

Tauranga Special School

Learning together



Newsletter 7 Week 6 Term 2 28/05/2026

Kia ora e te whānau

In this newsletter our Physio team let us know about the value of trike riding and how to go about getting one for your home.

TC3 and Intermediate let us know about all of the cool things they have been up to this busy term.

We would like to wish you a lovely long weekend.

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,

We have reached the midway point of Term 2, which means we are already a third of the way through the school year! As a quick reminder, school will be closed on Monday, June 1st for the King's Birthday public holiday. We hope you all enjoy the long weekend.



Our Growing Team

We are pleased to announce Kathleen Jones as our new Therapy Team Leader to replace Billie. Kathleen will move into the Therapy Team leadership role while retaining a clinical caseload within our kura as an SLT.

As our school continues to expand, we are looking for some fantastic leaders to join us. We are currently advertising for a Leader of Operations (Pou Whakahaere) to join our Leadership Team, as well as a new Professional Learning Leader (a middle-leadership role equivalent to a mainstream Team Leader). Both roles are vital to ensuring we continue to best meet the needs of our growing school community.

Whānau Support Group Event: Thursday, June 4th (5:30 PM)

Don't forget that our dedicated Whānau Support Group is hosting a special community event next Thursday evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear some timely school updates and connect with our Leadership Team and new Deputy Principal during a casual 'mix and mingle'. If you would like to attend but need childcare, please contact the office as soon as possible so we can arrange supervision for your tamariki. Full details can be found on the flyer in this newsletter.

Visitors protocol

As our kura grows we need to put some guidelines in place to ensure our teachers can focus fully on your tamariki during class time. Please have a look at our communication flow chart within this newsletter.

Winter Wellness

Finally, a huge thank you to all the whānau who have been so mindful about keeping sick tamariki home. As we head into the colder months, maintaining a healthy environment is more important than ever. Thank you for helping us protect our vulnerable students and keep our school safe and well. As always, please contact our absence line at the earliest opportunity if your child is unwell.

Dale Megson

Tumuaki / Principal

Kia ora whānau

You are a vital part of our kura. To ensure our teachers can focus fully on your child during class time, we are now using the following communication guide:

- **Non-Urgent:** Please email or text your teacher; they will respond as soon as they are not "class-facing."
- **Meetings/Calls:** Please pre-arrange a time with the teacher so they can give you their full attention.
- **Urgent Matters:** If you need to speak with someone immediately, contact the Office Team. If the teacher or therapist is unavailable, a member of the Leadership Team will assist you.

As our kura continues to grow and to ensure the stability of our learning environments, we will be also implementing a policy/protocol about visitors to our sites from external agencies and services. All visits/hui will be via appointment-only. We value our close relationships with whānau and the agencies that support our ākonga, and alongside these relationships we must prioritise safety. Therefore, our engagement with whānau and agencies must be supported appropriately.

Ngā mihi nui

The Leadership Team

TAURANGA SPECIAL SCHOOL VISITING PROCEDURE

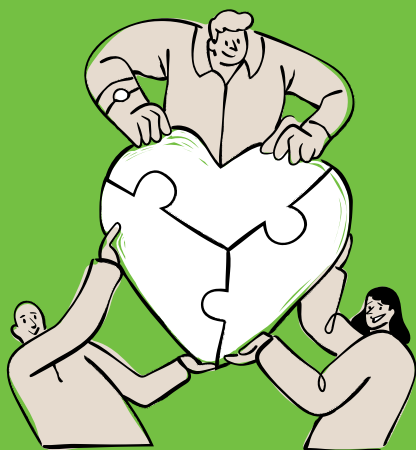
DO YOU WANT TO VISIT A CLASS AT TAURANGA SPECIAL SCHOOL?



URGENT SITUATION NOTE:

If the matter is urgent and the teacher/therapist is in class, another member of the TSS team may be available if you need to speak with someone that day. Please contact our office team who can take a message and get someone to call.

All site visitors, including whānau and caregivers, must sign in at the office on arrival



Scan this with your phones camera app.
Please give us some words that describe what you
value most about our kura.

HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE: OUR SCHOOL 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>

Physiotherapy Team

It has been great seeing some of our students getting out and about on our trikes whilst the weather is still good.

Often families ask us about trikes - where they can be purchased from and if there is funding available.

There are a number of companies out that sell trikes:

<https://www.trikesnz.co.nz/>

<https://rideyourtrikenz.co.nz/>

<https://www.medix21.co.nz/products/mobility-seating-standing/trike/>

There are many ways to apply for funding for trikes and other equipment to access the community:

<https://halberg.co.nz/club/activity-fund-grants/>

<https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-individuals-with-disabilities>

<https://wilsonhometrust.org.nz/grants/equipment-and-activity-grant/>

<https://cerebralpalsy.org.nz/member-services/grants/>

<https://www.lionsclubs.org.nz/>

<https://www.variety.org.nz/get-support/find-Support>

If you are a registered charity:

<https://www.ihcfoundation.org.nz/application-guide>

If you have further questions around trikes, please get in touch
meganm@taurangaspecialschool.nz



TC3 Shane Nicola



TC3 have had a wonderful term two so far with so much learning and connection taking place both within the class and out in the community.



We have a group of 5 students who are involved with the Sail-ability programme out at Sulphur Point.



The students all really enjoy getting out on the water and the regulation and calm energy it provides. The sailors will continue to go once a month throughout the winter months too.

