

Tauranga Special School

Learning together



Newsletter 3 2026, Week 3, Term 1 19/03/2026

Welcome to our Newsletter 3 of 2026!

This week our OT team introduce themselves and talk a little about what they do here at TSS. We are also getting updates from the teams at our Tauranga Intermediate satellite site and our senior students at Tauranga Community College Campus.

Also check us out at the Special Olympics, give it a go, Athletics day.

If you have any suggestions of what to add to our newsletter please email, pipj@taurangaspecialschool.nz

Key Contacts:

School Landline:
07 578 4424

Attendance phone,
(Call/Text): 027 558 5917

Important dates

Friday, 20 March
(tomorrow)
School photos

Monday, 23 March
Staff only day,
School closed for students

Wednesday, 1 April
Whole school event,
Fluro whānau fun day

Thursday, 2 April
Last day of term 1

Monday, 20 April
First day of term 2

Monday, 27 April
ANZAC day (observed)

A message from our Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

It is hard to believe, but we are already in Week 7 of 9 of what has been a very fast-paced and productive Term 1!

IP and Ara Meetings

Our teachers and therapists have thoroughly enjoyed connecting with many of you through our recent IP and Ara meetings. It has been a fantastic opportunity to align our goals and ensure we are all working together to support the growth and success of your child.

These meetings will continue until the end of the term. If you were unable to attend your scheduled time, please don't worry- your child's teacher will reach out to you shortly to reschedule. These meetings are important, and we want to ensure every whānau has the chance to connect and set goals for 2026.

Week 5 Hui a Whānau: Summary

Our recent hui focused on Attendance and Curriculum, discussing how we can supportively manage student absences and exploring our structured learning resources, all while meeting MOE requirements. While attendance was small, we value your input! We will continue to offer these sessions and would love to hear from you if there are specific topics you'd like us to include in future agendas.

Staff Only Day: Monday 23rd March

A friendly reminder that we have a Staff Only Day on Monday 23rd March. All TSS classes will be closed for instruction on this day.

Our staff will be engaging in one of the Ministry of Education's two allocated curriculum days. Our Teachers and TAs will be continuing their professional learning in the new Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) curriculum. We are excited to keep building our expertise in this area to support our students' communication and literacy.

Fluro Whānau Fun Day: Wednesday 1st April

Looking ahead, we are excited to host our first whole-school event for the year- the Fluro Whānau Fun Day! This will be held at our Base school on Wednesday 1st April, between morning tea and lunch. This is a great chance for our students and staff from our different sites to connect with each other, and of course, with our whānau. We look forward to seeing many of you there in your brightest colours! As we head into these final weeks of the term, I want to thank you all for your continued support and engagement.

Ngā mihi nui,

Dale Megson

Tumuaki / Principal



Special Olympics, Athletics

This Tuesday, our senior students for our TC3, DRC and Pāpāmoa satellite attended the BOP Special Olympics "Have a go day" Athletics event held at the Tauranga Domain. Our students took place in a range of track and field events. We all had a lot of fun and enjoyed the day.



Occupational Therapy Team



The OT team consists of:

Amy Prouse -
Monday to Friday



Erin Connolly -
Tuesday to Friday



Kate Maclean -
Monday, Wednesday



Amy Bisley -
Monday to Friday



At Tauranga Special School, our Occupational Therapy (OT) team focuses on helping students participate in school life safely, meaningfully, and as independently as possible. The key idea is removing barriers so students can engage in learning, play, and daily activities.

A big focus for us is regulation and supporting students and supporting them to match their energy levels to their activity.

The Occupational Therapy service provides input into the following areas:

1. Life skills and personal care occupations:

- Eating/drinking, toileting, dressing and undressing
- Fine motor skills that support self-care
- Support for puberty programmes
- Food preparation, shopping

2. Assess and apply for equipment to enable students to access the curriculum

3. Emotional regulation, sensory processing, engagement

- Zones of Regulation and Mauri Tau
- Sensory processing assessment and support
- Play and engagement skills

5. Support to access curriculum:

- Hand function (pencil skills, using scissors, using a switch/mouse for the computer)
- Class routines (using visual timetables, sequence strips)
- Preparation for transition into the community (leaving school)

Occupational Therapy Team

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MAURI TAU

Tau refers to being settled, calm, landed, or arrived at a destination.

