

Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 10 May 2022



Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

A very warm welcome to Term Two and a Happy Mother's Day for Sunday. We had a wonderful start with beautiful warm Autumn weather and children happy to be back with their friends and teachers. I suspect you may have had tired children at the end of last week though, with a swimming programme underway in the midst of it. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help ensure our swimming programme runs smoothly. We were very pleased to be able to secure another booking after having to postpone our lessons last term.

Everything has started so well with many classes at full or near full attendance. It would be great to think that may continue but we have to be realistic about the challenges that lay ahead as COVID remains circulating in the community and the flu season approaches.

COVID-19 updates

We continue to be very appreciative of prompt clear notifications about reasons for your children's absence from school. This saves our Office Team from having to make follow up calls to parents to ensure they can allocate the correct attendance code against your child's absence from school.

More importantly though, it allows us to closely monitor both COVID cases and any potential spread of influenza. It will be so helpful if, when you notify of any absence, you:

- Identify if they are isolating as household contacts
- Contact us again should they test COVID positive during this period.
- Tell us if they are the first person in your household to test positive
- Let us know if they are away sick with flu like symptoms

Based on the information that has been provided by our parent community, we have had 107 COVID positive cases of children to date. This tells us 75% of our students remain unaffected. 90% of our staff remain COVID free. These are significant numbers and we would like to do our very best to keep things that way. We appreciate your support with this. Masks provided the best barrier possible to achieve this but are now only strongly recommended. Teachers are constantly promoting this safe practice but surprisingly we have only a small uptake of mask wearing at school.

As mentioned in earlier correspondence, we ask that our Year 4+ students continue to have a mask available at school as there will be times when we'll ask them to wear it – an example of this is when they visit the library at lunchtime or when we have an assembly in the Church. Yesterday the wet weather meant our Mihi whakatai to welcome the Catholic Character Review team was moved to the Church with Yr 4-8

students attending with masks on. Most importantly please note that should there be a high number of cases at school or in the community, we will quickly move to masks being worn in classrooms for a time.

Last term was possibly the most challenging one for our teachers during these COVID times. They were all quite exhausted by the end of it. The movement of students from and back to the classrooms meant that teachers were constantly resetting their programmes and unable to get into the flow of normal term life. What may sound like a straightforward activity is actually very complex as teachers needed to:

- Keep their programmes moving to ensure engagement levels were high for those students who stayed well and at school throughout the term
- Catch up students who arrived in the middle of learning that was well underway. Teachers plan rich units of learning that develop over days and weeks of a term so it can take quite some time and effort to achieve this catch up successfully
- Constantly try and catch up on assessments and evidence of learning to ensure they had high quality information to share with you at the learning conferences
- Provide pastoral care for students who returned to school, at times quite anxious about this
- Manage hybrid learning where students were self-isolating or well enough recovered as well as be with their students who were present at school

Their commitment during this challenging time was just so admirable and here they are all back and ready to do it all again. I hope we can all take very good care of them as well.

Catholic Character Review

Just a further reminder that tomorrow will be the Review team's final day at school. They will be in the staffroom tomorrow morning from 8.30 and would have to have some parents to chat to. If you are about school at that time please drop in to see them - Zita Smith and Donna McDonald.

Welcome

A special welcome to our new students and their families who started with us since our last newsletter. Kowhai welcomes Aezther, Jamie, Scarlet, Oliver, Willow, Harry and Olivia. Nikau welcomes Benaiah and Aldis and Rata welcomes Ingrid. We hope you quickly settle into school life and make many new friends.

Kay Tester Principal

OUR WEBSITE



PARISH WEBSITE



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Wed 18 May
PTA AGM
Thu 19 May



First Holy Eucharist 2022

First Holy Eucharist Dates:

Preparation session 1-9am Mass, Sunday 15th May followed by a 30 minute session

Preparation session 2-9am Mass, Sunday 29th May followed by a 30 minute session and short practice in the Church.

