



Term Four, Week Ten 2023

Kia Ora koutou everyone

Wow, the last newsletter of the year! This term has been so incredibly busy, full of exciting events, transitions, goodbyes, interviews, organising and of course having a lot of fun! This newsletter is mainly focused on saying ka kite to our graduating senior students and staff who are leaving us and a celebration of the year that has been 2023!

### Classes, sites and movement in 2024

A lot of thought has gone into developing classes for the new year. All whānau/caregivers have been notified if their child is moving classes or sites. Next year there are a couple of changes as to how things are looking at our Base site and our town sites:

#### Base school

In 2024 we are adding a new class to Base school. This will take us to six classes at Base. The new class will be in Kiwi room (beside the Multipurpose room), this has been used as a classroom in the past so is fully equipped with all we need to be turned back into classroom over the holidays. An additional classroom has meant that we are able to accommodate for a small amount of roll growth.

#### City sites

Next year our Miramar Central Satellite will be undergoing a refurbishment to meet the needs of our Kimi Ora tamariki. Whilst this is happening the amazing team at Miramar Central have very kindly gifted Kimi Ora an amazing new space that we can continue to run safely and successfully from whilst we await our renovations to our classrooms. We would like to thank Jackie (Principal of Miramar Central School) and her team for providing us this wonderful space and making things as minimally disruptive as possible during this time.

Moving forward, our Kimi Ora Miramar Central satellite will have primary age students and our Kimi Ora site at Evans Bay Intermediate will host our older students.

If you have any questions about our different sites, organisation or property in general please contact Shirley on [principal@kimiora.school.nz](mailto:principal@kimiora.school.nz)

#### Parent/caregiver survey

Earlier in the term all whānau/caregivers were emailed the Kimi Ora parent/caregiver survey. Thank you to those who have managed to complete this already. Our survey helps us inform our school's strategic plan and we really appreciate your ideas, thoughts and feedback to continue to develop innovative and exciting programs for our ākonga (students). If you have time during the summer break to complete the survey, we would really appreciate your feedback. You can find the email with the link that was sent out from the school office to all parents/caregivers, alternatively there is also a link on 'announcements' in Storypark. If you are unable to find either link please email Jess on [jessh@kimiora.school.nz](mailto:jessh@kimiora.school.nz) and she will be able to share the link with you. If you would like a paper copy sent to you this can also be arranged via the school office on [admin@kimiora.school.nz](mailto:admin@kimiora.school.nz).

#### 2024 Staff only days

We have confirmed our 2024 Staff only days. There will be two staff only days in which staff will be present at school working on curriculum development, planning, assessment and individualised professional development for all staff. Please ensure you have made alternative arrangements for your children to stay home on these days:

- Thursday the 27th of June (The day before the Matariki public holiday)
- Tuesday the 29th of October (The day after Labour weekend)

## Ka kite and good luck to the following staff who are leaving us at the end of 2023

### Barbara Martin

What an end of an era it is to have Barbara retiring at the end of this year. Barbara is one of our longest serving staff members and has been working at Kimi Ora School as a Teacher Aide since 2000 - that is 23 Years!

Barbara started at our Kimi Ora Thorndon school working alongside a variety of different students. She quickly developed a deep understanding and knowledge of working with students who have physical disabilities and worked closely with them to access the curriculum, communication and especially helping them to get out and enjoy all life has to offer. There are many students and alumni who have worked with Barbara over the years who will remember her 'no nonsense' approach to ideas and activities that she is passionate about.

Barbara has worked tirelessly over the years for our students and their whānau, her wide range of experience has been beneficial to so many. Since moving from Thorndon to our new sites 11 years ago, Barbara has worked with all students across all our sites. She has a special affinity for our transition aged students working at our Manaaki satellite and Base school and has been a big part of developing independence in our students aged 16 - 21 years, helping them to get out and about in the community and finding opportunities for them to grow into young valued members of their local communities.

