



**Tauranga
Special
School**
Learning together

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Newsletter Week 10 Term 3 28th September 2021

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau:

Hopefully by the start of the holiday break we will be back in Level One. The Government resisted pressure from many sectors to bring the holidays forward, effectively meaning that Auckland would drop from Level 4 into Level 3 and go on holiday only within their region. From my perspective we had just settled back into some normality in Level 2 with a degree of stability and routines for our students, staff and my guess our families. Bringing forward the holidays would have been an unreasonable and unjustified move.

It would be great if the sun shone over the two week holiday break so that we can all recharge our batteries.

Term 4 starts Monday 18 October and is eight weeks in duration with the final day for our students being Tuesday 14 December.

Board of Trustees News:

Our Board met on Wednesday 22 September and agreed to the following:

The appointment of four teachers to permanent full time positions.

New teachers are **Sara Thorburn** and **Irene Martin**. **Jay Rotarangi** and **David Norman** are currently teaching in our school on fixed term arrangements. Irene has been a relief teacher for us and will take over the teaching role in Room 4 at the Base School next term. Room 4's current teacher **Kelly Shallow** leaves us to take up a new position based in Whakatane.

Sara will start next term in the role of an Outreach Teacher at Katikati Primary School. Our school established the Outreach Service in 2007. We employ several part time teachers in this service to assist mainstream teachers and teacher aides, with advice and guidance for ORS students in their classes. Our service currently covers the area from Katikati in the north through to Opotiki in the east of our region.

The Board discussed whether we should consider using our Base School as a **Covid-19 vaccination centre** as some schools are doing. The Board opted instead to promote to our school community the locations of the current vaccination centres, including iwi based Marae, and assist where possible with families that may need assistance to get to these centres. This offer includes assistance when the school is open. If any families would like to take up this offer please contact the school office and we will see what we can do to help.

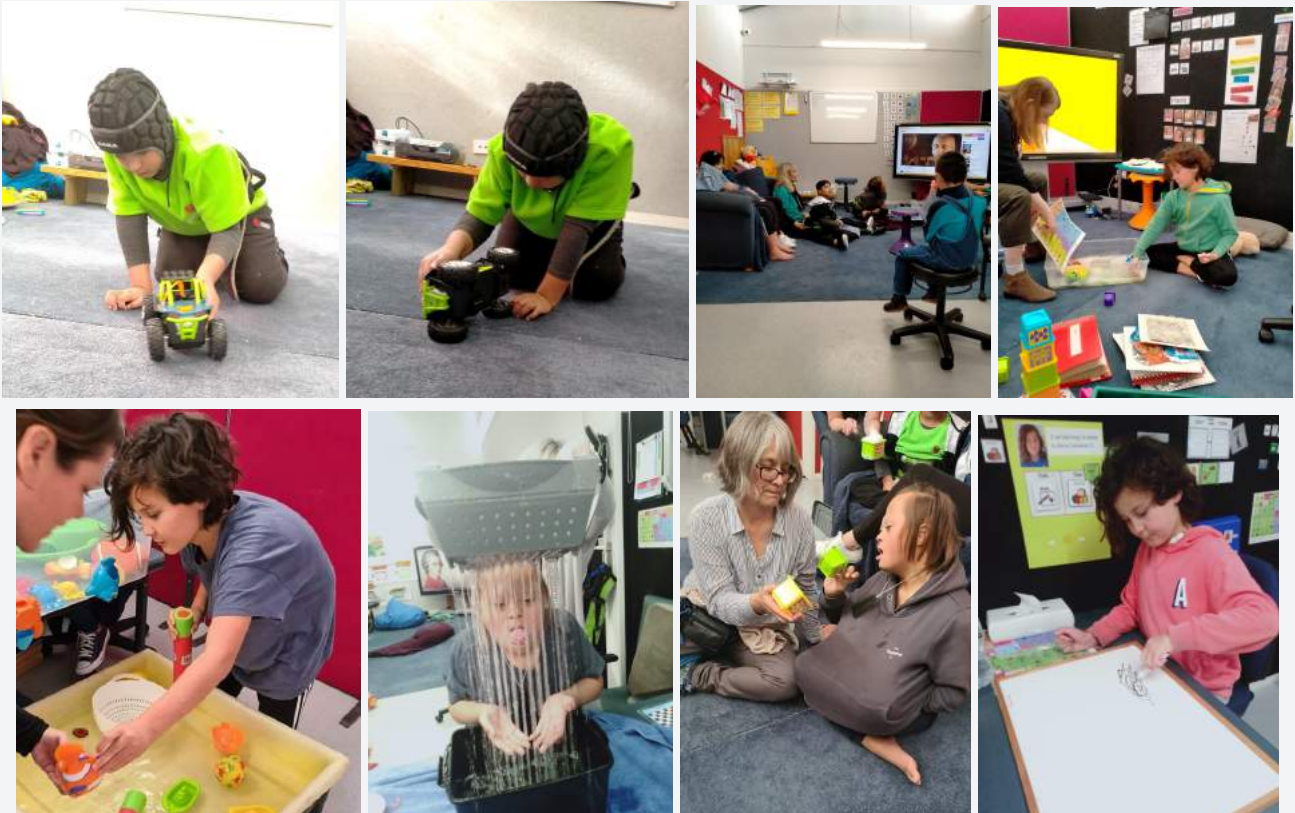
Ngā mihi
Kind regards
Barrie Wickens
Principal

