

Welcome to Nikau 2023

Nikau is made up of four Year 3-4 classes. These are supported by two part time teachers, Jane Aitken and Alison Butler and our fabulous teacher aides, Jess, Emma, Maria and Kate who support all classes across the team. We have a passionate teaching team and enjoy having fun with our students and their learning.

Release Teacher & Area Leader, Jane Aitken

Kia ora koutou,

I have been with Ss Peter and Paul School since May 2019. I work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. I am passionate about ensuring all students can access the curriculum and achieve to the best of their individual abilities.

When not working I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I enjoy cooking and love exploring the Hutt Valley and Wellington.

If you have any questions please contact me at nikaua@stpeterpaul.school.nz.



Room 8 Miss Pru Martin

Talofa lava!

This is my sixth year teaching at Ss Peter and Paul, and my fourth year in the Nikau area.

The things I love most about teaching are the connections I form with my students and seeing them have those 'aha' moments.

When I'm not at school I'm with my partner, Jordan, renovating our home or spending time with our growing brood of nieces and nephews.



Room 9 Miss Caitlin Fitzgerald

Kia ora koutou whanau,

I have the absolute pleasure of teaching your child this year in Room 9. This is my second year teaching at Ss Peter and Paul in Nikau area.

I was born in Wellington then moved to Hamilton when I was 4 years old. In 2021, I decided I wanted to move back to Wellington to continue my teaching career. The best thing I love about being a teacher is building positive relationships with my students and seeing them grow as lifelong learners in an inclusive learning environment.

When I am not teaching, I love playing social netball, going to the beach and spending time with my friends and family.



Room 10 – Mr Ryan Glentworth

Kia ora,

It is an absolute honour to call myself your child's teacher in Room 10 here at Ss Peter and Paul.

I am extremely excited as this is my first year teaching my own class. I have recently moved here from Palmerston North, where I completed my studies at Massey University.

I have a large passion for teaching Mathematics and getting involved in every kind of sport I can get my hands on.

When I'm not at school, I love discovering new walking tracks and swimming locations around our beautiful country.



Room 11 Ms. Aurea Casino

Kia ora, Mabuhay ! It's really exciting to come back to the Nikau area and see familiar faces of my former students. I am looking forward to teaching and working alongside my class this year. I am dedicated to creating a positive, engaging and inclusive learning environment for all students in my class.

I enjoy travelling and outdoor activities. I especially love bush walking, cycling, and spending quality time with my family and friends.



General Information

Sunhats and Uniform - All students require a named school sunhat in Term One and Four. These can be purchased from the office. It is also helpful to have a named jersey and rain jacket each day in case of a change in weather.

PE - is every Monday and Wednesday. If you own a PE uniform (with sports shoes) please bring it to school to change into on these two days.

Library - Students can get 3 books out of the school library each week. These will need to be returned before more are issued. Library days are as follows: Rm 8, Rm 9 and 10 each Friday and Rm 11 - each Tuesday

Birthdays - We love celebrating birthdays, however, due to allergies we ask that you do not send in treats to share with the class. We will ensure your child's birthday is celebrated in class in another way.

Toys - Please keep toys, and trading cards at home, this minimises any issues that can occur.

General Information

Behaviour Management - We have school wide behaviour guidelines. These are based on restorative practices and we focus on accountability, healing and needs. Please always encourage your child to talk to their teacher or a duty teacher if any issues arise during the school day. This ensures teachers can deal with any issues that may arise in a timely manner.

Learning Conferences - You will be invited to meetings throughout the year where your child and their teacher will share their learning, goals and successes.

Sharing Learning - Over the year your child will bring home a number of pieces of learning to share with you. They will talk with you about the learning and share their assessment of their own work. You will receive an email on the day advising you to expect this. It is an important piece of evidence showing what they have been working on and how they are going. Your engagement and interest in this piece of learning is an important part of the process, helping them to see the value in the learning.

General Information

Donations - If you are able to, we would appreciate a donation of a box of tissues or ice cream containers for your child's class.

Contact Details: Please chat with your child's classroom teacher if you require any clarification around school related concerns. You can either pop in to make an appointment or contact the classroom teacher through admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz or nikauai@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Upcoming Events

Nikau Ash Wednesday Liturgy - parents/whanau welcome to attend

- Wednesday 22 February 10 am in Nikau Block

Swimming (Weeks 7 and 8)

