



**Tauranga  
Special  
School**  
Learning together

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## Newsletter Week 10 6th July Term 2 2022

### Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau:

Special thanks to teacher Jay Rotarangi for spearheading the organization of our highly successful **Mihi Whakatau** and **Matariki celebrations** held Tuesday morning, 28 June.

The aim of our Mihi Whakatau is to formally welcome new staff, students and their whānau to our school community. Unfortunately the Covid has impacted on crowd gatherings and it is only now that we have been able to more freely organize school wide events.

Thank you to all those families that joined our enthusiastic staff and students.



**Thursday 23 June** our school was closed for instruction that allowed our teachers a day to address workload issues. This day was the last of eight days awarded to teachers and principals through their respective 2020-2022 collective agreements. For 49 of our teacher aides, (a few were absent due to covid, flu and other circumstances), we organized a professional development day held at our Base School. The range of sessions included a meeting with the principal to discuss developments across our school and an opportunity for questions and answers. A session that allowed them to update and discuss their own Performance Appraisal document, and find out more about our school's development of new models of Teaching and Learning - Engagement and Inquiry. A session on strategies for dealing with students with challenging behaviour and finally a choice of online videos that included for new staff, UBRs-Understanding Behaviours and Responding Safely, MAPA - Management of Actual and Potential Aggression, and for the others a selection of Aotearoa New Zealand Histories



Ngā mihi Kind regards  
Barrie Wickens  
Principal

### Term Dates for 2022

**Term 2 Monday 2nd May - Friday 8th July** (this Friday is the final day of Term 2)

**Term 3 Monday 25th July - Friday 30th September**

**Term 4 Monday 17th October - Thursday 15 December**

**Labour Day - Monday 24th October**

# Specialist Team

## **We have new equipment for our Sensory Room!**

It has been a delight to watch the students have fun engaging with the new high-interest sensory equipment. These have been chosen with a strong focus on providing activities for our students who are visually impaired. These new pieces of equipment have held the attention of *all* the students, which is a great outcome!

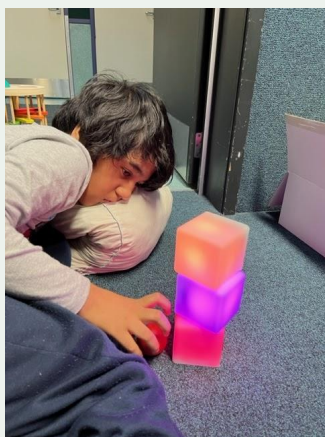
The equipment was taken on a road trip to some of our satellite classes, which was a fun way to introduce the pieces to the students. Soon the equipment will be placed in our Sensory Room at Base. This room is soon due to undergo an expansion - with more exciting activities and equipment due to arrive!

Many thanks to Barrie and the Board of Trustees for giving us the go ahead!

The below photos show some of our students exploring the new pieces of equipment.







Brigid, one of our Occupational Therapists, has worked hard from inception to the creation of this collection of new sensory equipment. We farewell her this term as she embarks on a new journey, and we will continue to be thankful for her mahi to meet the sensory needs of our students at Tauranga Special School.



# Room 2 - Books, Books and More Books!

Room 2 has been diving into lots of books this term. We have been practicing good looking, listening and page turning. So many stories to be enjoyed. We love sitting together to share the experience of reading. We are getting good at finding pictures on the page and listening to all the funny sounds our teachers make when they read to us, such as animal noises. We also like the anticipation of what might happen next...

