

Tauranga Special School

Learning together



Newsletter 6 Week 4 Term 2 14/05/2026

Kia ora e te whānau

In this newsletter our OT team discuss aspects about keeping your explorer safe at home and some things that may help with this.

Papamoa satellite and Room 3 show us the amazing work they have been doing.

Check out the notices for some upcoming events in our community.

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 everyone has had a positive and productive start to Term 2. It has been great to see our tamariki engaging in learning and making the most of the opportunities across the school.

Staffing Updates

As many of you will have seen in my recent email, I am delighted to officially announce that Penny Gee has been appointed as our new Deputy Principal. As an internal appointment, Penny already brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep understanding of our kura to the role. We are thrilled to have her leadership in this new capacity. With Penny moving into this position, we will be advertising over the next few weeks to fill her current role.



We have also appointed Alysa Duda and Bridget Fox as Speech Language Therapists. Alysa is currently working 3 days a week (maternity cover) and will increase to 4 in Term 3, whilst Bridget returns to TSS after a short time away. Bridget will be working 3 days a week, beginning in Term 3. We are thrilled to have both of these SLT's joining our team on a permanent basis.

Satellite Progress

We have some very exciting updates regarding our satellite sites:

- **Te Puke Satellite:** Construction is officially underway! We are currently on track to take occupancy in early Term 3. We are incredibly excited about this expansion and the opportunity to establish new, strong relationships within the Te Puke community.
- **Te Kura o Manunui Satellite:** We recently met with the Ministry of Education regarding the delays with this build. It was a very positive meeting and it appears the troublesome hill causing the delays will be deemed safe after some remedial work- although there are a number of consenting processes to go through in the next few months, I am confident we will have a new building by the end of the year.

Save the Date: Whānau Support Group Event - June 4th from 5.30pm

Our dedicated Whānau Support Group has organised a key event for our TSS community (this event will replace our usual termly Hui ā Whānau). You'll hear timely information & have the opportunity to connect with our Leadership Team and new Deputy Principal during the evening's 'mix and mingle'. To help make this event accessible for our whānau, please contact us ASAP if you'd need to bring tamariki, as we'd aim to provide supervision if needed. Please check out the flyer in this week's newsletter for details.

Winter Wellness

A quick thank you to all our whānau who have been diligent in keeping unwell tamariki home. As we move into the colder months, maintaining a healthy environment remains our priority. Your cooperation ensures that our most vulnerable students stay safe and that our kura remains healthy.

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.

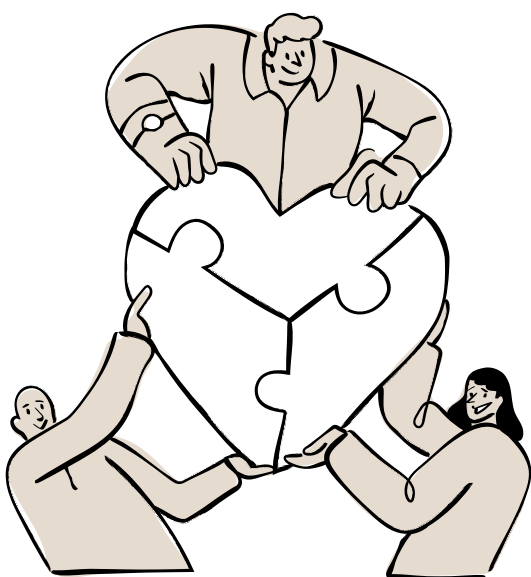
What are the values you want your tamariki to carry when they leave our kura?

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?

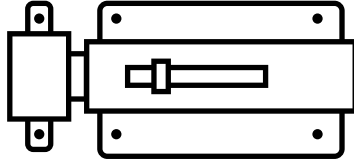
What's missing? Is there a word or a feeling that describes our school that we haven't captured yet?

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



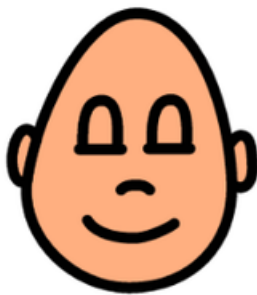
Occupational Therapy Team

KEEPING YOUR EXPLORERS SAFE AT HOME



These tools aren't just about restriction, they are creating a “safety buffer” that gives you time to react.

- **Climb-Proofing:** Keep furniture away from windows
- **Renters:** If you're in a rental or Kainga Ora (HNZC) home, chat with your landlord before making any permanent changes.
- **Use of visuals:** “not available”, “safe” or “not safe” are supportive strategies to teach our tamariki about safety.
- **Lock the “No-Go” Zones:** child locks on cupboards - medicines, cleaning supplies
- **Window safety:** Install window latches/restrictors. Safety film can be stuck to windows to strengthen them
- **Door safety:** Patio bolts can be purchased and installed.



