

PATRICIA AVENUE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

078569350



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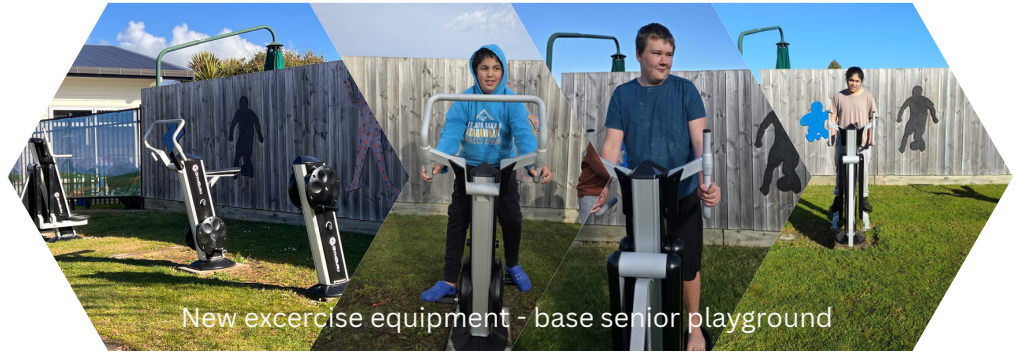
Learning for Living



New Library Tree

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **TERM 3 Week 5**
20 August
Special Olympics - Basketball
- * **21 August**
Specialist Schools Celebration Day
- * **Week 6**
25 August
Roopuu Meeting
- * **Week 7**
03 September
Junior Cross Country
04 September
Senior Cross Country
- * **Week 8**
11 September
AIMS Games (Fairfield/Marian)
- * **Week 9 MAAORI LANGUAGE WK**
15 September
Special Olympics Indoor Bowls
17 September
Kapa Haka Festival
- * **Week 10**
24 September
Launched Disability Festival
25 September
LAST DAY OF TERM - School close normal time



New exercise equipment - base senior playground

Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to Term 3! It has been a busy start to the term, and there is plenty to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

One of our special highlights will be Specialist School Celebration Day on Friday 21 August. On this day, we will officially open our new sensory garden in the senior play area. While the garden was completed early in Term 2, we decided to delay its opening to allow the plants time to establish and for the winter weather conditions to improve. We are excited to finally share this wonderful space with our students and community.

This term also marks the first time the Regional Specialist Schools Kapa Haka Festival will be hosted locally. Patricia Avenue School and Hamilton North Special School are proud to co-host the event on 17 September, where our talented Performance Kapa Haka Group will have the opportunity to showcase their skills and represent our school community.

We would also like to remind families about the importance of notifying the school when students are absent. In response to increased Ministry expectations around attendance reporting, as well as recent issues affecting school transport services in other parts of the country, we have reviewed our procedures for managing student absences. We are aiming to be more proactive in ensuring attendance information is accurate and up to date. We appreciate your support in helping us with this by notifying the school if your child will be away. Absences can be reported via phone, Hero, or Skool Loop.

Finally, we are pleased to share some positive news regarding our new Transition site. Refurbishment work is about to begin, and we are hopeful that we will be able to start using this exciting new space in Frankton before the end of the school year.

We look forward to another busy and rewarding term together.

Ngaa mihi nui
Andrea



New fencing and gated garden area to keep our students safe at the Te Awamutu Satellite Unit

Introducing.....



My name is Shavani Rajah, and I am delighted to be joining the Patricia Avenue School whaanau. My family and I have recently relocated from Gisborne to Hamilton, where we are excited to begin this new chapter together.

I bring 20 years of teaching experience across a variety of school settings in

both South Africa and New Zealand. Most recently, I had the privilege of teaching in a special needs unit in Gisborne, where I discovered an even deeper passion for supporting tamariki with diverse learning needs. It was a role that truly captured my heart, and I am thrilled to continue this journey at Patricia Avenue School.

My teaching philosophy is built on the belief that trust and strong relationships are the foundation of learning. When tamariki feel safe, valued, and understood, they are empowered to grow with confidence. I am passionate about fostering independence, encouraging curiosity, and creating meaningful, play-based learning experiences that celebrate every child's unique strengths and achievements. I am looking forward to getting to know our wonderful tamariki, building strong partnerships with whaanau, and working alongside the amazing Patricia Avenue team. I can't wait to learn, laugh, and celebrate many special moments together.



Kia Ora Whaanau,

My name is Megan, and I'm so excited to be joining the Patricia Avenue School community. I am originally from South Africa and have been fortunate enough to make New Zealand my home for the past four years. My background is in early childhood teaching, where I have

loved supporting tamariki to develop their confidence, independence, and love of learning.

I'm particularly passionate about inclusive education and I deeply value creating inclusive learning environments where every child feels seen, supported, and able to succeed. I am also passionate about building strong, trusting relationships with children and getting to know each learner as an individual. I believe every child has their strengths, interests, and way of learning, and I love finding ways to adapt learning so that every child can experience success and feel proud of their progress.

Outside of teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family. I have a wonderful husband and a little boy who keep life busy, fun, and full of adventure. We love getting outdoors and making the most of our beautiful life in Aoteroa.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year of learning, growth, and connection together!