First Holy Eucharist Day- Sunday 19th June 9am and 5.30 Masses

Practical Points for First Holy Eucharist

Please note this year it will be only be Communion under one kind (host only)

Practical points for Parents:

- Scrapbooks and Grape sheets - to be completed by the second session and brought back to Mass on that day.
- Dress- Tidy best dress for a special occasion.
- Photos- Individual photos will be taken in the Chapel from 1 hour before the morning Mass and after the evening Mass. A group photo will be taken after each Mass. The process for ordering these will be given to you at one of the preparation sessions.
- Celebration afterwards- the children will be given a lapel pin. They will be given a light refreshment after their Mass.

Easter Celebrations



Dealing with Change and Loss

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. We recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce and related circumstances, children and young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore again offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth. This program is facilitated in small groups (of similarly-aged children) over 8 sessions and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

Who is it for?

Anyone who is living with the effects of change and loss. Many factors can cause change such as:

- Friends can come and go
- Loss of someone or something you love
- Parents and families separate
- Moving to a new place
- Impact of illness
- Family work-life changes

If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth we would encourage you to talk to him/her about participating in the program.

We are pleased to again be able to offer this important program and are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved. If you require further information or would like your child to take part, please email me principal@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Our program coordinator, Anna Gerritsen, is happy to discuss any questions you may have or provide you with further information.



from the Board Chair

Kia ora,

My name is Tanya Wilton, I am a school board member and also an Emergency Medicine specialist doctor at Hutt Hospital.

On a visit to school last week I was really surprised to see that the vast majority of our school children are not wearing their masks indoors. When I visited, there were about 20 children wearing masks indoors. A big ka rawe/you are awesome, to those children who were wearing their masks, it is sometimes hard not being in the majority.

Whilst most schools are not requiring children to wear masks indoors, the Ministry of Education, the COVID-19 response team and public health specialists' advice is clear.

It's strongly encouraged that face masks continue to be worn by ākonga and staff in Years 4-13 when indoors. Face masks are one of the key health measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in indoor settings.

In fact, to ensure that our indoors education environments are safe and healthy, many health care workers and scientists have written to the Government asking for mask wearing indoors at schools to be a requirement at Orange1.

The reasons that masks are a key health measure are;

Masks when worn, reduce amounts of virus being exhaled into the shared air space

Masks reduce amounts of virus being inhaled by those wearing them

Here is a video showing how masks work and how the most benefit is gained when all people in an indoors space are wearing masks and when ventilation is good.

[Why wearing masks and airflow helps](#)

As the video shows, good ventilation is also helpful in reducing circulating amounts of viral particles. Our school will continue to maximise ventilation as able, but with cooler winter weather this term, it is not going to be as easy or as effective as it was in the summer terms.

Another consideration is new variants of COVID. New variants are emerging on a relatively frequent basis and now that Aotearoa/NZ has open borders, new variants will make their way into our communities more rapidly than

when our borders were closed. Whilst being vaccinated or gaining immunity from previous infection is likely to help our body's immune system recognise a new variant, it is not known if new variants may more successfully avoid the immune response gained by vaccination or prior infection.

So whilst there are still significant numbers of active cases (1443 cases in the Hutt Valley, 9 May), the weather is cooling down, the borders are opening, it's the start of flu season, it makes sense to be wearing masks whilst indoors. This will allow our kids to stay as healthy as possible, reduce their days away from school and show care for the vulnerable and disabled children in our school.

I understand that some children are unable to wear masks for a variety of reasons and that is fine, but if your child can wear a mask, please ask them to do so and ask them to be a part of keeping our school as healthy as possible.

Ngā mihi nui,

Tanya

Links to further information

- [Letter to the Government from concerned health workers and scientists](#)
- [Why wearing masks and airflow helps](#)
- [COVID and schools](#)

If you feel strongly about masks in schools you can also write to:

Chris Hipkins the Minister of Education at
c.hipkins@ministers.govt.nz or;

Our local Hutt South MP, Ginny Anderson at
ginny.andersen@parliament.govt.nz

KOWHAI

Our Learning Week 2, Term 2

This week Kowhai have been revising road safety as part of our Health focus this term about keeping ourselves safe. We have been learning about the road rules and why it is important to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! when crossing the road.

