

# Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 30 August 2022



## Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

### Reading for pleasure - a door to success

We have just finished a most successful Safari Book Week which you will see more of throughout the newsletter. Many thanks to Anna Gerritsen, our school librarian and Victoria McHalick, our teacher with library responsibility, for their leadership and commitment to our school library. Thanks also to the number of students who gave of their time and talent leading up to and during the week. The library looked amazing! Our library is a highly valued part of our school and it's well stocked with books that our students want to read because libraries are important and reading for pleasure is one of the most important things we can encourage in our children.

A growing body of research shows that reading engagement is a key element in a student's success. When children are engaged in their reading they experience both the joy and magic that comes from reading for pleasure and the long term learning and life benefits this can bring. Easy access to books and high-interest reading material is important. Children with books of their own read more, and more frequently. Students who are members of a library are twice as likely to read at home. Research has repeatedly shown that when parents are involved in supporting and encouraging their children's engagement in reading, this is a more powerful force for educational success than family background or social circumstances.

The benefits of reading for pleasure extend beyond increased educational outcomes to improved wellbeing, health, and connections with others. Working together across our school and community, we can reap the benefits that reading for pleasure can bring.

### Attendance and Engagement Strategy - Every Day Matters

The Government has developed a strategy for tackling the decade-long decline in regular attendance and engagement in schools. The strategy has three key parts: clear expectations for everyone involved, ambitious targets for attendance levels, and bold actions.

At our recent Board meeting I shared a recent report of our Term 1 data which compared our school's attendance to schools of similar decile and within the Wellington region. We compared favourably with all year levels. The percentage of Year 4 students (our highest attending group) attending regularly was greater in our school than in all comparison groups. This group was sitting on 80% of students attending regularly. Regular attendance is considered to be when a student attends school 9 days in a fortnight (90% of the time).

As we get through these winter ills we hope to see our attendance rates climb even higher and across all year groups. You can monitor your children's attendance through the Parent Portal. Any problems with this, please contact our helpful office team who will sort this out for you very quickly.

You can [click here](#) to read the Ministry of Education's guidelines to schools on the use of school attendance codes. It would be very helpful if you could familiarise yourself with these especially if you notice any unjustified absences on your child's attendance record. Parents can sometimes be surprised that their explanation of an absence does not automatically make it a justified one. These surprises occur mostly with the E and M codes.

Please help our office team by ensuring you give a clear reason for any absence from school as this saves them time having to make follow up phone calls.

*Kay Tester* Principal

OUR WEBSITE



PARISH WEBSITE



SEASONS FOR GROWTH



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## Events

### Friday 9 September

PTA School Disco

### Monday 12 September

Rata Camp (return Wednesday)

# SPECIAL CHARACTER

As we come to the end of August, the month of Mary, we would like to share a few snapshots of the celebration we have had at school.

It was wonderful to see many parents who came to celebrate with us too. Here are some of the prayers and learning feedback from our students:

Hail Mary full of grace, you were chosen out of all women to have our Lord Jesus. He taught us kindness, love, goodness and joy. Hail Mary please look after my mum because she works hard every day and night. Amen

By Hine Wilson Room 3

Hail Mary full of grace, you are always calm, you are very gentle, that is why I think God chose you to be the mother of Jesus. My mum is Megan. She is very kind like you. She loves me and my family as much as you love Jesus, God and all of your family. Amen.

By Honor Wilton Room 2

I like listening to songs about Mary. I think she is very kind and nice. My mum is nice and she loves me.

By Xana Panapa-McInman Room 6

Hail Mary please look after the people in New Zealand. Please make them happy.

By Jai Carag Room 1

Hail Mary full of grace, thank you for the plants. Help us look after our Earth. Amen.

By Daniel Phillip Room 1

For the Feast of the Assumption Mass, 13 students from the Pohutukawa area performed a liturgical dance in honour of Mary. After communion, we danced to the song Hail Mary-Gentle Woman in slow, peaceful movements to reflect the meaning of this prayer. We enjoyed participating in the mass and thinking of different movements for our dance to honour the special place Mary has in our faith.

