

Tauranga Special School

Learning together



Newsletter 4 2026, Week 9, Term 1 02/04/2026

Welcome to our Newsletter 4, 2026

This week our Physio team introduce themselves and tell us a little about what they do in the pool. We hear from Room 1, Te Kura o Maunui and DRC and what they have been up to this term.

Check out all the fun we had on our Fluro Whānau fun day this week.

If you are keen to go to a free movie in the holidays check out the community notices.

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

Important dates

Thursday, 2 April
Last day of term 1

Monday, 20 April
First day of term 2

Monday, 27 April
ANZAC day (observed)

Monday, 1 June
Kings birthday

Key Contacts:

School Landline:
07 578 4424

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

A message from our Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,
It is hard to believe we have already reached the final week of Term 1. It has been a fast-paced, productive, and rewarding start to the year! I want to extend a sincere thank you for the support you have shown me during my first term in this new position.



Staffing Updates

At the end of Week 2 next term, we will be farewelling our Therapy Team Leader and Speech and Language Therapist, Billie Hampton Edwards. Billie has been an integral part of the TSS whānau for 12 years. While we are sad to see her go, we wish her nothing but the best as she explores an exciting new chapter. We thank her for her long-standing dedication to our tamariki and her immense contribution to our kura.

We have officially advertised for a new Deputy Principal. Interviews will be held early in Term 2, with the intention of having the successful candidate in place by the beginning of Term 3. We look forward to updating you on this appointment in due course.

Fluro Whānau Fun Day

A huge thank you to all the parents and whānau who joined us for our Fluro Whānau Fun Day at Base School. It was a vibrant and joyful way to celebrate the end of the term, providing a wonderful opportunity for our students and staff from all sites to connect. We always value and appreciate the time our whānau spend with us.

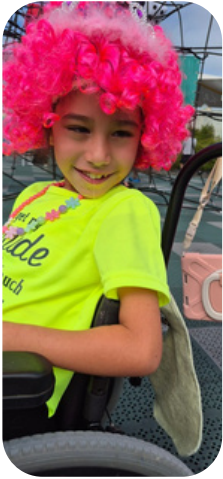
Happy Holidays

On behalf of the Leadership Team and our entire staff, we wish you all a safe, happy, and restful school holiday break with your tamariki. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for the start of Term 2.

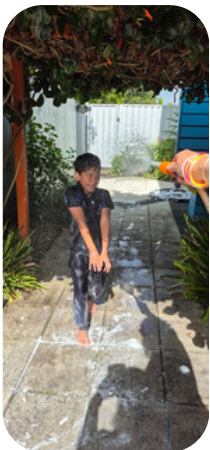
Dale Megson

Tumuaki / Principal

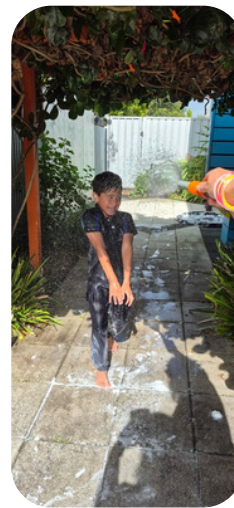
Fluro Whānau Picnic



Fluro day was a big
hit with all who
came along.
check out these
happy faces!



Fluro Whānau Picnic



Physiotherapy Team

Hello from your 2026 physio team!

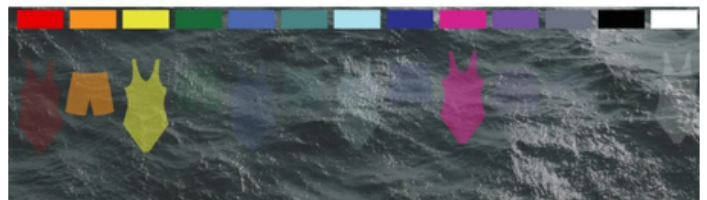


This year we have Tammy-Lee Alberts joining us in the pool 3 days a week whilst Awhina recovers from a broken leg. We have been having a great term enjoying summer swimming. We have even been doing maths in the pool! Students have been enjoying exploring our numicon resources.

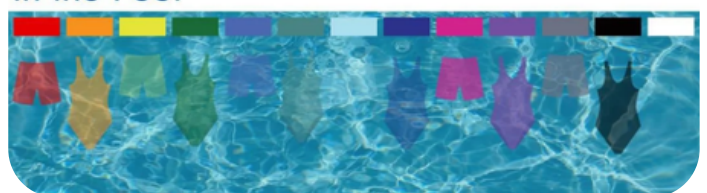


May we take this opportunity to show you this visual of how various coloured togs show up in water. Please take the time to consider this visual and the colour of your child's togs. You can see it can make a huge difference to their visibility and keeping them safe in the water. Sadly New Zealand still has shocking drowning figures for young people, particularly neurodiverse young people. Here at TSS, our team aims to teach every child survival skills in the water.

