# Tauranga Special School

Learning together

Newsletter 16 Week 4 Term 4 05/11/2026

Kia ora whānau

Welcome to Newsletter 16! In this edition, we celebrate our students' outstanding performance at the Pasifika Festival and highlight our schoolwide Diwali celebrations. You will also find important updates on our 2027 Strategic Plan survey, key details regarding upcoming site and classroom transitions, and essential dates for the remainder of Term 4 and the start of 2027.

Happy reading!

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

## Important dates

**2026**

**Monday 14 December**

**School Concert- to be held at Tauranga Boys College 10.30 - 11.30am**

**Tuesday 15 December**

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

**2027**

**Friday 29 January**

**Wā Whakakotahi / Learning Partnerships**

**(1-hour meeting with your class teacher)**

**Wednesday 3 February**

**First day of Term 1**

**(School open for all students)**

## Key Contacts

School Landline:
07 578 4424

Attendance phone (call/txt):
027 558 5917

# A message from our Principal



**Kia ora e te whānau,**
It's hard to believe that we are nearly halfway through Term 4!

**Pasifika Festival**
It was brilliant to see our Pasifika group performing so professionally at the Pasifika festival at TGC on Saturday. Our group always receives a lot of appreciation from the crowd and it was no different this year! A huge thank you to our staff for supporting our students on a Saturday morning, but particularly Brendan and Elisa who have led this group!

**Diwali- Festival of Lights**
It has been fantastic to see our students engaging in a variety of Diwali activities this week. Just a reminder that we encourage all students to wear Indian attire or colourful clothing to celebrate the official beginning of Diwali tomorrow on **Friday 6 November.**

**Strategic Plan (2027/28)**
A huge thank you to those staff and whānau who responded to our strategic plan survey. The Leadership team and the Board will be working over the next few months to bring this together ready for 2027. The winners of the 3 $100 vouchers were Cindy Gregson, Jayne Iraia and Sharona Hohneck Congratulations to you all!

**Transitions for 2027**
We have communicated with all whānau whose tamariki will be transitioning to new sites in 2027. There will also be a number of students moving classes within our Base School. Over the next month or so our staff will be taking these students for a number of visits so they become familiar with their new classes and classmates. We are currently finalising our teaching teams for 2027- we will share these with you in the coming weeks.

**Key Dates & Reminders**

**2026**

- Monday 14 December: School Concert- to be held at Tauranga Boys College 10.30-11.30am
- Tuesday 15 December: Last day of Term 4 (12:00 pm finish)

**2027**

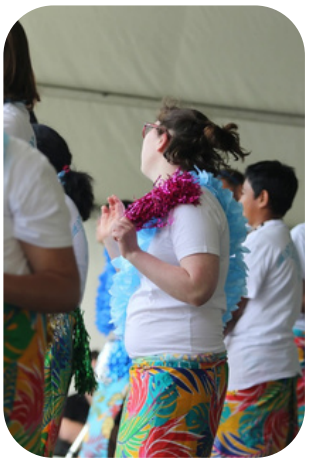
- Friday 29 January: Wā Whakakotahi / Learning Partnerships (1-hour meeting with your class teacher)
- Wednesday 3 February: First day of Term 1 (School open for all students)

We hope everyone has a safe and happy long weekend enjoying the beautiful weather!
Ngā mihi nui,
Dale Megson
Tumuaki/ Principal

# Pasifika Festival 2026







A huge thank you to everyone who came to see the kids rock the stage. They were awesome and had a blast. As always the students did themselves and us proud.
A massive thank you to Elisa - the heart and soul of our group. We really could not do this as well as we do without your wisdom, passion and guidance.










# Speach Language Therapy

# Communicative Functions

## WHY WE COMMUNICATE

**Communication is so much more than just asking for things! It is important to remember all the different reasons why we communicate and interact with others.**


REQUESTING


CALL SOMEONE


REQUEST ACTION



PROTEST


GREETING SOMEONE


NAME/LABEL


INITIATE INTERACTION


SUSTAIN INTERACTION


INDICATE DISCOMFORT


COMMENT


EXPRESS OPINION


EXPRESS IDEA


SHARE INFORMATION


TELL A JOKE


GIVE AN ANSWER


ASK A QUESTION


RECALL INFORMATION


EXPRESS FEELINGS


ADVOCATE


TALK ABOUT TIME


ASK FOR HELP


MORE/AGAIN


TERMINATE INTERACTION



EXPRESS PERSONAL INFO

# Speach Language Therapy

**Here is some more information about a few of the different communication functions (reasons to talk) and ideas of how you can use them:**

### Telling a Joke & Humour

Using language to share a joke and make someone laugh is a great way to connect with others and have a bit of fun.

