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WEEK 6 KAWERONGO - NEWSLETTER

3 June 2025

Kia ora koutou,

Tumuaki Principal leaving: After 23 years as the Tumuaki Principal of Tauranga Special School the time has come for me and I have handed in my resignation. I will continue through to the end of this year.

When I started in 2002 our school's name was Kaka Street Special School with a static role of 56 students. Today we have 122 students, five away from reaching maximum capacity, with a waiting list of 21 students. Staff numbers back then were 43, today 117 and very much needed.



Our Outreach Service to mainstream schools started in 2007 with one student, today on the roll are 33 students across 14 schools. This service will continue to grow.

A few years back we had to close our Te Puke Primary Satellite as the roll dropped to one student, and the Merivale Primary Board of Trustees wanted our class to meet their roll growth. In 2014 we opened our Papamoa Satellite, Brookfield Primary Satellite in 2018, two offsite community facilities TC3 in Chadwick 2017, DRC Devonport Road 2020. Currently our Brookfield students and staff are based in the old school, while our new double Satellite is in the planning and build process. Hopefully we will move into the facility by the end of this year. Our Board has formally approached the Ministry of Education to explore the potential use of the Brookfield School as an alternative campus.

Tauranga Special School is an amazing place to work in and it has been a pleasure to lead. I am hoping to pursue some other part time role in the education sector.

Ngā mihi
Barrie Wickens
Tumuaki Principal

Important dates:

02 June	King's Birthday (no school this day)
10 June	Transition Information Afternoon
20 June	Matariki Public Holiday (no school this day)
24 June	Matariki Event at Base School



TC3 - Margaret's Class: FANTASTIC WHOLE CLASS FUN ACTIVITIES

60th Jubilee Celebrations:
TC3 dressed up like the male teachers from back in the 60s and 70s and probably the 80s. Our students thought it was mad but they went along with it and looked perfect. Great fun and thank you to the student, parents, caregivers and staff for getting behind it.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS 10 PIN BOWLING



TC3 learnt new skills and cheered each other on during a busy morning of action. Special thanks to Cora-Lee and Justin for their tutoring.

TC3 - Krystal's Class



TC3 Students were lucky to visit the Te Puke Recycling Centre.

We got to have a close look at what happens in the recycling sheds.

We had lots of fun and asked great questions to help deepen our understanding of recycling.



The workmen put the cardboard compression machine on. This machine was very loud. Once the cardboard was compressed, we were able to take a look inside the machine. The cardboard was all squashed like a big square pancake. While we looking, the cardboard started to expand a little and it sounded like popcorn popping.



Did you know...

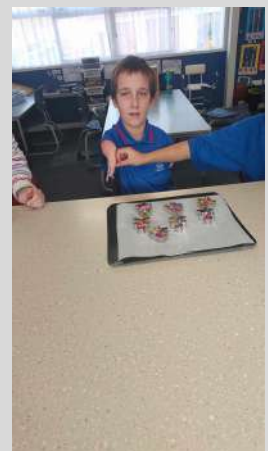
Tauranga sends 8 containers full of rubbish over the Kaimai Hills each day to the shared Bay of Plenty and Waikato Landfill.

What can you do at home to help reduce the amount of rubbish that is being sent to the landfill?

At TC3 we are recycling and reusing things so less is being sent to the landfill.

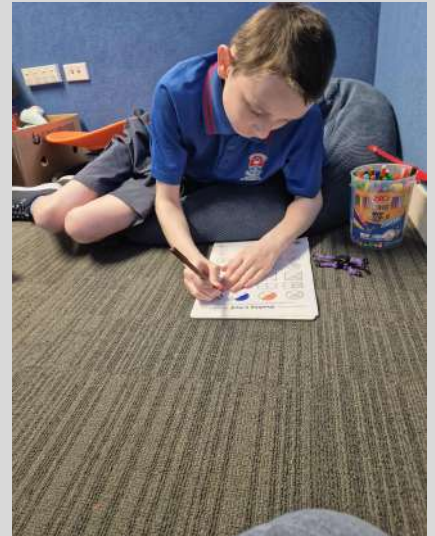
TIS - Jolani's Class

Our class decorated recycled tin cans and planted flowers in it to create beautiful mother's day gifts. This term, we are focusing on learning more about and celebrating Matariki and enjoy getting creative by doing some fun Matariki related art activities. We also made some swimming pool safety story collages and read our stories together afterwards.



TIS - Mike's Class

Our class has been working really hard on fractions being able to show a half and a quarter's on different shapes. We have been doing amazing work at swimming at greerton pools and getting more confident week to week. Our topic focus this term is learning about Matariki and what it means and why we celebrate it and why it's important to New Zealand.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

NEUROAFFIRMING PLAY

No "Right Way" to Play
Stimming, repetition, or solitary play aren't "deficits" to fix - they're self-soothing, joyful, or creative expressions.

Offer choices

Quiet spaces, fidget toys, soft lighting, or materials with varied textures

Play doesn't have to look social, imaginative, or varied to be valuable.



Celebrate Interests (a.k.a. "Special Interests")

Build play around their passions, these are powerful entry points for learning and bonding.

Connection Over Correction

Instead of trying to "redirect" behavior, validate it. For example, if a child is flapping or scripting, mirror their excitement or echo their words back in a playful way. That's co-regulation and connection.

Respect Autonomy & Interests

Let the child lead.
You're joining their world - not dragging them into yours.

20 May 2025

Kia ora e te whānau

We have had lots of bugs circulating over the last few weeks and we would like to give a friendly reminder to whānau and caregivers to please keep your children home if they are unwell.

As a Specialist School we have many students with very fragile health and we would really appreciate your support to keep all of our students and staff safe and well this winter by ensuring sick tamariki stay home.

- **Coughs, colds and Covid:** Please keep students home until they are fever free and most symptoms have cleared up. We understand after a cold or flu a cough may persist but it will unlikely be persistent, mucousy or accompanied by other symptoms if the virus has passed
- **Vomiting/Diarrhoea:** Please keep your child home until vomiting or diarrhoea has stopped for at least 24 hours
- **Strep throat:** Your child should remain home for 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Please let the school know if your child tests positive for Strep
- **Eye redness, discharge, itching, swelling:** Students should be seen by a doctor. If antibiotics are prescribed, students should remain home for 24 hours after starting medication
- **School Sores:** Students should stay home until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and/or all of the sores have dried up and are healing. Please let the school know if your child has School Sores (Impetigo)
- **Rashes and skin conditions:** Please get these checked by a medical professional and follow their advice. Please inform the school if your child is diagnosed with a contagious illness such as measles or chickenpox

Please note that if students appear unwell at school you will be called to pick them up.

Thank you in advance for your support in keeping our school community well coming into this winter season.

Ngā mihi nui

The TSS Health and Safety Team