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WEEK 4 KAWERONGO - NEWSLETTER

22 May 2024

Kia ora koutou,

Heads Up Tauranga Special School Community:

Next year our school will be sixty years old. Our initial thinking at this stage is that we should celebrate this significant occasion as a Diamond Jubilee. At our Board of Trustees meeting held on Tuesday 21 May they approved that we hold the Jubilee. With this green light approval in the near future we will be calling for those interested to form an organisation committee.

Support Staff Day Celebrated Thursday 16 May:



Ngā mihi Kind regards
Barrie Wickens
Principal

Important dates:

Wednesday 29 May - Whānau & Community Hui, see flyer below

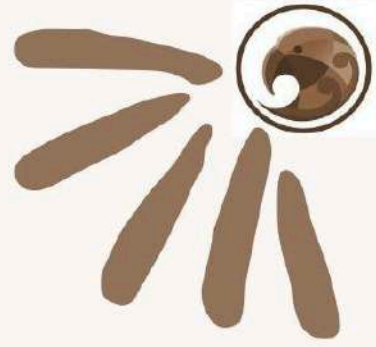
Monday 3rd June - King's Birthday (School closed)

Tuesday 4th June - Staff only Day (Closed for instruction)

Friday 28 June - Matariki (School closed)

INVITING OUR TSS...

Whānau & Community



Our first Whānau & Community Hui for 2024 is fast-approaching.

At this meeting, we will share information about our current school initiatives - and we invite your ideas too.

WHERE: Room 1 at Base

WHEN: 6-7pm Wednesday 29th May (kai provided)

WHAT: This term, we'll share information about:

- property updates
- curriculum changes
- Kapa Haka & Matariki updates
- Team Teach- new framework supporting us to understand behaviour and minimise risk and restraint

PLEASE RSVP BY 28/5/24

If you'd like to attend but will need supervision for your tamariki, please contact us so we can organise this - we'd love to see you.

naomim@taurangaspecialschool.nz or phone us on:
07 578 4424.

We would appreciate it if you could take a moment to fill in our Whānau Support Group Survey if you haven't already.

Please click on this link or copy and paste this link into your web browser

<https://forms.gle/jeq92hYU8duB2veu7>

The purpose of the Whānau Support Group is primarily to provide a forum where families can meet, share ideas/knowledge and have an opportunity to support each other.

Tauranga Special School acknowledges that families are the ones that best understand each other's journey/ara and are therefore best positioned to provide empathy and relevant guidance.

The aim of the group is to provide a safe and caring environment for our school families to come together, socialise and support one another, either as infrequently or frequently as you would like.

Room 2

This term the inquiry topic for the Term is 'Who are we?'. The class will be exploring local places of importance and peoples perspectives on the world depending on values, traditions and experiences.

One activity Room 2 students have experienced this term is making, icing and some, tasting cup cakes. Not everyone felt the same about this experience. Some ate them, some smelt and crumbled them and some preferred to just look. Later in the term theRoom 2 class will make cupcakes to share with their buddy class.



Welcome Bay - Kirsty's class

This term we have been inquiring into 'Who We Are' as New Zealanders. We have been exploring Aotearoa's people, local places and stories. We have enjoyed participating in the sensory story of 'The Whale Mountains' which is set in our local Rangataua Bay. We enjoyed exploring different sensory items and sharing our learning through art. We will be visiting Tye Park to view the bay later this week.



Welcome Bay - Anna's class

This term we had the 'Fun Run' at Welcome Bay school. All of our students participated and did the different obstacles in the event like the egg and spoon race, tunnel and walking the plank. We have also been going on outings for inquiry to learn about important places to us in Tauranga. We went to Memorial Park, we explored the natural environment and had fun on the playground!



Physiotherapy

Last week we celebrated Support Staff week and all the amazing work staff do at our kura. As part of the physiotherapy team, we are very fortunate to have Kim Harris as a physio assistant. Kim is also a qualified learn to swim instructor and this year has embarked on further professional development training and learning on teaching swimming skills to children with autism.

Here at TSS, we are particularly passionate about teaching water safety skills to all students as we are a coastal city and an island nation. We do this at our pool at base school teaching children to sit on the side of the pool and wait for an adult to be in the pool before they get in, jumping in and then turning around to hold onto the wall and teaching them to float on their back if they are able. At the community pools, we teach students to recognise what a life guard looks like and how to get help. We hope to do beach water safety skills in the summer terms and involve the local Surf Life Saving clubs.

Below Kim shares some of her learnings from the course so far:

- 1) People with ASD are often drawn to water. In particular, people with ASD have a greater tendency to wander - that is, they may leave a safe area in search of a retreat away from overstimulation (eg, crowds, noise or other stimuli) and may naturally gravitate towards water as a means of alleviating their sensory needs but without understanding the risks it may present. Supervision around water, including when bathing, is therefore paramount.
- 2) With the right support and learning environment, people with ASD can learn to swim.
- 3) It is worth noting that, although people with ASD may have had swimming lessons, they may experience difficulties translating these skills across different environments. Close supervision, and water safety education, including exposure to different aquatic environments, is essential in preventing drowning among people with ASD.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

The principles of **Keep Watch** apply to people with autism as well. These include:

- Supervise
- Restrict
- Teach
- Respond