

Tauranga Special School

Learning together



Newsletter 10 Week 2 Term 3 30/07/2026

Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome to Term 3, Week 2!
In this edition, our Mana kaha team sharing a quick guide to The Zones of Regulation and how we use visual tools to support emotional wellbeing at school and at home. You'll also catch a glimpse of our Devonport Road Campus Matariki celebrations—from delicious kūmara soup to Māori-inspired star artworks—as well as creative phonics progress in Room 4. Check out the important dates for Term 3 and community notices inside!

If you have anything to add to future newsletters please email: pipj@taurangaspecialschool.nz

Important dates

Monday 24 August
School closed {Staff only day}

Tuesday 22 September
Whole school Multicultural event.

Friday 25 September
Last day of Term 3

Monday 12 October
Term 4 starts

Key Contacts

School Landline:
07 578 4424

Attendance phone (call/txt):
027 558 5917

A message from our Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome back to Term 3! I hope you all had a wonderful two-week break with your tamariki. It is great to see everyone back at school, and with Week 2 nearly complete, our classrooms are full of energy and settling back into their routines nicely.



Satellite Progress

- **Te Puke Satellite:** We have some hugely exciting news to share—our Te Puke Satellite will officially open on **Monday, 10th August!** The team is absolutely buzzing as we put the final touches in place. We cannot wait to welcome our learners into this new space and begin building strong, lasting connections within the Te Puke community. This new classroom space will open 16 new places for students, growing our school roll to about 145 when all of these spaces are filled.
- **Te Kura o Manunui Satellite:** Following the remedial work on the site at the end of last term, tests have been progressing well. We are continuing to navigate through the necessary processes with the Ministry and remain confident about having our new building ready by the end of the year.

Our Growing Team

We have some wonderful new and returning faces joining our team this term!

We are delighted to welcome back Speech Language Therapists Bridget Fox and Kit Hardy- Kit returns from maternity leave, and Bridget, who previously worked with us at TSS, returns in a permanent position.

We are also thrilled to welcome Occupational Therapist Gillian Lightfoot. Gillian is an experienced OT who brings many years of expertise across school and community settings, including Explore, where she has already worked alongside some of our TSS whānau.

In our teaching team, we welcome back Chelsea Coplestone, who will be teaching at our Intermediate satellite, and Leanne Knightley, who will join Jolani as one of the two teachers at our new Te Puke Satellite. We also welcome a number of new Teacher Aides who have started at various sites across our kura!

Finally, following our interviews at the end of last term, we are delighted to announce two of our successful candidates for our Professional Learning Leader roles: Chris Taane and Justine Henderson. Chris and Justine will officially step into these middle-leadership roles in Week 6 to support our teaching teams and tamariki. Please join us in giving everyone a very warm welcome and congratulating Chris and Justine on their new roles!

Key Dates & Reminders

- **Staff Only Day:** Please note that we have a Teacher Only Day scheduled for **Monday, 24th August.** School will be **closed for instruction** on this day while our staff engage in professional development. Thank you for your support in making arrangements for your tamariki on this date. Thank you once again for your ongoing support as we move into the second half of the year together.

Ngā mihi nui,

Dale Megson
Tumuaki/ Principal

Mana kaha

Understanding "The Zones of Regulation" at School

At school, we use The Zones of Regulation to help our ākonga (learners) connect with, identify, and express how they are feeling inside. Because many of our students communicate non-verbally, we place a strong emphasis on consistent visual supports, colour-coding, and body awareness to help them share their internal state with us.

To help you use these visual cues at home, here is a quick guide to the four zones:

Blue Zone (Low Energy): Tired, sad, bored, or feeling unwell.

Green Zone ("Just Right"): Focused, calm, happy, and ready to learn.

Yellow Zone (Heightened Energy): Anxious, frustrated, excited, or wiggly.

