young adult at home during this major event.

Ngā mihi
Barrie Wickens
Tumuaki Principal

Important dates:

16th December - Showcase

17th December - End of term (12pm finish)

Room 4

With **Numicon** being our maths focus for next year, we decided to get a head start and explore some of the resources we already have.

The students loved experimenting with the Numicon board, finding different ways to fill it using as many shapes as they could. They also took on several challenges such as completing the board without using certain shapes or numbers, which really encouraged their problem-solving and creative thinking.



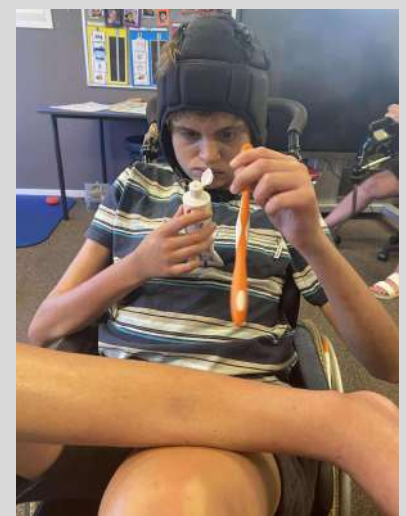
DRC - Pukeko Class

Pukeko class students have been exploring different musical instruments such as ukulele, big drum and tambourine by touching and hearing the sound. It's fun!



DRC - Vicky's Class

This year Tui class have had fun working on their own individual Ara goals and combining their learning with Senior curriculum goals. We have used lots of communication while cooking, shopping, swimming, personal cares and trips within the community.



SUMMER BREAK

SUMMER HOLIDAYS CAN BE A WONDERFUL TIME FOR REST, PLAY, AND FAMILY CONNECTION, BUT THEY ALSO BRING BIG CHANGES IN ROUTINE, NEW ENVIRONMENTS, AND LOTS OF SENSORY EXPERIENCES.

KEEP FAMILIAR ROUTINES WHERE POSSIBLE

Use visual timetables, calendars, or simple “first-then” cards to help children anticipate their day.

Keep predictable rhythms around meals, bedtime, and transitions—even when plans change.

FOOD AND PICNICS

Holidays often involve new foods, smells, and eating environments.

Allow familiar favourites alongside new foods.

Keep pressure low: exploring food with eyes, hands, or smell is participation too!

PREPARING FOR NEW PLACES

Show photos or videos of new parks, pools, or whānau gatherings ahead of time.

Offer choices

Have a plan for breaks

SENSORY-FRIENDLY OUTDOOR PLAY

Water play: buckets, sprinklers, toy washing, beach visits—great for regulation and engagement.

Movement breaks: swimming, trampolines, scooters, playground swings—all supportive “heavy work” options.

Offer sun hats, rash shirts, or preferred textures to keep children comfortable.