

Tauranga Special School

Learning together



Newsletter 12 Week 6 Term 3 27/08/2026

Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome to week 6 term 3 newsletter!
Inside this edition, you will find exciting updates from our TC3 and Intermediate classes highlighting their students' recent learning, activities, and achievements.

We are also thrilled to feature special coverage of some of our students' participation in the Special Olympics basketball! There are also updates about the swimming pool concessions from Megan our Physio.

We hope you enjoy it.

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

Key Contacts

School Landline:
07 578 4424

Attendance phone (call/txt):
027 558 5917

Important dates

Friday 4 September

Hei Awhi expo

Thursday 17 September

Special School Kapa haka festival

Tuesday 22 September

Whole school Multicultural event

Friday 25 September

Last day of Term 3

Monday 12 October

Term 4 starts

A message from our Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

It is hard to believe we are already in the second half of Term 3! We appreciate your support in keeping unwell tamariki home as we navigate high levels of sickness among both students and staff across our kura. Our staff have been fantastic in their flexibility to work across different sites to ensure all classes remain open and adequately staffed.



School Roll: With the opening of our Te Puke satellite, our school roll now sits at an all-time high of 132. With a number of pending enrolments across our school, we see this rising to approximately 140 by the end of the year. It is exciting to experience this growth and to support more whānau across the Western Bay of Plenty. We are still managing a long waiting list, so please let us know if you are planning to move before next school year, as this may impact your child's class placement.

Satellite Progress: We are still waiting on a number of council consents for the Te Kura o Manunui satellite site. The building is constructed and ready to be craned onto the site. We are hopeful it will be ready to move into by the beginning of next year. We sincerely appreciate the families who have remained at the old Brookfield site while these delays are resolved.

Additionally, the government announced that we were successful in securing another new satellite at Katikati Primary School. We have begun initial discussions with the Ministry of Education and Katikati Primary, which is very exciting! We have a predicted opening date of Term 3, 2026, which will create an additional 16 places for local students.

Staff-Only Day: Thank you for supporting our second government-allocated staff-only day earlier this week. It is rare that our entire team (120+ staff) can gather for Professional Development. Our Therapy team led some fantastic PD on Engagement and Play. Our staff also valued listening to the lived experiences of our whānau, learning about your successes, challenges, and what brings your children joy. It was a wonderful reminder of our "why."

Key Dates & Reminders

Special School Kapa Haka Festival (Karāpiro): Thursday, 17th September (Select students only)

Multicultural Day: Tuesday, 22nd September (whole school event at Base)

Please don't hesitate to contact me or a member of our Leadership Team if you have any questions, concerns, or need support.

Ngā mihi nui,

Dale Megson
Tumuaki/ Principal

HEI AWHI DISABILITY EXPO 2026

AN INFORMATION EXPO FOR
PEOPLE WITH ANY TYPE OF
DISABILITY, THEIR WHĀNAU,
EDUCATORS AND SUPPORTERS



**September
4th 2026
10am-2pm**

TAURANGA RACECOURSE
EVENT CENTRE
1383 CAMERON RD
SIR TRISTRAM LOUNGE

**SUPPORT GROUPS
TRANSITION SERVICES
THERAPISTS
ADVOCACY
CHARITIES
EDUCATION PROVIDERS
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
ENRICHMENT SERVICES
FUNDING PROVIDERS AND
MORE!**

FREE ENTRY FOR GUESTS

**\$30 FEE FOR
STALLHOLDERS**

ORGANISED BY
TAURANGA SPECIAL SCHOOL



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, OR IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A
STALLHOLDER, CONTACT

HEIAWHI@TAURANGASPECIALSCHOOL.NZ

Whānau group



Whānau group coffee get together

— ✨ ✨ —
Come and connect with other Tauranga Special School Whanau.
Enjoy a complimentary coffee and baking.
All welcome.
We would love to see you.