By Nadia Burt and Lotte Theobald (Room 15)



*Kowhai Liturgy*



*Liturgical Dance*

# BOOK CHARACTER WEEK



Book Safari was an opportunity for our students to engage with books about curious creatures, new places and cultures, but also to go on a safari of the mind into new areas of interest and discovery. The library safari makeover triggered high excitement with its hanging vines, survival camp artifacts, a glowworm cave, the rattle snake in a tree, bamboo glades and a giant nest suspended from on high! With green lights glowing and the sounds of croaking, hissing and roaring, students were transported to new worlds of adventure, surrounded by lively and colourful artwork from all levels of the school. Sessions included safari-themed book tables, book scavenger hunts, retelling stories with 3D models, and a range of information challenges to prompt curiosity and deeper thinking.

Our school-wide co-operative challenge to read 1000 books was reached in the first two days. With everyone reading together we read more than 6000 books! The primary focus of any Book Week is to spark enthusiasm for reading. Our Book Safari has taken us on a wild journey through books. We are also grateful for the support of Read NZ Te Pou Muramura, with support from Creative NZ, for help with funding our visiting authors.



## Our Learning Week 6, Term 3

In Kowhai, we have been very busy over the past few weeks. We had the chance to go to the Walter Nash Centre. We met some lovely coaches who took us through various activities such as, gagaball, kickball, an obstacle course, Lego creation and story time in their library. Thank you so much to all parents and caregivers who gave us their time and came along to help us with this wonderful experience! We have really appreciated the support over the term so far.

“I didn’t know exactly why we were going to Walter Nash but it was a great surprise, I was so happy!” – *Hine*

“We needed to eat lots of food because we moved so much” – *Noah*

“My favourite part was gagaball, you hit the ball with your hands and try to not get hit” - *Jirah*



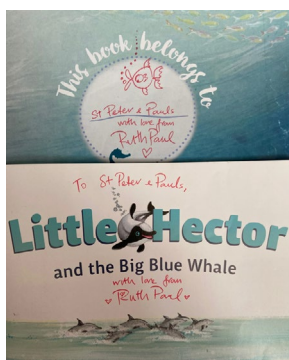
### Kowhai’s Book Week

We also had a great time during book week. Everyone put a great deal of effort into their costumes and we have had a week of amazing activities to explore literacy in many different ways. We also had a visit from Ruth Paul the award-winning Author of ‘Lion Guards the Cake’. She took us through her writing process and we had the chance to act out ‘I am Jellyfish’ with her. Thank you Ruth for visiting and signing our books, it was definitely a highlight of our week!

“Ruth Paul came to visit; she told us about what it’s like to be an author!” – *Riaan*

“I want to be an illustrator; I hope I am as good as Ruth Paul!” – *Quinn*

“Ruth Paul showed us a picture of her in a uniform like us, so we can be just as good as her one day” - *Indy*



# NIKAU

Our Learning Week 6, Term 3

## Gymnastics

In Nikau, we have had a gymnastics focus for PE. We have learnt the four basic gymnastics shapes, different ways of travelling and how to create and perform a sequence of actions. A favourite session was making partner shapes. There was a lot of laughter as students worked together to balance and hold each other in the right position. Now that we have built some confidence, we are looking forward to our upcoming trip to Sacred Heart for a gymnastics session run by the girls.

'I have been learning stretches and how to do partner shapes. I liked the partner shape where you had to hold each other up. It was hard but fun.' - *Ivory*

'I usually love P.E. and this gymnastics learning has been a favourite for me. I have learnt the pike, straddle and tuck positions.' - *Kaleb*

'When we are walking in gymnastics, we have to put our arms up. You can take a few steps and then you jump forward. You always land with your knees bent.' - *Cici*

'We've been getting into pairs and learning how to balance with each other. I found it a little bit tricky to hold the shape for a long time.' - *Madison*

'I learnt how to do the walk battement. You have to put your arms up straight and kick your legs out in front of you. I found it easy.' - *Nathan*



# POHUTUKAWA

Our Learning Week 6, Term 3

## Book Week in Pohutukawa - What a fantastic week!

Reading safari in the library, character writing, making bookmarks, delving into picture books, dressing up as our favourite book character and a visit from Wellington book illustrator Phoebe Morris!

What the children had to say about it all.....

