

TERM 3 2026 – NEWSLETTER #12

Kia ora BCP Whānau,

Over the past couple of weeks BCP has celebrated creativity, community and legacy. It has been a wonderful time where we have seen evidence of the generosity and relationships that make our school community so special.

The Primary Leadership Team had the privilege of presenting a Bible to each of our Year 2 students last week. This is a special gift that we look forward to giving each year, as we seek to encourage our children to develop a lifelong love of God's Word. Our prayer is that these Bibles will be treasured, read and enjoyed, and that through the stories and teachings within them, our students will come to know and experience more deeply the love of Jesus as they continue to grow in faith.



Earlier this week, we had the privilege of hearing speeches from our Year 4–6 students. Two finalists from each class were selected to deliver their speeches, and they did so with such courage and tenacity. Public speaking requires students to step beyond their comfort zones, and it was wonderful to see them rise to the occasion with confidence and determination. We are very proud of all those who participated and congratulate our finalists on their excellent efforts.

Our sincere thanks to Mr Wayne Fraser for giving his time to serve as our adjudicator. We greatly appreciate his expertise, encouragement and contribution to this special opportunity for our students.



TERM 3 KEY DATES

PRIMARY CHOIR REHEARSAL
Fri 4th Sept – Baycourt – 8.45am – 2.30pm

YO-Y3 SHOWCASE AUDITIONS
Fri 11th Sept – BC

YO-Y3 ORAL PRESENTATIONS
Mon 14th Sept – Primary Hall – 9.30am

KAPA HAKA HOBEC VISIT
Wed 16th Sept – Hobec – 9.30am – 11am

YO-3 TALENT SHOWCASE
Fri 18th Sept – PAC - 11.15am – 12.30pm

WBOP SPEECH COMP
Wed 23rd Sept – Omokoroa No1 school

LAST DAY TERM 3
Fri 25th Sept - 3pm

FIRST DAY TERM 4
Tues 13th Oct

YO PHOTOLIFE PHOTOS
Wed 14th Oct

Our Vision
To be a Christian learning
community of excellence where
lives are transformed.

Facebook: [@bethlehemcollege](#)
Instagram: [@bethlehemcollege_nz](#)
Website: [Enrolled Families](#)



Our Primary Art Exhibition, Travel the World Through Art, has been a wonderful celebration of the creativity and skill of our students from Years 0–6. Across a variety of mediums, techniques and artistic styles, our students have showcased the many skills they have developed throughout the year.

Over two days, families and visitors have had the opportunity to meander through the exhibits, taking time to appreciate the thought, creativity and care evident in the students' work. The experience has been beautifully enhanced by musicians from across the College, representing a range of age groups, who have generously given their time to share their musical talents and create a wonderful ambience throughout the exhibition.

A very special thank you to Mrs Elyse Mockett, our Specialist Art Teacher, who has planned, implemented and prepared for this significant project throughout 2026. We are incredibly grateful for the skills, talent, creativity and considerable time Mrs Mockett has committed to bringing this exhibition to life. Her efforts have provided our students with an opportunity to see their creativity valued and celebrated.



Grandparents are a gift. This week we have also had the privilege of celebrating Grandparents Day. Grandparents hold a special place within families, and there is something deeply significant about the generational legacies that are carried through families.

It was our honour to welcome such large numbers of grandparents into our classrooms on Thursday. Seeing the delight on the children's faces as they proudly showed their grandparents their classroom environment, their books and examples of their learning was a delight.



I am mindful that many of our grandparents are avid prayer warriors—a gift that cannot be matched. I know that many faithfully pray for Bethlehem College, and for this we are deeply thankful. It is my hope and prayer that these faithful prayers will bear much fruit and contribute to the flourishing of our school community. What a privilege it is to know that our students, staff and College are being upheld in prayer by generations who care deeply for them.

As we reflect on the week that has been, I am reminded of the richness of a Christian education community: students discovering and developing their God-given gifts, families sharing in their children's learning, generations praying faithfully, and staff generously investing their time and talents.