Date: Friday 28 August



Location: Classic Flyers



Time: 10.30 - 12.00

Please rsvp by text to Sharon 0275739744 or Sandra 0210320811.
We would love to hear from you if possible by Wednesday 26 August to secure a table.
However please also feel free to just drop in on the day!

Special Olympics Basketball



Yesterday, our senior students had a fantastic day representing our school at the Special Olympics basketball tournament held at Tauranga Boys' High School. Alongside players from many other local schools, they gave it their all in several action-packed games. Fun, teamwork, and great sportsmanship were had by all!



**Special
Olympics**



Physio Team

Please see a letter from Bay Venues in the community notices, explaining the changes to the disability swimming membership at our local pools. Free disability swimming memberships are being discontinued.

As a school, we will continue to swim at Baywave and Greerton pools with our intermediate and senior students at no extra cost to our families. We have secured a specific membership for the school. Your children will not be required to have a Hapai access card for this.

To qualify for the new discounted disability price/membership to swim outside of school, your child will be required to have a Hapai card. There are other benefits, other than discounted swimming, with the Hapai access card.

To apply for a Hapai card, our Physiotherapist, Megan Munro, is able to supply you with a form validating your child's disability. Please contact Megan meganm@taurangaspecialschool.nz if you would like her to complete this form for your child. You then upload the form with your application to Hapai.

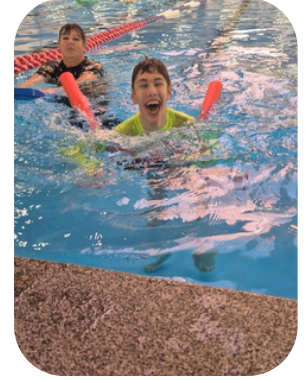
<https://www.hapaiaccesscard.org.nz/>

Megan is also happy to answer any questions you have around this new process with Bay Venues.



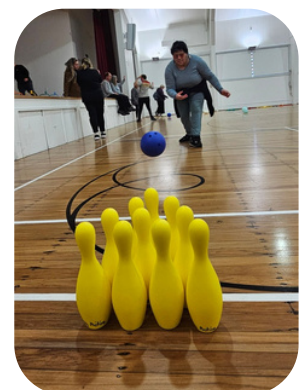
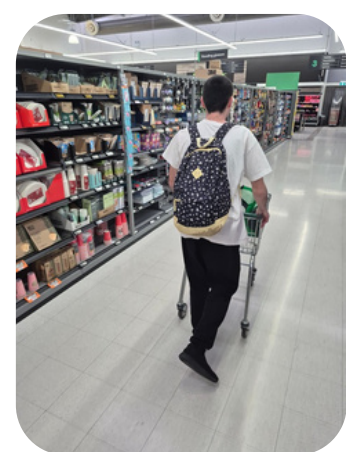
Papamoa at
Baywave

TC3, Shane and Nicola



What a fantastic and busy term it's been at TC3 so far!

We've loved getting out and about in our local community. Whether we're making a splash at the Greerton pools (with wonderful support from Kim!), visiting the Greerton library, staying active in the community Inclusive Movement programme, or building valuable life skills at the op shop and local supermarket, our students have been making the most of every adventure.



TC3, Shane and Nicola



Back in the classroom, the energy has been just as high!
It's been wonderful to see the students get so enthusiastic about literacy—from enjoying shared reads together to practicing their writing and diving into phonics-themed games.

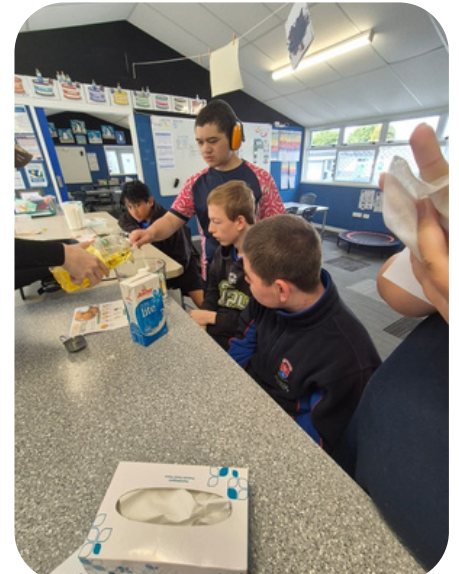
A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our ARA meetings. We loved celebrating your student's progress with you and mapping out their exciting next steps!



