



# **PRIMARY PROJECT IMPACT REPORT**

**Term One 2025**



**TERM ONE 2025**

# Primary Project

| First Name | Connections - buddy mentoring                                                                                                      |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grace      | 7 learners at Wainui School                                                                                                        |
| Katie      | 18 learners at Dairy Flat School                                                                                                   |
| Liz        | 22 learners at Silverdale School                                                                                                   |
| Noah       | 23 learners at Dairy Flat School                                                                                                   |
| Simon      | 9 learners at Ahutoetoe School<br>12 learners at Orewa Primary<br>25 learners at Silverdale School<br>11 learners at Wainui School |

We have five Primary Project youth workers placed in five local primary schools. Their main focus is supporting learners through our big buddy small group mentoring programme. In addition they also interact with learners in their breaks, support staff with class activities and join in with school wide activities. In Term One 130 learners have benefitted from mentoring with one of our team.

We are excited to have Katie Brooks join our Youth Work team this year and the students, teachers, & staff she is working alongside are already singing her praises.

As a team we have also prioritised professional development this term with all of our team attending Child Protection Training and most of our team attending our 2 day retreat focusing on regulation techniques, trauma informed practice, self care, mentoring tools and techniques i.e. clean language and expression through art.



**TERM ONE 2025**

# Learner Feedback

**Learners describe in their own words how Primary Project has been good for them this term:**

"SALT time calms me down, makes me happy, puts me in a good mood, and helps me learn. It gives me a break from my classroom".

"Playing with the kinetic sand makes me happy. It helps me learn easier when I get back to my classroom".

"I like being able to bring my friend and I like to play and draw. I can play quietly in class after being at SALT".

"SALT makes me feel so happy, calm and relaxed so I'm able to focus and complete tasks in my classroom afterwards".

"Playing with the kinetic sand makes me happy, satisfied and calm".

"When I get to make bracelets I feel at peace. I love playing with the kinetic sand too, it makes me feel calm".

"SALT helps me build up my confidence".

"It's fun making bracelets, and playing games, it always makes me feel happy".

"SALT has helped me not to feel nervous. Now when my teacher asks questions I feel confident to put my hand up and answer, I'm no longer afraid to get things wrong or make mistakes. Liz taught me that when we make mistakes we learn".

"I've learnt how to make bracelets".

"It's helped me with my anxiety. It's a special time in your week to look forward to. Special time with someone other than your parents. It's so much fun".

**TERM ONE 2025**

# Silverdale School

## Highlights

- Getting to know and connect with new learners this term, watching their confidence and excitement grow in the SALT space, as they become more familiar with myself and other learners.
- Being able to support teachers in the junior classroom with learners needing extra support with their language and sharing skills through a 'Lego club'.
- Interacting with a large variety of students during lunch times and being invited to join in on their games.
- Has been really encouraging to have a number of young people who aren't scheduled on my 'referral list', come and find me at break times to get support if they're having a bad day or need someone to talk/connect to. So cool that young people in the school recognise us at SALT as people that can be trusted and safe to provide support and connection!



## Student Stories

- Supporting a Neurotypical learner with an upcoming change by creating a visual calendar of the event for her to better understand. She was thrilled to tell me how much it had helped prepare her and she was able to feel excited instead of stressed about what was happening.
- Two of the students that I have continued to see from last year have really made a lot of progress in their ability to communicate, hear others needs and to compromise with each other and with other peers. Last year, these two students struggled to decide on an activity together during our SALT sessions without some sort of conflict. So it has been awesome to see them grow awareness of others needs and to make progress in compromising, encouraging and other team work skills. It has also been really cool to see them grow in trust with each other and with me and be able to share what is going on in their world.

**TERM ONE 2025**

# Orewa Primary

## Highlights

- Teaching some of the young people how to throw frisbees (I love playing frisbee golf so it has been awesome to share that interest and see the young people get excited about it too).
- Being able to meet a need for students that are really struggling by creating a safe space for them to talk.
- Hearing positive feedback from teachers



## Student Story

This term I have been going through the 'E Tū Tāngata' (Stand Together) values/principles with a number of the students that I see. This is something that Orewa Primary has already been focusing on and adopting into their school culture but it has been cool to reinforce it with the students that I see.

With one pair of students in particular, we began the term with learning what the values are – learning a different one each week. So in the first week we went over what it meant for you to have value, in the second week what it meant for others to matter, and in the third week what it meant for us to succeed together.

In the weeks following that I would begin each session by asking them what the values were and then how they have shown them this past week. It was so cool to hear their examples (eg., "I showed my friend that he has value and that he matters by helping him with his work in class") and to see them really take ownership of these values and be living them out in the classroom and at home.