Ngaa mihi nui,
Megan

Parent Info



Hero - Student Management System

Stay connected: download the Hero app (QR code) or open it in your browser and create an account with the email you gave the school. For details click the link:

<https://our-hero.com/parent-guide>

Absence messages sent via Hero go straight into the attendance register for fast communication and accurate records. Please send messages before 9.15am. Unexplained absences will trigger an automated text—please reply promptly so we can account for your child.



Reminder, if you know or suspect your child is sick please keep them at home to avoid the transmission of any bugs as we have a number of vulnerable students.

Did you know absence messages can be sent via the HERO or SKOOL LOOP App, or call the landline 078569350 and leave a message on the STUDENT ABSENT LINE and provide a reason why your child is absent.

School Programmes

Junior Base Playtime

Our Junior Base playtime continues to grow, with an ever-expanding assortment of ways to play, explore, and connect, catering to the wonderfully diverse needs and interests of our students.

Our permanent play equipment—swings, slides, and the trampoline—provides plenty of vestibular input, enthusiastically sought out by many of our junior students. There is always lots of movement, energy, and happy faces!

We are also seeing some wonderful independent, Montessori-style play emerging. Students are encouraged to explore materials in their own way and use their imaginations. A hat can become a shoe, Duplo can be transformed into a classroom, and a piece of fabric can suddenly become a superhero cape! These moments of discovery, creativity, and problem-solving are a lovely part of lunchtime play.

Our sensory play opportunities are steadily expanding too. We are introducing more tactile materials that can be scattered, spread, squashed, and kneaded, giving students opportunities to explore different textures and sensations at their own pace.

And, of course, we have our regular crowd-pleasers! Music, bubbles and balloons continue to attract a very enthusiastic audience and provide lots of opportunities for shared enjoyment and social interaction.

It is wonderful to see our lunchtime play programme thriving. More choices, more exploration, more connection—and lots of happy kids.

Dorota Broda - Play Programme Coordinator



Classroom Feature

Room 6

The Room 6 students have been participating in weekly music and dance sessions in the multipurpose room. During these sessions, the students are provided with a variety of musical instruments, equipment, and costumes, allowing them the freedom to choose what they would like to use. The students particularly enjoy drumming with the boomwhackers and using the scarves as they move to the music.

It has been wonderful to see the students frequently initiate interactions with staff throughout the sessions. Positive relationships between staff and students continue to grow, and it has also been encouraging to observe increased interaction among the students themselves.

The music and dance sessions are supporting the students' physical fitness, as they remain active and engaged for the full hour. The students are especially enthusiastic about rock music, which consistently motivates them to get up and move.

Another significant benefit of these sessions is the positive impact they have on the students' emotional regulation. The activities provide an enjoyable and engaging outlet that helps students feel calm, focused, and regulated. We are thoroughly enjoying these sessions and look forward to continuing them in the future.



EOTC

Gymnastics

Every year for Terms 2 and 3, we offer junior and middle students the opportunity to attend gymnastics at Hamilton City Gymnastics (HCG). These sessions are run by HCG coaches with the support of our teachers and LSAs. Gymnastics sessions are a great opportunity to support students develop and improve gross/fine motor skills, balance, coordination, and strength. The structured lessons also support students learning conceptual themes, such as; start/stop, lead/follow, and various approaches to problem solving and social integration. It is exciting to see students achieve success in gymnastics, whether it's mastering a new skill or simply completing a routine.



More Parent Info

Regional Sports Day

A fun, inclusive day of sport and activities in **Hamilton**

📅 Saturday 12 September
 ⌚ 10.30am–1.15pm
 📍 The Peak, Hamilton

Join us!
Basketball | Indoor Bowls | Badminton

Student Achievements

Well Done Shayden!



Shayden Reeve

Villains

Youth Award Entrant

Artwork Number: 196

All the Disney villains.

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 27cm x 40cm

Congratulations to Shayden Reeve from Mangakootukutuku(MKT) 2, whose artwork has been selected for the 2026 IHC Art Awards exhibition currently on display in Wellington. Shayden can often be found during break times working on his cartoon-style artwork and has taken great pleasure in seeing his work, Disney Villains, selected for this

year's awards. The awards celebrate the creativity of artists with intellectual disabilities and provide an opportunity to share their work with a wider audience. We are delighted to report that his piece sold soon after the exhibition opened – to a mystery buyer – and we believe he plans to spend his profits on future art supplies.



Regional Sports Day happening in Hamilton on **Saturday 12 September, at The Peak** – a great opportunity for students who could benefit from an inclusive, supportive sporting environment.

When:

- 10.30am – 11.45am: Basketball
- 12.00pm – 1.15pm: Indoor Bowls & Badminton

This day is designed to be low-pressure and welcoming – students don't need to be registered Special Olympics athletes to take part, and there's no cost or formal registration required to come and try. It's simply a chance to experience sport in a fun, supported setting alongside others.

[Special Olympics New Zealand Regional Sports Day Expression of Interest – Fill out form](#)

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