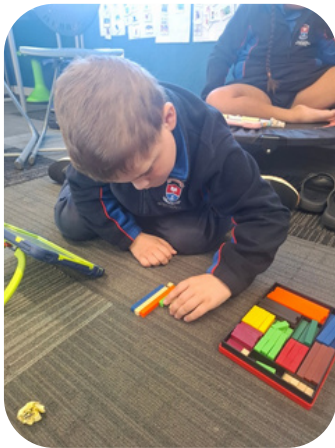
Tauranga Intermediate satellite Chelsea



There has been a lot happening this term at TIS! We have been enjoying our weekly swimming sessions at Baywave, cooking on Friday's, practicing our kapa haka and pacifica song in the afternoons to regulate as well as learning all about our pūrākau of the Tauranga Moana area. Even with many big changes in a short amount of time, everyone has adapted incredibly well and we are looking forward to celebrating Multicultural day at the end of the term.



Tauranga Intermediate Satellite Mary

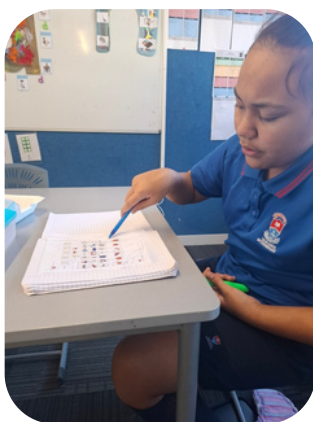


At Intermediate in Mary's classroom, we've been exploring our focus letters and sounds through fun and creative art activities alongside our shared reading book.

We've also found lots of joy using hands-on Numicon materials to develop our understanding of ordering and making comparisons.

Our weekly excursions to swimming and kapa haka have been a real hit, with some students also enjoying their time at RDA.

What a fun and busy Term 3 it has been for everyone!



Community notices

you are invited to
IHC TAURANGA ASSOCIATION'S

Masquerade BALL



SATURDAY
3 OCTOBER 2026
6pm-10:30pm

STADIUM LOUNGE, MERCURY BAYPARK
84 Truman Lane, Mount Maunganui

For people with intellectual disabilities aged 18 and over.

Formal dress, masks optional.

DJ and dancing.

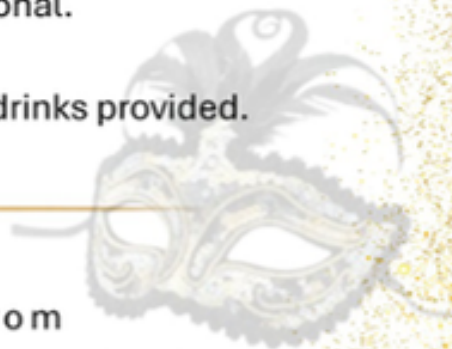
Light supper and two non-alcoholic drinks provided.

Cash bar available.

TICKETS \$40

purchase tickets from

<https://trybooking.com/nz/BEIP>



All enquiries to:

ihc.taurangaassociation@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE, supervision is not provided.

Caregivers will need their own tickets.



TAURANGA POOLS

Kia ora,

We're writing to let you know about an upcoming change to how Bay Venues' disability memberships will be administered across our aquatic facilities.

From 1 July 2026, Bay Venues will begin its transition to using the Hāpai Access Card as the basis for our disability memberships across our aquatic facilities in Tauranga, Katikati, and Te Puke.

As a current member, nothing changes for you until 1 July 2027.

Your current membership will remain valid until 30 June 2027, which gives you one year to become a Hāpai Access Card holder and apply for the new membership – the Hāpai Aquatic Membership – at Bay Venues.