What a privilege it is to see our students flourishing and bearing fruit in so many different ways.

Ngā mihi nui,
Jo



WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY

Last week we had Mr Duffett, our Acting Principal while Mr Edmeades is on sabbatical, share a devotion. Psalm 139:5 says, *"You are all around me on every side; you protect me with your power."* We were reminded how God knows everything about each of us and that He loves us more than we can understand.

Heidi Comer shared a devotion this week. She talked about perseverance and reminded us that even when we find ourselves in tough situations, we mustn't give up because God is with us. She used her own experiences with cross country events over the years and shared how she prays the night before to ask God for help and then prays after the event to thank God. Hebrews 12:1 sums it up - *"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.."*



E1/E2 ASSEMBLY



E1 and E2 led our assembly last week and did exceptionally well, showing an array of talent. With a full band performance of I Thank God from E2, the PAC stage was needed. E1 confidently sang E hika and demonstrated a clever jumping game to some very catchy music.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

Y3 FUNKY FUN DAY

Funky Fun Day was an amazing success, with students diving into a range of new sports and active challenges. They learnt fresh skills, explored different ways to move, and practised teamwork and cooperative play all day long. A huge thank-you to our wonderful helpers who made the day run so smoothly — we're grateful for your support.



BIKE WEEK



Year 5 and 6 enjoyed bike week last week with the most beautiful weather. It was so encouraging to hear from the facilitators how respectful well behaved our students were. They represented BCP so well.



PHASE 2 SPEECH COMPETITION

This week saw the culminating event for the speech writing season within classes. The courage and determination that students show when preparing and presenting their speeches is to be commended. BCP is grateful to Mr Wayne Fraser who was the adjudicator this year. Presentations were made to winners and runner ups for Years 4 - 6.

2026 Speech Cup Winner: Yanni Wu "Sleep".
2026 Y4 Speech Cup Winner: Fleur Davison "How Amazing Hearing Is"
Y6 Winner: Yanni Wu "Sleep".
Runner Up: Florence Hayward "Parent Code"
Y5 Winner: Peter Schulz "Books are Better than Video Games"
Runner Up: Jennifer Yang "Why we Should Not Sell Fizzy Drinks to Children"

Special congratulations to all our finalists!

PHASE 2 SPEECH FINALS	Bethlehem College Primary Hall Monday 24th August 2026	
	MC'S: Y4 KENZI WALKER & CHARLOTTE VAN LEEUWEN Y5&Y6 WILLIAM TURNER & ELLA CLARKIN	
	OPENING PRAYER	
	YEAR 4 FINALISTS	
	Fleur Davison	'How amazing hearing is'
	Caleb Solen	'Why you should get a pet'
	Nikau Te Aotonga	'Why Bees are better than Wasps'
	Ethan Comer	'Why a Gorilla would make a great pet'
	Elisha Lopez	'My teacher was in detention...'
	Georgia Nisbett	'Why We Shouldn't Have Homework'
	YEAR 5&6 FINALISTS	
	Matteus Kloppe	'Squirrels'
	Peter Schulz	'Books are better than video games'
	Sienna Ball	'Always look on the bright side'
	Isla Williams	'Why you should go to Italy'
	Thenuki Hewa Puwakandawage	'Competition is good for children'
	Jennifer Yang	'Why we should not sell fizzy drinks to children'
	Heidi Comer	'Why girls should play sport'
	Yanni Wu	'Sleep'
	Alexander Adams	'Robotics and AI'
JUDGE'S DECISION AND PRESENTATIONS		
CLOSING PRAYER		
JUDGE: MR WAYNE FRASER		



PRIMARY ART EXHIBITION



GRANDPARENTS' DAY



CIVVIES DAY

**THANK
YOU!**

Thank you for your very generous donations, BCP raised \$639.00 for Asian Outreach's "Winter Kits" programme.