Room 2

Room 2 was excited to get back to school after lockdown this term. Although we all needed some time to adjust, the sun was shining and Spring had arrived. We have been enjoying extra long sessions outside... going for walks, exploring the newly renovated outside areas in “The Green” and enjoying our sensory pathway, “Deb’s Place”.



Inside learning has been happening with enthusiasm too. Room 2 has busied ourselves exploring toys, TACPAC and our sensory story - Te Pura the Taniwha!



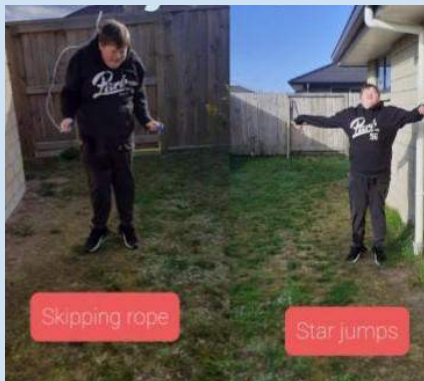
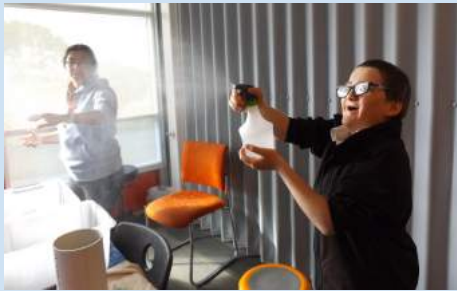
Room 3

In Room 3 we have loved being back at school. We have missed each other and have had lots of lovely sensory, water and cooperative play.

Play offers us such rich learning experiences that we get to use our skills, explore, discover and experiment, all while having so much fun!



Pāpāmoa College



Star jumps



Term 3 has been a blast at Pāpāmoa College. We have been out and about visiting some beautiful places around our moana with our Inquiry study on the topic of 'Water'. We have been learning about where our water comes from and are up to developing questions that we will go on to investigate in Term 4. Our goal is to create inquisitive minds who will then be able to find the answers either for themselves, or with some help.

In class we have been learning to use measurement and its language in maths. We have been learning about 'bigger and smaller', 'taller and shorter' and 'heavier and lighter'. Needless to say- there's been some wonderful cooking as a result. In 'Lockdown', we were super proud of our learners as they overcame and excelled each and every day, and had lots of fun along the way with their learning.

Psst...

Have you ever wondered what anxiety 'looks' like?

My daughter is so quiet when we go out. She won't let me go. She only wants to be carried. But at home she's a bundle of energy!

My son rips his clothes and becomes upset over the smallest things... usually right before we head out the door!

Anxiety looks different for all of us.

Both adults and children can experience anxiety and stress. It can help to understand what this looks like so we can then focus on some positive ways to cope with it.

My son sometimes refuses to leave the house. He has meltdowns when we have to go places.

