

Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 2 August 2022



Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Attendance at school

At a time when everyone is doing such an excellent job keeping sick children at home it may seem a little strange to now be focussing on attendance. But you may have read or heard of the concern being expressed across the country at the drop in regular school attendance. Regular attendance is considered to be when a student attends school 9 days in a fortnight (90% of the time). When we use this definition we have Term 1 data that tells us:

58% of students across the country were attending school regularly

44% of students across Lower Hutt were attending school regularly

73% of students at Ss Peter & Paul were attending school regularly

It was anticipated that Term 2 figures would be worse because of continuing COVID and winter illnesses.

Our school's Term 2 data confirms that, with a drop to 61.9% of students attending school regularly. The vast majority of absences were of course, due to illness.

These figures do not include students needing to self-isolate. They are considered to be present at school. On the attendance register, they are coded as 'F' meaning they are not in class but are involved in legitimate off-site learning. To ensure our data is valid and reliable could I just do a wee reminder to please provide clear information about the reason for your child's absence from school. When it is COVID related please be clear if they are isolating as a household contact or unwell with COVID. When this happens they are coded as 'M' for a medical absence.

The Government has set a goal to have 70% of students attending school regularly by 2024. Associate Education Minister, Jan Tinetti, said this recently when discussing school attendance:

"We all share responsibility and have a role to play to reverse this trend and lift attendance back up. Parents and whānau are responsible for getting their children to attend and participate, while schools and kura have to be places where students feel they are safe and belong," she said.

It's an important challenge ahead for us as a country, a local community and a school to get all students who are well, at school every day. Many thanks for all your support with this.

Curriculum Donation

We know that Education Outside the Classroom, where students experience a range of trips and activities, is both enriching and engaging for them. This certainly helps keep them well connected to their learning and fully engaged in school life. This has a positive flow on effect to improved achievement levels. We are very reliant on parents' willingness and ability to pay the annual Curriculum Donation to provide this. Currently we have received approximately half of the expected donations which is very low for this time of year.

As a high decile school we are not able to access the parent donation scheme whereby the Government provides schools extra funding so they do not need to ask their parent community for donations. Currently this scheme is only open to decile 1-7 schools. It is instead expected that schools like ours (decile 8-10) are able to rely on parent donations to provide a range of extra opportunities for students.

Area Leaders set their trips and activities budget by multiplying the number of students in their Area by their Area curriculum donation. No student would ever be denied the opportunity to take part in a trip or activity but it is not financially viable for the school to continue to fund the shortfall from what we anticipate will come in and what actually does. We would have to instead reduce the donation and corresponding range of trips and activities to the level that parents were able and willing to pay.

For those families who are yet to pay their curriculum donation, you will shortly receive a reminder about this from Teresa, our Accounts Officer. As long as it does not pose a financial hardship for you, I do encourage you to consider payment so we can maintain the level of opportunities for your children. Many thanks.

Kay Tester Principal

OUR WEBSITE



PARISH WEBSITE



SEASONS FOR GROWTH



Contents

From our Principal
Special Character
Kowhai
Nikau
Pohutukawa
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Reminders and Updates
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Events

Wednesday 3 August

Board Nominations close 12pm

Tuesday 9 August

Swimming Interzone Trials

Friday 12 August

Scholastic Book orders close

SPECIAL CHARACTER

The Feast of the Assumption

You are all invited to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption Mass with us, on Monday 15th August at 9:15 am in the church.

Kowhai and some Year 3 Nikau students will have a liturgy in their own areas. A gentle reminder to please wear a mask and observe social distancing.

On Sunday 14 August your family might also like to join in the Dedication of the Shrine to Mary, Assumed into Heaven and Patroness of New Zealand at St Mary's of the Angels with a Mass at 2pm.

As part of the celebration of the Shrine to Mary, there is a newly commemorative art piece by artist Damien Walker who was commissioned by our Bishops. The artwork is now touring New Zealand as part of Te Hiko Wairua mo Te Ara a Maria.

As the beautiful image of Mary moves throughout Aotearoa New Zealand her presence will guide us as we reflect together on how Mary is not just Mother of the Church but also of each parish and community in our land.



The commemorative artwork which will be on display in the St Mary of the Angels Church, the confirmed national shrine to Mary.

FROM THE LIBRARY

SAVE THE DATE!

Book Week will be held in week 5 and the theme is: Book Safari: A Wild Journey of Adventure and Delight!

We are excited to announce there will be visiting authors, special activities for class library visits, a schoolwide challenge to read 1000 books during the week, and a book character day.

Book Safari is an opportunity for learners to engage with books about curious creatures, books about new places and cultures, but also to go on a safari of the mind into new

areas of interest and discovery. The book character day is a chance for your child to come to school dressed in a costume that embraces any of these ideas of a book safari, including coming dressed as their favourite character from a book.