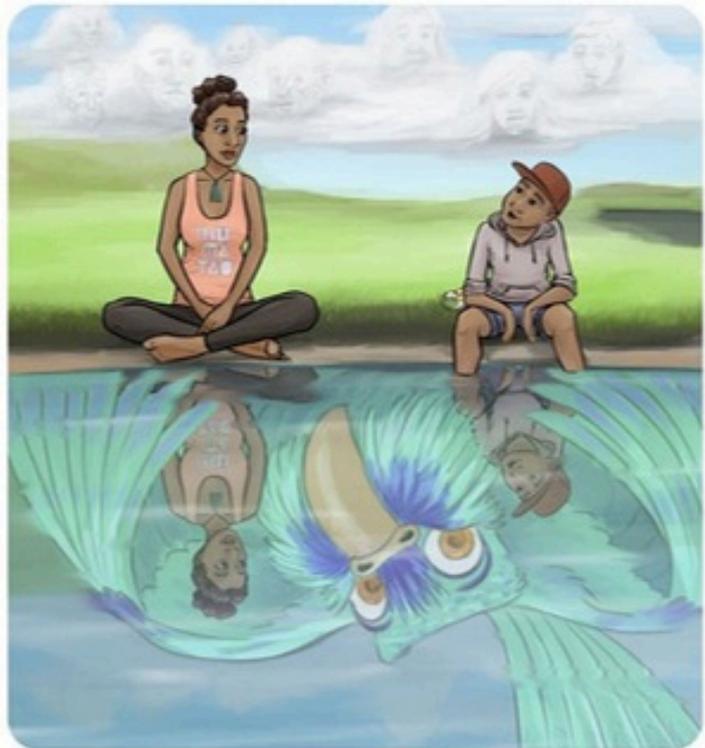
Mauri tau means that you have landed in a state of calm and balance. Like the tide, this state ebbs and flows and requires regular awareness and practice.

Tau can be expressed as a settled state where you are aware of your kare-a-roto, your thoughts, feelings and emotions, your environment, and your relationships.

Each week classes explore a different set of regulation tools. Focusing on specific body parts working out to in, hands, arms, shoulders, torso. In an attempt to increase our student's awareness of feelings and body cues in their bodies. (interoception)



Students participate in relaxing breathing techniques, and time to quietly explore what these tools help their bodies feel alert/calm or whether they like/dislike the tool and feelings.



Zones of Regulation is used to support communication of feelings during the session and throughout the day

Intermediate Christine's class

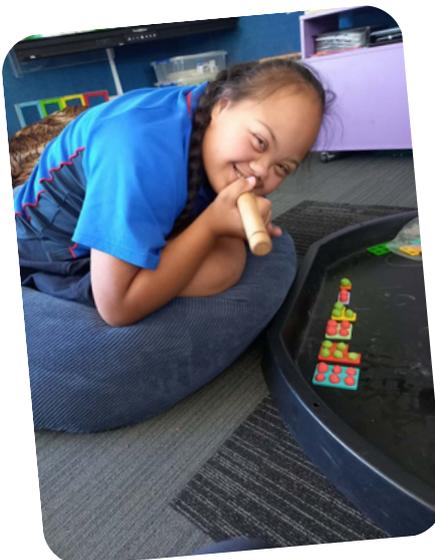
In Chris's class at Intermediate, we are settling in well, following our routines and schedules. It has been heart-warming to see our existing students form new friendships and also show compassion and kindness by welcoming students from Mary's class to join in their games. Visiting the Intermediate gym every Monday is a highlight of our week! So far we have read "The Very Noisy Bear", "A Squash and a Squeeze" and "Kororā and the Sushi Shop". After reading our shared book, activities have been adapted to meet the individual needs of the students, while developing their knowledge of sounds, letter formation and story structure. We have explored Numicon and counting in many different ways. Some students used Interactive Software to create repeating patterns, while others used shapes. Some of our students have even practised their maths skills using Blooket online. We love visiting the playground, playing basketball, swimming, cooking and Kapa Haka. I can't wait to watch our amazing akongā grow and learn throughout the year.



Intermediate Mary's class



We have had a wonderful start to the term in the Intermediate class. Students have been getting to know one another and learning about how everyone learns best, helping to build a positive and supportive classroom environment. In maths, we have been exploring Numicon shapes through hands-on activities to develop our understanding of numbers. During shared reading, students have been using their senses to engage with our books and deepen their understanding of the stories. Our weekly activities have also been a highlight, with Gym on Mondays and swimming on Tuesdays, which the students are thoroughly enjoying.

