



**Tauranga  
Special  
School**  
Learning together

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## KAWERONGO - NEWSLETTER 22nd February 2023

**Kia ora koutou,**

The **extreme weather events** we have experienced at this time have challenged us all. Many areas of our country are in a State of Emergency and will be for some time. Thank you to our whole school community for the level of effort and support we have experienced with the closure of the school on Tuesday 14. Following major events, it is absolutely critical that we get our schools and kura back up and running as normal as possible for the sake of our students.

### **New Students and Staff:**

We are so excited to introduce our new students and their whānau to the Tauranga Special School community.



Troy Kellas  
Room 3



Kyran Bath  
Room 3

Te Ariki Trinick  
Room 3

We also have a number of new staff at our kura. A warm welcome to you all.

				
Luca -Pāpāmoa Coll Support staff	Kirsty Pāpāmoa Coll Teacher	Anna Welcome Bay Teacher	Nadine Studio 5 Support staff	Megan Physio
				
Awhina R3 Support staff	Bella R3 Support Staff	Charlene R3 Teacher	Jess TC3 Support staff	Richard Support Staff

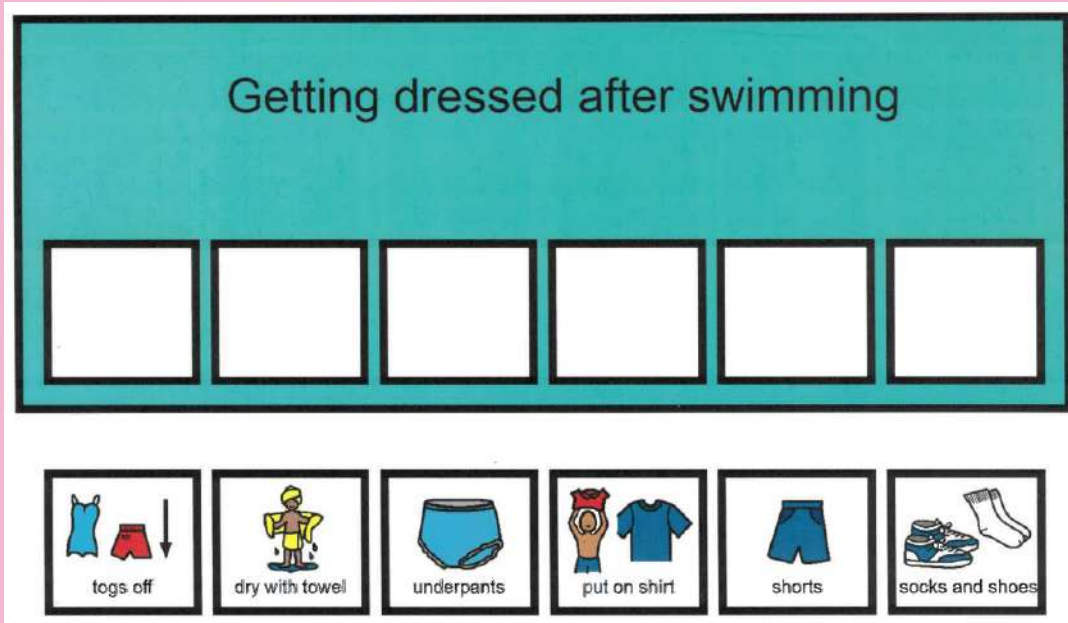
**Ngā mihi Kind regards**

**Barrie Wickens**

**Principal**

## Occupational therapy team

The Occupational Therapists (OTs) have been busy this term assessing all of our students' self-care skills. Our focus this term is increasing our students' independence with dressing themselves. Marcia (OT Assistant) has been supporting the base classes and satellite classes with dressing after swimming. We have been using the visual sequence below and the backward chaining dressing strategy to assist our tamariki.



We have also sent home some self-care checklists to help us understand what your child's self-care skills look like at home and what you would like us to support your child with at school. Please complete this when you can and send it back to school! 😊

The OTs have also been busy organising more sensory equipment for classes to help our students to meet their sensory needs and engage in learning.



Our team is growing with Amy Prouse joining the OT team 2 days a week! We are very excited about Amy joining us, her classes are still being decided.

### **Important dates and info for Term 1**

Board of Trustees Meeting: Tuesday 21 February 7pm Base School Staffroom

Kayak day @ Ōpūpū - Rotary Park 14th March

End of term 1 - Thursday April 6th

Term 2 starts - Wednesday 26 April

Monday 24th April- Staff Only Day Anzac day Tuesday 25th April

Please read the linked information regarding the measles outbreak in our community.

📄 [Measles-general-information-factsheet.pdf](#)

# Room 1

We have had a great start to the year in Room 1. We are learning about who we are. During cooking this week we tried tasting sour things. We then made a sweet and sour crackle. Everyone enjoyed taking part in cooking and giving the tasting a go. Tu meke Room 1!



# Te Kura o Manunui Satellite



Brookfield Primary has changed its name to Te Kura o Manunui in readiness for their move down the hill when the new school is built. The tamariki in Room 7 at our Te Kura o Manunui Satellite have had an awesome first few weeks back at school- exploring our space and adjusting to our new timetable and routines. Some of our favourite activities have been going to Argos Gym and swimming, as well as sensory play, dance, the playground and our new workboxes.



# Devonport Road Campus - DRC

**Pukeko Class** has been learning to communicate using a variety of means (e.g. PODD book, yes/no switches) that are set up for the individual students. During Kathleen's SLT session, the students have been developing their ability to express their feelings.



**Tui class** have been practising their communication skills. We have used a range of methods, including BIGmacks, visuals, hand over hand signing, coreboard and iPad communication to develop ways to ask for help in an appropriate manner.

