



39 18th Avenue
Tauranga 3112
Telephone: (07) 5784424
Email: office@taurangaspecialschool.nz
Website www.taurangaspecialschool.nz
Facebook: facebook.com/TGASpecialSchool

WEEK 3 KAWERONGO - NEWSLETTER

21 February 2025

A very warm welcome back to our whole Tauranga Special School community, and special greetings to our new students, their families and a number of new staff.

Thank you to our families for the very high turn out to our Wā whakakotahi - Learning Partnership Day held on Tuesday 4 February this year. The initial feedback we have received from parents and staff indicates that the meetings were very valuable in terms of meeting and greeting each other, providing updates on each student's well being, and collecting essential information. Through Storypark we put out a small survey to families for feedback as well. We received 8 responses but would like more.

We ended the 2024 school year with a student role of 118. We started this year with 121. We have two or three more students starting soon. The Ministry of Education has informed us that our maximum role capacity across all our sites is 127 students. Our own estimate was 125. We will most likely reach the maximum figure before the end of this term. We have now created a 'Waiting List', for families that approach us seeking to enrol with us. If a student was to leave, we would review our Waiting List to see if there was a student that would be best suited to the class age level and compatibility.

Erica Stanford, Education Minister, is very much in tune with our nation's 36 day specialist schools network. She knows there are Waiting Lists in many of the schools and a serious lack of satellite class provision. She supports parental choice but until more property provision is delivered, Waiting Lists will remain in place. Our Board is proactive in seeking additional satellites across the Tauranga region, but it is an extremely difficult task as 99% of the schools are at their maximum roll capacities.

Kia ora koutou,

Ngā mihi Kind regards
Barrie Wickens
Tumuaki/Principal

Important dates:

6 March	Special Olympics
21 March	Picnic Day
11 April	End of Term 1
28 April	Start of Term 2
2 & 3 May	TSS Jubilee Birthday Celebrations
14 May	Special Olympics - Tenpin
29 May	Special Olympics - Football
2 June	King's Bday - School closed

Welcome Bay - Anna

The school year is off to a fantastic start! The Toroa students have settled into their new class so well. It's great to see them embracing new routines and building connections with new students and staff. We have been busy engaging in a variety of activities. They have loved exploring the ocean through our sensory story and trying tools for tool box time, such as slime and the foot spa to support regulation. We've also been out in the community developing skills and having fun at the gym, pool and RDA.



Welcome Bay - Kirsty

We have had a great start to the new year in our brand new classroom, with new friends and new activities! We have particularly enjoyed using our senses to explore our environment and the things we like.



KEA CLASS 2025!



Room 2 - Michael

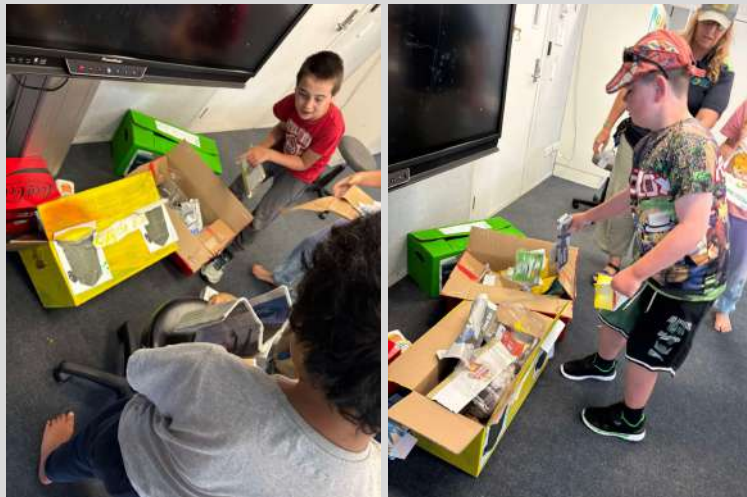
It has been a great start to the year for Room 2. We have all been having fun playing outside and playing with our friends.



Room 4 - Hayley

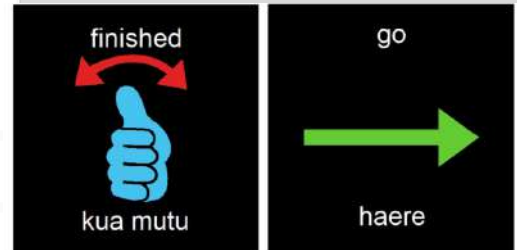
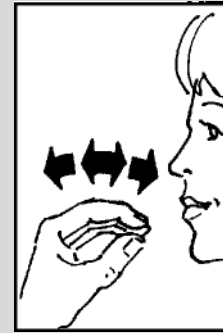
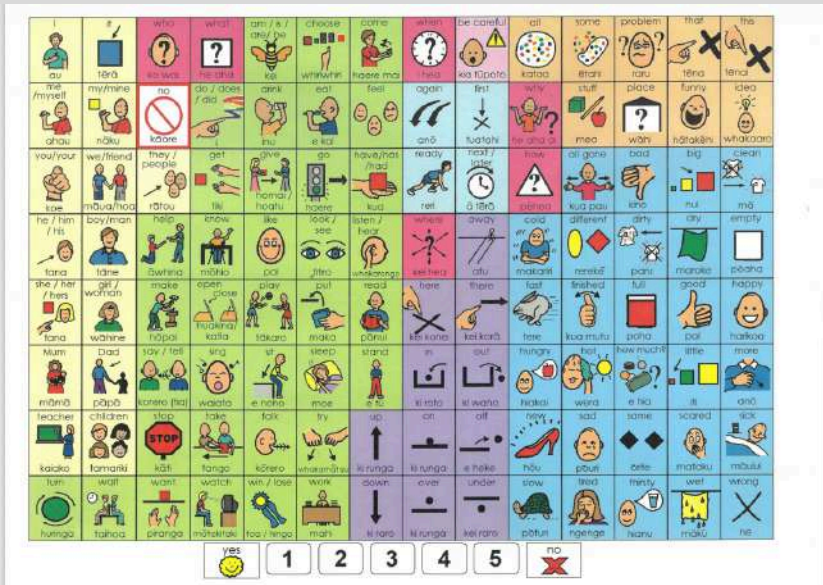
In Room 4 we have had a great start to the year with some new faces for both staff and students.

All the students have shown a keen interest in our topic of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Within this topic we created our own bins to practise sorting different items into their correct category. The staff collected a range of items for the students to sort. The following day, they asked to do it again. Yay!



Supporting Communication at Tauranga Special School

At TSS we support our students' understanding using 'The Rule of 2' where in addition to our spoken word we use another form of communication eg. signing, using natural gestures, coreboard, visuals or the student's communication system.



Please note for our students who are deaf the rule of two would include two visual communication forms. For our low vision students we would use systems that they can touch, or are adapted for their vision.

Speech and Language Therapy

The SLT team works to develop communication and eating, drinking, and swallowing skills.



Billie Hampton Edwards
Kaiarataki mātanga - Team Leader
Kaiwhakatika i te Reo Kōrero
Speech Language Therapist



Kit Hardy
Kaiwhakatika i te Reo Kōrero
Speech Language Therapist



Rebecca Scott
Kaiwhakatika i te Reo Kōrero
Speech Language Therapist



Kathleen Faulls
Kaiwhakatika i te Reo Kōrero
Speech Language Therapist

If you would like to discuss any of this please don't hesitate to talk to your class SLT :)