

# Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 21 February 2023



## Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

The devastating impact from the cyclone will remain for a long time. If you have family and friends from the regions affected, I hope you have been able to make contact and support them the best way you can. Next week we begin our journey through Lent; a journey that centres on the life of Jesus and his call for us to draw closer to God and look to be love and light to others. On Friday 3 March we will have a non-uniform day with a theme of light and love. We know that financial donations are a most useful way to help in these situations so this will be one way we can all offer our support.

### Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new students and families who have joined us since our last newsletter. Kōwhai welcomes Reya, Isabelle, Aiden, Bridget, Josef-John, Abel, Varkeychan, Joanne and Jorja. Pohutukawa is very pleased to have Janet join their Area.

We hope you have all enjoyed your start to school and feel very much at home here.

### Area newsletters

I hope you have enjoyed reading the Area Information presentations that went home last week. Previously we have held Parent Information Sessions during the early evening, around this time. COVID disrupted that and called for a different approach. A positive result was that all families were able to receive information about how each of the Areas does things and had a handy reference point for people to return to. Therefore we have decided to keep this one going.

If you'd like to learn more about what happens in other areas of the school you can find them on our school website under the Our Learning tab.

### School attendance

All the evidence tells us that attending school on a regular basis is extremely important. Every day counts towards a child's learning and pays huge dividends for their future. The importance that

you place on regular attendance will make all the difference. Please let me highlight though, how much we appreciate your efforts to keep children home if they are unwell.

Schools have very clear expectations from the Ministry of Education (MOE) about keeping accurate attendance records. Every absence must be followed up and recorded using specific codes. These codes then relate to a justified or an unjustified absence. For example, all medical absences are coded as justified. Holidays during term time must be coded as unjustified. School attendance information is collected by the MOE and a termly report is provided. Our attendance reports are always a focus at Board meetings as we understand the Government's expectations that we prioritise attendance. At the same time we focus on the ways that our school is a welcoming and engaging place for our students to thrive.

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 [isa@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:isa@stpeterpaul.school.nz) if you need any help to access this. Teachers will be in contact should they notice any patterns of absence or lateness arising so we can work together to address this.

### School Calendar

We hope you find our school Calendar a useful reference point and aim to update it as soon as events and activities are confirmed, especially those where parents are able to join us or that might require some extra effort on your part to be organised for.

*Kay Tester* Principal

OUR WEBSITE

PARISH WEBSITE

## Contents

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## Events

[Please view our school calendar for upcoming school events.](#)

## SPECIAL CHARACTER

### Christian Service Leaders

*Yr 8 girls and Yr 6 boys are eligible for this leadership role.*

Being a Christian Service Leader is a great way to show leadership in our school community. The students with this opportunity will support, contribute and work alongside other student leaders during various school activities.

Christian Service Leaders are particularly involved in outreach activities, school Mass celebrations and special liturgies but also through their example and initiative, they lead the school in our values of faith, aroha, stewardship and joy!

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is next Wednesday 22 February and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is the first of the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter.

There will be a liturgy in every area of the school. Parents and families are welcome to come and join in.

### Beginning School Mass

A big thank you to those family and friends who were able to come and join us in celebrating our new school year.

**Aurea Casino** *Director of Religious Studies*

**Any questions please email me at [drs@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:drs@stpeterpaul.school.nz)**



### Kowhai in Action

We have been exploring all of our new equipment during Discovery time. This is a great time to create strong bonds with our friends, problem solve and manage ourselves. We have had a great time getting to know new friends and build on the friendships we already have across Kowhai.

"There is lots to do during discovery, I like the water and the building" **Gabriel**

"I am great at making friends, I am really good at cooking in the kitchen, we need to wear an apron - watch out the food is hot!" **Jamie**

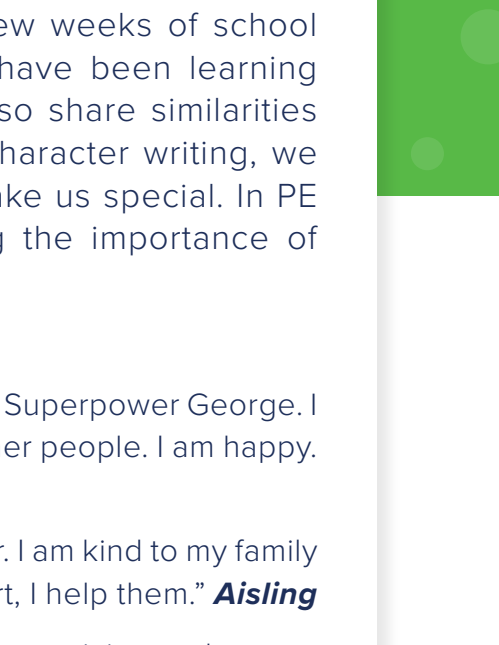
"I like playing with the balls and making things like houses with the blocks" **Gia**

"I liked making a creation with the nail and hammer" **Ithias**

"I made hot dogs, pringles and chips for everyone! We ran out of ingredients" **Oliver**

"I like selling things, we have lots to sell in our shops in room 5 and 6" **Finnlay**

"I love it when Miss Manning reads books because they are so much fun. We laughed and laughed!" **Sophie and Athena**



### Getting to know one another

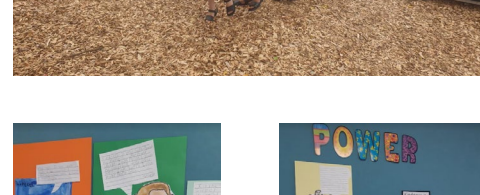
In Nikau, we have spent the first few weeks of school getting to know one another. We have been learning that while we are all unique, we also share similarities with each other. Through Art and character writing, we have been expressing traits that make us special. In PE and health we have been learning the importance of teamwork and communication.

