

Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 23 November 2021



Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Parent helpers and proof of vaccination

Many thanks to parents who have volunteered to help with our end of term trips and activities. I appreciate this now comes with an extra effort to provide me with your proof of vaccination. A number of people have already downloaded their Vaccine Pass and used this as a useful means of providing proof of vaccination.

The need for proof of vaccination extends to the coaches and managers of school connected teams even if they are off site and after school such as touch rugby.

All parents and caregivers welcome on site

Vaccine passes are not needed until New Zealand moves to the COVID-19 Protection Framework. There will be certain settings where denying entry on the basis of vaccination status will be prohibited.

These settings are in regard to life-preserving services and being able to access these services (for example, public transport). The settings also include the right to access education. A vaccine pass will not be needed by any students to access learning or parents and caregivers to support their children's learning.

As currently happens, parents and caregivers will continue to be welcome to attend on site whether you are vaccinated or not. This includes activities such as dropping off, picking up or settling children at school. Such situations only involve short periods of time around other children and therefore we will not need to ask for vaccination status. Rather we will continue to give consideration to the range of health and safety mitigation that we already have in place at Alert Level 2. These have been outlined in previous correspondence but mainly include mask wearing, scanning in, social distancing from people you don't know etc

Who else is covered by the vaccine mandate?

Providers coming onsite

If we engage any provider to come onsite to provide a service and at a time where children or students are also present – then the vaccine mandate does apply. I am currently receiving confirmation emails from all our regular providers/contractors confirming their employees' vaccination status.

Using providers offsite

When we head off site for students to experience learning outside the classroom as we are at the moment with classes heading to the Dowse, Walter Nash, Days Bay, Surf Life Saving at Titahi Bay then the Public Health order outlines the expectations of the staff who provide the service to us. This applies to staff working or volunteering for libraries, museums, public swimming pools, school camps, movie theatres and so on.

These workers (paid or unpaid) are not covered by the vaccine mandate because they are not working 'for' a school. While we might be receiving their services when we book or use their facilities, those staff are working 'for' the local council/owner/operator.

However, as part of our COVID-19 health and safety assessments, we are checking on the vaccination status of our offsite activity providers, but we cannot require them to be vaccinated under the Vaccination Order. We have been very reassured with all their responses and their obvious concern for the safety of students whom they will be involved with.

Teacher Only Day

We hope you haven't missed the news that school will be closed next Monday 29 November for a Teacher Only Day. This will only be the fifth of the eight Teacher Only Days we are able to use over the period from June 2020 to June 2022 as COVID-19 lockdowns have impacted on previously planned ones. Just a heads up that we are planning to use one in Term One next year and two in Term Two. The dates of these will be advertised once confirmed.

OUR WEBSITE



PARISH WEBSITE



This Issue

From our Principal
Special Character
News From the Board
Kowhai
Nikau
Pohutukawa
Rata
School Sports

Events

Wednesday 24 November

Interzone Athletics
PTA Meeting - 7pm

Friday 26 November

Kiwi Hoops
Pohutukawa EOTC Trip

Monday 29 November

Teacher Only Day

Tuesday 30 November

Rata Technology

Thursday 2 December

Nikau EOTC Trip
Year 8 Dinner



Class Organisation for 2022

The overall classroom structure for next year will look very much like our current one. All teachers are currently involved in the placement of students into classrooms for next year as they bring knowledge of who works well together, who might benefit from being in a separate grouping etc. Much time and effort is dedicated to getting a good mix for everyone as we look for:

- A mix of students' learning abilities, behaviours and dispositions
- A good gender balance
- The age range of students
- Specific needs of students
- Friendship groupings

Occasionally parents may email me with a specific need they would like us to take into consideration when making these placements. We will always take this into account but cannot guarantee they will be reflected in the final decision as this must take into account the balance and needs of all students. For example, it is not possible to accommodate specific requests for individual teachers you or your child might like to have. We aim for a consistency of learning programmes and behaviour management across the school which provides an assurance to parents of a unified approach and quality experience for all students.

Reporting to Parents

As I have mentioned on and off throughout the year, we have taken a new approach with how we communicate clear, dependable information about your child/ren's progress and achievement this year. It has been continuous and timely, with key times for more formal evaluation:

Teachers have sent home a range of evidence of children's learning for you to view and discuss with them. We hope the assessment progress information included with their work has been clear and easily understood. Along with the work going home, Area Leaders have provided support for students and parents to talk to each other about learning and assessment.

