

PATRICIA AVENUE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Learning for Living



AIMS Games Participants

Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou,

It is hard to believe that we are already in the final week of Term 3. The last few weeks have flown by and have included several special highlights:

- ★ The opening of our new Sensory Garden
- ★ Our first-ever team attending the AIMS Games
- ★ Co-hosting the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Specialist Schools Kapa Haka Festival

Each of these achievements has required vision, dedication, and teamwork. We are grateful to our staff for bringing these opportunities to life, and to our students and whānau for their enthusiasm, support, and participation. We will conclude the term performing at the Launched Disability Festival on Thursday.

In Week 8, members of the Board took part in a "satellite tour" of our sites. It was a valuable opportunity to connect with staff and students, review our learning environments, and consider future developments as we begin planning and budgeting for 2027. It is exciting to see progress on the refurbishment of our new Transition Hub over the past few weeks. This development represents another important step in enhancing the learning opportunities and support available to our students. We look forward to the Transition Hub being completed and ready for occupancy later this year.

Planning for 2027 involves considering student placements and staffing. This process is already underway, and senior leaders may contact some families to discuss options for their child, particularly if they are approaching a significant stage in their learning journey and a transition to another school site may be appropriate. Partnership with families is a key value of our school, and we encourage you to share any questions, thoughts, or ideas you may have throughout this process.

While we have welcomed several wonderful new staff members this year, we also have some farewells to acknowledge this term. Firstly, we wish Sarah Harrison all the very best as she leaves us to begin a new chapter in private community practice. Sarah has been part of our school for a number of years, first as an intern and later as one of our school psychologists. We thank her for her contribution and dedication to our students and school community.

We also farewell Vicki Elliott after an extraordinary association with our school spanning almost 20 years. During that time, Vicki has held a variety of roles, demonstrating her versatility, commitment, and willingness to embrace new challenges. Her positive impact on our school community has been significant, and she will be greatly missed. We wish Vicki every happiness in her well-deserved retirement to enjoy more time with family.

Ngaai mihi nui Andrea

UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 3

- * **Week 10**
24 Sept Launched Disability Festival
- 25 Sept LAST DAY OF TERM 3 –
School close normal time

Term 4

- * **Week 1**
12 Oct First day Term 4
15 Oct Shake Out Day
- * **Week 2**
19 Oct Book Week
21 Oct Sailability
- * **Week 3**
27 Oct Roopuu Meeting
28 Oct Sailability
- * **Week 6**
17 Nov Roopuu Meeting
- * **Week 7**
27 Nov **Senior Dance**
- * **Week 8 Senior Camp Week**
- * **Week 9**
08 Dec Roopuu Meeting
08 – 11 Dec EOTC Awards
- * **Week 10**
16 Dec Last Day of Year
School will close
@ 12pm

Introducing.....



Kia Ora Patricia Avenue School Community,

I am Bimal Kumar, and I am absolutely elated to join your elite community. Originally from Fiji, I bring 28 years of rich teaching experience, including 15 years of mainstream teaching (Years 5–8) and 8 years of primary school leadership (Assistant Head Teacher & Head of School.)

Most recently, I spent two and a half years in a Special School Setting in Melbourne, Victoria, which ignited my deep passion for supporting students with diverse needs.

I am fully committed to upholding our school values, code of conduct, ethics, and norms. Guided by honesty, trust, and respect, my goal is to foster confidence and independence while uncovering the hidden talents of our beloved students. My approach is always going to be humble, approachable, adoptable, and reliable.

I really look forward to blending our curriculum with fun, play-based, and strength-based learning to get the best out of every child. Outside the classroom, I am a sports lover, active football player, cultural music enthusiast, and dedicated community servant. Together, through collaboration, we will ensure our environment remains inclusive, conducive, and productive.

EOTC



This year marked a first for Patricia Avenue School, with Ethan and Kayden from our Marian Satellite, and George and Jayden from our Fairfield Satellite, representing Pat Ave at AIMS Games in table tennis. The boys had a fantastic day of competition in Tauranga and represented our school with pride and enthusiasm.

A huge thank you to the teachers, learning support assistants and whaanau who supported the boys, and to Table Tennis Waikato for their coaching and encouragement in the lead-up to the event. We really appreciated everyone's contribution and hope to take another Pat Ave group to AIMS Games in the near future.

Cari Emslie - PE Coordinator



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.



Satellite Feature

Cambridge Satellite



This term has brought some exciting opportunities for students at Cambridge Middle Satellite. Thanks to a trike on loan from Base School and recent playground improvements, students have enjoyed new ways to build confidence, independence, and physical skills while having fun outdoors.

The trike was a fantastic addition, allowing students to participate more fully in community walks and outdoor activities. Over five weeks, students developed greater strength, coordination, endurance, and confidence, while also practising important safety skills such as wearing helmets, stopping at crossings, and navigating their surroundings safely. Most importantly, they loved exploring the community and spending time outdoors.

We were also thrilled to see the addition of new steps to our playground structure. This upgrade has made the top level more accessible, enabling more students to independently explore, climb, and enjoy all areas of the playground. It has been wonderful to see students confidently using the new steps and embracing new opportunities for play. Both initiatives have created plenty of smiles, excitement, and achievement, supporting students to develop physical skills, confidence, and independence in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

A big thank you to Base School for lending us the trike and helping to provide such a valuable opportunity for our students.

Bronwyn Nicholas and Sarah Mitchell - Teachers



Satellite Feature

Transition 1: What is DNA?

