

Tauranga Special School

Learning together



Newsletter 9 Week 10 Term 2 25/06/2026

Kia ora e te whānau

As we get ready to wrap up Term 2, take a look inside this week's issue to catch up with our amazing STOS team and the fantastic work they are doing out in our local community. We also send a massive shout-out to our wonderful school volunteers to celebrate National Volunteer Week! Plus, check out the important dates to remember for next term and all the details for our whole-school Matariki celebration next Tuesday.

If you have anything to add to future newsletters please email:
pipj@taurangaspecialschool.nz

Important dates

Tuesday 30 June

Matariki

Whole school event

Friday 3 July

End of term 2

Monday 20 July

Term 3 starts

Monday 24 August

School closed {Staff only day}

Key Contacts

School Landline:

07 578 4424

Attendance phone (call/txt):

027 558 5917

A message from our Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

We are now nearing the end of Week 10 in this long 11-week term. As the winter weather sets in and end of term nears, our focus remains on keeping daily routines consistent and keeping our tamariki healthy. Thank you for your ongoing support as we head into our final week of the term.



Our Growing Team

We are pleased to announce Jo Harvey as our new Leader of Operations (Pou Whakahaere). Jo brings valuable experience from her previous kura, Green Park School, where she held various units of responsibility. Over the past two and a half years here at Tauranga Special School, she has worked as a Classroom Teacher, as Sports Lead, and more recently as a Professional Learning Leader as part of our Middle Leadership Team.

This week we have also interviewed for our vacant Professional Learning Leader roles (middle-leadership roles equivalent to a mainstream Team Leader). We will announce the successful candidates late next week or early next term.

Satellite Progress

Te Puke Satellite: There have been some slight delays, but we are still on track to open in early to mid-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: There has been some further testing and remedial work at the site. It appears the troublesome hill causing the delays will be deemed safe after this work is complete. Although there are still a number of processes to go through in the next few months, I am still confident we will have a new building by the end of the year.

Mānawatia a Matariki

Just a reminder of our whole school Matariki event next week- We warmly invite our school community to join us as we celebrate the Māori New Year and welcome the rising of Matariki. Please let your child's class teacher know if you plan to attend.

Where: Tauranga Special School – BASE School

When: Tuesday, 30th June 2026

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Please join us for two hours of fun, connection, and enjoyment. Our classes are busy preparing and will be making delicious kai to share with everyone. It is a wonderful time for us to come together, reflect on the year that has passed, and look forward to the future as a school whānau.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Dale Megson

Tumuaki / Principal



YOU ARE INVITED!

Manawatia a Matariki
2026

Tuesday 30th June | 10:30AM-12:30PM

Tauranga Special School-Base

39 Eighteenth Ave

Activities, Waiata and more

Kai from 12 pm

Special Olympics Ten pin bowling



Yesterday, DRC went to the Special Olympics Ten Pin bowling, have a go day at Tauranga Ten Pin. This sport is easily adapted and a great way for our students to access sport. Lots of fun was had by students and staff.



A night at the ball.

TC3 students had a fantastic time at the ball hosted by Rotorua Specialist School. We danced the night away, made new friends and enjoyed some delicious food. A special shout out to the 'best female dancer' 🍑 Hine, and 'ball king' 🧐 Arley! Thanks so much to all the staff that supported the students after hours to attend.



A night at the ball.



A Huge Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Last week was National Volunteer Week, we want to send a massive shout-out to the amazing people who give their time to our school.

A huge thank you to Barb and Pauline, who work so hard behind the scenes every Monday helping us with resource making—it truly makes such a difference for our classrooms.

We also want to give a special mention to Savanna for being a fantastic help in Room 3 every Friday. We are so incredibly lucky to have you all in our community!



Specialist Teacher Outreach Service Team (STOS)

Did you know our Tauranga Special School Outreach Teacher team is out and about in the community every day? Through our close partnerships with local mainstream schools, our wonderful specialist teachers travel across the area to support ORS-funded students right in their own classrooms.