Please find the full details of the changes below.

Why we're making this change:

Using the Hāpai Access Card as the basis for our disability memberships will create a clearer and more consistent system for both our customers and staff. This means eligibility will be verified and managed externally by subject matter experts rather than requiring our frontline staff to determine or assess personal medical information.

This change aligns our approach with other councils and aquatic facility operators around the country and ensures a more streamlined process for people accessing our facilities.

The Hāpai Access Card also provides clear information about a person's access requirements and support needs.

Key dates:

- All **current** disability memberships will continue to be accepted at Bay Venues aquatic facilities until 30 June 2027.
- From 1 July 2027, all **current** disability memberships will no longer be accepted.
- All **current** disability members will need to have a Hāpai Access Card and apply for the new membership before 1 July 2027.
- From 1 July 2026, any **new** members will need to apply using the new Hāpai Access Card system.
- Access under both the **current** disability membership and the **new** Hāpai Aquatic Membership will remain free during this one-year transition period from 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027.

Proposed change in cost:

We currently offer complimentary memberships at our aquatic facilities for residents with a permanent disability. Under this proposed change, applicants will need to be Hāpai Access Card holders and the cost of the new disability membership at Bay Venues (now called the Hāpai Aquatic Membership) will increase to \$3 per week.

This is a 90% discount compared to our 'All Aquatic Facilities' membership and includes unlimited access to all our community pools and aquatic centres. This also includes free access for an accompanying support person if required.

There will also be a casual visit option for Hāpai Access Card holders who do not visit regularly enough for the membership, offering a 30% discount off our standard casual entry price, with the same discount available for a support person.

We understand this proposed small price increase will be coming at a difficult time for many of our customers and members of the disability community. However, in the current constrained funding environment, we need to evaluate the balance between what the Council and ratepayer contributes and the user pays.

Our new proposed membership price of \$3 per week remains a more affordable option than most of those offered at comparable community aquatic facilities in other major cities and it will allow us to remain financially sustainable while keeping access affordable.

The extended transition period has been designed to give people time to apply for the Hāpai Access Card and plan for the new small weekly Hāpai Aquatic Membership cost at Bay Venues.

Special one-off discounted price for Hāpai Access Card

Our current Bay Venues disability membership holders will be able to apply for a Hāpai Access Card at a special one-off discounted rate of five years for \$30 + GST, instead of the standard three-year card term for \$45 + GST.

To receive this Bay Venues special one-off discounted rate, you must use this application form: apply.hapaiaccesscard.org.nz before 30 June 2027. You will not receive the Bay Venues discount if you apply via the public form on the Hāpai website. Payment must be made at the time of application.

Other benefits:

Moving to the Hāpai Access Card system will also allow people visiting from outside the city who hold one of these nationally available cards to access the same discounts at our facilities. Previously, our disability memberships were only available for local residents.

Hāpai Access Card holders will also receive new additional benefits across Bay Venues facilities, including:

- 20% off BaySwim Learn to Swim lessons
- 10% off Clubfit Gym Access Membership
- 10% off hot drinks at Bay Catering locations including 101 Cafe Experiment at University of Waikato Tauranga Campus, Market & Main at Tauranga Historic Village, Plentie Cafe at Mercury Baypark, and Baywave Poolside Cafe.

If you have any feedback regarding these changes, please feel free to contact us at feedback@bayvenues.co.nz.

Ngā manaakitanga
Matthew Strange - **Head of Aquatics**
Sarah-Jane Odgers - **Head of Customer Experience**



Connecting Our Community through Exceptional Experiences

MOVEMENT 44 X TAURANGA CROSSING

*COME TO MY FREE DANCE CLASS
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES & NEURODIVERGENT*



*My class will be Tuesday 1st September @ 10 am
(Crossing Collective Room)
&
Tuesday 8th September @ 6 pm
(Crossing Collective Room)*

*Missed out on my main class because it's full? These
free sessions are your chance to come along! ✨*