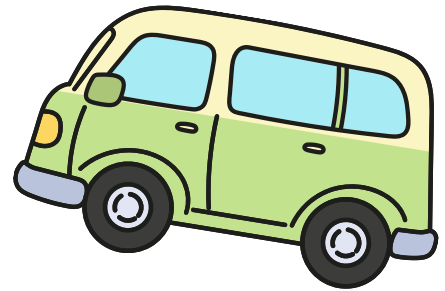


TC3 students are really looking forward to the upcoming Special Olympics Football tournament in week 8. We have been practicing our ball control, communicating and passing to our team mates at the local park.

TC3 Shane Nicola



BSLA also features throughout our week with our shared read stories involving everyone in small groups and discussing what happened in the story, who were the main characters and what the setting was. We have also been working on our letter sound knowledge and recognition to increase our literacy and communication.



Our SPEC unit on Te Reo Maori is underway and we are looking forward to researching what happens at a pohiri and how to be respectful if you visit a marae.

Water Wednesdays continue to keep us busy with getting the students out with swimming and aquafit groups at the local Greerton Swimming Pool.

Tauranga Intermediate Satellite Mary's class

This term, our students have been engaged in a variety of hands-on learning experiences that have supported both their practical skills and personal growth. During our cooking sessions, students have learned valuable life skills such as measuring, following instructions, kitchen safety and independence. We have also continued exploring learning through play with Erin. Through sensory and play-based activities, students have been developing fine motor skills, social skills, creativity, turn-taking, and emotional awareness in a fun and supportive environment.

During Mauri Tau with Amy B, students have enjoyed exploring different tools and strategies that help them feel calm, focused, and regulated. These sessions have encouraged students to become more aware of their emotions and discover strategies that support their wellbeing and learning throughout the day.

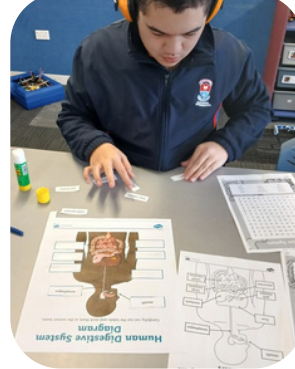
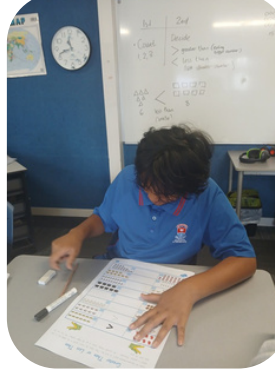
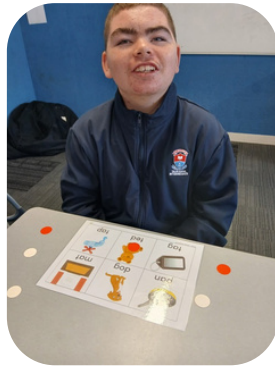
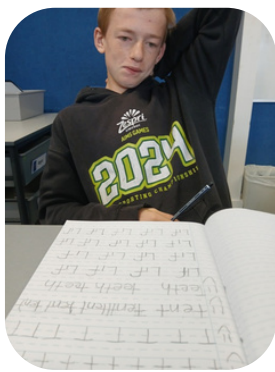
We are very proud of the enthusiasm and growth our students have shown this term and look forward to continuing these experiences throughout the year.



Tauranga Intermediate satellite Christine's class



We have had a blast so far in Chris's class in Term 2! We have settled into all of our routines and the students keep impressing us with the growth they are all showing - in their regulation, mahi and social relationships. They have continued to develop their literacy skills through our shared reads and phonics and we are building our maths skills using Numicon. Swimming at Baywave on a Wednesday has been a big hit, especially when the instructors allowed some of our ākonga to practise their manus! Other highlights in our weekly timetable continue to be cooking, visiting the TIS gym and library, swimming and Kapa Haka. Some of our students have even been joining a mainstream TIS class for PE! Kai Pai everyone - we think you are all awesome!



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!



TAURANGA SPECIAL OLYMPICS



TEAM BINGO

Evening

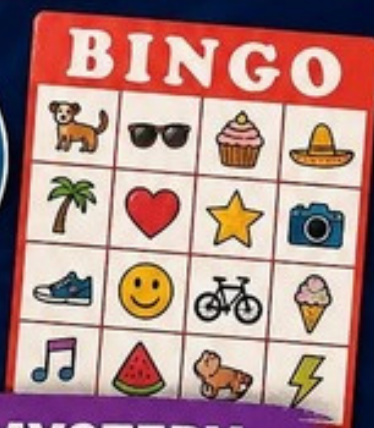
★ CREATE A TEAM



and come and enjoy our evening of **VISUAL TEAM BINGO!**

(1 - 4 PLAYERS PER TEAM)

COST IS
\$10
PER/PERSON



★ PRIZES FOR:

- BEST DRESSED
- WINNING TEAM
- LOOSING TEAM
- FASTEST RUNNER TO RING THE BELL
- SPOT PRIZES



? MYSTERY HALF TIME AUCTION

BRING SOME CASH
TO BID ON THESE
GREAT PRIZES!

SNACKS &
DRINKS
FOR SALE



- WHERE: ATRIUM CONFERENCE CENTRE, OTUMOETAU.
- WHEN: 25TH JULY 2026
- STARTS: 6PM - 8:30PM

BOOK NOW
YOUR TEAM IN

BY TEXTING
TINA: 021 163 9853

⇒ (REMEMBER A TEAM IS 1-4 PEOPLE) ⇒