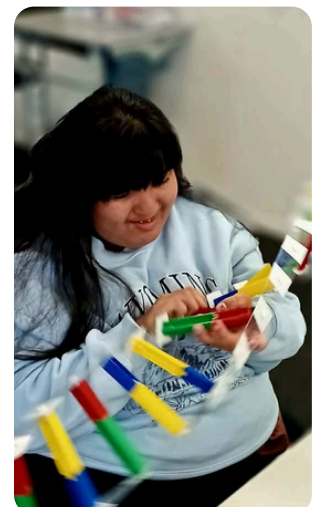
Students from Transition 1 have been learning about DNA through our recent House of Science box. We found out that DNA is made up of four chemical letters that when put in different order it can make different plants, animals, and other living things. Similar to music – different order of notes makes different songs.

One of our activities was to collect a DNA sample from the Waikato River as part of a nationwide project by EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) to track the biodiversity of our waterways.

For this activity, two students were chosen to safely collect the water sample. They had to don gloves, and pump approximately a litre of water through a syringe attached to a filter. They took the device back to Transition where we labelled the sample with the longitude and latitude data from where it was collected, and dropped it at the post office to be sent to EPA.

Over the next few months, our sample will have DNA cultures grown from it, which we will be able to find out what lives in our awa. Is it longfin eels, or a taniwha?

Amy Rogers - Teacher



Classroom Feature

Room 8's Playground Adventures & Creative Creations!

Room 8 has had an incredibly busy and exciting term taking our learning out into the playground! Our young scientists turned the playground mountain into a racetrack, exploring how fast different toy cars could zoom down the slope. We investigated whether the size and weight of the cars changed their speed, and measured just how far they could travel.

We also braved the senior playground to test out the impressive climbing frame and the flying fox. Through some hands-on fun, we even discovered a bit of physics in action – noticing that our bigger and heavier students zoomed down the flying fox the fastest!

Back in the classroom, a strong passion for building emerged. Several students showed an interest in construction, choosing to design and build a wonderful range of structures for their self-directed topic time. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and curiosity shine.

Anja Steyn – Classroom Teacher



Free Tickets

We have free tickets to following events:

- Under 12yrs Special Children's Christmas Party – emails sent to parents and caregivers directly – Saturday 5th December
- Great Kiwi Circus – Sunday 27 September
- Caring for Families – Pool Party 10:00am to 12:00pm on Sunday 6th December

Circus and Pool Party please check Hero Community Feed Notices

School Transport: In July 2026, we let you know that the Ministry of Education had initiated an independent review of its Specialised School Transport Assistance (SESTA) operations to identify opportunities to strengthen the safety, quality and effectiveness for ākonga.

To read the email to parents and the review visit our website: <https://www.patave.school.nz/transport/>

Parent Information



THE WILSON HOME TRUST

GRANTS FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

Grant funding is available for children and young adults that have a physical disability up to the age of 22 - check out the qualifying criteria at:

www.wilsonhometruster.org.nz

Equipment / Activity Grants

Respite and Holiday Grants

Young Adults Grants

Only two more closing dates before the end of the year - 1 October and 19 November



For More Information:

www.wilsonhometruster.org.nz

0800 948 787 or email info@wilsonhometruster.org.nz

We're celebrating all things biking!

Biketober

Sign up for our Biketober school holiday activities

<https://hamilton.govt.nz/parking-and-transport/transport/biking/biketober>



Hamilton City Council
Te Kaitiaki o Kaitiaki



Special Feature

Kapa Haka Festival

On Thursday, in the heart of Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori, our school had the privilege of co-hosting the Regional Specialist Schools Kapa Haka Festival in Kaarapiro alongside Hamilton North School. The festival brought together talented aakonga (students), dedicated kaimahi (staff), and supportive whaanau from across the rohe for a day of celebration, connection, and performance. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as groups took the stage to share their hard work, learning, and passion for kapa haka.

The event celebrated our reo, our waiata, and our culture. Most importantly, it was an opportunity to shine a spotlight on our greatest taonga, our aakonga. Months of practice and preparation were evident in every performance, with each group proudly sharing their learning through song, movement, and expression.

One of the highlights of the day was the incredible support shown by everyone in attendance. Each performing group was welcomed with enthusiastic applause and encouragement, creating a sense of whanaungatanga and belonging that reflected the true spirit of the festival.

The trophies were awarded as follows:

Waiata – Kia Kaha Trophy – Just Give it a Go: Hamilton North for Toku reo toku maapihi maurea! Awesome waiata to celebrate Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori.

Poi: Patricia Avenue for Karawhiua ngaa poi – Ka Tika! Beautiful display for letting the poi fly and also served as a whakawhiti for the haka.

Haka – The Anaru Raniheuea Memorial Trophy: Rotorua Special School for Te Whakatairanga I ngaa haka e toru o Te Arawa waka! It was the gift that kept on giving!

Whanaungatanga – The Jack Waitai Memorial Trophy: Tauranga Special School for Ngau mai ngaa pukenga o te titi tooria! A great show of skill and connection with each other and out taonga titi tooria.

Kotahitanga – In Recognition of the contributions of Michelle Lynn and Tahi Bidois: Goldfields for I Whakatinanan ngaa kupu a Kiingi Tawhiao! Ki te kaapuia, e kore e whati. Embodying the words of the kiingitanga, working as a collective and encouraging togetherness.

Kaakahu – Tutanekai Trophy: Rotorua Special School for Ataahua rawa atu, taiea ana ngaa kaakahu. From the piupiu, to the tiipare, to the mau taakau!

It was a wonderful celebration of culture, community, and achievement, and a reminder of the power of coming together to uplift and celebrate one another.

Ka mau te wehi to everyone involved!

