

PATRICIA AVENUE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Learning for Living



BSLA TRAINING

Better Start Literacy Approach professional development recently attended by all our staff



Welcome to 2026!

Message from the Principal

It has been a slightly unusual start to the year with two short weeks. I would like to extend my thanks for your understanding around the teacher-only days. The two days were well spent, and I have a real sense of optimism regarding the new Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA), which has been specifically developed for specialist schools and for students with additional learning needs.

It is quite groundbreaking to have the Ministry of Education provide both professional development and documentation designed specifically to ensure we are part of an inclusive learning continuum at a national level. BSLA is a three-term professional learning and development programme for staff, and over the next few weeks we will be moving into an assessment phase. For now, the best way you can support us—and your child—with their literacy is to enjoy books together.

Many of you will be well aware of the pull that devices have, but they do come with their downsides! Spending just 10 minutes with your child reading a storybook helps to build a lovely foundation and a love of reading. If you would like us to send home a regular supply of library books, please reach out to your class teacher, as this can easily be arranged.

Some of you might be missing Seesaw, which had become a valuable way of sharing information and learning. Apologies for this gap—we are moving to a different platform, Hero, which will allow us to have a more streamlined, single student management system. Information is included in this newsletter, and many of you may be able to set yourselves up. For anyone who needs a little extra help, the time before or after your IEP meeting will be ideal for someone to support you.

We have a lot to squeeze into a short term, and we've got off to a great start. Teachers, therapists, and team leads have enjoyed the opportunity over the past few weeks to discuss your priorities for your child during IEP meetings, and we look forward to those still to come in the next few weeks. Working together—in partnership—is incredibly important to us, and we genuinely appreciate you making the time to attend these important planning meetings.

Ngaa mihi nui

Andrea

UPCOMING EVENTS

* week 5-8

March 2nd - 20th March

IEP Meetings

* Week 6

11 March 2026

Junior Sailability Trip

12 March 2026

BOT Meeting

Special Olympics Athletics

* Week 7

20 March 2026

Special Olympics Gymnastics

* Week 8

26 March 2026

BOT Meeting

27 March 2026

Jnr Satellite colour run

* Week 9

01 -02 April

Special Assembly Medal Presentation - TBC

02 April

Last day of Term 1 -close normal time

Introducing.....

Melissa Joll – Psychology Intern



Kia ora my name is Melissa, I am an intern psychology student doing a placement at Patricia Avenue School while completing my final year of study at the University of Waikato. I will be taking on a caseload of students and my practice will be supervised by

Patricia Avenue School psychologist Jana Stewart and the University. For part of 2025 I was a LSA in the senior school, so am familiar with some students/staff and the mahi that happens in class. I am excited to be a part of Patricia Avenue School as my values align with those of the school, and working with children is a passion of mine.

Amy Rogers – Teacher Transition Unit



Hi, my name is Amy and I am excited to be part of Patricia Avenue at Transition unit this year. I have taught for over a decade in a range of educational settings, but this is my first time in a specialist school.

I believe every learner deserves an environment where their strengths are seen, their voice

matters, and their potential is genuinely nurtured. The relationships I build with students and their whaanau are at the core of my work, because trust and connection make real learning possible. For me, education is a pathway to future opportunity, and I'm committed to helping each student discover the skills, confidence, and independence that will carry them into their future. I am looking forward to the year ahead!



Parent Info



Hero – Student Management System

Parents will now be familiar with our new student management system, **Hero**, which has replaced SeeSaw as our way of sharing and celebrating student achievements. Uploading student progress is currently an ongoing process, your patience in this regard is appreciated.

If you haven't downloaded the app yet, please use the QR code to get started and follow the steps to sign up. If you run into any problems, feel free to drop into the office to check we the correct email for your account.



SafeZone is free online SAFETY magazine aimed at primary aged tamariki and their parents. Community Safety Ltd would like to thank Safekids Aotearoa (Starship Digital and Community Engagement) for the editorial. Their vision is that every child in the Hamilton region and Aotearoa New Zealand enjoys a childhood free from traumatic, unintentional injury. To access the magazine on your PC go to:

<https://communitysafety.co.nz/magazine.php?m=284>

or on your mobile device scan the QR Code



Classroom Feature

Base – Room 12

Room 12 children beginning school step into a warm, welcoming environment where they can build trusting relationships with staff and form meaningful friendships with their peers. As they explore their new setting, they're introduced to a wide variety of engaging

experiences - from the excitement of swimming to the calming, immersive atmosphere of the sensory room. These early opportunities help them grow in confidence, curiosity, and connections as they settle into school life.

Jillian Rabitt - Teacher



Student Achievement

Well Done Olivia!

Well done! to Olivia at our Marian Satellite Unit. Olivia participated in the Special Olympics event this past weekend achieved 2nd place in the 200m, 3rd place in 400m, Javelin and relay team. She trains with the Waikato Team every Saturday.



Base – Room 8



Learning through play in Room 8

In Room 8, we believe that play is our brain's favourite way of learning. Through play, we explore important ideas and build new skills every day. We love discovering concepts like containment and gravity while manipulating sand in the sandpit, strengthening our early writing skills with playdough, and making social connections through swimming together.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with fun, learning, and growing!

Anja Steyn - Teacher



EOTC

PREPARING FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

It has been fantastic to see our students from Mangakootukutuku College Satellite and our Transition Unit preparing for the upcoming Special Olympics Athletics Event at Porritt Stadium on 12 March.

Through the "Special Olympics Sport for All" programme, students have been taking part in inclusive sport sessions where our students are given opportunities for building

confidence, developing new skills, and giving activities a go as they prepare for competition day.

We are proud of the effort and enthusiasm they are showing. Parents and whaanau of our students who are competing, are warmly encouraged to come along to Porritt Stadium on 12 March to support and celebrate our students.

Cari Emslie - PE Lead Teacher



What's Happening @ Mangakootukutuku



Band practice and music with Mrs Manning



Swimming and horse riding



Did you know absent messages can be done via the Hero or Skool Loop App?

Hamilton Dinsdale Lions Annual Disability Day at the Zoo

Sunday March 29th 10am - 2pm

Free for students and caregiver
 3 immediate family members \$5 entry per person. Any more pay group entry fee
 Free bottle water, snacks, sausage sizzle
 To attend contact Vicki at email below by 20 March and provide student name and **number adults and children age 3-15**