MATHS WEEK

This was a super time for students to do a variety of activities within rooms, as well as challenges to spark creativity, increase curiosity, develop problem solving skills and foster a love of learning mathematical concepts. We had 'daily' class maths challenges, a mathematical scavenger hunt along with some small competitions, and students could be 'caught' being a mathematician during the week and go in to win prizes.

Scavenger Hunt Winners

*Phase 1 - Yuna (A4) & Aluna (B3)

*Phase 2 - Ivana (C2) & Ella (E4)

Guess the number of pieces of lego in jar

*Phase 1 - Remy (B1)

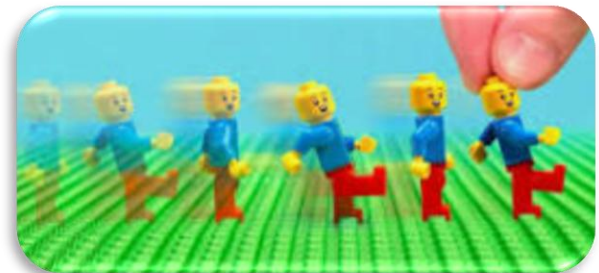
*Phase 2 - Baasha (D4)

Thanks to Mrs. Sanders for all her organisation, planning and prep. Lots of fun and great learning happened - can't wait for 'maths week' in 2027

LEGO animation competition

This was the first time we have tried such a hard competition, that required lots of thought and patience. We had over 20 entries and the judging was difficult. This all showed the hard work students are capable of, when they really put their minds to a task.

Students were presented certificates in front of the primary school (over 2 weeks of assemblies - due to sickness for some during the first assembly).



These were the major winners:

*Best Teacher entry - Mrs. McKoy

(she has some cool LEGO earrings as a prize you may see her wearing at times)

*Best Bible Story / Parable retold - Wilbur Knoll (Story of Jonah) & Ruth Jones (Mary & Martha)



***Overall Winner - Neil Lin** (The time elevator)

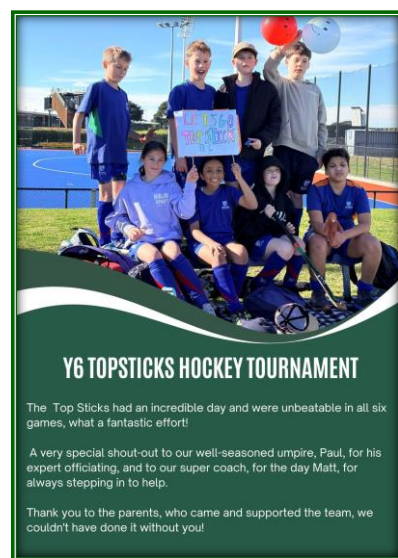
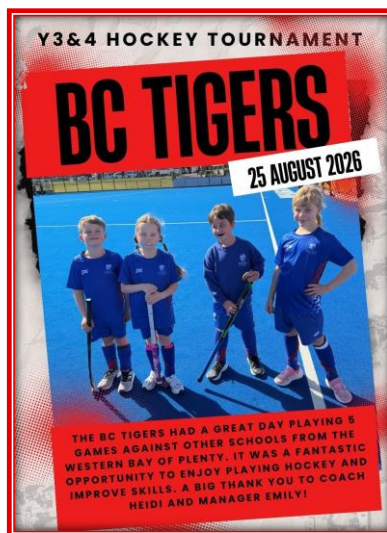
Neil won for best animation including wonderful sound effects. His video had a strong message about pollution and taking care of God's creation, with a well thought through storyline to show the power of starting small (picking up rubbish you see). He managed to capture so many mini lessons within his work, and showed he was willing to try many hard and tricky things with his animation.

Amazing efforts, and perhaps some future animators in our midst?



PRIMARY SPORT

HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS



NETBALL



Seasonal Netball has officially ended for 2026. Well done to our 6 Bethlehem College Primary teams for an amazing season, full of hard work, lots of fun, and long-lasting friendships. Keep an eye on these Future Ferns as they grow in this sport!



