

Tauranga Special School

Learning together



Newsletter 14 Week 10 Term 3 24/09/2026

Kia ora whānau and welcome to Newsletter 14!

We have an action-packed edition for you this week, overflowing with exciting news, events, and highlights from across our school community! From our students' joyous trip to Karapiro for the Special School Kapa Haka Festival to the vibrant music and vibrant dance performances at our base school Multicultural Day, it has been a fantastic, event-filled time.

Grab a cup of tea and enjoy reading all about the wonderful activities, celebrations, and achievements of our ākonga!

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

Important dates

Tuesday 22 September

Whole school Multicultural event

Friday 25 September

Last day of Term 3

Monday 12 October

Term 4 starts

Monday 26 October

Labour Day (School Closed)

Saturday 31 October

Pasifika Festival in the Bay

Monday 14 December

School Concert

Tuesday 15 December

Last day of Term 4 (12:00 pm finish)

Key Contacts

School Landline:

07 578 4424

Attendance phone (call/txt):

027 558 5917

A message from our Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

Wow, what a busy end to the term we have had! AIMS Games in Week 8, the Special School Kapa Haka Festival in Week 9, and our Whole School Multicultural Event in Week 10. A huge thank you to the staff who have gone above and beyond to make these events happen, and to the many whānau who have supported them!



Special School Kapa Haka Festival (Karāpiro)

In Week 9, approximately 30 senior students travelled to Karāpiro to take part in the Central Region Special School Kapa Haka Festival. It was great to join other special schools from Rotorua, Hamilton, and Paeroa for a day of celebration and haka, as well as showcase the huge improvements we have made! The students and staff performed brilliantly and represented our school with pride. A huge mihi to Whaea Josie, who leads our Kapa Haka group.

Multicultural Day

It was wonderful to come together earlier this week for our termly whole-school event to celebrate the many cultures that make up our school community. It is always so pleasing to see all of our students and staff reconnecting and interacting so positively with each other. It was awesome to have the Pasifika Group from Ōtūmoetai Intermediate perform for us and be so welcoming to our students joining in! A huge thank you to the many whānau who joined their tamariki. It was one of our best-attended events in a long time!

Farewell and Thank You

This week, we celebrated Sue Padgett on her 'semi-retirement'. Sue has taught at our school for the best part of 25 years across various areas, and more recently within our senior classes at Pāpāmoa College, DRC, and TC3. Sue was instrumental in setting up our senior program at TC3 approximately 10 years ago, which is still running strong today. Sue is looking forward to travelling overseas, but we are very grateful that she will continue relief teaching for TSS outside of her travel!

Key Dates & Reminders

Friday 25 September: Last day of Term 3

Monday 12 October: First day of Term 4

Monday 26 October: Labour Day (School Closed)

Saturday 31 October: Pasifika Festival in the Bay

Monday 14 December: School Concert (Details to be announced)

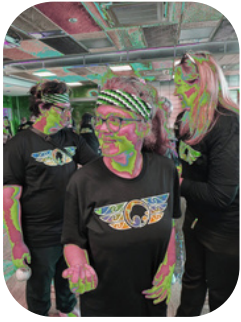
Tuesday 15 December: Last day of Term 4 (12:00 pm finish)

On behalf of the Leadership Team, I want to wish everybody a safe and enjoyable school break. We look forward to seeing you all back for Term 4!

Ngā mihi nui,

Dale Megson

Tumuaki/ Principal

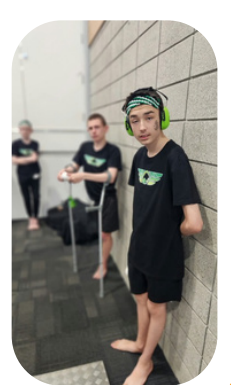
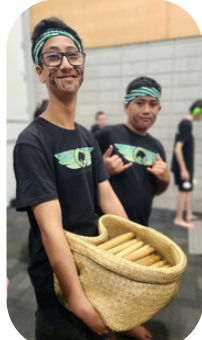


Special school Kapa haka Festival 2026



Last week, a group of our wonderful students traveled to Karapiro to take part in the Special School Kapa Haka Festival! It was an incredible day filled with waiata, performance, and whanaungatanga. Our students represented the school with immense pride, passion, and enthusiasm, and everyone who attended had a truly joyous time celebrating together.

A massive thank you to all the staff, whānau, and organisers who helped make this uplifting experience possible for our ākonga!



Multicultural day



What a vibrant celebration of culture and community we had at our base school for Multicultural Day!

We were thrilled to welcome a talented group from Ōtūmoetai Intermediate, who captivated us with their wonderful cultural dance performances. It was fantastic to see so many of our whānau and family members join us to celebrate diversity, share in the performances, and support our ākonga. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the day so special!



Occupational Therapy

The OT team have loved meeting so many whānau and catching up with you and your celebrations over the IP meetings.

We have been supporting classes with engagement and play.

Lots of exploring different sensory activities and having fun!



This term we have had some changes within the OT team and the Classes we support.

We have welcomed Gillian in Term 3 and Clair in Term 4.