In the Lake



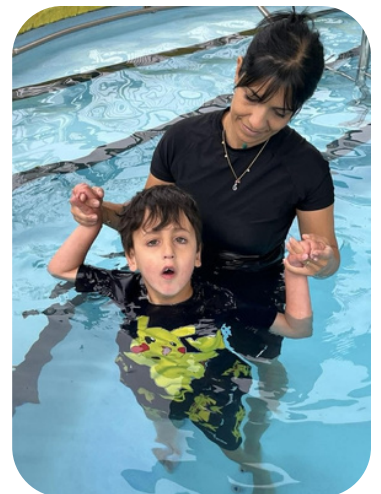
In the Pool



Room 1 Sara's class



We've had so much fun this term spending time in our warm school pool. It gives us the opportunity to stretch out, move and explore the water freely. It's such a happy place for us and we all look forward to our swimming sessions each week. We have been practicing our kicking and splashing skills! So much fun! Ka mau te wehi.



Te Kura o Manunui. Cathryn's class



We've had such a great term learning and playing together. A big highlight was our shared reading—we had so much fun exploring our stories through messy sensory activities and art. In maths we have been very engaged in exploring patterns through Numicon shapes and other materials. The children have also really enjoyed being active outdoors and during our swimming sessions.



Te Kura o Manunui Jay's class



We have been having lots of fun in our class this term getting to know each other and our new routines and classroom set up.

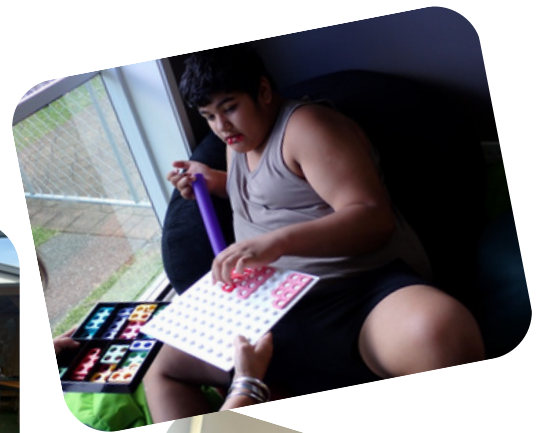
Swimming, Cooking and Kapa Haka have become some of our favourite weekly activities. We have loved exploring Numicon to help us count, match, add and make patterns as well as our shared stories "Wheels", "Duck goes Meow" and "Things in the Sea are Touching Me". We can't wait to watch our tamariki keep on growing and learning and to see what fun Term 2 brings us.



DRC Yasumi, Vicky, Nicky



This term has been full of new beginnings for the Pukeko Class, welcoming four new students who have settled in so well. We're all getting to know each other and we've had fun exploring our sensory play equipment, enjoying shared reading and music, and settling into our daily routines.



DRC Yasumi, Vicky, Nicky



So far this term, Tui Class have enjoyed getting to know each other and settling into DRC routines. We have been lucky enough to celebrate many of our students' birthdays this term, which has been wonderful! Exploring the Senior Curriculum with our senior students has been a lot of fun and they really enjoyed helping to bake chocolate chip muffins. Many students have loved the weekly swimming and Kapa haka sessions.



Community notices

Please note change of date from last newsletter:



Tauranga City

In collaboration with

INCLUSIVE



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
MONDAY 13th^h April 2026, 10am-12pm, FREE
Limited numbers, register now 💜

ALLSKATETAURANGA@GMAIL.COM
RACHEL 022 466 9876

IHC TAURANGA ASSOCIATION invites existing and new members to the movie The Magic Faraway Tree for children.

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



WHEN: Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 10.30am

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

Please note: We are not providing supervision so children must be accompanied by adult family carer/s or support worker.

There is a lift for those with mobility issues.

Booking is essential as seating is limited. Ticket includes a drink and snack.

Please RSVP by Monday 13th April 2026 to
ihc.taurangaassociation@gmail.com

IHC TAURANGA ASSOCIATION invites existing and new members to the movie Hoppers for teens and adults.

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



WHEN: Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 2.00pm.

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

Please note: We are not providing supervision so accompanying family or support workers must attend.

There is a lift for those with mobility issues.

Booking is essential as seating is limited.

Ticket includes a drink and snack.

Please RSVP by Monday 6th April 2026 to

ihc.taurangaassociation@gmail.com