"Kindness is my superpower. My name is Superpower George. I am polite. I share my soccer ball with other people. I am happy. I can make people smile." **George**

"I am Aisling. Kindness is my superpower. I am kind to my family and my friends. When my friends get hurt, I help them." **Aisling**

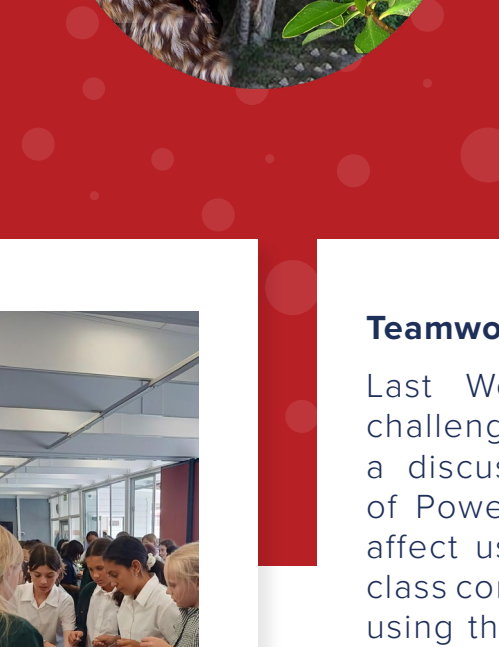
"My name is Super Loveydovery Layla. I love giving to the poor and I love helping out my friends and smiling at people. My superpower is kindness." **Layla**

"Kindness is my superpower. My name is Super Lara. I have the power to help people when they need help." **Lara**



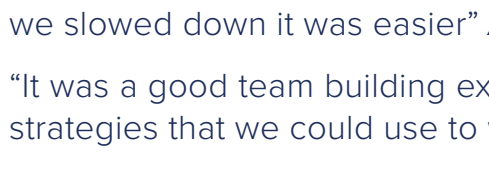
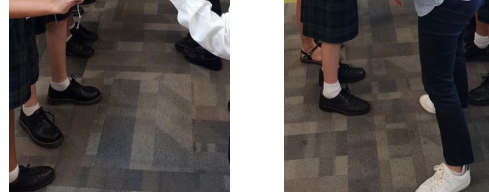
### Making Music

Last week the Year 5 and 6 students began their Arts programme with a focus on making music. It was great to see them engage enthusiastically in the sessions. During the course of this term they will explore different ways of creating music with a range of resources including nature, our bodies, digital technology and percussion instruments. They are also learning about dynamics including tempo, tone and timing.



### Teamwork challenge!

Last Wednesday Rata had a fun area challenge. To begin the challenge, we had a discussion about our universal concept of Power. We discussed how power would affect us as we participated in our friendly class competition. Some people said we were using the power of our minds, the power of teamwork to complete the challenge. The power of balance and communication was also mentioned. In the end it was the power of perseverance that made the most difference! We had to use paper plates suspended by strings, to move a ping-pong ball from one end of the class to the other and then carefully drop the ball into a bucket. Six players from each class demonstrated to start and then the whole class was included. We tried a few times to complete the challenge and eventually Room 17 won, Tino pai room 17! It was a fun way to end the afternoon while exploring our universal concept of power.



"I felt a little bit rushed by other people but when we slowed down it was easier" **Amber**

"It was a good team building exercise to figure out strategies that we could use to win" **Bonnie**

## SPORT NEWS

### Touch

Underway and thanks to all those who have volunteered to manage and coach teams.

### Netball

Starts for Year 1 to 4 next week and again thanks are due to the parents who have volunteered to be Star Helpers.

### Netball

Year 5 to 8  
Information to come but we will be asking parents to register their interest before we send out the actual forms.

### Basketball

We are awaiting information from this group and when we receive it will be contacting parents re their interest.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

### Finance

When making online payments, please ensure you put your child's name as reference and what the payment is for. This helps to allocate the payment correctly.

Ss Peter and Paul School  
12-3142-0297974-00

### VisTab

A friendly reminder that if you are running late and have reported this through the website or telephone, your child will still need to sign-in (on the tablet) at the office and take a red card before going to their classroom.

### Uniform

We are noticing an increasing number of students wearing incorrect uniform. Please refer to our regulation uniform brochure which you will find on our school website. [Click here](#)

With the unfortunate weather and devastation up north, there will be a delay of some uniform items - mainly the school socks and navy polo shirts. Please be patient with us as this is beyond our control.

### Teacher Aide work

From time to time we have teacher aide positions available at school. Over the years many members of our highly valued support staff have come from within our own community. If a teacher aide position might be of interest to you, should one come available, then please email an expression of interest to [deputyprincipal@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:deputyprincipal@stpeterpaul.school.nz)