Barbara has also been a strong advocate and speaker for the wider Kimi Ora staff, she can always be trusted to have an opinion and share her ideas and thoughts about anything discussed in team meetings, staff only days and in the day to day running of the school. She will be missed by all as an 'ideas' person - she is always solution focused, thinks outside the box and is keen to help with any part of school life.

Barbara is leaving us to retire and focus on her whānau, especially to spend time with her two Grandchildren who she is the most dedicated, loving and compassionate Grandmother to.

Thank you Barbara for everything you have done for all the students and whānau you have worked with at Kimi Ora over the last 23 years. You will be incredibly missed but hope that we remain connected with you (especially for the tricky sewing projects and problem solving that you are so amazing at!) We wish you luck for your 'retirement' hope you manage to take time for yourself.



### Ria Tsourounakis, Teacher Aide



Ria has been part of the Kimi Ora Teacher Aide team for the last 18 years. She started with us at our Thorndon campus moving to Evans Bay when it opened in 2011.

Ria has worked with so many different students over her years with Kimi Ora and has made a lasting impression on them all. She is able to connect with students in a matter of minutes, gain trust and develop trusting relationships. She has been amazing at working alongside all tamariki to find their interests and strengths and work towards their goals and passions.

Ria's compassion and care for all of our students will be greatly missed. She has been an advocate for student voice, always giving our young people the time to think, have an opinion and share their thoughts.

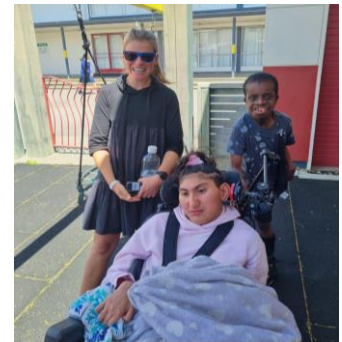
Ria's support in all areas of school life has been greatly valued by all who have worked with her. Her sense of humour, positive outlook and brilliant stories will be missed by us all. Ria has been the life of many parties, has always made new staff, students and whānau feel welcome and worked incredibly hard in her 18 years with us.

Ria is now a Yiayia (Nana,) and we hope she is able to spend time with her Grandson and wider whānau and wish her the best of luck for the future.



### **Jo Hagele, Teacher**

Jo has taught in Tōtara class at Evans Bay since the start of 2021 and has made the difficult decision to move on to her next adventure. She has provided the students in Tōtara class with valuable learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Her enthusiasm for the outdoors and fitness has been a driving force in her teaching allowing her class to explore Wellington and all it has to offer. At Evans Bay Jo has worked with all students, often leading dance classes and supporting Kapa Haka. Her smile and gentle nature will be missed at Kimi Ora. We wish Jo all the best for her future endeavours.



### **Birgit Kraemer, Teacher Aide**

Birgit has worked with us as a Teacher Aide since 2017 at our Evans Bay site. She has developed a strong rapport with all the students and has contributed many creative and innovative ideas towards learning programs. Our students have appreciated Birgit's calm and confident demeanour in all areas of their learning, particularly when working one to one and out on adventures. Birgit's sense of humour and crochet skills will be missed but we will be reminded of her as she has crocheted many garments for several staff members!



### **Bridy Haughey, Teacher Aide and Educational Psychologist intern**

Bridy has worked alongside our tamariki for the last two years. In 2022 she joined us at Base school as a teacher aide in Kea class. In 2023 she worked with us as our Educational Psychologist intern and is now a fully-fledged Ed Psyc!

We will miss Bridy's calm presence in our school and her ability to engage with students and help on their learning journey. Bridy has had a focus on encouraging more play opportunities and encouraging resilience in our students. We wish her the best of luck in her new career.



### **Casey Lazar, Physiotherapy intern**

Casey has been working alongside our students at all three Hutt Kimi Ora sites throughout Term Four. Casey is originally from Canada but lives and studies Physiotherapy in the Netherlands and joined Kimi Ora to experience the last term working alongside our students and our amazing Physiotherapy team. It has been a pleasure to have Casey working in our school, his adaptability and keenness to try out new things and be a part of our wider school life has been beneficial to all students and staff. We wish Casey the best of luck in his return home and his future career as a Physiotherapist.





