

Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 22 November 2022



Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Welcomes and farewells

A special welcome to Micah who is the newest and final member of Room 7 for 2022. Micah joins his older siblings Macally and Mae at school. We hope you settle very happily into school life Micah.

A very fond farewell to two of our teachers at the end of the year - Janelle McKay will be relocating to Hamilton and Sue Maher will be retiring after a long and dedicated career. A number of our parent community remember very happy times being a pupil in Mrs Maher's classroom. We are most grateful for the talent and enthusiasm with which you have both so generously contributed over your 4 to 30+ years at this school.

Celebration of Learning

What a lovely afternoon it was! Many thanks to the parents, grandparents and whānau who were able to join us. We hope to have many more opportunities to gather together and share the learning and rich cultural identities that abound in our school.

Class Organisation for 2023

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. We are very appreciative of your understanding with this. Stationery lists (which show classroom placements) will go home on Monday 12 December.

Reporting to Parents

Reporting on your children's progress and achievement has been continuous and timely throughout the year, 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 throughout the year. A summary document to highlight this information will be included with the end-of-year report.

Three way conferencing opportunities have been provided at the ends of Terms 1, 2 & 3 for students, parents 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 9 December.

School attendance

No doubt you would have seen the concerns expressed about declining school attendance in the headlines recently. A detailed review from the Education Review Office began with the statement that, *'Going to school is critical for our children's futures. The evidence is clear that every day of school matters - missing school leads to lower achievement. In Aotearoa New Zealand, learners are expected to attend school every day the school is open. And yet they don't. We have lower attendance than other countries and, alarmingly, attendance is falling.'*

The report found that *'Not all parents and learners understand the importance of going to school. Many prioritise other activities over going to school, for example sports or holidays and too many learners face real barriers to attending school. Improving attendance will require action from the government, communities, schools, parents, and the learners themselves.'*

2022 has been a challenging year for students to maintain regular attendance (90 % of attendance or higher). A bout of COVID automatically meant 5 days off school and there have been numerous other illnesses which families have had to cope with. Last term the range of regular attendance across our year groups was 48.3% to 71%. Our year 5 group took out the top attendance spot.

Even now we are seeing a slight increase in COVID cases. We continue our practices of good COVID hygiene, ventilation and mask wearing if necessary. We still have a good supply of RAT kits at school so please just ask for one if you need it.

We look to 2023 to see our attendance levels lift again. Keeping personal track of how many days your child is absent or how many times they are late, will be an important way for us to work together on this. It is relatively straightforward to keep track of your child's attendance at school. You can do this through the @ school App or through the Parent Portal. The link to the portal can be found when you scroll right to the bottom of the homepage on our school website. Please contact lisa@stpeterpaul.school.nz if you have any problems with this.

Click on the Report an Absence button. Just below the space where you would normally report an absence you will see a small heading - Days absent with a percentage of days absent for the current year. This is followed by a full list displaying the days absent and reasons. A list of any lateness to school follows.

Road Patrol

On Friday we had road patrol training for students keen to take on this important school safety role next year. Constable Tanya was very complimentary of the large number of our students prepared to give of their time, often in quite challenging weather and traffic conditions. We are so grateful for these wonderful people and very glad to think of them enjoying the Road Patrol Pool party in the last week of the term!

OUR WEBSITE



PARISH WEBSITE



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Special Character
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Events

Tuesday 29 November

Interzone Athletics
9:15am Kowhai Athletics

Wednesday 30 November

6:30pm PTA Meeting

Friday 2 December

Helpers Thank You
Morning Tea 10:20-11am

Tuesday 6 December

Regional Athletics

Kay Tester Principal

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Baptism and Confirmation

Last Sunday Archbishop Paul Martin and Father Patrick celebrated the Masses for the Feast of Christ the King, also called the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The reader reflected on the Gospel that we are branches who cannot stand alone. Jesus himself is our gardener, who continuously nourishes our spirit. If we remain faithful to Him, our life will prosper and bear much fruit. If we remain loyal to our belief, the hard work we do will result in more than we ever expected.

It was a very special day for some of our families, who were present to witness their children receiving the first Sacrament, Baptism.