DENTAL VAN UPDATE

The mobile dental unit will be onsite at Bethlehem College from Monday 31st August to Friday 25th September – The dental clinic will be treating Years 0 – 6 students while onsite.

Our dental team will be seeing the most overdue tamariki/children during this visit. As the clinic will be prioritising all their appointments, it may not be possible for the dental staff to see all students during this visit.

Our dental team will notify the whanau and families prior to their tamariki/child's dental appointment.

When you receive this notification, please contact the team to update any contact details, confirm medical details or renew permissions for examination and dental x-rays.

Current service demands and delays weigh heavily on our teams and your kindness and support is appreciated.

If you have any queries or urgent dental concerns, contact (07 576 6752) or 0800 TALK TEETH for further help and advice.



LIBRARY NEWS

It is that time of year again when we get ready to do our annual stocktake.

We need your help!

Please hunt out any school books:

- school library
- resource room
- primary readers

Return them to the library



NOT CURRENTLY
ON LOAN



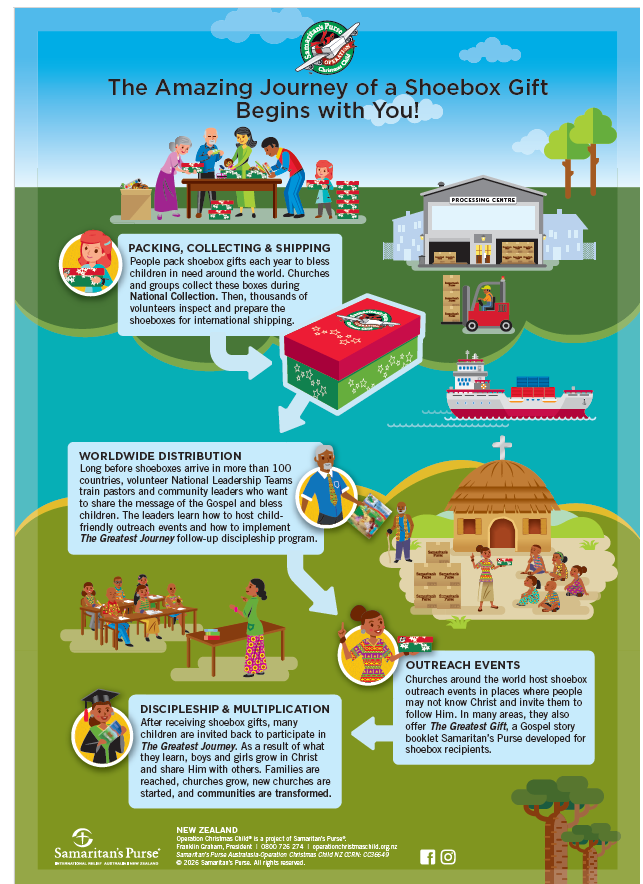
Thank You



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Boxes are available from the Primary Office, please return packed boxes to the Primary Office by **23rd October** to be ready for collection by Samaritan's Purse.

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

We are mindful that a number of families have experienced significant sickness this winter and we are grateful for your discernment in keeping children at home when they are sick. We also appreciate families notifying absences through SchoolBridge. We are aware that families may be receiving automated emails from the college about attendance if they reach the thresholds of 5 days, 10 days and 15 days within a term. Please note that sickness for absence is necessary, but still triggers these thresholds, due to MoE requirements of New Zealand Schools. However, in these circumstances we do understand the reasons for absence and most of the time no further action is required.



FROM THE SENCO (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS CO-ORDINATOR) MRS MICHELE LEE

While all children develop at their own rate, it can be good to know what to expect. Identifying where your child is at, helps you to know what to focus on, to support them to get to the next stage. See the information below from a Speech Language Therapist to know where your child sits on their communication milestones.