**Try this:** Explore social words on your student's AAC system like *"silly"* and *"uh-oh"*, or make funny sound effects/words.

### Describing & Commenting

Describing and commenting allows students to share what they are experiencing, feeling, or noticing around them.

**Try this:** Point out sensory qualities or share opinions during activities, such as modelling *"big"*, *"cold"*, *"yucky"*, or *"I like it!"* while playing or eating.

### Protesting & Refusing

Being able to protest or refuse gives students autonomy and control over their environment.

**Try this:** Practice saying *"no"*, *"stop"*, or *"finished"* when they push something away or show that they need a break.

### Requesting

Requesting allows students to ask for what they want or need, whether that's a favourite toy, a snack, or help with a tricky task.

**Try this:** Model words like *"more"*, *"open"*, or *"help"* on their AAC system during daily routines like snack or playtime.

### Asking Questions

Asking questions such as "what?", "where?", or "who?" empowers students to explore their world, be curious and seek information.

**Try this:** Model asking questions like *"what's that?"*, *"where go?"*, or *"who is it?"* while reading books, exploring outside, or playing guessing games together.

# Room 3 Hayley

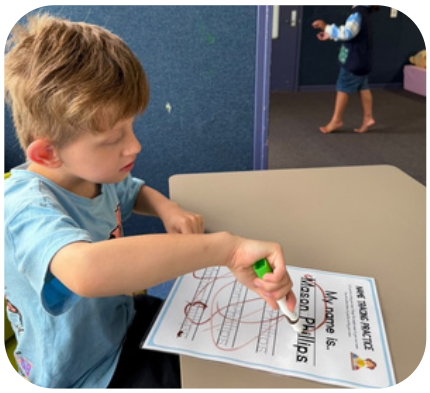
Room 3 have welcome Lily into our space who has brought so much joy and personalilty.

We have been working on self-regulation and the tools we need to help us regulate. We have slowly introduced our shared reads and have lots of fun with Numicon in the afternoons.

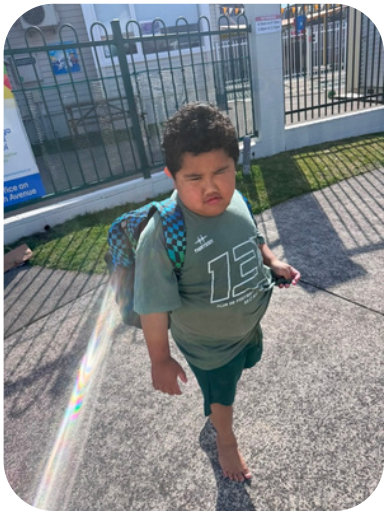
Swimming is still the higlight of our week and now the sun is out - lots of waterplay yeey!

Ka Pai Room 3! :)















# Papamoa College Janel









Learning, Laughing & Finishing Strong:
Making the Most of Term 4!

Time has flown by, and we are already in the final term of the year! Despite reaching the home stretch, we remain unstoppable in our action-packed learning and fun.

Our community visits are now scheduled for Mondays to accommodate a special Whanaungatanga Ora (Relationship Course) for our senior students on Thursdays, where they explore navigating relationships with friends and family. Simultaneously, our junior students participate in focused Health and Physical Education sessions.

Tuesdays remain our dedicated swimming days, and we are fortunate to continue working with Baywave instructors for water safety sessions. We are also currently doing a Boy's Group session with Amy. On Wednesdays, we hold rotation activities, currently focusing on learning about Mangatawa. Friday Funday continues to feature Kapa Haka, cooking, and arts.