Another highlight of the Mass was the Sacrament of Confirmation. These students, with the support of their families, have been working hard preparing to continue and strengthen their faith journey:



Morning Mass

Eleanor Bignall, Emily Gerritsen, Ethan Grooby, Ethan Healy, George Mooney, Harry Peszynski, Jacob Ursua, Jamie Reynolds (Baptised and Confirmed), Jax Duncan, Jesse Harding, Kloie Conception Laetitia Vergara, Leo Waitt, Lucy Turner, Luis Sancho, Luka Barthel, Luke Eglinton (Baptised and Confirmed), Mataya Donaldson, Max Chevallier-Boutell, Natty Hadfield, Ryan Camacho, William Cleland



Evening Mass

Aastha Steven, Adam Fisher, Aezekiel Zapanta, Ameya Blessen, Ana Zapanta, Angel Zapanta Carlie Sicat, Ella Courtney-Page (Baptised and Confirmed) Hinepukohurangi Wilson, John Coote, Lavinia Mahoney, Layla Allen, Lyianne Managuelod, Maddie Courtney-Page (Baptised and Confirmed), Mackenzie Page, Manuel Hertanto, Maritta Kako, Nathaniel Manahan, Paul Coote, Rylee Courtney-Page (Baptised)

Nga mihi mahana,

Aurea Casino

Director of Religious Studies



Seasons
for Growth®

Seasons for Growth is an education programme for children who have experienced change or loss in their lives. This year we have been able to offer three groups of students the opportunity to participate in this programme. We are especially grateful to Kathryn van Woerkom for taking one of these groups. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Seasons for Growth programme, please contact Anna Gerritsen:

anna@stpeterpaul.school.nz



Ready, Set, Kowhai!

The learners in Kowhai have been practising our athletic skills to build our confidence in many different areas of Physical Education. We have been jumping hurdles, running relays, as well as throwing and balancing different objects. We have had the opportunity to work with every Kowhai class teacher on a different skill and we are now ready to show off our skills at our sports day. Please keep an eye out for further information as to when this will be.

Now that we are outside more, please ensure your children have sunhats, are wearing sunscreen and have a look at our summer uniform.



“We have been throwing vortexes and balls, I’m really good at it!” - *Jamie*

“We threw rings into hula hoops, it was so fun we want to show it off!” - *Abigail*



“I love hurdles. I can jump really high and far. I’m really quick too!” - *Noah*

“Athletics has been great, I really enjoy races overall. I think on the sports day I’ll just try my best” - *Mikaela*





Our Learning Week 6, Term 4

Cable Car Trip

This term we have been learning about how technology helps us in our lives and how transport has changed over time. We walked to Waterloo station and caught the train to Wellington for a guided trip up the cable car and to visit the Cable Car Museum. We learnt about how cable cars changed the way people could travel more easily in Wellington and how the cable cars work together on a pulley system. We had lunch and a play before catching the bus back to school.

The public cable cars in Wellington being used at the moment are about 70 years old but the tracks have been used for cable car transport since 1902. The old cable cars had less space and steam powered engines. The newest cable cars are powered by electric motors which are better for the environment and they can hold more people.

By Aastha

I have learnt that cable cars were used to make daily activities easier for people who live in hilly places. Cable cars work together like a seesaw. They are attached to each other by a very strong cable. They ride on the same track until they get halfway and then the track splits into two and they can pass each other. **By Jiya**

I had a great time traveling on the cable car. We traveled up a very steep hill and went through two dark tunnels that had pretty coloured lights. The first cable car for Wellington was built in 1902. At the top we could see a lot of Te Whanganui -a -Tara including a very cool fountain. **By Leela**

On Wednesday 16/11/2022 Rooms 8 and 11 walked to the railway station to catch the train into Wellington and go on a cable car. We learnt about how they work and how they have changed a lot over time. The first cable cars had some seats on the outside with steps on the seats to stop people from sliding. People used to kick the tunnels as they traveled up and down the hill. The new cable cars only have seats on the inside and can fit a lot more people in them.

By Mackenzie

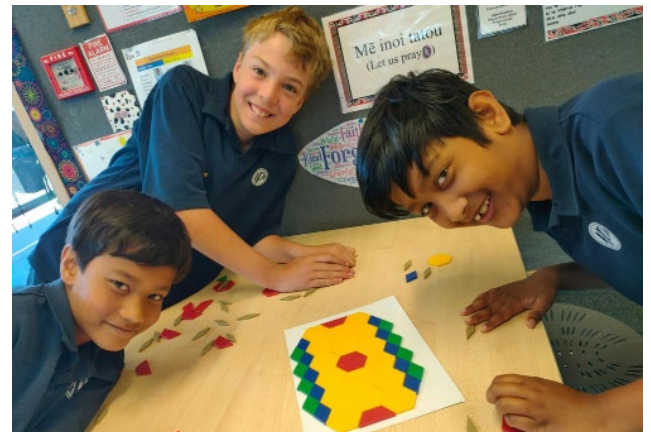


POHUTUKAWA

Our Learning Week 6, Term 4

Tessellating Fun

Pohutukawa have been getting creative with their tessellating patterns. They explored how shapes can tessellate by creating patterns that repeat with no gaps between the shapes. They also looked at where these patterns are used in our everyday lives.