COMMUNICATION MILESTONES

Birth to
1 year old

Responds to sounds, e.g. turns toward sound
Looks at faces and makes eye-contact with familiar people
Early gestures like reaching and pointing developing
Babbling
Turn-taking "Conversations" with sounds and words
First 1-5 words by around 1yo

1 year to
2 years old

Makes eye contact, shares attention and enjoyment
Brings things to you to show or for help
Waving, blowing kisses, pointing
Imitating simple actions and sounds
Able to focus on books and activities for 1-5 mins
Following simple instructions
10-50 words by 18 months
50-300 words by 2yo
Starting to make 2 word sentences

2 years to
3 years old

Playing near other children, showing interest and joining in
Starting to take turns with adult support
Able to focus on a preferred task for 5-8 minutes
Asking and understanding simple questions and instructions
250-1000 words by 3 years old
Starting to make 3-4 word sentences
p, b, m, d, n, t, k, g, ng, f, w, h, y speech sounds emerging

3 years to
4 years old

Joining in play with other children
Able to focus on a task for 8-10 minutes
Able to follow simple two step instructions
1 000-1 500 words by 4yo
Using 3-5 word sentences
Using long and complex sentences at times
Asking and understanding "what, where, why, who, when?"
Able to retell familiar or highly stimulating events or stories
Will talk with familiar adults or children
Has p, b, m, d, n, t, k, g, ng, f, w, h, y speech sounds
Unfamiliar listeners can understand speech about 50% of the time

WWW.SPEECHTEACHER.CO.NZ

COMMUNICATION MILESTONES

4 years to
5 years old

Playing and talking with other children
Talking with and responding to questions or comments from familiar adults
Joining and co-operating in group play/games and learning activities, e.g. group stories, discussions, activities
Able to focus on a task for 10 minutes
2 000+ words by 5yo
Understands up to 20 000 words by 5yo
Using and understanding more and varied words
Able to answer questions such as name, age, address
Able to follow longer and more complex instructions
Able to tell personal stories or retell familiar stories from books using the pictures
Has speech sounds listed above, plus l, s, z, v, sh, ch, j
Unfamiliar listeners can understand speech about 75% of the time

5 years to
6 years old

Talking and playing with other children
Able to focus on a task for 10-15 minutes
Picking up reading and writing easily (if started school)
Joining in with classroom activities, talking with the teacher, responding to teacher requests and instructions
Able to follow longer and more complex instructions
2 500+ words
Understands 20 000-25 000 words
Using long and complex sentences
Has speech sounds listed above, plus r, th, zh
Unfamiliar listeners can understand speech about 80% of the time

WWW.SPEECHTEACHER.CO.NZ



NOTICES

- **BC Businesses:** Need a referral for a business? Have a business you'd like to list? Want to connect with other businesses? Check out our BC Business page [here](#) and join us at our next event on Wednesday 14 September 4.30 pm.
- **Rob Cope Parenting Evening:** Don't miss the 2026 edition of Rob Cope's Parenting Online video session on Wed 18 Aug. Practical tips on parenting throughout the years. \$5 tickets [here](#).
- **Yearbook:** One free Arotahi yearbook is given to each family - either to the departing senior OR the eldest child, as well as a pdf version of the magazine available to download for free. For those families wishing to order additional copies, these can be purchased for \$20 per copy [here](#) through 25 September.
- **Chapel Worship:** All welcome Wednesday mornings 8-8.30 am for mid-week worship in the chapel, with chapel open until 9 am.
- **Alumni:** Calling all past students, friends, parents and staff of Bethlehem College (Primary, Secondary & Chapman)! We would love to connect with you. Join our BC Connect group today to reconnect with BC friends here: www.beth.school.nz/about/alumni.
- **RightNow Media:** As part of the BC community, you have a membership to RightNow Media. Whether you're looking for encouragement in marriage, practical parenting wisdom, spiritual growth resources, or safe Biblical content for your children, this library is here for you. Our hope is that this resource strengthens your faith, encourages your family, and supports you as you lead your home. Sign up for free today: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/bethstudents>.
- **Online GP care now free for students 13 and under:** With health services experiencing high demand, online GP care is an option for accessing care and the service is now free for all children up to, and including, the age of 13. Appointments usually take place through a video app or a phone call and the service can prescribe medicine and send prescriptions to your nearest pharmacy. It also provides another care option for rural communities. To learn more visit Online GP care: [Online GP care – Health New Zealand](#). You can also find out more at: [Care options for you and your whānau \[PDF, 498 KB\]](#)



ROOM IN YOUR HOME FOR ONE MORE?