It has been a busy start to the term as we prepare for the Pasifika Festival while continuing our regular Maths and Literacy sessions. Students are using Numicon Rods to explore mathematical concepts alongside their targeted literacy group work. We look forward to seeing what else this term brings!









# Papamoa College Brendon







Term 4 has started with a hiss and a roar with the Pasifka Festival giving some of our students a chance to showcase their talents - well done to Tameta and Khy.

This term we are working further into cementing our self care routines and building our independence as young adults. As a staff, we are very proud of our students who constantly demonstrate just how amazing they are each and every day.











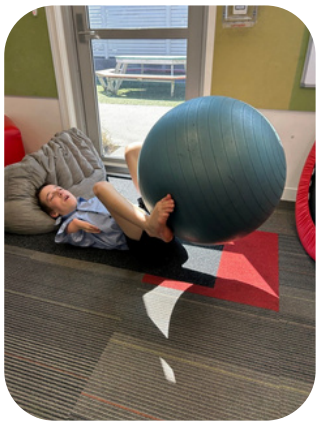

# Papamoa College Anne-Marie

It is hard to believe that we are already in term 4. We enjoyed a trip by bus to the Papamoa Library where Saxon played chess with a peer. Our students made toasties and muffins for Food tech. The staff enjoyed the treats. We have been enjoying swimming each week at Baywave and are trying new skills each week. The students have been engaging well during our various Literacy groups and as it is exciting to see the progress and enthusiasm of some students. Papamoa students love to do art and we have been creating 3d art based on our Purakau topic - Mangatawa. The results have been spectacular. We continue to make progress in maths and Literacy. Our boys are attending Self-cares lessons with Clair, our OT, and this is going well. We look forward to what the rest of the term holds for us.















# Tauranga Intermediate Satellite, Mary_






What a fantastic Term 4 it has been for Mary's Class! Our ākonga have loved diving into their learning this term—focusing on letters and sounds through shared reading, exploring math with Numicon, and taking part in a wide range of fun, hands-on activities.

Our play and engagement sessions have been bursting with excitement, filled with dancing, interactive people games, dress-ups, and action-packed obstacle courses. To top it all off, Monday gym sessions have been a huge hit with everyone joining in and having a wonderful time!

Tino pai rawa atu, koutou!
(Fantastic job, everyone!)





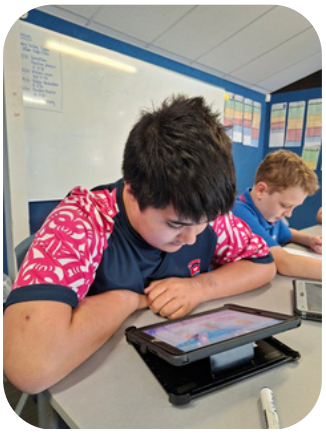








# Tauranga Intermediate Satellite, Chelsea





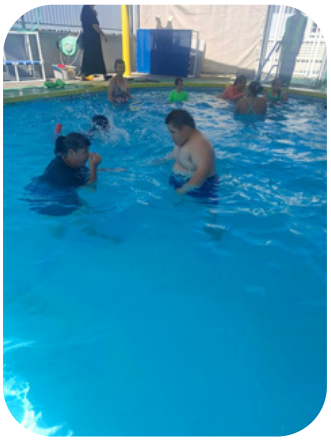


We have had a very busy start to Term 4 at TIS! We have been enjoying our swimming sessions, baking, Pacifika and Kapa Haka practices and somehow managing to fit in learning in between.





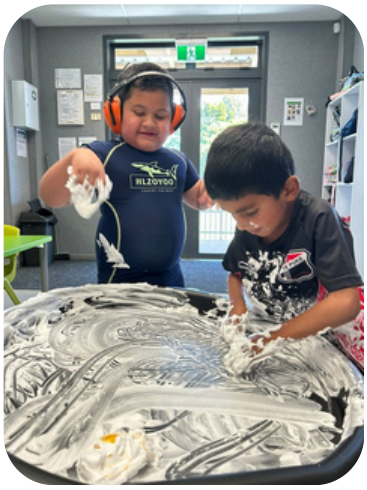








# Te Puke Primary Satellite, Jolani and Leanne







Term has started wonderfully, with our students happy, settled and ready to learn! We've been exploring musical instruments, engaging in sensory activities, enjoying swimming and water play, and getting creative through art. We've also worked together to create beautiful collaborative artworks of Mauao for our classrooms and have been busy creating our calendar art. It's been a lovely start to the term, filled with fun, creativity and lots of opportunities to explore and learn together!