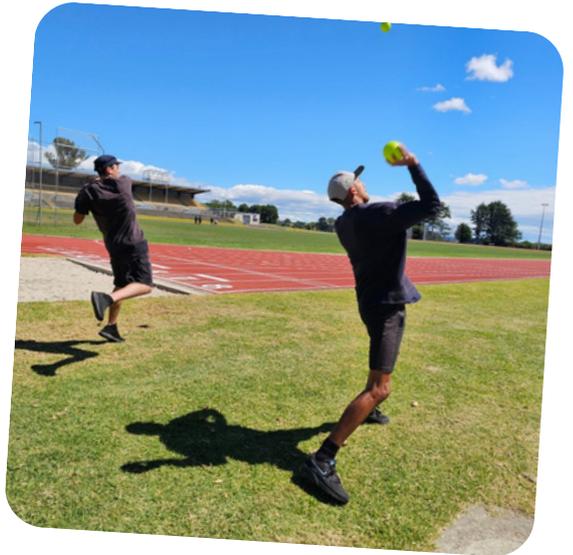


TC3, Shane's and Nicola's classes

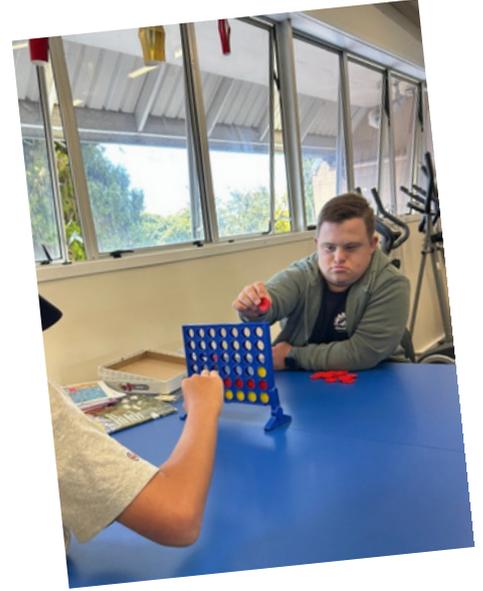
Term One at TC3 has been a fantastic start to the year. We've wasted no time getting into learning, connecting with our community, and building important life skills.

Our first focus was building connections and creating a welcoming space for everyone. We talked about what it means to make an agreement and work together, and collaborated on a class treaty which now proudly hangs at the front of our classroom.

From there, we began strengthening our community connections and developing our independence, spending time at the local library, visiting the pools, training for athletics at a nearby park, and participating in a community-organised movement programme.



TC3, Shane's and Nicola's classes



Learning takes many forms at TC3. We've been building our literacy through shared reading and targeted lessons, as well as through hands-on experiences such as cooking, singing waiata, and exploring culture together. It's been a wonderful start to the year, and it has been great to see students growing in confidence, developing new skills, and building positive relationships with one another.



Community notices

Fluro Whānau Fun Picnic is coming up on the 1st April. All whānau are invited and can bring kai to have their picnic with us. Hot chips are being provided by school.

Fluro Whānau Picnic



WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 10.30AM TILL 12.30PM

Tauranga Special School - Base school

Join us for a day of fun, food, and family togetherness

Wear your brightest fluro to shine bright!

Urgent notice: Final date to RSVP is today:

Circus Quirkus Live!!

Papamoa Rotary Club & Circus Quirkus NZ are offering complimentary tickets to their event on Thursday May 7th. It is described as 90 minutes of Acrobatic Fun & Fantasy!

When: Thursday 7th May – there are 2 shows 4.30pm & 7.30pm

**Where: Bethlehem College, Performing Arts Centre,
24 Elder Lanes, Bethlehem,**

If you would like the opportunity to attend please provide me with

- **the Names of everyone attending**
- **Which show you would like to attend either 4.30pm or 7.30pm**
- **Address to post tickets to**

RSVP by Thursday 19th March

Reply to email or jo@parafedbop.co.nz





P.A.S.E (Parent Advocacy for Specialist Education NZ)

Public group · 543 members

Join Group

We would like to bring your attention to PASE, this is a closed NZ based facebook group which parents/whanau can join. We have had feedback from other Special schools is that this is growing in popularity and is a place that support and advocacy can be found. Click on the image above for a link to join the page.