Do you have a passion to make a difference in the lives of children and young people?

Consider becoming a Foster Parent.

Contact: **Bridgette Munro**
Foster Parent Recruiter
Bridgette.Munro@ohf.org.nz
021 486 722

www.ohf.org.nz A Christian Community Response




School's Out
Tauriko

Enrol now:
www.schoolsout.co.nz/tauriko

ENROL NOW

Holiday Programme
Sep/Oct 2026

Programme Manager: Tania Hallberg
Located in Tauriko School
788 State Highway 29
Tauriko, Tauranga
Phone: 027 438 0146
Email: tauriko@schoolsout.co.nz

Spring Escape Room MON 28 SEP Spring is the season to get active and play, but before the real fun begins, an epic adventure awaits! Put your thinking caps on to solve a series of mystery puzzles. You'll be racing against the clock to decipher all the hidden clues. Crack the final mystery puzzle before time runs out to unlock a special prize! Do you have what it takes to beat the clock? Highlights: - Brain-bending mystery puzzles & hidden codes - Teamwork & clue hunting challenges - Loads of prizes to be won! Centre Day - \$57.50	Pizza Making Day TUE 29 SEP We're heading behind the scenes to a real Domino's kitchen for an exciting hands-on culinary adventure! Join us for a fun-filled pizza making experience where you'll get to create and build your dream pizza. Watch your personal creation bake in the big oven, then dig in and enjoy your masterpiece fresh and hot! Highlights: - Behind the scenes experience at Domino's Pizza - Create and enjoy your own pizza What to bring/wear: Children must wear closed toe shoes Trip Day - \$75	Fernland Spa Day WED 30 SEP Get ready to soak and unwind at Fernland Spa! We're heading off on an awesome aquatic trip day to one of Tauranga's favorite hot spots! Step into the warm mineral pools and enjoy swimming with friends and relaxing under the trees. After our swim, we will head out to enjoy a picnic and games together in the scenic surroundings! Highlights: - Warm thermal pools - Picnic lunch and games What to bring/wear: Bring swimwear, towel, hat, drink bottle and a picnic lunch. Trip Day - \$75	Chocolate Day THU 1 OCT Calling all chocoholics! Join us for a sweet chocolaty day packed with cocoa-filled excitement and hands-on activities with friends. We'll dive into a variety of chocolate games, chocolate crafts, chocolate baking, and epic chocolate challenges that will test your skills and satisfy your sweet tooth! The perfect day for chocolate lovers to indulge their imagination and make sweet memories! Highlights: - Everything chocolate! - Crafts and baking - Games and challenges What to bring/wear: Bring packed lunch and drink bottle, walking shoes and a sunhat! Depart: 9am sharp ETA Return: 3pm Centre Day - \$67.50	Bullswool Farm FRI 2 OCT Come and discover a special slice of Kiwi rural life at Bullswool Farm Park! We're heading out for a fun hands-on day in the country-side. Get up close with friendly farm animals, explore scenic bush walks and discover Kiwi farm life. Feed the animals, zoom around the lake track and explore the awesome adventure playground. Highlights: - Meet animals - Animal feed included - Adventure playground What to bring/wear: Bring packed lunch and drink bottle, walking shoes and a sunhat! Depart: 9am sharp ETA Return: 3pm Trip Day - \$75
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***Where weather affects the programme, School's Out reserves the right to provide an alternative activity on the affected days. Should changes occur, communication will be sent out in advance with as much notice as possible.**

Childcare subsidies and sibling discounts available for eligible families.