Going to the library this week was magical, it felt like I was stepping into a different universe. *Aalya*

I really enjoyed going to the library this week and doing all the safari activities. *Niamh*

Walking into the library and seeing it look like a jungle made me get really excited about book week. I loved seeing all the different costumes, especially Mrs Spink as Miss Trunchbull. *Iva*

I loved all the activities in the library this week and I really liked to hear from Phoebe Morris about how she learnt to draw when she was a kid. *Giselle*

I loved our book character day and seeing so many characters from books I didn't even know about. *Frankie*

I loved the character parade seeing so many different outfits especially all the teachers dressed up too. *Sianne*

Dressing up as a book character, made me really feel like I was that character. *Aimee*

I learnt from Phoebe Morris that if you love drawing like I do, keep working on it and you will get better at it. *Kora*

I really enjoyed the creative decorations in the library and the costumes. It was a fun week. *Charlotte*

It was fun and I really enjoyed the reading challenge. *Alair*

I loved the dress up day and making our bookmarks with my friends in different classes. *Jerone*

I enjoyed dressing up as my favourite book character. *Marcus*

I liked listening to Phoebe share about being an illustrator and asking for our feedback on her cover design for her new book illustration. *Myron*

I liked listening to Phoebe explain how she gets her ideas for the illustrations she does. *Isabella*

It was the best week of the term. The book challenge was fun. *Hudson*

I really liked the dress up day and listening to Phoebe Morris the illustrator tell us about her job. *Brenna*





# RĀTĀ

Our Learning Week 6, Term 3

## Book Week in Rātā!

This week the Rātā area has been fortunate to receive a creative writing lesson by the very inspiring, local writer Denika Mead. With 4 books already published at the age of 18 and another novel waiting in the wings to be released later this year, Denika is sure to be an inspiration to many of our ākonga. Denika was generous in sharing her tips and tricks for creative writing as a part of the 'Book Week' celebrations during week 5.

Denika has written a series of books set in a fantasy, dystopian world perfect for any young reader who loves a fantasy novel filled with dragons, mystic wolves and the undead. Featuring a strong young female heroine this series of books is perfect for our young readers in the Rātā area.

Additionally this week our wonderful students got to dress up as their favourite book character. There was a fabulous variety of characters, Kai pai everyone!

Further to all of these wonderful events our students also read their self made picture books to the smallest of our school community. It was so heartwarming to see the Rātā students read to the Kōwhai area.



# SCHOOL SPORT

## Interzone Swimming

This event is scheduled for 16th September and all parents and students have been advised.

## Term 4 Sport

Yesterday, Monday 29th, forms were shared with you by email for our Term 4 out of school sports options.

Touch is available for Years 0 to 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6 who all play on Fridays at Hutt Park. Years 7, 8 will play on a Thursday at Fraser Park.

Netball is on Saturdays and involves Year 0 to 2 and Year 3 to 4. Star Helpers are needed for each team and they receive training from Netball Hutt Valley.

All information is on the forms.

As always we will only be able to enter teams if we have parents volunteer to coach and manage.





## ATHLETICS WELLINGTON and UPPER HUTT ATHLETICS CLUB

Offer an Opportunity to our young athletes of the future to  
**Give Athletics a Go**

**“RUN, JUMP and THROW”**

For Further Information  
Please contact  
Upper Hutt Athletics Club  
joshsharkey@yahoo.com or  
upperhuttathletics@gmail.com

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**10.00am SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER – NZCIS CAMPUS, Somme Road, Trentham**

**RUN activities**

- Sprinting and Agility
- Low hurdle running
- Relays

**THROW activities**

- Soft Shot
- Turbo Javelin

**JUMP activities**







# PTA NEWS

After a long hiatus due to Covid, we are so pleased to announce the SSPP PTA Disco at the Dowse is back! On Friday 9th September, our school disco will be rocking The Dowse Art Museum, with fun glow products lighting up the night!

This event is an annual highlight which is greatly enjoyed by our students. So due to capacity numbers, our disco is split into two discos:

**Junior Disco, 6pm to 7pm** - Year 0 to Year 3

**Senior Disco, 7.30pm to 8.30pm** - Year 4 to Year 8

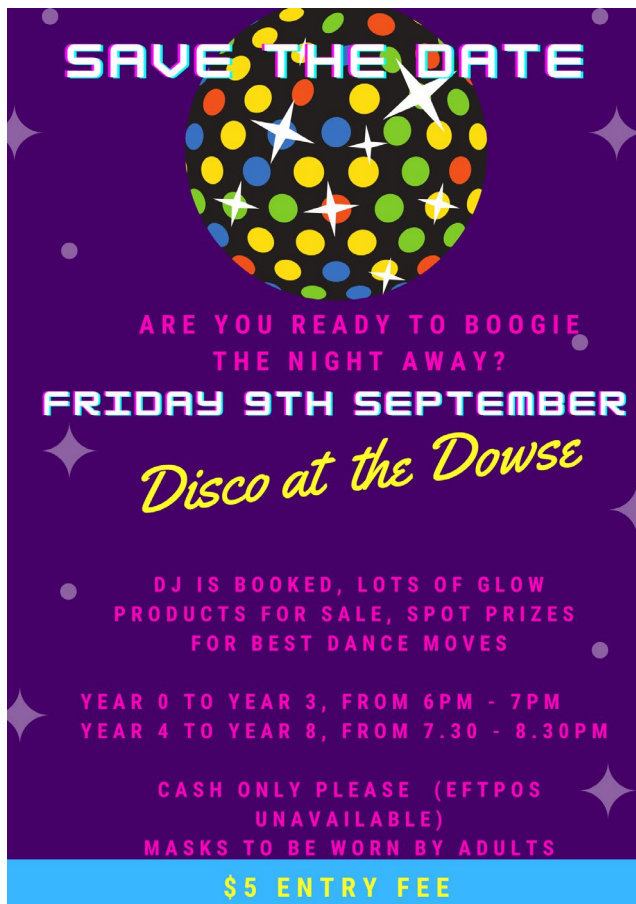
Entry is \$5 per child (at the door), and we have loads of fun glow products for sale - rings, necklaces, ties, sunglasses, bracelets, glow sticks ... so much to choose from! Glow product prices range from \$1 to \$5.

Just a few things to note:

- No eftpos available, cash only please.
- Covid and winter illnesses are still in the community, so it would be appreciated if adults wear a mask, masks are optional for children.
- The disco is not a drop off event, parents are required to remain onsite.

Any queries, please email the PTA at [pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz).

We look forward to seeing you there! Thank you for supporting this fun community event.



**SAVE THE DATE**

ARE YOU READY TO BOOGIE THE NIGHT AWAY?

**FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER**

*Disco at the Dowse*

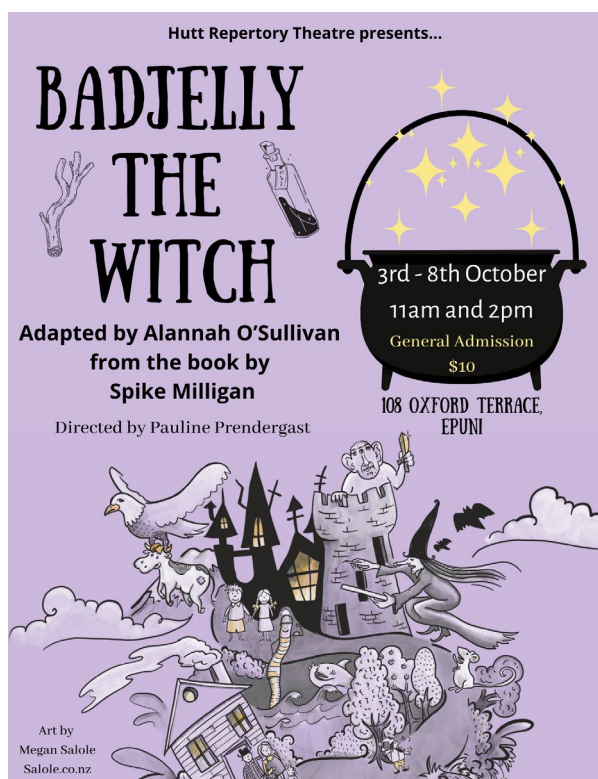
DJ IS BOOKED, LOTS OF GLOW PRODUCTS FOR SALE, SPOT PRIZES FOR BEST DANCE MOVES

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

CASH ONLY PLEASE (EFTPOS UNAVAILABLE)  
MASKS TO BE WORN BY ADULTS

**\$5 ENTRY FEE**

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



Hutt Repertory Theatre presents...

# BADJELLY THE WITCH

Adapted by Alannah O'Sullivan  
from the book by Spike Milligan  
Directed by Pauline Prendergast

3rd - 8th October  
11am and 2pm  
General Admission \$10  
108 OXFORD TERRACE, EPUNI

Art by Megan Salole  
[Salole.co.nz](http://Salole.co.nz)



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- 3 Make a payment so you have funds in your account before you order
- 4 Select your lunch and place an order



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