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WEEK 10 KAWERONGO - NEWSLETTER

10 December 2025

Kia ora koutou,

This is my last newsletter as the Tumuaki Principal of Tauranga Special School. When I started at this school in April of 2002, the school's name was Kaka Street Special School. To better reflect our identity we renamed the school in 2016.

The student roll in 2002 was 59 with about forty staff. We dipped to a low total of 45 students in 2010 but bounced back with steady roll growth ever since. We end the school year with 119 students and 120 staff. Our start up roll next year is 130. Over the next two or three years with the new Te Puke Satellite opening mid 2026 and potentially another in Katikati Primary 2027, our roll could reach 160. The demand is out there for our specialist school delivery and an alternative choice for parents to the mainstream local school option. The last 23 years have been an amazing journey for me and it has been an immense pleasure to serve this school. To the whole school community thank you for the support you have given me and to our school.

I do intend to stay part time in the education sector with a role or two going forward, but for now it's time to complete this year on a high note.

I wish Dale Megson, our new incoming Tumuaki Principal, all the best for the future in his role. I know the school will be in good hands.

Best wishes to you all for the festive season.

Ngā mihi
Barrie Wickens
Tumuaki Principal
Signing Off

Important dates:

- 12th December - Barrie's farewell party (from 10:30am at base)
- 16th December - Showcase
- 17th December - End of term (12pm finish)

TIS - Jolani's Class



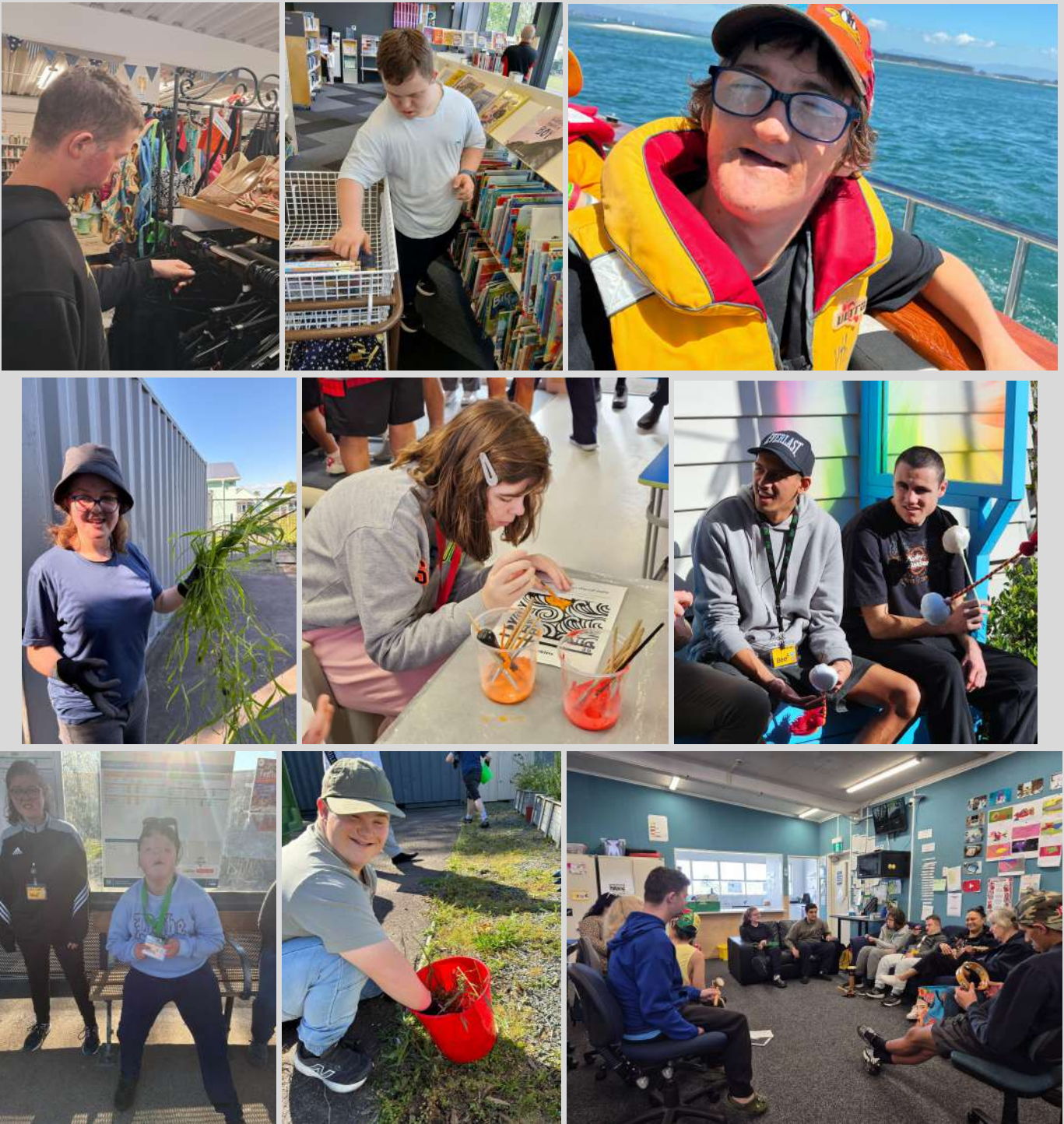
This term, we enjoyed swimming, cooking and fun learning activities. Felix participated in RDA and had lots of fun! Teoti participated in the Pasifika Festival and had a great time with his peers. Casey, Felix and Teoti visited their new classroom spaces once a week and Israel got to meet his new classmates for 2026. Ka pai, boys! Have a great Christmas break and enjoy the summer holiday. 🌲

TIS - Chelsea's Class



Term 4 has flown by at TIS! We have been really enjoying all of our end of year activities, such as our Water Safety course at Baywave, Pacifica festival, practicing for the Showcase. Bentley, Saxon and Rohan have also been having weekly transition visits to Pāpāmoa College which have been very new and exciting, and Regan, Alexander and Tuana have been loving meeting their new classmates for 2026. Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year!

TC3 - Helen's Class



Our students experienced the 'World of Work' at Greerton Library and St. George's Charity shop. They also cleaned our TC3 building every day and washed the van at regular intervals. The students also enjoyed keeping our grounds as weed-free as possible! Community activities such as Sailability, Circability, library sessions, walks in the community and a visit to the Mount Hotpools and Copenhagen's ice-cream shop have been some of our favourite visits this term.

We look forward to Nicole returning to our class, when she is able, as we have all missed her very much.

Have a wonderful Summer Break and all good wishes from the students and staff at TC3.

TC3 - Nicola's Class



TC3 have been doing amazing mahi this term and throughout 2025. We have been learning the waiata and haka at Kapa Haka with our peers on Friday at base school. Several of our class were involved in the Pasifika Festival on Saturday 1st of November, and they performed superbly. We have been playing football on Wednesdays and the students have been really enjoying these games and improving their skills too.

We are delighted with the progress of our three students who are graduating from TSS; Vinay and Seb who are going to Idea Services, and Fabian who will attend Toi Ohoimai Institute of Technology in 2026. Happy Holidays and see you next year.