



# PATRICIA AVENUE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 7

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## From the Principal

## Term Four Highlights & Health Reminder

Term Four is usually one filled with memorable moments and meaningful milestones as we wrap up another school year—and it's already been a busy one, with more to come!

A significant highlight will be the challenges and joys of senior school camp, where students build confidence and connection in the great outdoors. Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) has been a key focus over the past two years, as we strive to ensure all students are included, connected to their community, and encouraged to participate in and enjoy physical activity.

Later this term, we'll celebrate student achievements through our EOTC medal ceremonies, recognising the growth and effort students have shown since the programme's introduction in 2024.

As part of our commitment to supporting student transitions, placement visits will begin shortly to assist those navigating changes. We aim to ensure every learner feels safe and supported in their journey. Careful consideration is given to all placement decisions, and any recommendations or proposed movements will be discussed with you, along with opportunities to visit any new sites. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's team leader if you have any questions or concerns.

While we celebrate these highlights, we also want to remind families to remain vigilant in light of the current measles outbreak. Although it hasn't reached the Waikato region, it's important to monitor your child's health. If they're feeling unwell—especially with symptoms such as fever, cough, or rash—please keep them home and seek medical advice. Your caution helps protect our school community.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. We look forward to sharing more great moments with you as the term progresses!

Ngaa mihi Andrea



## Upcoming Events

**Senior School Leavers Dance**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

Venue: The Link  
More information has been sent. Ticket purchase by 12<sup>th</sup> November



**Senior Camp**

Week 9 1- 5 December

## 2026 Term Dates

**Term One** 04 Feb - Thurs 02 Apr

**Term Three** 20 Jul - 25 Sept

**Waitangi Day** 06 February

**School Close for Staff Only Days: 12 and 13 February**

*NB These date are not able to be negotiated. They are the Waikato dates for our involvement in the MOE funded school literacy professional learning and development (PLD)*

**Term Two** 20 Apr - 03 July

**Term Four** 12 Oct - 16 Dec

**Anzac Day** 27 April

**Labour Day** 26 Oct

**Kings's Birthday** 01 June

## Introducing...

Brittany Faulds



My name is Brittany, and I'm so excited to be part of the Patricia Avenue team. Originally from South Africa, I moved to New Zealand with my family a year ago. I've been working in special education for nearly 10 years. After spending a year in early childhood education, I felt a strong pull to return to specialist teaching, where my true passion lies.

I deeply value relationships and connection in my teaching practice and love supporting each learner to discover their unique strengths and potential. Outside of teaching, I enjoy exploring new places, spending quality time with my family, and cooking in the kitchen.

Bronwyn Nicholas



Hi, my name is Bronwyn. I'm a proud Mum of two teenage girls. When I'm not busy racing them around, I like to get outdoors and spend time with family and friends. I have been teaching for many years and began my special education journey in the Conductive Education Unit at Woodstock school ten years ago.

I fell in love with the children and families and reignited my passion for teaching. Central to my practice is the belief that meaningful learning begins with meaningful relationships—between teachers, students and whaanau. I bring a sense of humour, patience, and creativity to my work. I'm delighted to be joining Patricia Avenue School and look forward to working with a great team and engaging with the wider community.

Meldie Cagoco



Hi, everyone! I am Meldie. I just started with Patricia Avenue School last Friday. I've been in different classrooms each day, observing and picking up ideas while learning how things work here. It's been amazing to see how much care and teamwork go into supporting students every day. Before moving here, I taught Special Education for two years in the Philippines and five years in the U.S. I'm so happy to be here and excited to learn and grow!

## In our class....

### Room 6 Bucket Time Fun!

Room Six students have been thoroughly enjoying Bucket Time with our wonderful LSAs, Sharon and Cary. Through a range of exciting games and sensory activities, students are developing their gross and fine motor skills, as well as practising turn-taking and waiting. Everyone looks forward to these engaging sessions every Wednesday and Friday—well done to all involved.



## In our class....

### Room 9 Writers in Action – Any Tool, Any Time!

Throughout 2025 we have been steadily introducing a range of writing purposes and modes, including writing to learn letter names and sounds, predictive chart writing, and independent writing. We have enjoyed exploring sensory writing, Bucket Time writing, smartboard writing, and writing using digital keyboards. We are all at different stages on our learning journey – but we are all successful writers. Ka pai!



### OT Students @ Mangakootukutuku Satellite

The university occupational therapy students from across Patricia Avenue, visited our school as part of their placement to do hands on activities with our students at the MKT College Satellite. They offered balloon painting, cloud dough which involved fine motor skills, problem solving, sensory input and loads of fun! Thank you for a fabulous time!



# Community Notices

We have recently acquired flyers and emails from various organizations that can provide assistance and information. These flyers will be included in an email, along with a digital copy of this newsletter. Furthermore, they will also be available on our website. It might be useful to keep these materials accessible for future reference, should the need arise. Here are the organizations:



THE WILSON HOME TRUST

**The Wilson Home Trust** provide grants for physically disabled children and young adults - next round of funding closes on 20 November. Contact: info@wilsonhometruster.org.nz or call 09 488 0126 or 0800 948 787



Feeling overwhelmed and concerned about your child and needing some guidance and strategies to help. **Connected Families** may be your answer.

Connected Families is a WINZ registered provider, if families are eligible for WINZ support, WINZ can pay \$80.25 per week for services. www.connectedfamilies.org.nz - mobile 022 079 8860

**THE DISABILITY JOURNEY INTO ADULthood**  
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW & HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

**The DISABILITY JOURNEY INTO ADULthood** is a group that provide information and support for individuals with disabilities and their families navigating the transition from school into adulthood. The group also provide online meetings during the year: contact robyn@realworldliving.co.nz for more information or find them on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/disabilityjourneyinto adulthood/>

## A Heartfelt Thank You!

We extend our gratitude to the businesses that have generously sponsored the SKOOL LOOP app. Your support has enabled us to offer this messaging service to our school and families at no cost whatsoever. There are no fees for downloading the app or sending messages.

Mitchell Construction Ltd

## Reminders

You must inform the school if any of your contact details have changed—in case of emergencies.

When your child is absent from school to please notify the school by calling 078569350 select student absent option and leave a clear message providing the reason for absence.

You can also send a message via the SKOOL LOOP APP or the website <https://www.patave.school.nz/report-an-absence/>

If you do not provide a reason we have to follow the Ministry's guidelines and mark them as truant.

## Skool Loop App



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