# Community notices

UNSEEN HEROES

#SeenHeardFound

A free six-month programme for young people aged 13-24

For young people who have a loved one with a disability, illness, mental health challenges, or addiction, or who support siblings or whānau at home.







NEXT INTAKE

## 19-21 FEBRUARY 2027

THREE-DAY CAMP

## WHAT YOU'LL GET

**CONNECTION & SUPPORT**

A three-day camp where you can relax, have fun and connect with others who understand what life is like for you.

**HOLISTIC HEALING**

Support for your mental health, confidence and resilience.

**ASPIRATIONAL PATHWAYS**

Support to explore what's next, whether that's school, training, work or figuring out your next step.

**EXCURSIONS & FUN**

Time away from responsibilities to unwind, recharge and just be a young person.

## WHO CAN JOIN?

**Young people aged 13-24 who:**

- have a loved one with a disability, illness, mental health challenges, or addiction
- support siblings or whānau at home
- feel they carry more responsibility or worry than most people their age.

## YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Many young people grow up supporting others without realising there's support for them too.

**At Unseen Heroes, we see you - and we walk alongside you.**

## INTERESTED OR WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit:
www.unseenheroes.org.nz
info@unseenheroes.org.nz

Scan the QR Code

Dear parents and caregivers,

## A new name, the same service

Cross Country Rentals is now Cross Country. It may be a new name, but with the same people behind it.

Our new name does not change your student's school transport. Their driver, route and times will carry on as normal.

However, we understand that any change can be unsettling and recognise how much students and their families rely on their routines, and on the people they see every day. That is why we want you to know about the one change your student is likely to notice straight away. From Monday 2 November, our drivers will be wearing a new Cross Country uniform.

## What our new name doesn't change

Our new name does not change the things that matter most to your student's day, or how the service is arranged behind the scenes. That includes:

- Their driver and vehicle
- Pick up and drop off times
- Pick up and drop off locations
- Their route
- Their SESTA arrangement with the Ministry of Education
- How we work with their school
- Your contact person at Cross Country

## Planning for 2027

Over the summer break, we review runs for the new school year, as we do every year. Sometimes this means a change to a driver, vehicle, run or pick up time. This is separate from our name change, and we will confirm your student's Term One details with you before school starts. If you move house or your student changes school, please call our SESTA team on 0800 GO SESTA (0800 46 73782) as soon as possible.

## What you need to do

Nothing. Your student's SESTA place is not affected, and there is nothing to sign, update or reapply for.

The only practical changes are our email addresses, which are moving to @crosscountry.nz, and our website, which is moving to crosscountry.nz. If you have our details saved, it is worth updating them. Any emails sent to our old email addresses will automatically forward to our new ones.

## What will look different, and when

From Monday 2 November, our drivers will be wearing a new Cross Country uniform. This is the one change your student is likely to notice straight away.

From Term One 2027, our vehicles will start carrying our new name and logo.

Your student's driver is the same person they know. Only the uniform is new.

## Helping your student prepare

Some students notice small changes more than others. A new uniform can feel unsettling, even when everything else stays the same. Their driver will mention the new uniform to them on their first trips. If your student may need extra support, let us know and we will make sure their driver is aware.

## Any questions

If you have any questions or concerns, please call our SESTA team on 0800 GO SESTA (0800 46 73782) in the first instance. For any further questions, email sesta@crosscountry.nz.

Thank you for continuing to trust us with your student's journey to and from school.

Kind regards,

Nigel Bradley
SESTA Manager, Tauranga, Cross Country

Spectrum Connections Charitable Trust
- Free autism/adhd parent Coffee Group -
7 Nov 2026

Kia ora koutou,

We would love to invite you to join us for a relaxed and friendly Parents' Peer Support Coffee Group on Saturday 7 November at 10:30am at Merivale Community Centre.