As Erin begins her maternity leave starting in Term 4, we extend our warmest wishes to her and her whānau. We wish them all the best as they prepare to welcome their newest family member!



Occupational Therapy Team



Gillian Lightfoot
Room 2, Room
3, Te Kura o
Manunui, and
TC3.



Erin Connolly
Maternity Leave



Clair Hill
Intermediate,
Pāpāmoa, Te
Puke



Amy Prouse
Room 1, Room
4, DRC,
Welcome Bay



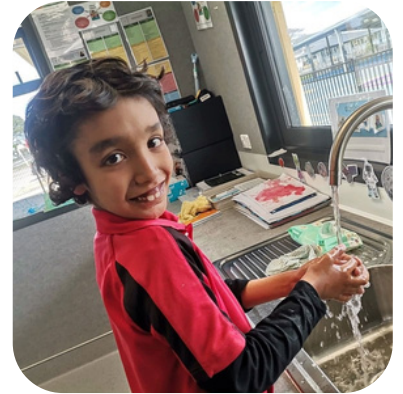
Amy Bisley
Supports our OT
programmes with
ākonga across
the school.

Room 2 Michael

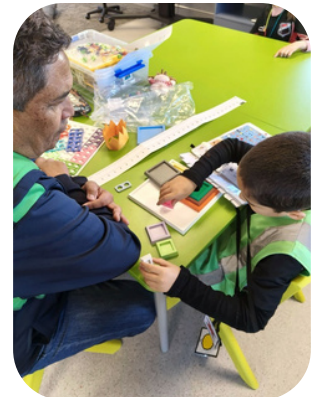
Room 2 have been enjoying the sunny weather we have had this term. We have been taking some of our learning outside. Room 2 has enjoyed constructing and knocking over, growing our engagement through watching exciting toys and cooking. Making pizza's was a particular favourite some of our Room. We have all been learning to take turns and share.



Te Puke Satellite



It has been so heart-warming to watch our tamariki explore, settle in, and have fun in our new classroom space at Te Puke. From diving into Literacy and Numeracy activities to engaging in calming sensory experiences, swimming and building positive relationships with adults and peers, the space is already full of life, connection, and energy. Ka pai!



Welcome bay Cheyenne



Toroa class has been making the most of the beautiful sunshine! We have been enjoying plenty of time outdoors, exploring, playing and learning together. During our structured literacy sessions, we have been learning and practising our sounds through fun and engaging activities. We have also been enjoying lots of singing, music and messy play, which gives us wonderful opportunities to explore, communicate and develop our learning through our senses. It has been lovely to see our students enjoying these experiences and growing in confidence as they learn and play together.



Welcome bay Kirsty



We've had a fun and busy term and warmly welcomed our new class members.

We have enjoyed making connections, participating in a range of stories, related art activities, lots of messy play and working with our therapists. We particularly enjoyed learning about Aotearoa through different sensory stories, we all had our favourite items and learned to anticipate what came next!



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.

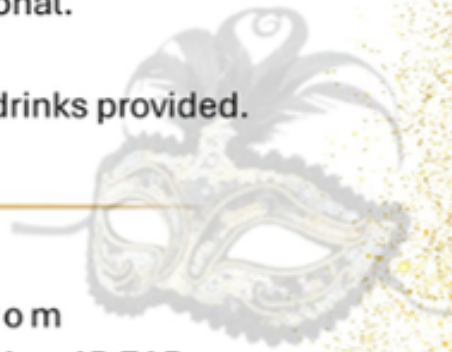
Light supper and two non-alcoholic drinks provided.

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.

Your Garden: Te Wahi Oranga Invites you to The Secret Garden Spring Holiday Programme



Morning/Afternoon or
Full Day Sessions



\$40 half day/\$80 for full



5-12yr olds
Maximum of 10 per session



Mon 28th - Fri 2nd Oct
Mon 5th - Fri 9th Oct



9am-3pm (9-12/12-3)



Greenpark School
Paddock

For more details and to
book now, contact Jess:



021-2566-358



yourgarden16thave@gmail.com



Your Garden

A safe space for neurodivergent
tamariki to connect with nature,
themselves and others.

Gardening, craft, sensory art,
and outdoor fun!





IHC Tauranga Association invites new and existing members to a private screening of



We look forward to hosting another FREE movie session for children with intellectual disabilities, as well as their accompanying siblings, parents, or caregivers.

WHEN: 10:30am on Wednesday 30 September 2026

WHERE: Luxe Cinemas, Excelsa Centre (Upstairs), 4 Golden Sands Drive, Papamoa

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There is a lift for those with mobility issues.

Your ticket includes a drink and a snack.

Bookings are essential as seating is limited.

RSVP by 23 September 2026 to ihc.taurangaassociation@gmail.com

(please include the names of all attending)

****Supervision is not provided, so accompanying family or support workers must attend.****



IHC Tauranga Association invites new and existing members to a private screening of



We look forward to hosting another **FREE** movie session for teens and adults with intellectual disabilities, as well as their accompanying siblings, parents, or caregivers.

