

Tauranga Special School

Learning together



Newsletter 5 2026 Week 2 Term 2 30/04/2026

Welcome to term 2!

Welcome to term 2, In this newsletter you will hear from the Manakaha team with some helpful advice. Room 4 and DRC let us know what they have been up to.

There are also some exciting community event to check out.

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

Monday 1 June
Kings birthday
School closed

Wednesday 10 June
Special Olympics Football.
(senior students)

Tuesday 30 June
Matariki
Whole school event

Friday 3 July
End of term 2

A message from our Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

I hope you all had an enjoyable ANZAC long weekend with your whānau, making the most out of the beautiful weather we had! We have an action-packed Term 2 ahead of us, and the staff have been working hard to ensure another successful and engaging period of learning and growth for everyone at TSS.



Staffing Updates

As mentioned previously, this week we officially farewell Billie, our Therapy Team Leader and Speech and Language Therapist. We thank her for her twelve years of service and wish her the very best. We will be interviewing in the coming weeks for a new Speech and Language Therapist to join our team.

Additionally, interviews for our new Deputy Principal will take place over the next week. We remain on track to have the successful candidate in place by the start of Term 3.

Save the Date: Matariki Celebration- Tuesday 30th June

We are thrilled to announce that our Matariki whole school event will be held on Tuesday 30th June. Matariki is a special time for us to come together as a whānau to reflect on the year that has passed, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future. We are currently in the planning stages and will share more details regarding the timing and activities soon- we would love to see as many of you there as possible.

Winter Wellness

As we head into the colder months, the health and safety of our students and our staff is our top priority. We ask for your support in ensuring that **tamariki stay home if they are feeling unwell**. Because many of our students have complex health needs, viruses can spread quickly and have a significant impact. Please do not be offended if we contact you to ask that you collect your child; we do this solely to maintain a safe environment for all. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep our kura a healthy place to learn.

Dale Megson

Tumuaki / Principal

Help Shape Our Future: Our Values Refresh

As our community grows and evolves, we want to make sure our school values still truly reflect what matters most to you and your tamariki. We need your whānau voice to get it right. No one knows our students better than you do, and your aspirations for their future are the most important part of this puzzle.

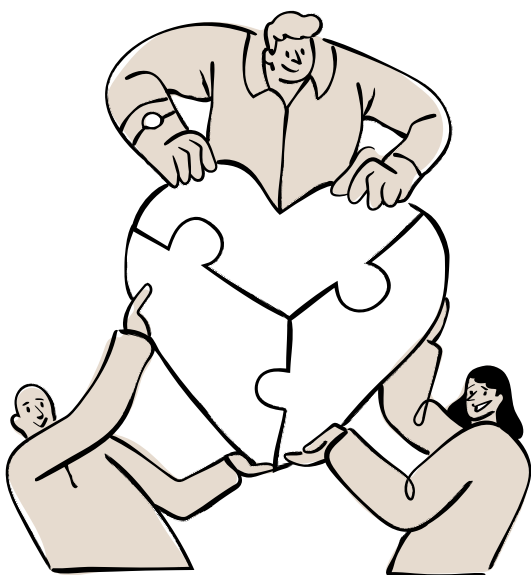
What are the values you want your tamariki to carry when they leave our kura?

What matters most? When you think about your child's journey here, What is the one thing you value above all else?

What should stay? Which of our current values still ring true?

What's missing? Is there a word or a feeling that describes our school that we haven't captured yet?

<https://www.menti.com/al786t87z31i>



Mana kaha team



I WONDER IF IT'S JUST ME...

Being a parent or caregiver of a child with additional needs can sometimes feel like you're navigating a map that no one else has. In this corner of our newsletter, we want to "frame up" some of the wonderings we often hear from our whānau.

If these thoughts have crossed your mind, please know you are not alone, and we are here to walk alongside you.



I wonder if other whānau get as tired as I feel right now?

This journey takes immense energy. We can connect you with other families, local respite networks and support you at appointments.

I wonder what the future looks like for my child after school?

I wonder who I can talk to about these new behaviors at home?

Your classroom teacher or our therapy team are always available for a kōrero. We're a team!

It's okay to feel anxious about the big picture. Let's chat about transition planning and the pathways available.



WHO CAN I CONTACT?