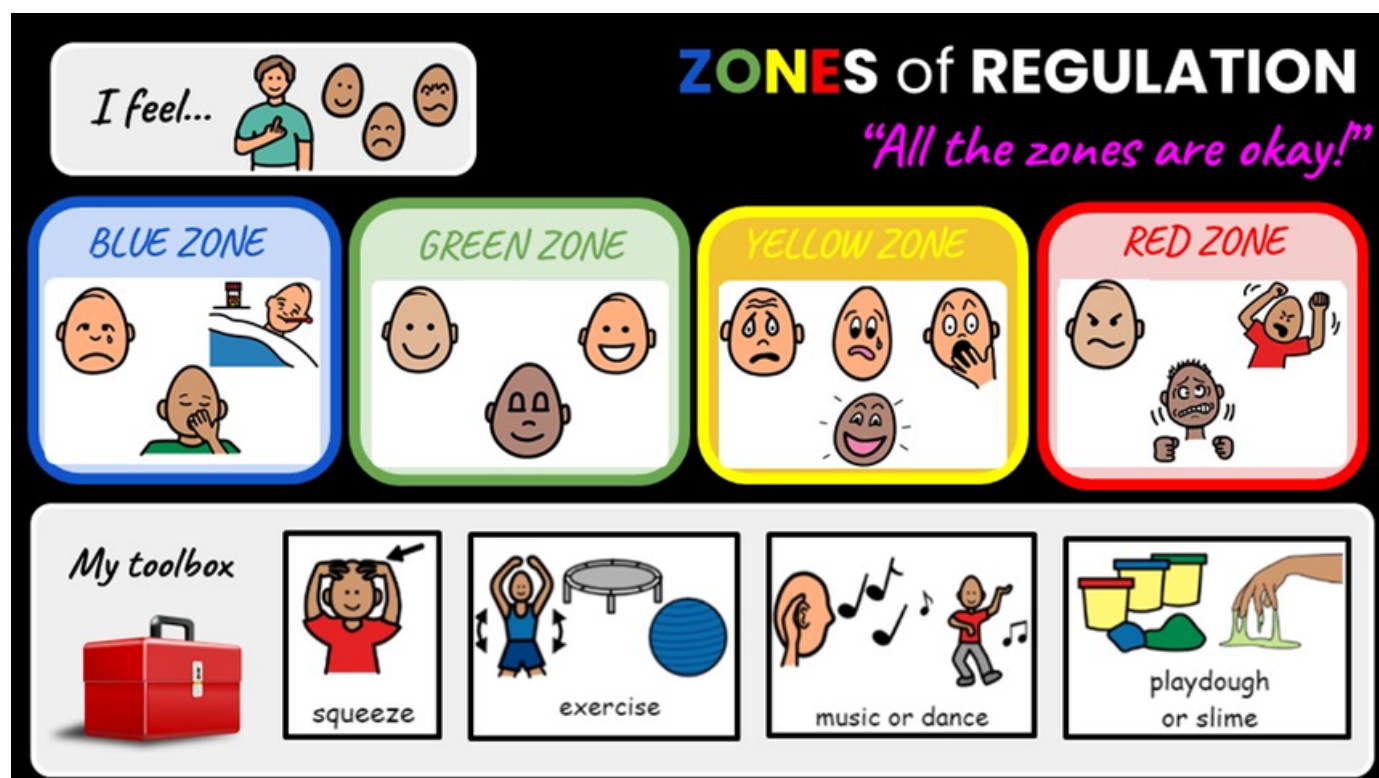
Red Zone (Out of Control): Angry, overwhelmed, or terrified.

All Zones Are OK!

Feelings and energy levels change naturally throughout the day. No zone is "bad," and it isn't a realistic expectation for anyone—adults included!—to stay in the Green Zone all day long.

Our goal as staff is to help each student build a visual "Toolbox" of strategies (such as movement breaks, deep breathing visual cards, or sensory tools) so they can safely navigate big feelings. We practice using these tools when students are calm, relaxed, and ready to explore them, making it much easier for them to access those supports when they feel overwhelmed.

Supporting at home: Try using color references or visual cards when checking in. You might hold up a visual cue or ask, "Can you show me what colour zone your body is in right now?"



Devonport road campus



DRC thoroughly enjoyed preparing for Matariki at the end of Term 1. Every student was involved in creating a delicious kūmara, lentil, and apple soup, which was shared as part of our whole-school Matariki celebration.



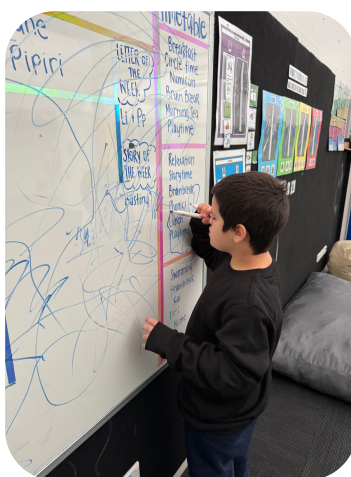
Devonport road campus



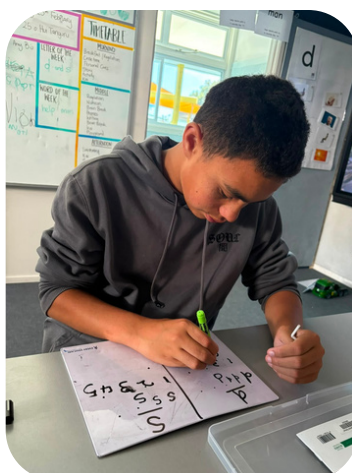
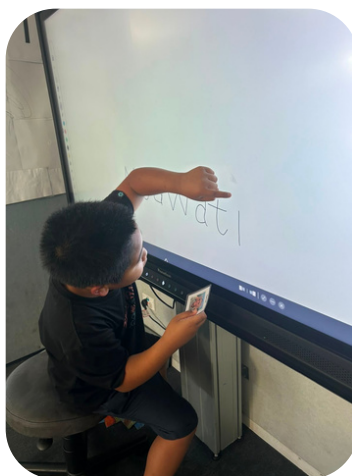
Students also created beautiful night sky artworks featuring the Matariki stars, with each student including themselves holding a kite decorated with traditional Māori-inspired patterns.



Room 4 Hayley



Phonics time is quickly becoming a favorite in our classroom! Our students have been mastering our focus letters by getting creative with all kinds of writing tools and surfaces. Several students are already branching out and spelling their friends' names and favourite animals all on their own. We couldn't be prouder!



Community notices



SAVE
— THE —
Date

IHC TAURANGA ASSOCIATION

BALL
Masquerade

SATURDAY
3 OCTOBER 2026
— AT —
STADIUM LOUNGE
AT MERCURY BAYPARK

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

ihc
IN YOUR COMMUNITY