



**Tauranga  
Special  
School**  
Learning together

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## WEEK 5 KAWERONGO - NEWSLETTER

7 March 2025

**Kia ora koutou,**

We'd love you to join us at our upcoming whānau fun day on the Friday the 21st of March!

Come one, come all, and join us for a day of fun!  
Free barbeque, messy play, waiata, picnic, kapa haka and more! We will also have the team from Circability here with a fun programme designed for our learners. Remember to bring your picnic blanket and sunhats!

# TAURANGA SPECIAL SCHOOL WHĀNAU FUN DAY

21 March 2025  
10am to 1pm  
At our Base School on Eighteenth Ave

As March is also Rare Disorders Month so we will have a box at the gate if you would like to make a gold coin donation  
#GlowUpShowUp #RareDisordersMonth  
visit [www.raredisorders.org.nz](http://www.raredisorders.org.nz) to learn more



Ngā mihi Kind regards

**Barrie Wickens**

**Principal**

### Important dates:

21 March Whānau Fun Day

11 April End of Term 1

28 April Start of Term 2

2 & 3 May TSS Jubilee Birthday Celebrations

## Room 3

Kia ora 😊 Welcome to Room 3!

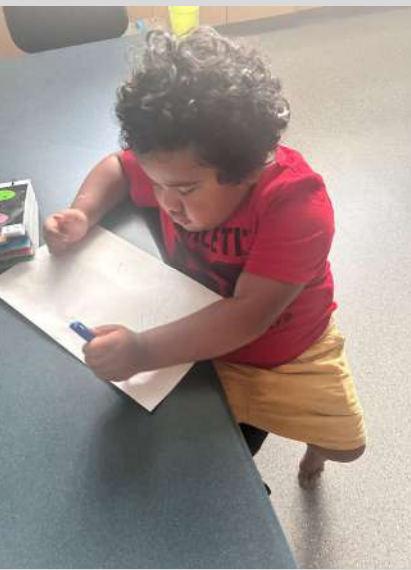
Here we have Donna-Marie, Lyon, Samarvir, Sebastian, Sophia, Summer-Joy and Tomika.

We have had a great start to the year. We're already seeing amazing progress with transitions, exploring new tools for regulation and having SO much fun on the playground. Swimming, RDA, and Kapa Haka have also been a great addition.

Room 3 has had many changes this year including a new Teacher, new TA's, 5 new students and new whānau.

Special thanks to all our whānau for your support, help and understanding. Together we'll keep working to create a safe environment for your tamariki.





## Pāpāmoa College - Jenn's Class



Welcome to 2025! Our group: Tameta, Harmony, Matthew, Jaida, Tahumatua and Ariana. It has been a great start to the new year. We have been all working so hard, and having fun. Some highlights include swimming at Baywave every week, training for Special Olympics, RDA, going to the library every week, sharing daily news, and so much more.

## Pāpāmoa College - Brendon's class



### Term 1 has started with a bang!

The year has been a cracker with our SPEC students getting out and about in the first 4 weeks. We've been getting to know each other, the new students and staff, as well as the school facilities. RDA has started with Khy and Rosie loving their time on the horses. We are lucky enough to swim twice a week and everyone loves the water - as we can see in the photo of Rosie.

As part of our SPEC we are learning to differentiate the types of recycling we have and know which items go into which bins. Handy skills as we move into the community.

We have bid farewell to Amy as she's off on a wonderful adventure - we wish her all the best and lots of surf, sun and shopping.

## Pāpāmoa College - Shane's Class



It may be term one, but we are getting straight into it! There is always plenty to keep us busy.

On Mondays we head over to Baywave for a swim. Not only do the students learn about water safety and develop their swimming skills, our students love switching off, relaxing or making a big splash. A big thanks to our Swimming team Kim and Awhina and our Physio Megan who work alongside the class crew to ensure our students are getting the most out of our visits.



Fridays are also without doubt a favorite day for many students. Kapa haka has started up and with a renewed focus on learning waiata and the accompanying actions, I know our performances will be stellar! This is particularly exciting as this year Tauranga Special School will be hosting the specialist Kapa Haka festival later in the year. Ka rawe team!



In the classroom we are finding plenty of things to do. A focus during the first two terms is on kaitiakitanga - being environmentally responsible and looking after our spaces. So far we have been learning about recycling and all about plants - this term we are planning to visit the op shop to learn about reusing and have plans to grow some of our own plants.



Finally, a big thanks to the whānau of our awesome students. We're a pretty new crew and there have been a few stumbles as we've been finding our feet, so we've appreciated all the support and patience you've given us.

## MANA KAHA

### How do *you* seek help?

Our Mana Kaha team often supports families to explore the help that's available for them beyond our kura. Here are just a few options our whānau often use - because everyone needs a little help sometimes 😊

#### SupportNet

Getting in touch with your SupportNet contact is often a great way to get the ball rolling for any services you need: [Support Net info](#)

#### Explore

SupportNet Coordinators can make a referral for whānau wellbeing support through Explore. So, if you're finding things difficult at home e.g. managing behaviours that challenge, and would like support, you might like to seek a referral. Here is some information about what areas Explore might cover: [Explore](#)

#### CCS Disability Action

Do you need help, but are unsure of what help you need? When you have a CCS service coordinator, they advocate for you/your child, and can show you what options for support there are. Our kura can also make referrals to CCS, so please get in contact with your class teacher, or with our Mana Kaha team. Here is a link for information about [CCS Disability Action](#).

#### Child Development Services (CDS)

CDS offers support in a variety of ways. Often, if you're concerned about the safety of your home due to the way your child interacts with their environment, or you have a need for special equipment in the home, CDS can offer help. Support Net or our OTs at TSS can refer you to CDS. Here's a link to read about their services: [CDS](#)

#### Here to help u

This is an excellent site! It's a simple sign-up process and then the Here to Help U team get in contact with you. They ask what you need e.g food, mental health, budgeting (and lots more) and they follow up with you until they know you've been offered help. Here's the link to get started: <https://heretohelpu.nz/>

#### Just a thought

Just a thought offers over 15 free therapy courses to all New Zealanders. It's a simple and private process with courses also available in New Zealand Sign Language. Here's the link to get started: <https://www.justathought.co.nz/>

Our Mana Kaha Team is here to offer advice, so please get in contact if you would like to discuss any of the above information: [manakaha@taurangaspecialschool.nz](mailto:manakaha@taurangaspecialschool.nz).