Kapa Haka with Mrs Spink

Our tamariki had a lovely day learning a new Māori stick game - Te Rākau, while sitting under the shade of the pohutukawa tree. Mrs Spink explained that traditionally boys and young men used this game to increase dexterity and alertness, while girls and young women used it to increase their skills for poi dances. They had a wonderful time practising their rhythmic throwing and catching of the sticks with their partner. We hope to keep on improving these skills in future sessions.



RATA

Our Learning Week 6, Term 4

Science Experiments - Forces, Flight & Motion

In science we have been learning about physics. The experiments the ākonga have been conducting are all about forces.

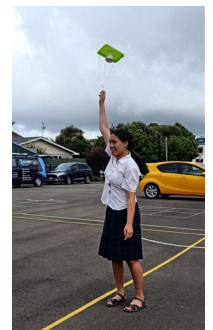
We are learning about forces. We learnt about this by experimenting with balls. In groups, we dropped 3 different types of balls, (tennis ball, golf ball, and ping pong balls) and measured as well as recorded how high they bounced. We learnt that before the ball is dropped it has gravitational potential energy, this energy transfers into kinetic energy as it falls. Our classes analysed and graphed the results of the bounces. Newton's

3rd law of motion states that for every action/force there is an equal and opposite reaction. In the case of our experiment, the reaction was the bounce of the ball.

We also did another experiment focusing on centrifugal and centripetal forces. The experiment required a person to swing a tray with a paper cup full of water. Because of centrifugal and centripetal force, the water did not fall off the tray (most of the time).

Through lots of exploring with magnets, we have learnt all about magnetism and that magnetic fields have north and south poles.

Keona and Riana



Road Patrol Training

A big thank you and congratulations to those who participated in the road patrol training last week. Being a part of the traffic safety team at school is a special responsibility that requires students to be clear and confident when on duty in order to keep people safe. Constable Tanya was very impressed with the commitment shown by the students involved.

I wanted to be a part of the road patrol training because it looked fun and I wanted to help keep people safe. I learnt that it's not just about putting the signs out, there is more to helping people cross the road safely, such as giving the pedestrians specific instructions.

Ella Collier



I wanted to be a part of the road patrol training because I like helping people and it's a great contribution to the school community. I learnt that at the Kea crossing you can't stop the cars but at Bloomfield you can. I also learnt how to put the flags out for road patrol.

Caitlyn Aislabie

REMINDERS AND UPDATES

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 be donated.

Date: Wednesday 30 November

Time: 9am - 2pm

Where: Room 16 (SKIDS room)

GASTRO BUGS

Just a timely reminder that if a student has suffered a gastro bug, the Ministry of Health recommends that school should not be attended until there has been 48 hours wellness (symptom free).

[Click here for further information](#)

SCHOOL SPORT

Well done to everyone who competed in the SW Athletics today and good luck to those off to the Interzone Athletics next Tuesday!

LIBRARY

As we prepare for the end of year library stocktake we would like all school library books to be returned by 25 November. If you know your child has lost or misplaced a library book, please get in touch with the library: library@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Thank you for your support.

PTA NEWS

Thanks and acknowledgement

As the year is coming close to an end, we would like to acknowledge several PTA Committee Members who will be finishing their tenure. Brian Hutchinson (President), Michelle Ruocco (Secretary) and Genevieve Greally have put an immense amount of time, support and leadership into their roles on the PTA Committee. The school, PTA and school community wish to say a big thanks and all the best with your next adventures.

Last PTA meeting

For the last PTA Committee meeting (Wednesday 30 November at 6.30pm) we are having a quick meeting and will then have nibbles and drinks to say thanks to Brian, Michelle and Genevieve. If anyone wishes to join us please rsvp by emailing pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz. It would be great to see you there.

Join us

The PTA Committee encourages the school community to connect, meet new people and form ideas on how to continue building the school community and fundraise towards school projects that benefit the students and school.

Attending meetings is a great way to hear about what is happening at our school and discuss and be involved in future PTA commitments. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, which are held twice a Term, usually at 7.00pm in the School Staffroom.

Wine fundraiser - pick up details

To those who have pre ordered wine thanks for supporting this fundraiser. You can pick up your wine from Rewa's house on Friday 25th November between 2-7pm. Address: 7 Glen Iris Grove, Woburn.



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