## OUR 2023 KIMI ORA GRADUATES

### Anna Corlett

Anna is our only graduate who has spent her entire education at Kimi Ora School.

16 years ago Anna began at Kimi Ora Thorndon in 2007 as an inquisitive, happy and water obsessed five year old. In Anna's early years back at Thorndon she was generally found outside Room One at the water play trough, in the water play trough or trying to get to the water play trough! Anna has a passion for swimming and has gained amazing skills in this over the years. We are sure that if it had been up to Anna she would have completed every lesson she has ever been in in a pool!

Anna has worked hard over the years in many areas of her life. These include communication, physical abilities and engaging in a variety of activities that she enjoys, such as sensory exploration and getting out and about. She has developed into a young woman who knows exactly what she wants, enjoys the company of those she loves and spending time investigating her world through her senses.

Anna will always be known as the best hugger at Kimi Ora! Her ability to find her way to a favoured person and embrace them in a tight (sometimes VERY tight!) hug usually accompanied by her cheeky giggle and gorgeous smile will be hugely missed by all of us at Kimi Ora.

Anna is leaving Kimi Ora as a 21 year old woman who has many different experiences over her 16 years with us. 2 years ago Anna moved into a flat with her fellow classmates Josh, Phoenix and Kimi alumni Joshua Wong, where they have an amazing team working beside them to provide them with all the awesome things that life has to offer. Next year Anna will spend time with ex Kimi friends at Living Plus (Part of MASH trust,) a day programme based in Lower Hutt, lucky for us this is not far from our Manaaki site so we have no doubt we continue to get to spend time with Anna in the future.

Thank you Anna and your amazing Mum, Dad and Sister who have not just supported you but our wider school throughout all your years at Kimi Ora. We wish you all the best of luck for life post Kimi.



## Joshua Pask

Joshua has been at Kimi Ora School since 2009, he joined us as a young boy at our Thorndon site before moving to Base and eventually our Manaaki transition satellite where he is now possibly one of the tallest dudes in the school!

Joshua has been the Math King of Kimi Ora School for many years. Those that have taught Joshua or been in his class will have photographic memories of all his favourite YouTube number songs from over the years! Numbers and Math have always been a brilliant motivator for Joshua and some of his earliest independent communication milestones were based around his love for numbers!

Over the years Joshua has developed his ability to communicate to all those around him through a variety of different ways. He has worked hard to make sure he is understood by those around him, having an especially determined mind when it comes to your favourite items that you want! Through the use of PODD, sign, vocalisations and gestures he is now able to let all people know his ideas, opinions and needs.

Joshua is a testament to his strong willed attitude when it comes to his physical development over the last 15 years. Despite growing into a very tall young man Joshua has maintained his physical abilities and continues to be able to get up from the floor, walk in his pacer and climb in and out of cars. His strength and determination is impressive!

Joshua will be missed for his ability to empathise with others and his ability to reassure others when they are not having a good day. He has developed some lovely friendships over his years at Kimi Ora and enjoys nothing more than being with those he loves.

We are all going to miss Joshua's cheeky smile, amazing math ability and contagious giggle.

Joshua, who lives with his flatmates Anna, Phoenix and Joshua Wong in Upper Hutt will also be spending time with ex Kimi friends at Living Plus (part of MASH trust,) a day programme based in Lower Hutt.

We will miss you and your whānau Joshua, especially your extended whānau who have always been at school events supporting you and our school every step of the way. A big thank you to your Mum and Dad for their support over the years as well. Ngā mihi



## Billie Stevenson

Billie also joined Kimi Ora School in 2009 back at our Thorndon site. When we moved to our Hutt site Billie spent a large amount of her time with us there before moving on to our Manaaki satellite.

Billie has had many wonderful achievements throughout her time at Kimi Ora, her development in her independent communication and physical skills have been highlights. Billie worked hard to learn to walk independently and many staff who were at our Thorndon site will remember her first independent steps down the tight corridor. From learning to walk to run and jump Billie is now an independent woman when it comes to getting herself around.

