

Being a member of the Kiwi community

Before we came here, I was so nervous and excited and full of concerns about how I'm going to feel on the other side of the earth.

The time of my traveling, leaving my country just came and we arrived on the 8th of July 2023 to Aotearoa. We had two weeks to settle down at Tauranga. My first day at school was on 17th of July 2023 so I joined in Term 3 of year 7. I was in Room 28, a member of Tawa house, the best house in the school 😊. In the first few days I had already started to feel comfortable and after one or two weeks all of my fears had disappeared. I have got lots of support from my classmates, from my teacher Miss Connolly and from Mrs. Hart, I can't tell you how grateful I am to them.



During my school year I made very good friendships with some of my classmates. They are Rupert, Mustafa, Victor, Lolani. We had lots of fun together.



I loved Tauranga Intermediate School.: Being barefoot, having enjoyable and interesting subjects especially technology and having lots of outdoor activities. I'm so happy I got to learn about the Māori culture in school. From the beginning of the school, I could not wait for the camp, which finally was in March and we spent four unforgettable nights at Ngamuwahine Outdoor Education Lodge. We had so much fun and activities (paintball, rafting, Mountain biking, rock climbing...etc.) that I will remember for the rest of my life. We had lots of sport races that I enjoyed as well such as Ultimate relay and athletics day.

We have been living at Mount Maunganui so I had lots of opportunities to go to beach and have fun in the ocean, it is one of the most beautiful locations to live.



In the past year we successfully explored New Zealand from the most Northern point of the North Island to the Southern point of the South Island. We have visited most of the remarkable spots: giant sand dunes, 90 mile beach, Coromandel Peninsula, Waiotapu Thermal wonderland, Kaikoura whale watching, Franz Josef glacier, Milford Sounds and many more.



We have accomplished some famous tracks like: Kauaeranga Kauri Trail, Tongariro Crossing, Roy's Peak.



We visited some neighboring countries like Australia and Fiji. Those places are awesome.

I'm very proud that I was able to learn the Kiwi culture that means for me the following: Multicultural, acceptance, kindness, tolerance, English language, love nature, beach, bodyboarding, and fish and chips. I take all of these memories home with me.

This year has been the best year of my life.

Thanks,

Samuel Szalontai (Tawa House)