Safe



Not safe



Not available

Possible Suppliers:

Mitre 10 MEGA - www.mitre10.co.nz/

Bunnings Warehouse - www.bunnings.co.nz/

NZ Hardware - www.nzhardware.co.nz/

Window safety film / toughened glass - www.glasslines.co.nz/

Occupational Therapy Team



Support for Home Modifications

Sometimes, these aren't enough and you may be eligible for Ministry of Health funding for specific home modifications.

External Fencing

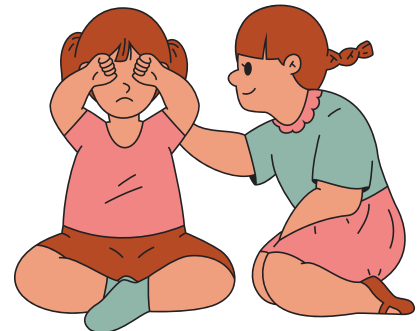
If your child's needs go beyond what is typical for their age, funding may be available for a "safe and secure" outdoor play area through the Child Development Service.

What isn't covered

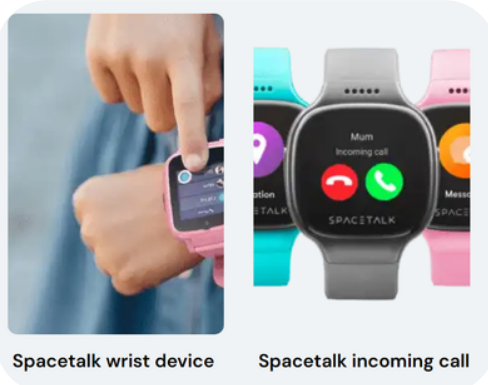
Property boundary fences or fencing that encloses driveway access
Keep in mind: These modifications are meant to be a final layer of protection to keep your child safe at home.

Regulation

Remember! Our children have different sensory needs and often if there is a safety challenge going on, providing sensory activities and regulation can help to manage this challenge!



TRACKERS



Spacetalk wrist device

Spacetalk incoming call

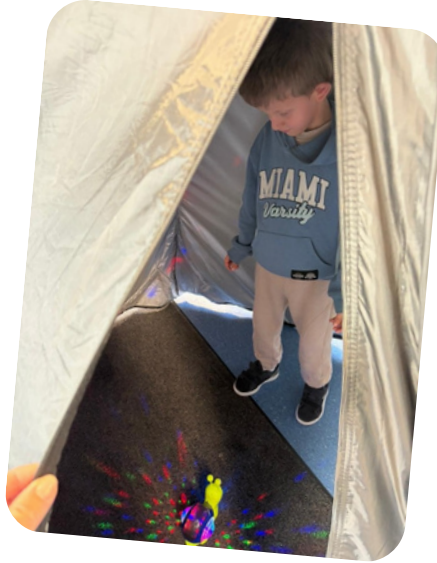


Wearables

There are options like Tiles, AirTags and Watches that ākonga can wear and supporting adults can see on their phones.

Options also include doorbell cameras, security camera and pressure mats

Room 3 Hayley



We have been super busy with our self-care routines, learning about what helps us regulate, reading our shared story *Wolf Won't Bite*, and exploring shapes and patterns through Numicon activities.

As you can see from our wonderful photos, our students continue to shine every day, showing us just how capable, adaptable, and enthusiastic they are while having so much fun along the way.

We also want to shoutout to Nat for the incredible help and support she has given room 3 this term. You are amazing.



Pāpāmoa College Satellite Janel's class

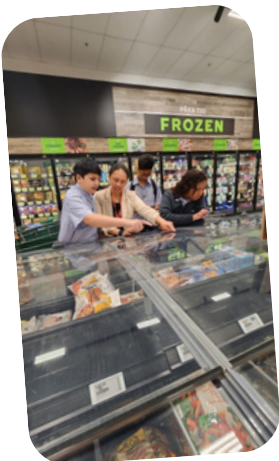


The term started with enthusiasm and positive energy. Everyone settled back into their routines quickly and smoothly. This term, we are running our reading groups together as a site, learning more collaboratively and building meaningful relationships along the way.

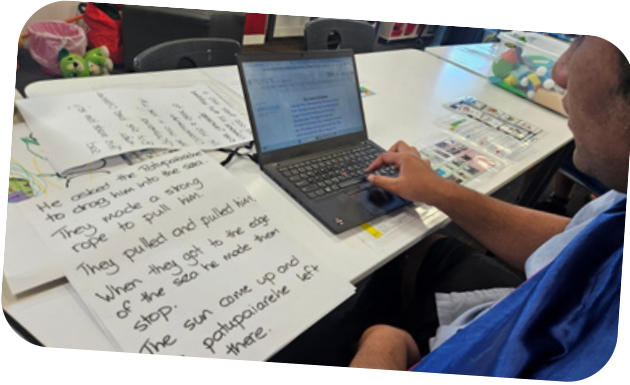
We also enjoyed several community visits, including trips to the Papamoa Library and Papamoa Plaza, where we are learning to stay safe in the community and practise independence.