Did you know?

Special Olympics have these sports sessions regularly available to any of our students over 8 years old. They have an annual fee of \$20 per athlete and then the different sports range from free to a range of fees to cover costs per sport. Please see the info below.

Training Details

Special Olympics
Tauranga



Code	Contact	Email	Phone	Day & Time	Cost
Ten Pin Bowling	Maria	mariajhardie@gmail.com	027 785 3897	Saturday 9am – 11am	1 game = \$6.00 3 games = \$16.00
Indoor Bowls	Sally	holbrooks@xtra.co.nz	571 8914 021 172 6004	Saturday 9am – 11am	None
Bocce	Sally	holbrooks@xtra.co.nz	571 8914 021 172 6004	Saturday 1.30pm – 2.30pm	None
Swimming	Pat	wakelinpat11@gmail.com	0275 705 796 (txt please)	Saturday 10.30am – 11:30am	\$4 per session with Disability access card
Athletics	Viv	vivlintott@gmail.com	022 437 6190	Sunday 9am – 10.30am	None
Powerlifting	Bronwen	bronwenkuipers624@gmail.com	027 480 0028	Monday 3:30pm – 5pm	\$25 per session
Basketball	Tina	chrisandtinamaitland@msn.com	021 163 9853	Tuesday 5pm – 6pm	\$3 per night <i>or</i> \$30 per School Term

There is also a \$20 annual fee per athlete.

APRIL 2026 SCHOOL

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

CLIMB & CRAFT

These sessions will take place on
Tuesdays: 7th + 14th April and
Thursdays: 9th + 16th April

The sessions will feature a mix of
climbing techniques and crafting
activities all here at the gym.

What we'll be making!

7th April: Seashell wind chimes

9th April: Suncatchers

14th April: Rock painting

16th April: Volcanos!

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION EMAIL
ADMIN@ROCKTOPIA.CO.NZ



Address: 9 Triton Avenue, Mount Maunganui 3116

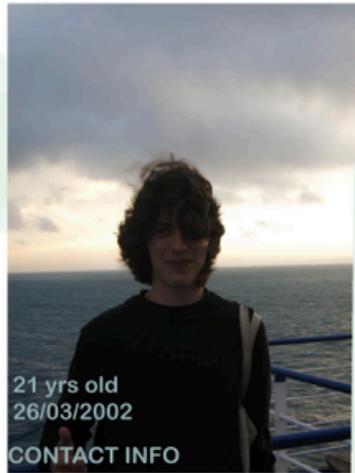
Phone: [07 572 4920](tel:075724920)

Please contact Tyler if you think he might fit with your respite needs. Tyler is keen to take on some extra work and is flexible outside of school hours.

NICE TO MEET YOU

Hobbies/interests

- Sport & Recreation (football)
- Design & Photography
- Dance-House and Disco
- Skater and retired surfer (bit cold for a Bay of plenty kid)
- Adventures (lands.sea.sky)
- NZ film and music (fat Freddy's drop and Hunt for the wilderpeople)



21 yrs old
26/03/2002

CONTACT INFO

Tylercrocker26@gmail.com
ph: 021 082 14625

Tyler Joseph Crocker

A bit about me

My life so far has been full of opportunities and challenges. Learning to understand my environment has helped me construct a structure, this has helped me navigate education, workplaces, and relationships. I grew up with a blended family and two homes, both my parents pushing me to explore what makes me tick. Although it wasn't easy, I wouldn't have it any other way.

In terms of my education, I went through schooling in Tauranga, going to an all-boys college (a lot of fun). There a teacher inspired me to move down to Wellington to learn and study Design. After four years of university, I am now looking to help, hang out, and inspire young people. Much like many adults have done for me.



2019 - 2023 - Bachelor of Design Innovation , Design for Social Innovation and Education

My World-view and important Memories

I would describe myself as an observer. I like to take in what's around me, noticing where I fit in. I have a brotherhood relationship with my friends as we've lived together for 5 years since moving down to Wellington.

I like to be creative and a fan of dance music, these are the tools that help me express or work through problems I may be facing. I must mention my Nany who is a huge influence on my interests in the world of art.