We love working hand-in-hand with classroom teachers, support staff, and whānau. Whether it's sharing creative ways to adapt the curriculum, helping put together Individual Education Plans (IEPs), or offering practical tips for social skills and learning, our STOS team is there to help. Our ultimate goal is simple: to champion inclusive learning, empower our school partners, and make sure every single learner has the support they need to shine and love their school experience!

Our team:

Alice, STOS Manager



Pip, STOS teacher and Tauranga team leader



Jo, STOS teacher and Eastern bay team leader



Kelly, STOS teacher, Eastern bay



Karen STOS teacher, Eastern bay



Sharon STOS teacher Tauranga



Tracey, STOS teacher Tauranga



Abha, STOS teacher Tauranga



Welcome bay Cheyanne



Toroa Class had an amazing time at our final Baywave session! The students showed incredible bravery as they challenged themselves to try new things in the water, on the playground, and on the hydroslide. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces as they climbed, splashed, slid, and explored with growing confidence. Throughout the session, the students demonstrated resilience, courage, and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones. We are so proud of the progress they have made and the fun memories they created during our Baywave visits.



Welcome bay Kirsty



This term we have really enjoyed learning about stories through our shared reading and related Topic activities. We have been demonstrating great listening skills and growing confidence to answer questions. Through our stories we have learned new words, letters and explored the characters and setting through sensory play and art activities.



We particularly enjoyed reading 'A Squash and Squeeze,' by Julia Donaldson and replicating the setting by building our own house to squash and squeeze into! We also enjoyed Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas which made us laugh! We then had fun making our own paper mache piranha!



Room 2 Michael



Room 2 has been engaging in cause and effect with buttons to make things go, like the hair dryer and the button for story time. We have also been exploring sensory play textures and colours we enjoy.



Community notices



SAVE
— THE —
Date

IHC TAURANGA ASSOCIATION

BALL
Masquerade

SATURDAY
3 OCTOBER 2026
— AT —
STADIUM LOUNGE
AT MERCURY BAYPARK

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

ihc
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Your Garden: Te Wahi Oranga Invites you to The Secret Garden Holiday Programme



Morning/Afternoon or
Full Day Sessions



\$40 half day/\$80 for full



5-12yr olds
Maximum of 10 per session



Mon 6 - Thurs 9 July
Mon 13 - Fri 17 July



9am-3pm (9-12/12-3)



Greenpark School
Paddock

**For more details and to
book now, contact Jess:**



021-2566-358



yourgarden16thave@gmail.com



Your Garden

**A safe space for neurodivergent
tamariki to connect with nature,
themselves and others.**

**Gardening, craft, sensory art,
and outdoor fun!**





IHC Tauranga Association invites new and existing members to a private screening of



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

WHEN: Wednesday 8 July, 10:30am

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There is a lift for those with mobility issues.

Your ticket includes a drink and a snack.

Bookings are essential as seating is limited.

RSVP by **Monday 6 July** to ihc.taurangaassociation@gmail.com

(please include the names of all attending)

****Supervision is not provided, so accompanying family or support workers must attend.****



IHC Tauranga Association invites new and existing members to a private screening of



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

WHEN: Wednesday 15 July, 2pm

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There is a lift for those with mobility issues.

Your ticket includes a drink and a snack.

Bookings are essential as seating is limited.

RSVP by Monday 13 July to ihc.taurangaassociation@gmail.com

(please include the names of all attending)

****Supervision is not provided, so accompanying family or support workers must attend.****



TAURANGA SPECIAL OLYMPICS



TEAM BINGO

Evening

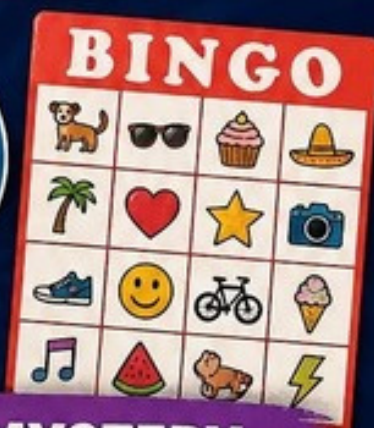
★ CREATE A TEAM



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) ⇒