This is a lovely opportunity for parents and caregivers of autistic and ADHD children to come together, connect with other families, share experiences and enjoy a cuppa in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Our guest speaker

We are delighted to welcome Caitlin from Tauranga City Library, who will share some information about the new library and its sensory room. Caitlin will explain what the space offers, how families can access it and the process for making bookings.

Time to connect

There will also be plenty of time to:

Meet and mingle with other parents and families.

Share stories, experiences and ideas.

Ask questions and connect with people who understand some of the joys and challenges of raising neurodivergent children.

Enjoy a friendly cuppa and some conversation.

Our team will also be there to support families, help navigate the various services and systems, answer questions and point you in the right direction where we can.

We know that connecting with other parents who understand your journey can make such a difference. Whether you are new to the neurodivergent community or have been on this journey for some time, you are very welcome!

When: Saturday 7 November 2026

Time: 10:30am

Where: Merivale Community Centre, Tauranga

We would love to see you there. Please feel free to bring along another parent or caregiver who might enjoy connecting with the group.

Looking forward to a lovely morning together!

Ngā mihi nui,

Mary-Jane Du Toit
General Manager | Charity Lead | Co-Founder
University of Johannesburg – BA Humanities (Psych & Ind Psych)
Prosci – Change Management (Coach and Facilitator)

Rachel Crump
Operations Manager | Co-Founder
University of Canterbury – College of Education DipECE (Teaching and Learning)
Open Polytechnic NZ – GradDip Disability Sector Leadership

parafed Bay of Plenty | Takutai adventure company | Salt Spray | Dream Beans Coffee | WHAKATĀNE District Council Kia Whakatāne au i ahau

# Adaptive Surfing & Paddle Boarding - Ōhope 2027

Beach Wheelchair Available

Whānau Fun Day

Play Zone & Games



## Paddle Boarding

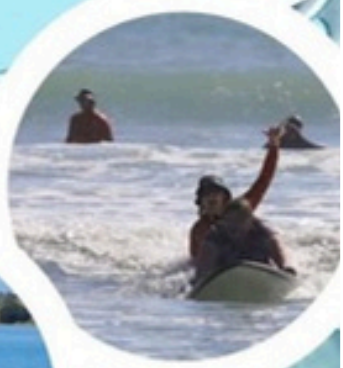
Sun Jan 17th
Sun Jan 31st

## Surfing

Sun Feb 21st
Sun Feb 28th
Sun March 14th

# Registrations Open Soon!







For those with a physical disability, blind & low vision, deaf & hard of hearing

**Registration will be essential.**

The Tauranga City Sunrise Lions Club World Festival of Magic brings you amazing magic, dazzling illusions, music and audience participation!
Monday 16th November - Bethlehem College Performing Arts Centre - 5:00 pm
BEST OF ALL — IT'S FREE!
Thanks to the generosity of the Tauranga City Sunrise Lions Club and local businesses, less fortunate children and their families can enjoy this magical experience together.
BOOK YOUR FREE TICKETS ONLINE NOW!
https://WFOMTauranga.eventbrite.com

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MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER / 5PM / FREE

**Tauranga City Sunrise Lions Club World Festival Of Magic Show 2026**

Bethlehem College Performing Arts Centre, Tauranga

**Get Ready to Be Amazed!** The Tauranga City Sunrise Lions Club World Festival of Magic brings together an exciting mix of world-class magic and entertainment for a spectacular 90-minute show designed to delight children, families and the young at heart.

**Enjoy the incredible talents** of Mark Bennick and Erica Vanlee, with Classic Rhi joining the fun, taking you on a magical journey filled with mind-boggling illusions, hilarious moments, incredible surprises and plenty of audience participation.

**Best of all, it's ABSOLUTELY FREE!**
Thanks to the generosity of the Tauranga City Sunrise Lions Club and local businesses, less fortunate children and their families can enjoy this magical experience together.

**GET YOUR FREE E-TICKETS NOW!**

Get Tickets

Tickets are limited, so to ensure you don't miss out we've made it even easier for organisations and families to secure tickets by booking directly online.

Click above to get your FREE e-tickets now and get ready for a magical experience the whole family will love.

You're welcome to forward this Eventbrite invitation to your families and clients so they can book for this special, FREE magical family experience.