**TERM ONE 2025**

# Ahutoetoe School

## Highlights

- Beginning work at Ahutoetoe School this term! Getting to know the teachers and students.
- Being introduced to each class on my first week starting here! Great for students to be familiar with who I am at the school, which made running/joining in on lunchtime activities such as basketball & football happen naturally and easily.
- Connecting with students through lunch time sports.
- Being able to meet a need for students that are struggling by creating a safe space for them to talk.



## Student Story

One of the students I began seeing this term had started off incredibly shy to the point where he had pretty much been non verbal in our sessions, although his buddies did assure me that he does sometimes talk but only when he is feeling comfortable with people. So for the majority of this term he has been communicating with me in other ways (eg. single word answers or yes/no).

A few weeks ago I introduced some imagery cards to the group, and got them to pick pictures that described their interests, how they had been feeling this week etc. Then afterwards we went around the group and each person described why they had picked the cards that they had picked. When it got to this one particular student he went ahead and used full sentences to describe exactly why he had picked each card! I was so stoked to hear him share his voice and a bit about himself!

We have now since used those cards a couple of times and they have been a great tool for him to share his voice. I look forward to continuing to see him grow in confidence as the year goes on.

**TERM ONE 2025**

# **Wainui School**

## **Highlights**

- Creating a kaupapa with most of the groups as to what the students want the groups to be and what values they want to uphold together.
- Being able to have a number of great conversations with students around what it means to be a team and succeeding together by recognising each others' inherent value. It has been awesome seeing the students hold each other accountable on upholding the E Tū Tāngata values - a great reflection of the positive impact of the schools focus on E Tū Tāngata.
- Interacting with students during lunch times through sports such as basketball.
- My highlight is definitely seeing how quickly the students have started to love coming along to SALT. Within only a couple of sessions, they have been vulnerable with their friendship struggles and difficult family dynamics. Each week, they come along with highs and lows from their week that they look forward to sharing. I feel as if I've been able to connect with each individual student and have them feel safe and valued.

## **Student Story**

With most groups that I have been taking at Wainui School I have been going through the 'E Tū Tāngata' (Stand Together) values/ principles. When I first talked about the principles with one student in particular he didn't find it too hard to know and believe that others have value but he struggled to believe it for himself, so myself and his buddy who was with him told him that we would keep reminding him that he has value until he believed it for himself. Then just one week later, he began our session by saying 'Simon guess what; during the week my best friend XX told me that I have value and I believed him'.

So in the subsequent weeks we have still been talking about the 'E Tū Tāngata' principles and how we can use them during the week. Just this past week, I asked this same student as to how he has shown others that they have value in the last week, and he responded with "I showed my mum that she has value by giving her a hug".

It has been so cool to see this student progress in grasping what it means to see the value in himself and in others.

**TERM ONE 2025**

# **Wainui School**

## **Feedback**

- It has been awesome to see how the school's focus on E Tū Tāngata has been reflected in their time at SALT. If one student is talking negatively about themselves or another student, they are quick to call the other person out politely on whether they are upholding the E Tū Tāngata values.



## **Student Story**

One Friday my timetable was changed so I ended up sitting in on a whole school assembly that two of my students happened to be responsible for directing and speaking at. It was a pleasure to see both of them outwork their individual gifts and see that they grow in confidence as the assembly went along.

Afterwards, they ran up to me to share in the excitement of how the event ran smoothly and it was awesome to see their beaming faces. The girls had done an incredible job and so it was very special to be able to support them in that potentially out of the comfort zone experience. At first I wasn't sure that sitting in on an assembly was a productive use of my time that afternoon, however it was amazing to reflect on how this situation produced good fruit, deeper connection and friendship.

**TERM ONE 2025**

# **Dairy Flat School**

## **Highlights**

- A personal highlight of term 1 has been being able to join in with different activities within the school outside of Primary Project such as the Year 1-4 Fun day
- Really enjoyed getting outside and playing different sports with the students and seeing them grow in both friendships and seeing how getting outside can change their character
- Talking about their highs and lows, it's awesome seeing over the term how the students enjoy talking about their "good thing and bad thing" and how as they get more comfortable they share with greater confidence
- I got to go on Dairy Flat School camp this term and that was a highlight for me, getting to participate in activities and seeing the young people thrive in a camp setting was awesome. I then got to participate in the colour run in the last week of school and we had an absolute blast throwing and getting covered in paint.

## **Student Stories**

- One of the boys discussed how they had been struggling with friendships since taking him out over time he has enjoyed learning how to communicate with others and has now made a current friend that he plays with during morning tea and lunch which has been awesome to hear about.
- A young person that I meet with was very shy and closed when I first started meeting with her, but slowly she started opening up and sharing with me the stories she has been writing and is super excited each time to come and share her new stories each week.
- I have a student who comes with a buddy each week and really struggles with school, each week we do the same activity while I provide a space for her to chat if she wants to. Slowly she has become more comfortable with sharing.

