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WEEK 5 KAWERONGO - NEWSLETTER 12 August 2025

Kia ora koutou,

Last term we held a fundraiser to support two of our school community families. I would like to share a letter from them below.

Dear Tauranga Special School staff, students, whānua and the wider school community,

Ayda, Tepora and their families would like to thank you one and all for your generosity, kindness and endless support and well wishes during this difficult and emotional time.

The support you have shown us means more than you know. It's a very long recovery for both of these children and their families. Every hug and "how are you?" is amazing.

Thank you to TSS leadership for the awesome idea of Pink and Blue day. The donations have been gratefully accepted. It all helps so much with needing to purchase specific items that are required to assist treatments, and the many trips to starship.

*Thank you all again
Ayda, Tepora, and their families*

Ngā mihi
Barrie Wickens
Tumuaki Principal

Important dates:

18/19 Aug	Staff Only Days (no school these days)
21 Aug	Special School Kapa Haka
31 Aug-5 Sept	AIMS Games
12 Sept	Ra Whakangahau Kapa Haka
19 Sept	Last day of Term 3
24 Oct	Staff Only Day (no school this day)

TERM THREE



This term we are using technology to look at
cause and effect.
What happens when ...?



TKOM Cathryn's Class



We have been exploring cause and effect through a fun balloon pump activity. Using a funnel, we experimented with a variety of materials and observed what happened when we turned the balloon pump on.

Room 1

We have continued to enjoy swimming and RDA this term. We also went on a lovely trip to Yatton Park on a beautiful winter's day where we enjoyed the sunshine and scenery.



Physiotherapy

Friday 25th of July was World Drowning Prevention Day.

- Children with autism are significantly more likely to drown than their neurotypical peers, with drowning being a leading cause of death for this population.
- They are 160 times more likely to drown than the general pediatric population, [according to a study from the National Autism Association](#).
- Drowning accounts for a large percentage of wandering-related deaths in children with autism, with some statistics indicating it's over 70%.
- Skills learned in one environment (e.g., a pool) may not transfer to another (e.g., a lake or beach), making generalisation of water safety crucial.
- When buying swim wear for your children, please think about the colour and how visible it is in water - see below. Colours that you think are really visible, may not be.



At TSS, we run a year round swimming program for all students either at our hydrotherapy pool at Base or in the community pools (Baywave and Greerton) where we focus on water safety and survival skills as well as learn to swim. We teach our students how to safely enter and exit the pool, to turn around and reach for the wall if they need help, to float on their front and backs, to submerge under the water and come back up and what a lifeguard looks like and how to get help at the community pools.