KOWHAI

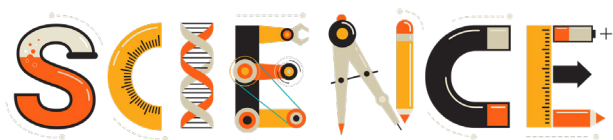
Our Learning Week 2, Term 3

Thinking like a Scientist

Kowhai have begun exploring the topic of 'Thinking like a Scientist'. We have been looking at what science is and what a scientist does. We have found many interesting things to look at and have come to the conclusion that science is all about asking questions and figuring things out!

There's been hypotheses created, experiments carried out and conclusions made all in one week!

We are going to continue to look at more unanswered questions and explore more everyday examples of physical phenomena like forces, movement and light in the weeks to come.



"Science is about finding a problem and fixing it!" - Lucy

"Science is about making your ideas clear" – Quinn

"Scientists make potions!" - Rylee

"Well, we were doing some experiments like water walks! The colourful water walked up the paper and made new colours!"
Martha-Rose

"The stronger I push the lever the farther the ball goes" - Issac

"The position of the lever tells me which direction the ball will go" - Lucas

Science is...

- Using materials to make things
- Doing experiments to try things out
- Never giving up, try something new
- Discovering new things
- Asking a lot of questions
- Figuring things out
- Learn more and more
- Being clear about your ideas



NIKAU

Our Learning Week 2, Term 3

Maths

At the end of last term in maths we learnt about translation, symmetry, reflection and rotation of plane shapes. We also learnt about Kowhaiwhai patterns and used our new knowledge to help create our own Kowhaiwhai patterns for printmaking. We loved the process of using the ink paints to create our prints and were really happy with the results.

We indented our pattern onto a piece of foam rubber with our pencil. Then we rolled the ink onto the rubber, flipped it onto the paper and pressed down hard. I repeated the process a couple of times and when I did I flipped, rotated and made a line of symmetry on my paper. We let our prints dry for a day and then they were finished!

I felt very proud and happy with my Kowhaiwhai patterns because I knew I had tried my best and this was a new thing I had learnt.

Aastha, Rm 11



Little Theatre Experience

Last Wednesday we were lucky enough to attend the Little Theatre to watch a performance of The Emperor's New Clothes by the NZ Playhouse. It was fun to go to a real theatre and experience a real performance.

It was amazing and awesome. There were so many kids excited we saw actors and a background. *Jacob, Rm 8*

The chairs were tiered and had armrests. The stage also had a background. There was 1 actor and 2 actresses. It was epic! *Thirdy, Rm 8*

If I was an Emperor or Empress of Aotearoa I would get rid of Covid 19 and make sure that everyone is safe, not sick."

Emily, Rm 11

If I was an Emperor I would make the school holidays one year so that the teachers could have a long break.

Vann, Rm 11

If I was an Empress I would help people who are in a wheelchair and people who are blind. I would help them by pushing them around. *Mackenzie, Rm 11*

If I was an Empress I would give lots of money to the poor so that they could live a happy life and be warm in the winter.

Mila, Rm 11



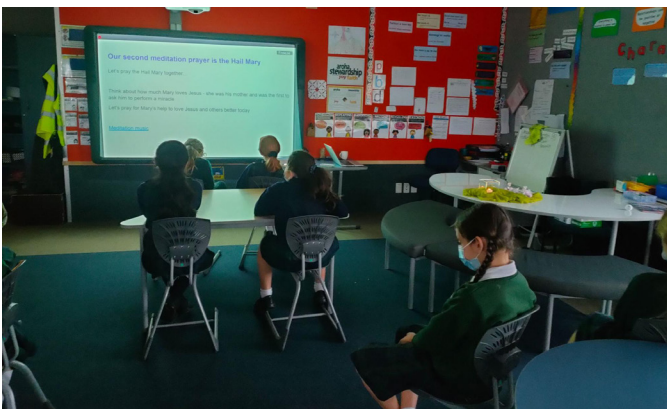
POHUTUKAWA

Our Learning Week 2, Term 3

Meditation

In the Pohutukawa Area, we have been doing a different form of prayer: meditation. Meditation in our class is listening to some calming music, slowing our breath and letting our thoughts and feelings go. Relaxing your body and calming down is a perfect way to meditate and pray. When we meditate we feel closer to God, Jesus, Mary, the Holy Spirit and to our heart. During our meditation we reflect on a prayer or story from the Bible. So far, in Room 15, we have reflected on our traditional prayers of Our Father and the Hail Mary. During our reflection we let any thoughts about our relationships with God and others come into our heads. After we have done this we feel refreshed, positive, ready to start our day at school and leave all negative feelings behind.