Three way conferencing opportunities have been provided at the ends of Terms 1, 2 & 3 for students, parent and teachers to share and understand information and insights about children's progress and achievement with their learning, along with social and emotional development

Written reports twice a year provide further summary information. As primary owners of their assessment information, students contribute valued insight to these reports. This is an important message to students - that they are involved in decisions about assessment and know where they are in their learning and what they need to do to improve. The second written report will go home with students on Friday 10 December.

Each child's parents and family are their first and most important teachers. We know and appreciate this. Our aim is for open and respectful communication between school and home so that all parents feel enabled to freely discuss your children's progress and learning with us. Progress and assessment is quite a complex business and parents are not trained teachers so we want to provide you and your children with support to talk to each other about learning and assessment. Working together we want to help you realise your aspirations for your children.

Plans for End-of-Year Events

As you will be aware schools have been advised by the Ministry of Education to avoid any large gatherings. Should we move to Orange on 3 December, this advice continues where large gatherings are to be limited. Also, activities such as singing and dancing are considered higher risk and should be done in well-ventilated areas or outdoors.

With these mitigations in mind and the complexities involved with everyone getting used to 'The Traffic Light System' we have made the decision that our traditional end of year celebration with its graduation and prize giving ceremonies will not go ahead in the Church with parents and families present. The same will apply for our Kowhai Carols evening.

We know this will be disappointing for many families but we hope to be able to still provide a meaningful and memorable experience for students during the school day that can be shared with families albeit in quite a different way. We have purchased a new sound system for outdoors events and are fine tuning our ability to video a quality product for you.

from the Principal

Special Character

Some of our students have been working hard preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Cardinal John and Father Patrick officiated at this important celebration on Sunday, which also coincided with the feast of Christ the King. A big thank you to all the parents who continue to support their children on their journey of faith.



Leela, Maya, Kallan and Indy also received their Sacrament of Baptism



PTA News

Thanks again to all those who participated in the recent Basic-facts-a-thon event. Well done!

The winning class for the pizza lunch was R13, raising \$1261 (second was R15 raising \$1026 and third was R4 with a total of \$1021).

\$30 Smiggle voucher prize winners are as follows:

R4 Mikaela Fernandez who raised \$580

R7 Jayden Hunter who raised \$238

R8 Kora Gee who raised \$262

R10 LeAniva Feaunati who raised \$270

R15 Ashton Dennis who raised \$261

R13 Norah-Vae Stephenson-Vaifale who raised \$460

R19 Georgia Hutchison who raised \$92

R17 Abigail Cain who raised \$74

Congratulations to everyone on an amazing effort!

Lost Property

With the end of the school year fast approaching, we will be looking to reunite misplaced uniform items with their owners, in Week 7. Please remember to save the date so no property is left behind.

Anything that is not collected will join our spare uniform supply or be donated.

DATE: Thursday 2 December

TIME: 9am-2pm

WHERE: Room 16 (SKIDS room)

Have you joined the PTA Facebook group yet?
Stay up-to-date with school community events
by joining our page!



Extended Uniform Shop Hours

On Wednesday 1 December & 8 December the uniform shop will be open longer by appointment only.

There will be extended hours on those days: 2-6pm.

Please make your booking by emailing Teresa at uniform@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Calendar Art Orders

We are pleased to see that a large number of parents have taken the opportunity to order their children's calendar art. A progress update for you:

- Orders have now closed
- Production has commenced
- Orders will be sent home with your child once we have received them

Kowhai

News From the Office

Our Learning

We have been fortunate to have Andrea and Harold the Giraffe visiting our school with the Life Education Bus for the last few weeks. The bus is provided by a charity that educates and empowers children to make healthy choices so that they can live full healthy lives. In Kowhai we have been focusing on a range of topics but a major theme running throughout has been focused on building strong, positive friendships. The students loved the life education bus and we feel very thankful for the learning experiences.



