

# PATRICIA AVENUE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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*Learning for Living*



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS Athletics Event

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* **TERM 1 Week 9**  
02 April  
Last day of Term 1 -close normal time
- \* **TERM 2 Re Opens**  
Mon 20 April
- \* **HOLIDAYS during term time**  
25 April ANZAC DAY  
observed 27 April  
  
01 JUNE KING'S BIRTHDAY
- \* **TERM 2 ROOPUU MEETINGS**  
05 and 26 May  
16 June
- \* **SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOOTBALL**  
07 May
- \* **SENIOR PRODUCTION**  
24 and 26 June
- \* **JUNIOR TEAM MATARIKI HANGI**  
02 July
- \* **HAMILTON COMPETITIONS**  
02 July
- \* **TERM 2 LAST DAY**  
03 July



## Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou,

What a busy term it has been. Although slightly shorter than usual, it has certainly been full of activity, and as we look ahead to Term Two, there is much more to come.

Alongside completing IEPs, we have worked hard to maintain momentum with the delivery model of the Better Start Literacy Approach and the associated professional development through the University of Canterbury. We look forward to embedding this approach throughout the remainder of the year.

Students have also had a productive and energetic term. Our older learners, in particular, have taken part in a range of 'Special O' events, complemented by our school-wide focus on sport and community recreation. Our passport programme continues to support this priority, enabling students to work toward Award Certificates and Medals over their time with us. It has been wonderful to attend several of these award presentations this week, and we look forward to developing this into a special family event in Term Four.

Over the term break, we will begin a number of minor projects as part of our ongoing commitment to improving our school environment. This includes a new kitchen for the Woodstock Satellite; the first stage of exterior upgrades at Te Awamutu (fencing and outdoor play equipment) and early next term the commencement of the sensory garden project in the senior base playground.

It is with sadness that we have to farewell a number of staff at the end of this term with people going on to new things, relocating, or retiring. We wish teachers Eriem Smith and Niki Biro all the very best.

Additionally a very special mention and thanks for their dedication and outstanding service over many years to a few long serving staff who have been part of the school team. Thank you Shelly Karaka, Jaye Green, Rachel Wade-Swelim, and Kalpna Pillay who have spent the good part of a decade with us and closer to 2 decades of thanks to Helen Hutchings and Linda Ensor.

Ngaa mihi nui  
Andrea

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS – ATHLETICS

On Thursday 12 March, 65 students from across Patricia Avenue took part in the annual Special Olympics Waikato Athletics event at Porritt Stadium. It was a fantastic day, with students embracing the opportunity to participate, challenge themselves, and represent Pat Ave with pride.

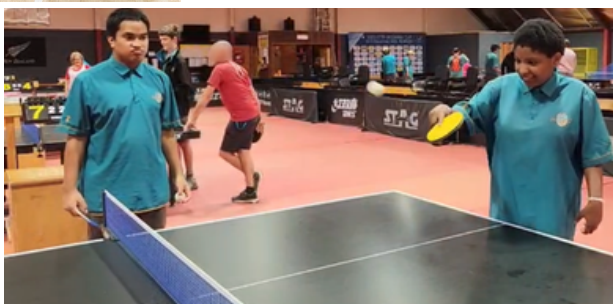
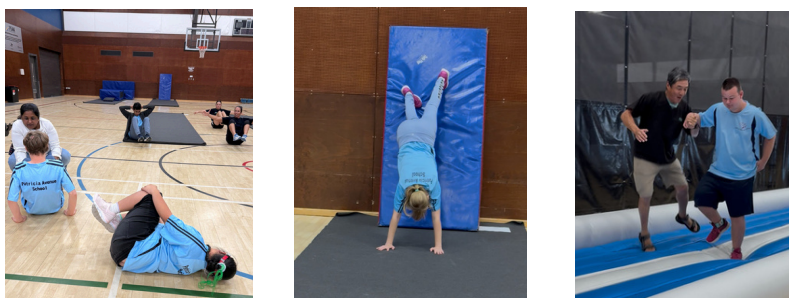
Ka pai to all our participants. You showed great enthusiasm throughout the day, and it was wonderful to see the strong support from staff, as well as the way students encouraged one another in every event.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Matt and the team at Special Olympics for their ongoing support and for creating such a positive and inclusive environment for our students.