WHEN: 2pm on Wednesday 7 October 2026

WHERE: Luxe Cinemas, Excelsa Centre (Upstairs), 4 Golden Sands Drive, Papamoa

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There is a lift for those with mobility issues.

Your ticket includes a drink and a snack.

Bookings are essential as seating is limited.

RSVP by 30 September 2026 to ihc.taurangaassociation@gmail.com

(please include the names of all attending)

****Supervision is not provided, so accompanying family or support workers must attend.****

Flying Kites - Tauranga & Waikato

Soaring Beyond School

Ages 15 - 24

Free 1:1 Support for neurodivergent and disabled teens and young adults

Not sure what support you're entitled to, or what your next step looks like? We work with you to make a plan that fits your life.

- ✓ Goal planning and preparing for adulthood
- ✓ Getting work ready
- ✓ Funding and WINZ navigation
- ✓ Community connections
- ✓ Needs assessments

Scan to register or to get in touch:

www.flyingkites.org.nz

robyn.hoffman@flyingkites.org.nz



disability
connect.



ZOOM SUPPORT GROUP

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Families raising disabled children are very welcome to join our Zoom Support Group. It is hosted by Robyn Hoffman, our former Community Disability Information Advisor. Hop on in and bring up any issues, chat, be with others that may be in the same situation as you.

FREE EVENT

Free event for disabled people, their whānau and their supports.

EVERY MONDAY@7-8PM

WHAT IT IS ABOUT?

Robyn would love to hear how you are all getting on - if you have questions, ideas and/or having issues that you may want to discuss with other parents. Come along and join our virtual meeting.

ZOOM MEETING

ID: 870 3689 5858 Password: 501844

CONTACT US

09-636 0351
 admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz
 www.disabilityconnect.org.nz



(Scan QR Code for Website page)

THE DISABILITY JOURNEY INTO ADULthood 2026

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
& HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN



What do people
do with
their days?

Living options
& thinking
about the future

An informative zoom conversation
about leaving school

11TH August or 20TH October
10am-12pm or
20TH August or 29TH October
6.30-8.30pm

WINZ,
Transport,
Guardianship

Transition
services & how
they work

What kind of
funding exists
after school?



via Zoom RSVP:
robyn@realworldliving.co.nz

for updates check out our Facebook
[Disability Journey into Adulthood \(NZ\)](https://www.facebook.com/DisabilityJourneyintoAdulthoodNZ)

Flying
Kites



"Need help navigating the disability support system"

Flying Kites is now offering free 1:1 online Support Sessions to help you get unstuck on one specific issue - with guidance from an experienced disability advisor.

These focused online appointments give you:

- ✦ Clarity
- ✦ Expert advice
- ✦ A practical plan you can take forward

Current Support Topics:

New to Needs Assessments
Individualised Funding (IF)
Work and Income
Community Options
Leaving school (transition support)

If you're in the **Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay or Christchurch** and need support in one of these areas, you can register your interest through our short form below.

We'll match you with the right expert and send you a link to book.

Flying Kites Support Sessions (online) - Fill out the form
<https://forms.office.com/r/TLPcBystrW>

You don't have to navigate the disability system alone - we're here to help

Special thank you to Foundation North, Kingdom Foundation, Acorn Foundation and Christchurch casino for their support on this project.

www.flyingkites.org.nz

Check out these oppoutunites to get active from Parafed:



FAM™ - Adaptive Gym Classes

Starting Saturday 17th October, 11am at The Lab Athletic Club. Parafed BOP members can access a special introductory rate of \$69 for the 12-week term (\$5.75 per class). Get in touch to secure your spot - sarah@parafedbop.co.nz.



All Skate Tauranga Have-a-Go Day 🛼

Free for Parafed BOP members, Monday 28 September, 10am–12pm, at Revolution Skate Park, Baypark. Spaces are limited, registrations required.



Ten Pin Bowling

Tuesday October 6th, 11am at Ten Pin Tauranga. Free for members - whānau & friends welcome at their own cost. Registration essential.

Boccia

Every Monday at Haumaru Sport & Recreation Centre, 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Wheelchair Rugby

Every Tuesday 12.15pm & Thursday 4pm at Haumaru Sport & Recreation Centre

Wheelchair Basketball

Every Monday, 6pm at Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre

Contact sarah@parafedbop.co.nz if you would like to attend any of these sessions.



Aqua Ability Classes

Every Wednesday 11am - 11:45am at Greerton Aquatic and Leisure Centre. \$7.60 per session with support people welcome to attend for free. Enjoy movement in the water, work on mobility, coordination and strength, and have a bit of a social while exercising at your own pace. Contact Monika.Zikova@bayvenues.co.nz for more info.

Air Pistol Shooting

Every Thursday 6pm at the Te Puke Smallbore Club. \$5 per session (covers range fees, targets and pellets). Beginners welcome, suitable for ages 13+. To register, please contact Elise at elise@oxenham.co.nz

Circability

Every Monday 10:30am - 12pm at Merivale Community Centre. \$10 per class for Parafed BOP members (usually \$12). A relaxed and inclusive social circus class where everyone can have a go, learn new skills, meet people and have fun together. To register, please contact Rowan at BOPHub@circability.org.