Billie's communication has developed over the years, from pictures and signs, to the Springboard, PODD and now her device she has developed a clear and strong voice. She knows what she wants and is not afraid to let you know! (Especially if it's time for a McDonalds trip or she wants her Mum!)

Billie has been the Queen of mischief at Kimi Ora for many years now. Her unique outlook on life, determination and cheeky grin, which she can quickly turn into an innocent look in seconds will be missed by all those who have worked with her and especially her classmates. Billie has caused many a laugh with her antics over the years and her peers and staff have been fondly remembering these over the last few weeks. Some favourite 'Billie' moments have included her 'One woman band' music shows including massive twiddle chime concertos, drum solos and the 'flying maracas!' Billie has a shady history when it comes to flooded bathrooms and flying water cups, once covering a student nurse's face with a cup of water she was not interested in drinking!

Billie will also be joining her Kimi friends at Living Plus in Lower Hutt. Billie and her whānau continue to wait for a move in date for her new flat that she will be sharing with classmate Zaxton and ex Kimi pupil Peter.

We wish Billie and her whānau all the best with the future. It has been a pleasure to have Billie's large whānau a part of Kimi Ora over the years. Billie's little sister grew up with Kimi in her life and loved it so much she now works for us!

We cannot wait to see what life has in store for you next Billie.





## Phoenix Janke-Gilman

Phoenix joined Kimi Ora at our Base site in 2014, spending most of his Kimi Ora Schooling here until joining the crew at our Manaaki satellite.

Phoenix is a stylish and unique dude whose gentle nature, relaxed attitude and sense of humor has made him a well-loved student by staff and classmates alike.

Phoenix has worked hard over his year at Kimi Ora to develop his communication, physical abilities and interests in his favourite curriculum subjects such as Science and Music.

Phoenix has become a keen advocate for people with disabilities, in his time at Kimi Ora he has represented our school in the Young High School leaders with the Mayor of Lower Hutt. He has discussed issues he believes are priorities for himself and other Kimi Ora students such as accessibility, ways in which Phoenix and his peers are communicated to when out and about and his hopes and dreams for the future. We appreciate Phoenix for being such a great advocate.

Phoenix has been a very self-directed learner in his time at Kimi Ora and has carved a path for himself and what he has wanted to learn about, especially over the last couple of years. He has completed online learning around Philosophy and Sciences.

Phoenix lives with his flatmates Anna, Joshua and Joshua Wong and next year is planning to pursue his interests, advocate for people with disabilities and live his best life!

We wish Phoenix and his whānau all the best for the future, it has been a pleasure working with not just Phoenix but his Mum, Dad and brother over the years.



## Mithu Sathiyaseelan

Mithu joined our Base School in 2014. Over her time at Kimi Ora she has developed into a strong young woman who knows what she wants, what she likes and what she wants to do with her time. Mithu is a well-loved student by staff and her peers alike. Her classmates enjoy sitting and spending time with her, sharing toys, having a laugh and benefitting from her unique spirit and charming personality

Mithu has worked hard over her time at Kimi Ora, especially in regards to her physical capabilities. In 2018 Mithu took her first independent steps and this was a huge celebration for her and her whānau. Since then Mithu has become more capable and independent in her physical abilities, getting in and out of vans and cars, walking long distances and bike riding. In 2019 Mithu was nominated for and won The Frances Clarke Memorial Award through the Down Syndrome association. This is a highly contested award and is given out yearly to a member of the Down Syndrome community who have made an achievement that is considered to be outstanding to them. We were all so incredibly proud of Mithu and shared an amazing morning at Government House with her classmates, whānau and school staff to celebrate this amazing win.

Mithu has developed into a social young woman who enjoys getting out and about with her classmates, cursing the mall, trampoline parks and feeding the ducks at Percy's Reserve and her remaining classmates will miss her on their weekly outings.

Mithu is going to be missed incredibly by all the team at Base school. Her cheeky smile, giggle and happy vocalisations will be really missed as she cruises the hallways checking out what is going on around the school.

