



**Tauranga
Special
School**
Learning together

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Newsletter Week 3 Term 1 16th February 2022

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau:

Welcome back to a new year at Tauranga Special School. A huge welcome to our new students, their families and staff.

For the last two years the Covid 19 outbreak has dominated the way in which we have lived our lives and the way schools and kura have operated. The start of this year is no exception. The whole country is operating in the Covid Traffic Light - Red Level. To meet a Ministry of Education requirement we must have a **Covid Continuity Plan** in place, in case a student, staff member or a parent is confirmed Covid positive. Part of the plan requires clear statements on staff vaccination and mask wearing. All our staff are fully vaccinated and we are working through the booster shot process. The Ministry has supplied us with ample stocks of medical grade masks for staff to wear. Staff with a mask exemption will display their exemption cards.

Adults are to wear masks when inside, they may remove them when eating or drinking. When outside they have the option of wearing a mask or not. Given the nature of our students across all the age levels, mask wearing is encouraged but we have to make allowances here.

The Plan also covers, Managing student and staff absence, Key Personnel, Board of Trustees responsibility, School Transport (taxis), Learning from Home, and our Host Schools and Site Closure.

The one advantage our school has is that we cover seven sites. It is highly unlikely that we will have to close the whole school, unless the Omicron variant gets out of control. Our Satellites are bound by their respective Host School's Plan.

Student Numbers: We start the year with a new record of 104 students, the highest number in our 57 year history. Several more students are expected to enroll. While some of our facilities are full we do have several spaces available in others. Our Board is actively seeking to establish new satellite options but it is far from an easy process.

Ngā mihi Kind regards
Barrie Wickens
Principal

Just a reminder to all our Whānau that there is a **Facebook page** set up just for you!

Just search: **Tauranga Special School Whānau Support Group** and ask to join.

This is a forum where you can share thoughts, ideas and knowledge, where you can ask for help and where you can get support when you need it.

We would encourage you to join.



Term Dates for 2022

Term 1 Wednesday 3rd February - Thursday 14th April

Term 2 Monday 2nd May - Friday 8th July

Term 3 Monday 25th July - Friday 30th September

Term 4 Monday 17th October - Thursday 15 December

Teacher only day - Monday 4th April

Teacher only day - Thursday 23rd June

Labour Day - Monday 24th October

TC3

We have had a great beginning to our year. We now have 11 young adults- 5 females and 7 males. Although we are a little restricted at the moment due to Omicron - Red Light level. We have a range of activities that we can still do during our week including art, writing, learning about money, fitness, sharing of news, SPEC Animals, swimming, sailing, cooking and in class responsibilities.

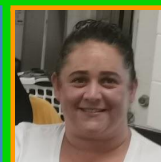
With support from our Speech Language Therapist we are learning about good social skills, including listening, looking at the speaker, asking questions to get more information and keeping a good distance.

Our work experience and Enterprise activities will involve gardening, loading/unloading and selling firewood plus some other fundraising activities such as pine cone collecting and selling.



Students

Staff



Work Experience & Fundraising



Gardening at St George's Church

Tauranga Intermediate Satellite

Room 43 students are pleased to be back at school and would like to welcome 3 new students, Tameta, Zico and Teoti to the class.

Everyone has been enjoying tuning into the Inquiry topic of Celebrations. Students have been exploring artifacts represented and used in different celebrations around the world and then deciding what they would like to learn more about.

