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WEEK 8 KAWERONGO - NEWSLETTER

30 November 2023

Kia ora koutou, Introducing Team Teach next year.

Since 2019 our staff have been using UBRS (Understanding Behaviour and Responding Safely) and MAPA (Managing Actual and Potential Aggression) programmes to facilitate proactive responses to our students behaviours and respond safely in all situations.

While these approaches have worked for us we are setting out on a new course to introduce Team Teach, as a follow on from our recent whole staff professional development day on Understanding Behaviour and the Brain presented by Karina Schreurs.

The Team Teach approach is being used in several other special schools with considerable success. Team Teach is a specialised behaviour support programme that builds on a foundation of respect and understanding and is designed to foster a culture of support, helping individuals recognise the needs of our students and staff. The training emphasises team building, personal safety, communication, and verbal and non-verbal de-escalation techniques for dealing with behaviours of concern, all with the goal of reducing the need for physical interventions and enabling conflict resolution in ways that are safe and provide opportunities for repair and reflection for everyone involved.

Staff members Penny Gee, Leader of Hauora (*right*) and Naomi McDonald, our Leadership Team Executive Assistant (*left*), recently attended the four day Team Teach tutor training programme in Auckland. They will be charged with introducing Team Teach and training all staff throughout 2024.



Education Review Office Review: As this newsletter was being prepared to publish, three Education Review Officers were in our school Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 November. Our last review was in 2019 and was very successful. Once our review is over we will receive an interim report to comment on and challenge any inaccuracies, then the final report will be presented to our Board and circulated out to our school community.

**Ngā mihi Kind regards
Barrie Wickens
Principal**

Important dates and info

End of year showcase Thursday 14 December
Last day of term Friday 15 December 12 noon

2024

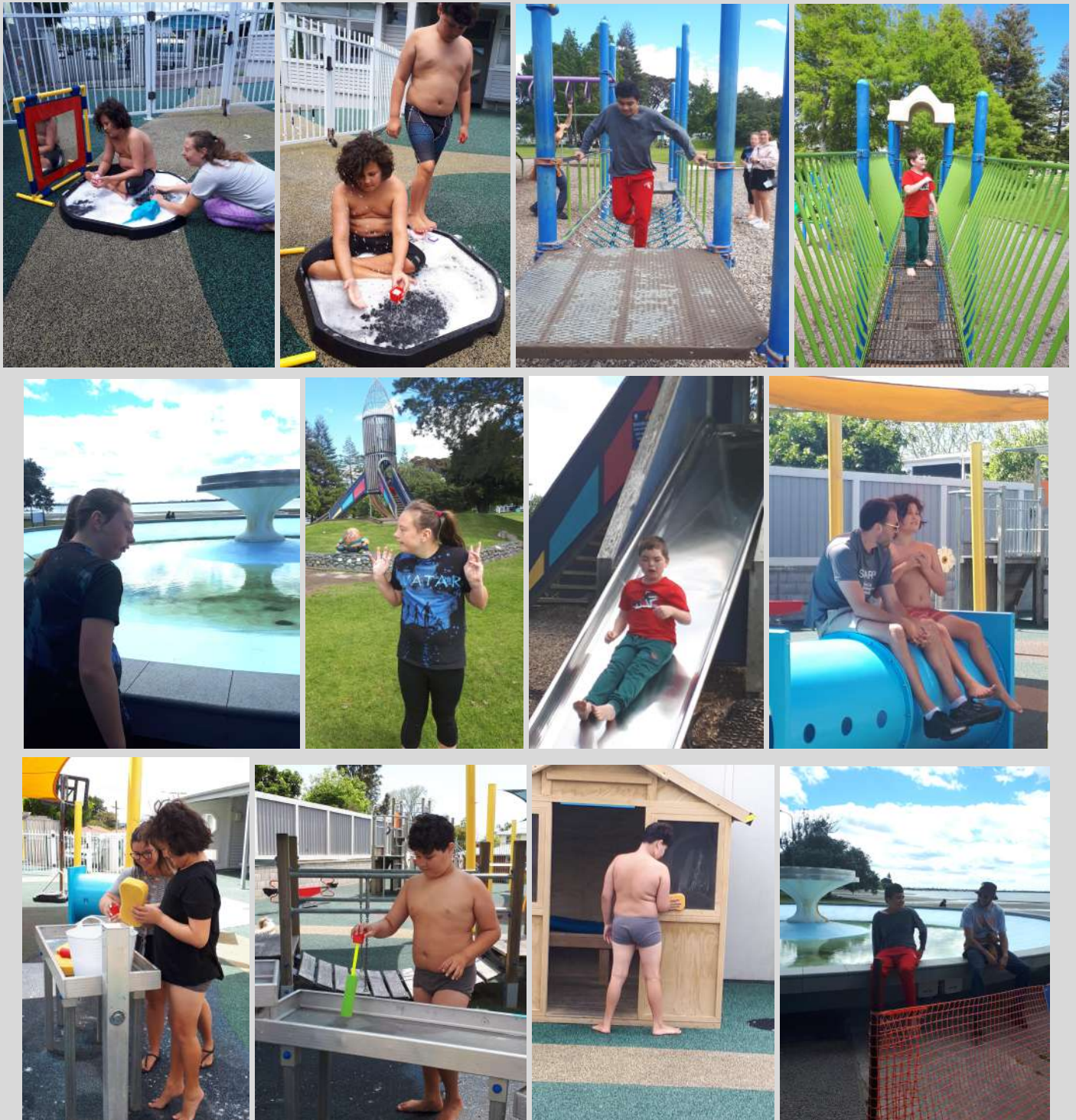
School starts 31st January

Teacher only day 5th February

Waitangi Day 6th February

ROOM 4

Fun in the sun! Room 4 has been taking advantage of this beautiful spring weather with park trips and water play. Students have been happy and engaged as they explore the different slides, swings, climbing frames and water play activities at school and Memorial Park.



DRC

DRC students have been very active this term!



We practised our running, walking and bike riding at Tauranga Domain for TSS Cross Country. Also, some students learned hockey skills at Hockey without limits. It was great seeing everyone having fun through the activities.



PHYSIOTHERAPY

Posture

A lot of our students are using ipads for communication and work in our classes. This term's physio goal is to remind us to think about the students' posture when using a device.

The posture in which we allow our students to sit in for prolonged periods of time can be detrimental to their health. Many students will land up in a slumped forward posture (as seen here) this can put a lot of strain on the back, creating a rounded upper back and forward head posture!



These poor postures can carry through to adulthood if not addressed at an early age. It is much harder to out-train poor posture as an adult...although not impossible! We need to teach this from an early age

The best thing we can do to ensure our kids don't develop poor musculoskeletal habits is to encourage them to *MOVE!* This may be whilst they are using ipads or phones, there is no reason why they can't keep changing positions whilst using the devices. In fact, changing postures every 5-10 minutes will be the best thing for them!

Here are a few examples of good Ipad watching postures:

This prone (lying on tummy) posture encourages extension of the back and can promote a healthy spine.



Why not prop up the ipad or phone on a table and have your child sit on the floor with their back nice and tall so they can view the ipad with a neutral back and neck posture.

Depending on the height of the table they could be sitting / tall kneeling / standing with the ipad on the table.

A handy reminder for the adults too!

This term we have loved seeing all of our students and staff getting more physical being outside enjoying the weather, practising for the cross country, hockey and athletics.

Physiotherapy team, Term 4 2023