These photos describe some important times: our football team winning the division, Photography, and a festival set-up I was lucky enough to be a part of (121 Festival 2023). I have also worked as a landscaper (5 years), football referee, and house renovator.

I enjoy hanging out with young people because they offer an important and valued perspective. The future is ours, my hope is that we can create a community that enhances these values.



Please ask me any questions you may have happy to have a chat



ALL
SKATE

In collaboration with

INCLUSIVE



TaurangaCity

ROLLER

SKATING

HAVE A GO



- Supportive environment
- Accessible facilities
- Adaptable classes
- Sensory friendly
- All abilities welcome
- Learn new skills
- Fun, friendship, fitness, joy!



APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY SESSION

Wednesday 15th April 2026, 10am-12pm, FREE

Limited numbers, register now 

ALLSKATETAURANGA@GMAIL.COM

RACHEL 022 466 9876

Surfers Healing

Mount Maunganui, Aotearoa

21st March, 2026



**Our mission is to enrich the
lives of people living with
autism by exposing them to the
unique experience of surfing.
Please RSVP Via email**



surfershealingnz@gmail.com

surfershealingnz.co.nz

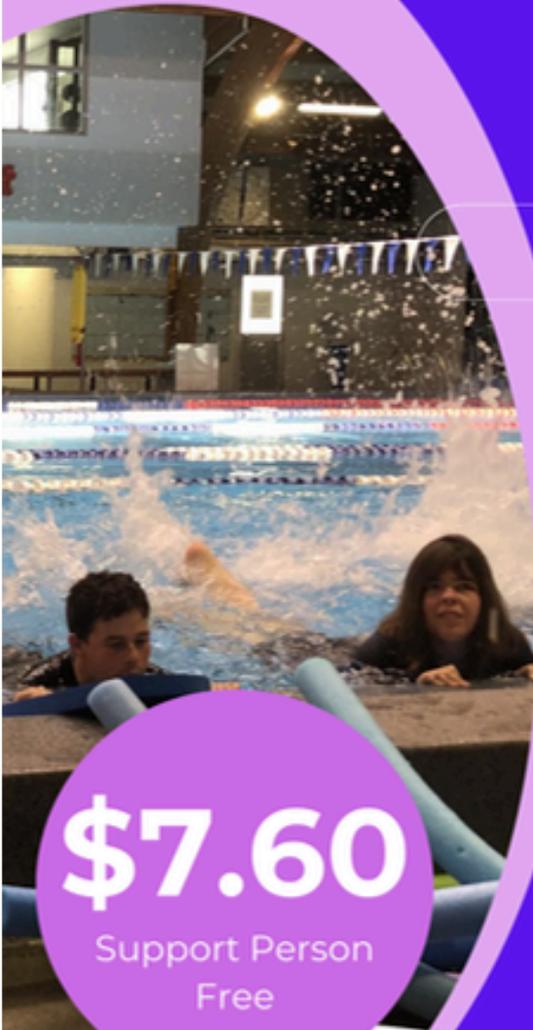
Notices for our adult community

AQUA FIT CLASSES

EVERY MONDAY
11AM-11:30AM
@
GREERTON
AQUATIC
CENTRE

(16 & OVER)

ADAPTED FOR DISABLED
PEOPLE



“A fun way to keep active and healthy”

- ✓ Reduced impact on joints.
- ✓ Improve mobility.
- ✓ Come along and socialize.
- ✓ Every Monday at Greerton Aquatic Centre.
- ✓ Accessible fitness class adapted to meet your needs.
- ✓ Class Times: 11:00am - 11:30am
Access to the Pool from 10:45am
- ✓ Pool + bathroom hoist & change table available.

\$7.60

Support Person
Free



Greerton
Aquatic & Leisure Centre

Monika.Zikova@bayvenues.co.nz
Questions & Enquiries



INCLUSIVE MOVEMENT

- Everyone moves in their own way -



When: Thursdays, 1:15pm - 2:15pm

Where: Greerton Hall

First class of
2026:
Thursday 29th
January

Fitness and movement classes designed for disabled adults of all abilities.

This class is run by instructors from BayVenues, and it is inclusive and accessible for all ages (18+) and all abilities.

This is a space where everyone can move in ways that feel right for them, connect with others, and enjoy being active without pressure or judgement.

Support people are also welcome to come along and join in.

This class is
free to attend.

Class structure:
Warm up
Circuit activities
Group activity
Relay
Cool down