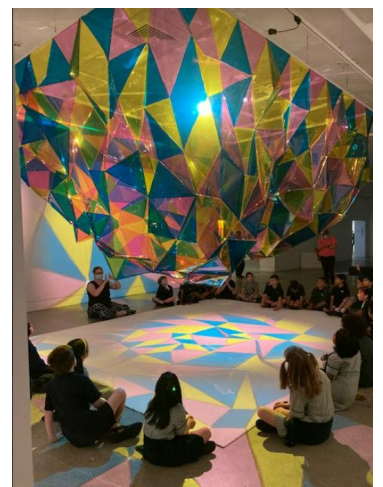
With Christmas time fast approaching we have begun focusing on Advent and the birth of Jesus. We have been revisiting the nativity story and working on making connections to the present day.

Nikau



Inspired by the artist Giacometti, Nikau has been creating sculptures from pipe cleaners and tinfoil. We were aiming to capture the movement of the human body in action.

Last week we went on a trip to the Dowse to learn more about sculpting.



**LIFE
EDUCATION
TRUST NZ**

In the last two weeks we have climbed on board the Life Education bus and explored the link between our brains and our emotions. Each class had one volunteer for “brain surgery” to help us learn about the parts of the brain and their important functions. While we can’t change our emotions, the key learning for us was that we can control what we choose to do with them.



Pohutukawa

Recently the students in Pohutukawa area completed a survey reflecting on our school values. The survey was anonymous and an opportunity for us to hear from our students about how they understand and see our school values in action inside and outside the classroom. Here is a snapshot of some of the questions and their responses...

What makes our school unique and special? Share one thing you like about our school's catholic character.

Our school is special because the students and teachers may be different but we are linked by God.

People at at this school are given values and taught to action them. That is probably the thing I admire most about St Peter and Paul school.

I like being close to God and Jesus because some kids don't get to experience being close to God like my school does.

One thing I like about our school catholic character is that we learn what the school values really mean.

What I think that makes this school unique is that there are many cultures at this school and some people don't speak english here and people teach them so I think that's really special.

I like that we do prayers every morning and if you're having a bad day you can pray for a better day.

I believe our school is special because of how caring and kind our school community is.

Our school is unique and special because it is diverse and we get to express our cultures and learn about our God. Not a lot of schools focus about God.

The teachers are really nice and when there is an argument the teachers listen to both sides.



Where have you seen Aroha in action at our school?

When other people are left out, and people include them in their game.

I have seen aroha when someone decides not to play with their friends but instead play with the little ones just to make them feel comfortable in their new school.

When someone gets hurt, everybody gathers around and takes care of that person. Someone goes to get a teacher.

By people being kind and including and not excluding people that aren't necessarily in your main friendship group.

I've seen people showing Aroha to others by speaking to people in a kind way.



Rata

Primarily Playing with Shakespeare

Rata area students were given the opportunity to be a part of this year's collaborative production of Julius Caesar which was held at the Pataka performance space in Porirua. After weeks of rehearsals and some very dedicated learning of lines the group headed over to Porirua for the day. The morning was filled with rehearsals and after a quick lunch break it was showtime! Students enjoyed this first taste of Shakespeare and did a fantastic job of staying in character while on stage and really connecting with the energy of the different scenes. It was fascinating to see how the different schools interpreted the script and made it their own. Here are a few photos of our theatrical superstars in action!



This term in science we have been learning about matter. Matter is everything that takes up space the three main states of Matter are Solid, Liquid and Gas. There are two extra states of matter that are Plasma and Bose-Einstein condensate also known as (BEC). On Friday we did an experiment, there were four groups, melting, solubility, acidity and acid test. For all of the tests you were given six substances which were citric acid, white flour, ground salt, baking powder, baking soda and castor sugar. The melting group was given an additional spoon, tealight candles and a box of matches. With the goal to see what substances would melt on the spoon above the candle. Which didn't really work so they got a second try with a blow torch which was a lot more successful.

The solubility group was given the same six substances and a glass jar with water. Our goal was to see what substances would dissolve in water they all dissolved but had different reactions. The acidity group had the same things as solubility except vinegar instead of water. They were trying to see what would happen to their ingredients when they add vinegar to their substances, some dissolved and some fizzed up. The acid test group had the six ingredients and pool testing strips. Their goal was to see what ones were base neutral and acid. All the tests were to do with matter and turning solids to liquid or gas.