“Adults are important to us when crossing a road even at school” - Quinn

“We need to listen for speeding cars so we stop” - Harper

“Crossing the road means always pushing the button and listen for the beeping” - Honor

“We need to look out for sneaky driveways!” - Gus

“Walk DON'T run!” - Max



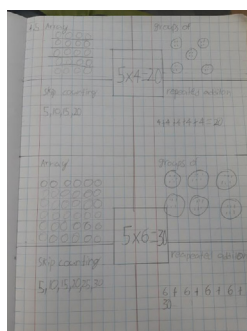
Some of us have had the opportunity to put this learning to good use when walking to and from the swimming pool! We have also explored this through class discussions, roleplay and informational posters.

Help us to always be safe by practising together when crossing the road.



Our Learning Week 2, Term 2

We started our maths learning this term with multiplication. There are so many ways we can show our understanding about the concept of multiplication. These include skip counting, using arrays, showing grouping strategies and addition strategies. We have been learning about arrays this week. See if your child can find some arrays in your home or neighbourhood. These could include a supermarket car park, an egg carton, or their toys put into an array. Use these arrays to count the total number of objects you see. You can also help your child to draw a sketch of the arrays showing the columns and rows.



POHUTUKAWA

Buddy Reading

Room 6 and Room 13 have had their first buddy reading session for the year. Room 13 assisted their Room 6 buddies to read a book from their independent box. Room 6 students enjoyed reading and sharing, while the Room 13 students enjoyed listening and asking questions. We even had some cousins from the different classrooms reading together.

*By Ruby Wei-Solt and Brooklyn Donaldson
(Room 13)*

This is what Room 6 enjoyed about it:

Ethan: "I liked reading to my Room 13 buddy because I love books!"

Evania: "I liked it because I had two buddies to help me."

Flynn: "I liked reading the big books with my buddy because there were puzzles in the book!"

Xana: "I liked reading the Greedy Cat book to my kind buddy"

POHUTUKAWA

continued...

Our Learning Week 2, Term 2

Pohutukawa Area Trip to Zealandia

At the end of Term one, Pohutukawa students visited Zealandia as part of their science learning about the ecosanctuary and its relationship with the urban environment. The students were able to learn about the importance of the ecosanctuary in providing a safe place for our native species to survive and thrive. They had a wonderful time walking around Zealandia with their guides looking for different birds and trying to spot the well camouflaged tuataras. One group was lucky enough to silently observe a kārearea (New Zealand falcon) bathing itself in a bush stream. This was an extremely rare sight and one that their guide had never witnessed before in all his time at Zealandia. Back at school Room 12 did some wonderful thinking about the big ideas around the importance of Zealandia. Here are some of them.

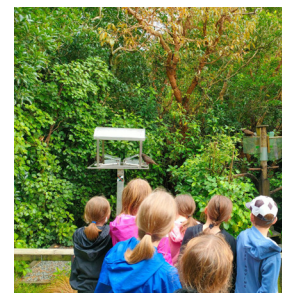
The impact of Zealandia on the ecosystem is amazing because our native birds thrive there.

The relationship Zealandia has with the rest of New Zealand is that it positively impacts on the increase of native birds everywhere.

Photos from our Buddy Reading



Photos from Zealandia





RATA

Our Learning Week 2, Term 2

Two Raw Sisters

Two Raw Sisters, Life Education Trust and 5+ A Day are working together to educate children on how to cook using more plants. Rata area was very lucky to have Rosa & Margo come and do a cooking presentation for us. They shared a practical and fun approach to nutrition and health. We were treated to two easy and delicious recipes. Peanut Butter Banana Bircher and Teriyaki Fried Rice. Delicious!

“We learnt that there are foods which have simple and complex carbohydrates. Simple carbohydrates such as Nutrigrain will give you a peak of energy and then you will drop very low and be tired. Whereas, complex carbohydrates such as oats, seeds and nuts will also give you a peak of energy but will sustain you for longer. Nuts are also very good for your brain as they are high in Omegas 3 and 6.”