We encourage our Pat Ave whaanau to consider getting involved with Special Olympics. There are a wide range of sporting opportunities available, all of which can be adapted to suit individual needs, supported by dedicated and welcoming teams. Facebook link [Special Olympics Waikato](https://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsWaikato)



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS – GIVE IT A GO!....GYMNASTICS and Table Tennis



### Parent Info



## Hero – Student Management System

This year we have moved our fortnightly reporting of students' progress onto HERO. Our school's Seesaw account will close at the end of May. At this time, you will lose access to your child's Seesaw Journal Posts from previous years. If you would like to download these for safe keeping, please follow the instructions at

<https://bit.ly/downloadjournal>

If you have not yet signed up to HERO to receive your child's Learning Stories from this year, please download the HERO app



**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 absent 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.**



Classroom Feature

## Base – Room 10



**Room 10** has been making the most of the fine Autumn weather. Sometimes we sit outside and enjoy sensory play under the tree. At other times we delight in riding on the playground equipment.

*Jen Gibbs – Teacher*



## Base – Room 4



During week 6, we celebrated **New Zealand Sea Week** by diving into books and getting creative! Room 4 explored the wonders of our oceans and learned how important it is to look after our marine life.

The highlight was our **collaborative art project**. Every student added their own unique "stamp" to the masterpiece, showing that while we work as a team, everyone's individual creativity makes our classroom ocean special.

Ka pai, Room 4!

*Lydia du Toit – Teacher*

## Base – Room 4

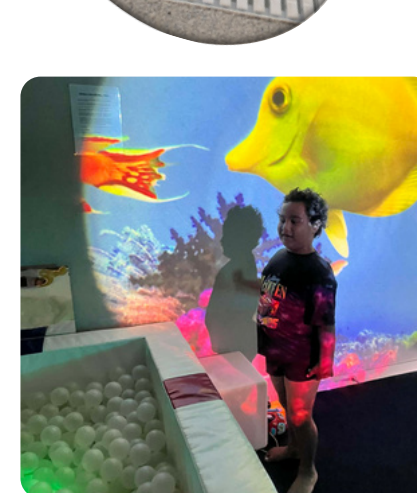
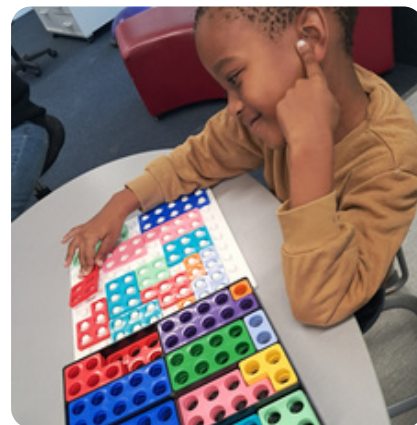


Classroom Feature

## Room 11

Room 11 have had a wonderful term filled with new learnings. We have had students visiting the sensory room who have never previously been, students exploring using the core board in the pool to communicate wanting more games, and lots and fun with messy play, Numicon, and cause and effect toys.

*Jade Dobbs - Teacher*



Parent Info

Kia ora koutou,

Approximately two years ago a small number of parent representatives formed a group to advocate on behalf of specialist schools. These parents/caregivers/whānau volunteer their time to represent the importance of parents / caregivers and whānau having the choice to send their child or young person to a specialist school. The name of this group is PASE (Parent Advocacy for Specialist Education).

Late last year PASE set up a Facebook page so they can share with whānau and a wider audience the great things that are happening in and for specialist schools.

PASE would really appreciate if parents/caregivers and whānau with children or young people in specialist schools join the PASE Facebook page.

To go to the PASE Parent Advocacy for Specialist Education Facebook page just click on this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/700138383012610/>

