



**Tauranga
Special
School**
Learning together

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Newsletter Week 7 16th March Term 1 2022

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau:

Navigating through these trying times: Thank you to those families in our school community for keeping us informed of any Covid-Omicron positive cases within your household. While we navigate through these trying times, keeping us informed is a critical step to ensure our school stays open. On a daily basis we may have up to 20 staff and twenty students away at any one time. With the reduction of home isolation for positive cases from 10 days to 7, this decision has been helpful to a point. However! Not everyone recovers in seven days. Getting a clear RAT test result is the key.

One quick way to find out where to get tested is through google RAT Test Pick Up.
Bay of Plenty DHB Rapid Antigen Testing (RATs) or Call Free 0800222478

Highest Needs Review: The Ministry of Education is currently conducting a review into how they resource education for students with highest needs including ORS. The review closes on 31st March. Information about this can be found here along with a link to the portal to have your say. [:https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/changes-in-education/highest-needs-review/](https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/changes-in-education/highest-needs-review/) The review asks 3 key questions for 6 sections. You don't have to do it all- just do the areas you are interested in. Here are the questions:

- What is happening in your community that is working well?
- What do you want to see happening?
- How might barriers for learners with the highest support needs be removed?

Please take the time to have your say especially from the perspective of whānau who have chosen to send students to a Special School.

Ngā mihi Kind regards
Barrie Wickens
Principal

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

Queen's Birthday - Monday 6th June

Labour Day - Monday 24th October



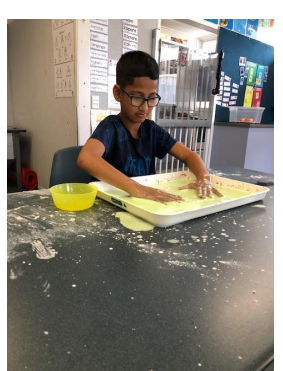
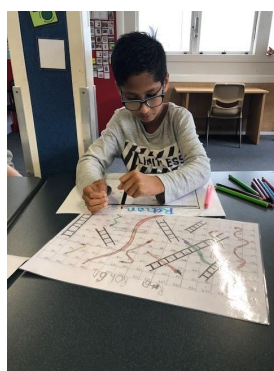
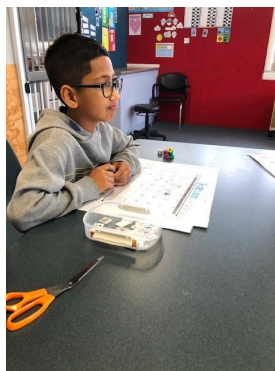
Room 4



A term of fun learning for all!

This term we have made new friends, carried out science experiments to learn about hot and cold and created art works. We have read some books and listened to music about celebrations from around the World. We have enjoyed swimming in our school pool and riding bikes. While it has been hard to have the whole class together at school due to the impact of Omicron absences, we have managed as best we can.

We look forward to a more settled Term 2.





Welcome Bay



In Kahikatea we have been learning about celebrations for our inquiry topic. We love to celebrate together! We have been learning through play and interactions with props that remind us about parts of a celebration. This has included music, dance, bucket time, party games, art and a range of sensory activities. We have been asking questions with words and visuals as well as through trying things out and exploring new things. What a fun way to learn!!

At our Tauranga Intermediate Satellite, we are continually working on the knowledge and understanding that links with home, school and the community, which gives our students opportunities to become more actively engaged in our multicultural nation. Despite the impact of the Covid-Omicron situation we have continued to promote these links in the following ways.



We have had excursions to outdoor locations such as Tutarawānanga and Pukehinahina where our students are learning about the historical and cultural history of our community. We are actively engaged with our school community through morning walks around our school grounds and weekly trips to the school library. These opportunities allow our students and staff to interact with mainstream classes and learn about cultures in our community through books. Twice weekly we visit our Base School for swimming which allows our students and staff to enjoy being offsite and mixing with others from our school.



**Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.
With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive.**

This whakatauki talks to the community, to collaboration and a strengths-based approach. It acknowledges that everybody has something to offer, a piece of the puzzle, and by working together we can all flourish.