Lulu Wood, Ariana Gentry & Amelie Fox

“I learnt how to safely chop up vegetables. The Two Raw Sisters showed us that cutting from the tip to the butt of the knife is the best and safest way to cut vegetables, while making a tunnel with your fingers. I will definitely try making some of the food at home as it smelled delicious”

Pania Hunt



“We learnt that some carbohydrates give you a spike of energy and then leave you feeling very hungry. I loved the smell of the teriyaki rice, it smelled delicious! I also learnt that if you don't eat enough food it can affect how your body develops, I was surprised by this information”

Shania Noronha

“I enjoyed learning different recipes, some of the foods they showed us I didn't know about, such as the chia seed that were used in the bircher muesli. I felt quite nervous at the front helping but I was glad to try and cook something new”

Amelia Tangata'Olakepa





SPORT

Miniball (Yrs 3 to 6) and Netball (Yrs 5 to 8) are underway with over 80 of our students involved.

Thanks to all the parents who have volunteered their time so their children and other students can take part in these sporting activities.

Cross Country

As you see by the notice sent out by Mrs Tester last week this is to be a competitive only event.

Students who qualify will take part in the Zone event on 24th May (pp 26th May) at Sladden Park in Petone.

To qualify our students must finish within a certain time frame and we are only allowed up to 10 students in each Year and Gender group from Year 4 to 8.

You are most welcome to come and see your child run so please check if they have entered.

Times after the first event are approximate:

9.15am - Yr 7 & 8 combined

9.45am - Yr 4

10 am – Yr 5

10.20am – Yr 6

You will be notified by email if your child is successful in moving on to the Zone event.

- Mrs Bartlett, Sports Coordinator

PTA NEWS

We hope you all had a good break over the holidays and that everyone was happy returning to school this morning! You may recall that all orders made for our Hot Cross bun fundraiser last term went into the draw to win a \$100 cake voucher to go towards a personalised/specialised cake of your (or your child's choice!) Well the lucky winner is Karyn Donaldson! Congratulations Karyn. We will be in touch separately with details on how to claim your prize.

Also, Craig from Silverstream bakery wanted to confirm that the free donut vouchers that were given out can be used without the need to purchase an additional packet of Hot Cross Buns - you have already purchased the required packet through the fundraiser!



★ **SS PETER AND PAUL SCHOOL PTA FUNDRAISER** ★

TOP GUN: MAVERICK MOVIE

AT LIGHTHOUSE CINEMA

PETONE

Bring your friends and family for
a fun movie evening

SUNDAY 12 JUNE 5:00 PM SCREENING

\$22 PER TICKET

PG-13 RATING FILM

Any questions please email pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz

ADMIT ONE
604760

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604760

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




News from the Office

Ss Peter and Paul Church Carpark

This is a reminder to avoid making use of the Church car park for parking or as a drive-through for drop offs and pickups. Our Parish Team are very appreciative of this. Many thanks as always

A Message from Finance

Please ensure when making online payments, that you put your child's name as reference and what the payment is for in particulars. This helps to allocate the payment correctly. Thank you in advance

School Opening Time

Just a friendly reminder that school classrooms are open for students from 8:15am.

Classroom teachers are very busy prior to this getting ready for their day and need the time and space to be able to concentrate on this.

We really do appreciate your support.



2023 Enrolments

We welcome enrolments from our school community for 2023

If you have friends or family members who are interested in enrolling their child at our school for next year please remind them that enrolment forms are available on our school website or hardcopies are available from the school office. Thank you.

Any queries regarding an enrolment please contact Lisa in the office on 569-5759 ext 2

St Bernard's College Open Day

St Bernard's College will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 28 May 2022 from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Prospective students and their parents are invited to visit during these hours to find out more about St Bernard's College and what it can provide. Our new classrooms will be completed by then and open for visitors to view. St Bernard's College is a Year 7-13 Catholic boys' college.

For further information please see our website: www.sbc.school.nz

or contact the office at:

183 Waterloo Rd Lower Hutt Ph 560 9250

Email: office@sbcschool.nz