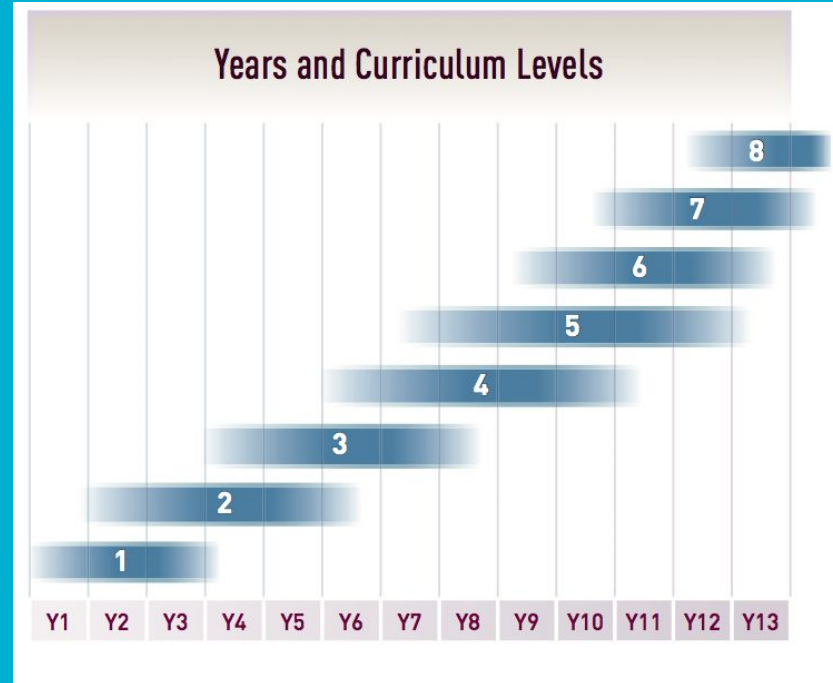
- Monday - Thursday 13, 14, 15, 16 March
- Monday - Thursday 20, 21, 22, 23 March

Further information regarding the timetable will come out closer to the time.

NZ Curriculum Levels

At Year 3 and 4 most learning is targeted within Level 2 of the curriculum.

However, we know all children learn at different rates and we are always focused on adapting our teaching to individual needs. The NZ Curriculum is a continuum and we reflect this in our classroom teaching and learning.



School Values & Key Competencies

Our school values of Aroha, Stewardship, Joy and Faith underpin all teaching and learning. We use values alongside the New Zealand Curriculum five key competencies:

- Thinking
- Relating to others
- Using language, symbols, and texts
- Managing self
- Participating and contributing



Our Learning This Term

Universal Concept and Depth and Complexity Tools - Our schoolwide universal concept for the year is Power. We will integrate this into all learning throughout our year. We use these thinking tools across the curriculum to extend our students' thinking.

Literacy - We are reading and writing a range of texts, with a particular focus on character writing and personal experiences. Alongside these main literacy focuses we will continue to work with and create various text types that fit with our learning across the curriculum. Some students continue to learn through structured literacy texts. If you wish to know more about this you can contact Jane on nikaua@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Mathematics - This term we have a focus on place value, and addition and subtraction. We will also continue to work on basic facts. Later in the term we will explore geometry and measurement.

Religious Education - to start the term we have been learning about traditional prayers and we will then move into Lent. After this we will develop an understanding of how Jesus respected tapu in people by exercising tika (justice), pono (integrity) and aroha (love). Finally we will explore Holy week and the Easter story.

Health - A major focus this term is to develop respectful relationships and friendships. This continues to be a key learning goal and develops alongside learning about our classroom expectations and routines.

Technology - We have explored digital technology with a focus on learning about digital citizenship. This includes how to responsibly and safely use digital technologies.

Aotearoa NZ Histories - We are learning about local stories of our mana whenua, in particular the Māori God, Tāne. We will hear the pūrākau (traditional stories) told about Tāne by the people of Aotearoa. We will explore the characteristics of Tāne through these stories to help us understand and make connections to and about ourselves and others.

Te Reo Māori - we will focus on our student's ability to use and respond to simple classroom language (including asking for the word to express something in te reo Māori).

Physical Education - We are learning about striking and fielding and will have school swimming at Huia pool in weeks 7 and 8.

Visual Art - we are currently working on drawing and painting techniques and we will also create self portraits to share with you later in the term.

Homelearning

- Nikau students are expected to engage with books for at least 10 minutes a day at home. We want to encourage a love of reading. This can be school reading books, library books or books that you have at home. We ask that you please sign the reading log at the end of each week.
- If you wish to support with maths these websites are very helpful <https://nzmaths.co.nz/supporting-school-maths> and <https://maths.prototec.co.nz/> for basic facts

How you can help at home

Other ideas for home:

- talk with your child and have rich and meaningful conversations
- encourage an enjoyment of reading by reading to your child or listening to them read to you
- play games such as cards or board games to support your child's maths learning
- encourage outdoor and adventurous play to help develop your child's gross motor skills
- help your child manage themselves so they can look after their belongings and become independent learners
- if English is your child's second language, research shows that having a strong foundation in a first language makes acquiring a second easier. So speak in your first language! You are the best model for your child to develop strong vocabulary, proper grammar, and natural communication skills. If one parent's first language is English, then speak English to your child whilst the other parent speaks his/her first language so that both languages are being developed equally. Sing songs, tell stories and share books in your first language. Watch TV or movies in your first language and talk about them.