This term, we will continue exploring the community and participating in Kapa Haka, swimming, arts, cooking, and library visits. We will also continue to extend our literacy and numeracy skills while preparing for next term's AIMS Games.

There are many exciting things to come.



Pāpāmoa College Satellite Brendan's class



Term 2 has started with a hiss and a roar here in SPEC. We've started our new BSLA grouping and it is a hit with students and teachers alike.

Our community visits are expanding out to Bayfair this term and we are showing that we can be safe around the van and the carpark. As always - we love to get out and about and meet new people everywhere we go.



Pāpāmoa College Satellite Anne-Marie's class



Our students have been enjoying their literacy experience in their different groups. Engagement has been enhanced through play. We continue to use Numicon as a valuable tool for teaching numeracy. On rainy days, Lego is proving to be a great way to build relationships with peers. This term we have enjoyed any other activities including swimming, bike riding, art, cooking during rotations and Kapa Haka at the Papamoa unit.



Community notices

WHEN:

Thursday 4th June
5.30pm mix & mingle
6.30pm Tony McLean
7.30pm Q & A



WHERE:

Room 1 @ Base
39 Eighteenth Ave

RSVP:

Text Sharon 027 573 9744 or
Sandra 021 032 0811
by 2nd June

Are you unsure of how to make the most
of the funding available to you? Join us!



TSS WHĀNAU SUPPORT GROUP

EVENT

with Tony McLean from Allies Aotearoa

www.alliesaotearoa.co.nz

We are excited to welcome Tony McLean again! He'll share up to date info about recent **funding changes** and how they may impact you. There will also be time for questions. Our Leadership Team will be onsite during the mix and mingle if you'd like to connect with them too.

THIS EVENT IS FOR EVERYONE!

This is an in-person event. If you'd like to attend but you'd need to bring children, please let us know ahead of time. Our TSS whānau can help make this happen.



FYI There will be sweet treats to enjoy & to get you through this mid-week outing!



Way to Play – Tauranga and Rotorua it's your turn!

DON'T MISS OUT, BOOK NOW!!

For family/whānau, early childhood teachers, health professionals, or anyone else living or working with young children on autism spectrum. Through 'Way to Play', we aim to help you understand why young autistic tamariki may find social interaction stressful, how to overcome that stress, and to show you the simple steps to joyful and purposeful play.

To register - <https://autismnz.org.nz/programmes/>

Tauranga – Monday 8 th June 2026

Rotorua – Thursday 25 th June 2026

Way to Play is a fun one-day introduction to playing joyously with a child on the autism spectrum.

Way to play has been specifically designed for people directly involved with a young autistic child. Adults are often left bewildered when trying to play with the child. The

course offers some simple, easy to use, practical strategies to begin playing joyously together. Having fun playing together is the focus.

What participants say about Way to Play

"It's only been four days since the course and I'm already noticing a huge difference in the way my son and I are interacting, in my confidence with my approaches to connecting with him and most unbelievably his subsequent development."

"I always wanted to play with my boy. I just didn't know how. Can't wait to get home and start playing."

"12 out of 10!! Fascinating! Exceptionally well presented. Great practical examples, demonstrations, and videos. Your enthusiasm is inspiring."

We would love to see you there!

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: K.A.Jillings@massey.ac.nz





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)



Tauranga Netball Centre

'Promoting Positive Pathways'

No Exceptions Netball 2026



Eighteen years ago the 'No Exceptions' netball programme was implemented. This is a wonderful programme that caters to the disabled and special needs community. The "No Exceptions" netball programme helps to build self-esteem, enhance their skill development and offers the opportunity to make new friends.

The 'No Exceptions' netball programme will run alongside the Primary and Intermediate School Netball Competition on a Saturday with the support of dedicated coaching personnel. TNC has created a friendly, non-threatening environment for students to participate alongside their peers developing skills and participating in Saturday sport. If there is someone you know who may benefit from this programme then please encourage them to sign up.

Commencing: Saturday 9th May to Saturday 8th August – NO GAMES ON 30th May, 4th June, 11th June or 18th June

Time: To Be Advised

Venue: Tauranga Netball Centre (previously Harbourside)

Individual Registration 2026

Name: Address:

Phone: Mobile: Email:

Age: School: Year level:

Parent/Caregivers Name: Signature:

Allergies: Medication:

Please Email tania@tauranganetball.co.nz

- Or post to Tauranga Netball Centre, PO Box 4408, Mount Maunganui South, 3116