By Sophie and Emily

School Sports

A big thank you to all parents at Touch and Netball who are following the restrictions required around the Covid situation. We know this is frustrating for some but your cooperation is much appreciated by the school and organisers.

2021 has been a busy and fun year for our Ss Peter & Paul sports teams. Many of our students have enjoyed participating in Netball, Touch Rugby, Basketball & Waterpolo. We know that children and young people who enjoy their sport develop a lifelong love of the game, turning them into active and healthy adults.

Therefore we want to say a huge thank you to all our parents and caregivers who have coached or managed a sports team this year, either for our school, another one or a sports club. Thanks to all the parents and whanau who turned out on the sidelines, sending all the right messages that help ensure all children's participation is fun and long-lasting. A further thanks to Mrs Bartlett who has been the conduit between school and parents when supporting out-of-school sports activities.



News from the Board

Many thanks for the responses to our 2021 Community Survey. The feedback of our school community is an important consideration when assessing whether changes are worthwhile and in considering possible pathways for next year.

[Click here](#) to view the survey summary.

School Lunches

 lunchonline

0800 565 565

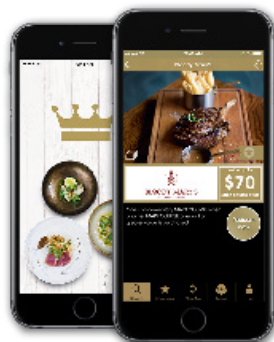
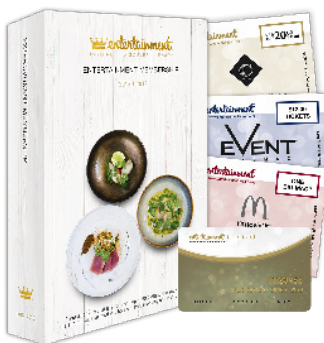
info@lunchonline.co.nz

Sushi and Subway

delivered to school weekly

It's simple; all you need to do is register at www.lunchonline.co.nz and follow four easy steps to get started

- 1 Register an account
- 2 Add member/s including your child's name, school and classroom
- 3 Make a payment so you have funds in your account before you order
- 4 Select your lunch and place an order



Entertainment Books

Entertainment Book is completely digital and runs for 12 months from the date of activation. Books are available for New Zealand and Australia so if you are travelling grab yourself a single city or multi city membership and unlock some amazing savings while at the same time supporting our school!

Contact

School Office
04 569 5759

To report an absence or lateness click [here](#) or phone before 8:50am - extension 1
For up to date school activities and cancellations - extension 2

For further information, please visit our school website
www.stpeterpaul.school.nz

Reporting

The majority of survey participants (80%) found the reporting this year informative and found that the changes have given them a good understanding of their child's learning (73%). Most parents felt that the examples of work sent home informed them of their children's learning across a range of curriculum areas. Parents commented positively on the learning conferences and the ability to spend time with their child and the teacher. Some parents would like more detail in the written reports and/or more pieces of work sent home during the year. Reporting to parents takes class time as students prepare for their learning conferences - most parents agreed that a balance between reporting to parents and maximising class time for learning had been achieved.

Faith Journey

Many parents (64%) were not aware of the meetings with parents that have been hosted at the school to discuss your family's faith journey. The majority (85%) agreed with the underlying message in these meetings that family is the best place for your child to grow in faith (while being supported by their Catholic education). Parents (32.79%) were interested in attending these meetings however many felt that busy lives and time pressure meant that they would not be able to attend.

Restorative Justice

Half of the parents who responded were aware that the school uses a restorative justice approach to conflict resolution and half were not aware. Almost half (49%) understood what restorative justice means and how the school puts this into practice. Many parents (62%) would like more information about the restorative justice approach at our school and would be interested in attending a parent information session on restorative justice in our school. Information has been sent out in previous newsletters regarding restorative justice and the school will include this communication more regularly moving forward. The school will also look into organising an information session in the New Year.

Learning Support and Progress and Achievement Policies and Practices

50% of parents would be interested in attending an information session on Learning Support and 55% would be interested in attending an information session on Progress and Achievement. 58% would prefer an online event in the evening, 33% an "in person" event in the evening. Suggestions for session topics included health and wellbeing in a learning context, recognition of academic success, children's behaviour and what the school does and doesn't do to support learning difficulties. The school is looking forward to organising these information sessions in the New Year.