- Your class teacher
- Manakaha team-manakaha@taurangaspecialschool.nz
- Child development services-phone: 07 571 4768
email: cds.tauranga@bopdhs.govt.nz
- CCS Tauranga-07 578 0063 or 0800 227 2255
Email address:BoP@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz
- Parent to Parent 0508 236 236
- Tauranga Special School Whānau support

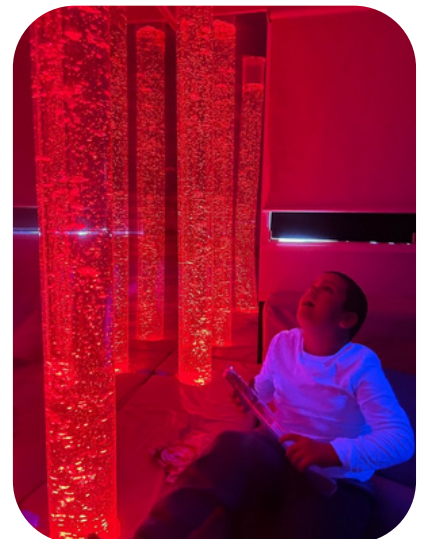
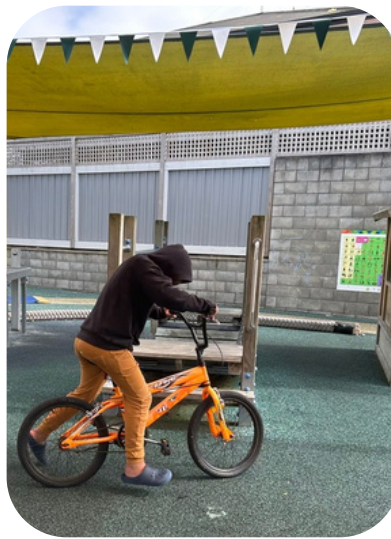
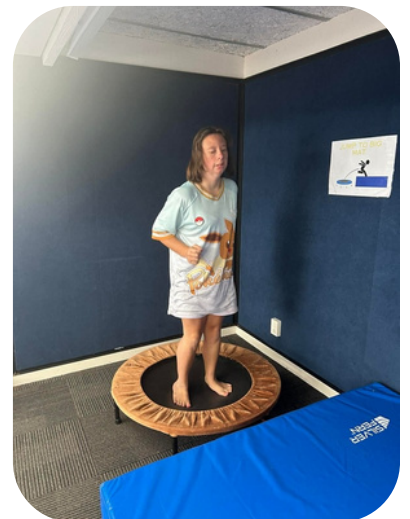


Room 4 Hayley

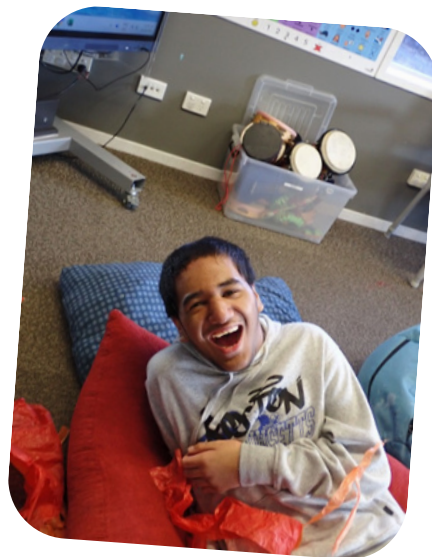
Lately we have enjoyed exploring different areas of the school and taking part in new physical activities.

Moving our bodies is something our class loves to do and finding new games to play makes it more fun.

We learn to take turns, listen to instructions, encouraging our friends, but most of all it's about having a go.



DRC Yasumi Vicky Nicky



The Pūkeko and Tui classes had a wonderful end to Term 1, thoroughly enjoying our visit to Base for the Whānau Fluro Picnic. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect, have fun, and celebrate together as a community.

We have settled back into our site routines this term and have been busy with our learning.



DRC, Yasumi, Vicky, Nicky



Our tamariki have been working hard creating beautiful poppy art for ANZAC Day, taking time to reflect and remember those who served.

We are looking forward to a fantastic Term 2 and all the learning, experiences, and special moments it will bring.



Community notices

Improving the Accessibility of New Zealand National Parks



We are researching ways to make national parks more accessible for disabled people and we'd like to hear about your experiences of accessibility in Aotearoa New Zealand's national parks!

You can participate by completing a confidential, 10–15 minute survey. To take part, please scan the QR code or use the link provided.

If you have any questions, or would prefer a paper or phone survey, please email: KAJillings@massey.ac.nz



IHC Tauranga Association Have A Voice Committee invites
IHC Members to a

Shining like diamonds concert

Come and enjoy performances by people with disabilities. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Supervision is not provided. Attendees who require support must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Saturday
16 May 2026
1:30pm

Greerton Hall,
1257 Cameron Road,
Greerton, Tauranga 3112

RSVP by Monday 11 May

Any questions please email ihc.taurangaassociation@gmail.com

✦ Book at: <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BCZB>

ihc
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Photo Consent / Use of Photos

Photos may be taken at our events, which are run by volunteers for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. These photos are used only in Association newsletters for members. If you do not wish to be photographed, please let us know before the event or on arrival.



Monthly Peer Support Coffee Group



Merivale Community Centre

27 Feb, 27 Mar, 24 Apr, 29 May, 26 Jun, 31
Jul, 28 Aug, 25 Sep 30 Oct, 27 Nov

10:30 to 11:30am

Bookings essential

info@spectrumconnections.co.nz

For parents/caregivers of
neurodivergent children (ADHD/ASD)