School's Out
Tauriko

Enrol now:
www.schoolsout.co.nz/tauriko

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Silly Science Day MON 5 OCT Put on your lab coats and get ready to experiment! Join us for Silly Science Day as we dive into mind-blowing experiments, wacky reactions and hands-on STEM activities. From fizzy concoctions to gooey slime and crazy creations, it's a day packed with curious discovery, laughter and science-filled fun! Highlights: - Homemade Volcanic Eruption - Hands-on science experiments - A day full of curiosity and discovery What to bring/wear: Packed lunch and drink bottle. Long socks, BVD/linnet and safety gear recommended Centre Day - \$57.50	Revolution Skate Centre TUE 6 OCT Get ready to roll into an awesome day at Revolution Skate Centre. We're heading off on an exciting trip day to hit the skating rink with friends! Strap on your skates and glide around the floor as cool tunes play and fun rink games kick off. Whether you're a pro on wheels or trying it for the first time, it's all about having fun, trying new tricks and rolling into holiday excitement! Highlights: - Skate limbo competition - Confidence building & active fun What to bring/wear: Packed lunch and drink bottle. Long socks, BVD/linnet and safety gear recommended Trip Day - \$75	Carnival Themed Day WED 7 OCT Roll up, roll up! Get ready for a high-energy carnival extravaganza packed with colorful games, thrilling challenges, and creative crafts! Step right up to test your skills at classic carnival games, team up with friends for fun challenges and enjoy a day full of laughter, prizes and non-stop excitement! Highlights: - Candy Floss making - Carnival games and challenges - Creative carnival activities What to bring/wear: Packed lunch and drink bottle. Walking shoes, hat and warm jacket. Depart: 9am sharp ETA Return: 3pm Centre Day - \$57.50	Goldfields Railway Train Ride THU 8 OCT All aboard for a historic railway adventure on the Goldfields Railway! Journey back in time as we hop aboard a classic vintage train and travel through the scenic Karangahake Gorge from Waikato to Waikanae. After our train ride, we'll head to the Karangahake Gorge park for a picnic lunch. Highlights: - Scenic vintage train ride through the Karangahake Gorge - Fun historic discovery What to bring/wear: Packed lunch and drink bottle. Walking shoes, hat and warm jacket. Depart: 9am sharp ETA Return: 3pm Trip Day - \$75	Taco Friday FRI 9 OCT Get ready for the ultimate fiesta fun day! Join us for Taco Friday as we turn up the music and celebrate the end of the holidays in style! We're diving into an action-packed day full of high-energy party games, vibrant colorful crafts and awesome taco-inspired challenges. Build your very own delicious custom taco creation, dance to lively tunes, and party with your friends. Dress in your brightest fiesta colors and come ready to celebrate! Highlights: - Mexican inspired crafts for lunch - Vibrant fiesta crafts & colourful creations Centre Day - \$57.50
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OMOKOROA CRICKET CLUB

SATURDAY MORNING JUNIOR CRICKET STARTING TERM 4

ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

www.omokoroacricket.co.nz

Say hello to triKIDZ!

Got kids aged 5 - 12, keen to swim, bike and run like champs? triKIDZ is the perfect way to try tri in a fun, friendly, and no-pressure environment!

- We keep it simple, active and full of laughs while teaching the basic skills they'll need for triathlon. Term 4 is all about gearing up for the West-Bix Kids Triathlon (Nov 28th) — and we'll warm up with the Marra Construction Tinman Splash 'n' Dash (Nov 22nd) as a practice event! Term 1 gets the kids in form for the Marra Mini's Triathlon (Mar 14th)
- Led by awesome Tri NZ Accredited Coaches Blake Miller, Pete Campbell, and Kent Homer — all police vetted and absolute legends with kids.
- FREE for current Youth Members of Triathlon Tauranga (membership is just \$50 for the whole year).

Want to learn more or sign up? Flick us an email at: development@triathlontauranga.org.nz

TriathlonTauranga

www.triathlontauranga.org.nz