Next year Mithu will be having a varied week whilst supported by her Mum and support workers individually. We hope to see her out and about riding her bike, at Huia pool and getting out around the Hutt valley.

We would like to thank Mithu's wonderful whānau for their support over the past nine years. We know that they must be incredibly proud of the amazing young woman she has become.





# Kimi Kids



My name is Mitchell and I am sixteen years old.

Swimming is my favourite activity. I also enjoy music activities, going on outings and cooking sessions, because I like food.

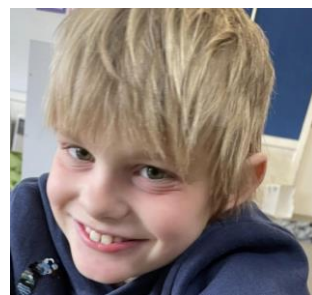


Hi I am Kaya. I started at Kimi Ora School in 2022.

I use a PODD to communicate. I love all things water related and bubbles.

I have a very infectious giggle and enjoy spending time with my friends.

"I feel love. I like being in class with my friends and I think it's fun." - Kaya



Hello, My name is Dallin.

I am 10 years old. I like to spend my lunch times on the swings or racing around with the Pomare kids on my scooter.

My favourite subject is food science as I love mixing, measuring out ingredients and eating the delicious treats we make at the end.

## Kimi Krew



Kia Ora, my name is Anita English and I am the Executive Officer here at Kimi Ora School. I've been at Kimi Ora since 2019 and I can honestly say it's the best place I have ever worked. I just love working with our amazing staff and awesome students.

At home I live with my husband and a senior cat of 20 years called Isla. We also have two children who have recently left home after graduating. Our daughter is a paramedic for Wellington Free Ambulance and our son works in Radio in Auckland.

In my spare time I am an avid reader and we own a Retro caravan in which we enjoy freedom camping especially around the East coast of New Zealand. In my spare time, I love to walk along the harbour, hang out with my friends, board game nights, reading and I also love a good road trip to explore this gorgeous country!

My name is Anya and I have been working at Kimi Ora for over 20 years and presently working as part of the team at the Pomare satellite.

I have 2 daughters Lauren 27 and Kimberley 25. My husband and I have recently moved from Whitby to Upper Hutt where I have a vegetable garden so am enjoying growing vegetables. My other hobbies are knitting, travelling and catching up with family and friends.



# Ākonga o te Wiki - Student of the Week



Joshua for a great time at Living Plus and doing really well.



Ryan for doing two successful days in Pūkeko and interacting with different classmates.



Isabel for great engagement at work experience at the EBIS Library.



Darcy for great turn taking and sharing with friends.



Mitchell for a great transition visit to Manaaki.



Julius for sitting down and doing work independently.

Brisbane for transitioning so well to a new outing environment this week and having fun at Jumperama.



Kahu for great transitioning out of his safe space and into the busy classroom and spending more time in the classroom than he did in his "office" and with a smile on his face.



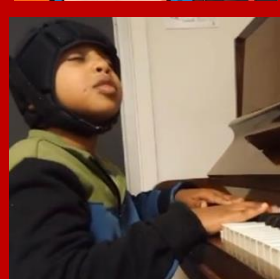
Tim for his performance on Monday for whānau. Singing and playing piano.



Misty for joining Kawaka's whānau performance. Introducing herself and sitting for the whole performance.



JJ for using his talker to write three sentences during English.



Leulseged for lots of safe climbing and exploring at Chipmunks.



Dennis for being very calm and listening to lifecycles and then reordering them correctly.



Ava for great hand function. Picking up and releasing items in the pool.



Mily for great walking in the afternoons, enjoying getting up and moving herself independently.



Johnny for using his talker so well.



Luca for including friends in games of tag.



Hamish for being a fantastic friend to all.



Lafoga for leading the way in art.



Ethan for great communication.



Chloe for great transitioning out of the spa pool!

Congratulations to our most recent winners!



He whetū koe! You're a star!



Kimi Ora School, PO Box 35017, Naenae, Lower Hutt 5041



04 567 5834 – Hutt sites, 04 387 9301 – Town sites