My daughter always tells everyone what to do. She's demanding and it's exhausting. She gets so angry and upset when things don't go her way.

Here are a couple of basic tools we can use in our everyday interactions with our tamariki to help them feel calm. We can use visual timetables to show them what will happen and when, and we can use movement/dance or even a fidget toy to help our students meet their sensory needs too.

Stress and anxiety can 'look' different too!

If you'd like more information, you can contact your child's class teacher, or you're welcome to contact Tauranga Special School's specialist team. We work together with our teachers and whānau to support our students.

Kia kaha, The Specialist Team

specialists@taurangaspecialschool.nz

Welcome Bay Satellite

Two new students joined us after lockdown. Welcome to Casey and Chloe!
We have been having fun learning through sensory play.



We love . . .

“Who sank the boat?” sessions with Kate.
We made a cow who was on the boat in the story.



We love sensory play!

We have been learning so many skills through a range of sensory play.

Embedding our school values into our school culture Our school has been on a journey towards embedding the school's values from our charter into the day to day life of the school. As part of this process we would like to develop some symbols, collect some whakatauki and proverbs or sayings from various cultures in our school, and create some certificates and posters to keep these values at the front of our thinking and ways of doing and being.

Below are our values and how they are interpreted in our setting. There are also some examples of possible images and whakatauki to begin this process. If you have any ideas to contribute or would like to be part of this development please contact Andrea 07 5784424 or andreaa@taurangaspecialschool.nz

Achievement- supporting our students to be the best possible versions of themselves

Image idea: A mountain, a tree...

A possible whakatauki: "Whaia e koe ki te iti kahurangi; ki te tuohu koe, me maunga teitei" translated as: "Seek the treasure you value most dearly; if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain."



Celebration acknowledging all progress no matter how small

Image idea: stars...

A possible whakatauki: Tukua kia tū takitahi ngā whetū o te rangi. Let each star in the sky shine its own light.



Whakawhanaungatanga healthy relationships, a sense of interconnection and belonging

Image idea: a flock of birds...

A possible whakatauki: Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini. Our strength does not come from ourselves alone, our strength derives from the many.



Manaakitanga- enhancing the mana and sense of self worth of people, care and respect, hospitality

Image Idea: A nurturing/ building image- maybe a NZ animal that shows extensive nurture of others...

A possible whakatauki: Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua. If we take care of the land and the people the future will take care of itself



Well-being- enabling, and where possible empowering our students to thrive

Image ideas: water, sun...

A possible whakatauki: He puna wai, he puna kai, he puna reo, he puna ora, he puna, ita a ita, A spring of water, a bountiful spring, a spring of languages, a spring of health, hold forth



Inclusive community- to include everyone and seek to be included in the community

Image ideas: what about a river or some kind of water symbol?, flax/harakeke?...

A possible Whakatauki: Hutia te rito o te harakeke, Kei whea te komako e ko, Ki mai ki ahau, He aha te mea nui, Maku e kii atu, He tangata, he tangata, He tangata, If you remove the heart of the flax bush from where will the Bellbird sing? If you say to me what is the most important thing in this world? I will reply to you. It is people, it is people, it is people.



Innovation, inquiry and curiosity/Ako (reciprocal learning relationship, new knowledge and understanding can grow out of shared learning experiences.)

Image ideas: a fern frond, a tree, a flower...

A possible whakatauki: Popoia he kakano, kia puawai. Nurture the seed and it will blossom





Tauranga Special School

Learning together

Education session: TONY MCLEAN to present on:

Navigating Funding Streams for those with Disabilities:

Find out what funding sources are out there.

Find out what they are for and how to access them.

When: Tuesday: 26th October - 6-8pm

Where: Base School - 39 18th Ave, Tauranga

It may be possible to join us by zoom.

We may be able to offer childminding at school.

If you would like to either of these, please contact

Brigid brigidh@taurangaspecialschool.nz



Do join us - we look forward to seeing you!

Term 3 final day of school is this Friday (1st October)

Hei awahi EXPO- Postponed to 2022 due to Covid Level 2.

Term 4 Dates - Monday 18th October - Tuesday 14th December

Labour Day holiday Monday 25th October

Cross Country- 2nd November

Teacher Only Day- Friday December 3rd- School closed for students