By Valantina, Ruby, Sianne and Sophia (Room 15)



Icon Art Sts Peter and Paul

Mr Watson asked me to create a piece of artwork for display in the Pohutukawa area. He wanted it to be an icon of Sts Peter and Paul. At first, I had to start on my own, which was very tricky, because I had to start with my own ideas and possible design. Jewel finally came, and we both started adding more details. We were both very excited, because we were doing a new icon painting for the Pohutukawa Area. When we got to the painting bit, I was very nervous. I never really did any paint artwork before. But I used my knowledge from sketching, and we managed to work out where to add shading, and what colour combinations would work successfully. Finally, after a long, and fun time, our painting was done. Jewel and I both thought it looked amazing.

Ruby Wei-Solt (Room 13)

Even though I wasn't able to join Ruby at the beginning, I was really happy with her design, and continued to work with it. We both kept changing the art work to get the painting to a high standard. If we didn't have the right shade of colours, we would try to mix the paint to make it the right shade. The St Peter and Paul icon took an eternity but it was still enjoyable to work alongside Ruby.

Jewel Laiju (Room 13)



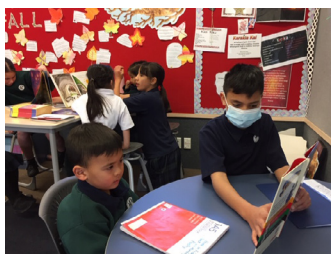
BUDDY CLASSES AT WORK

At the end of last term, Kowhai students visited the Pohutukawa area. The teachers organised for a Pohutukawa student to meet and look after a Kowhai student for the session. During their time together the Pohutukawa students shared some poems they had written and Kowhai students read poems they had learnt. Pohutukawa students then chose a picture book they could read together with their Kowhai buddy.

Afterwards, Kowhai students were taken on a tour of the Pohutukawa area to look at the artwork on display. To finish off our time together we all went out to the astroturf where Mrs Spink led us in some kapa haka songs. We also learnt some new and fun kapa haka songs from our Kowhai buddies. We loved our time together and really enjoyed it, we can't wait to do it again.

By Norah-Vae and Olive

(Room 14)



REMINDERS AND UPDATES



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

Uniform

Reminder all students should now be wearing their winter school uniform. If you have any queries please email Teresa on uniform@stpeterpaul.school.nz

SCHOOL SPORT

Interzone Cross Country

Congratulations to Sam McGrath 2nd, and Paul Coote 3rd, for placing in the top 3 in their races.

They, along with the following, who all finished in the top ten qualified for Regionals- Shakira Brown, Milana Burt, Brooke Crighton, Olive Hall Ruby Thom and Hudson Thom.

The Regionals proved an extra challenge and all of our runners gave their best in fields that varied from 65 -75 runners. Top 20 finishers were Milana Burt 12th, Paul Coote 14th and Sam McGrath 19th.

We congratulate all of our runners on their efforts.

Swimming-Interzone Trials

Schools across Lower Hutt are adapting their swimming sports at the moment because of the need to be cautious

regarding the spread of COVID and other winter illnesses. There will be no qualifying school or Zone Swimming Sports this year, rather on the morning of Tuesday 9th August at Huia Pool we will be holding trials for our Interzone Swimming Event.

This is for only our most capable swimmers as events are to be timed and qualifiers need to make certain times to move onto the Interzone level.

Events are Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke- 25m for Year 4 to 6 and 50m for Year 7,8

We will also be holding the McGuinness and Fletcher Cup races at this time and have scheduled them for 9.30 so parents can come and support their child in this event if they wish.

We will notify you if your child is included in the Cup events.

The Interzone event is on September 23rd.

PTA

news & updates

School PTA Facebook Page

Join the Ss Peter & Paul School PTA Facebook page to hear news about upcoming PTA events, how to support the school community and connect with school parents.

Simply search for "Ss Peter & Paul School PTA" and add yourself to the group. Its a closed group so there are security questions (name of your child's teacher etc) so we can make sure it's a safe community school page.

Any questions please email pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz

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



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

**ARE YOU READY TO BOOGIE
THE NIGHT AWAY?**

Disco at the Dowse

**DJ IS BOOKED, LOTS OF GLOWSTICKS
FOR SALE, SPOT PRIZES FOR BEST
DANCE MOVES**

**YEAR 0 TO YEAR 3, FROM 6PM - 7PM
YEAR 4 TO YEAR 8, FROM 7.30 - 8.30PM**

**CASH ONLY PLEASE (EFTPOS
UNAVAILABLE)**

\$5 ENTRY FEE