



## Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

### Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new students and families who have joined us since our last newsletter. Kōwhai welcomes Ologa and Eion, Nikau welcomes Milan and Evana, and Pōhutukawa welcomes Mia. We hope you have all enjoyed your start to school and feel very much at home here.

### Learning conferences

We look forward to our second learning conferences taking place this afternoon and evening. Teachers speak so positively of the opportunity to meet you all and discuss your children's learning journey. Thanks also for the response to our survey. Today you will again find a desk and some hard copy forms available within each of the Areas. If you have a moment please respond to four questions and then place them in the envelope provided. We want our future plans to reflect our communities' identities, aspirations and needs so please share your thoughts with us.

### Building work

By the end of the term break we hope to see the school returning to normal as the building project draws to a close. The results of this work are quite outstanding and worth the extra effort involved in being part of a building site. Our Nikau and Kōwhai Areas now have new windows that will provide excellent ventilation for the building. Nikau's old gas heaters have been replaced by heat pumps. New drainage around the Nikau building offers great protection and significant rot in the walls has been removed. As you can imagine with older school buildings, every time they opened something up they found a new problem to deal with. And deal with it they certainly have and our Nikau Area now stands stronger, warmer and dryer.

### Teacher Only Day

A further reminder that school will be closed on Monday 24 April for a teacher only day. This is the first of two teacher only days the Ministry of Education has provided for 2023 and 2024 to enable schools to focus on the implementation of the refreshed NZ Curriculum.

### Parking around the school

While it is great to be situated in the centre of this lovely city it does provide our community with parking challenges at pick-up and drop-off. The recent road works certainly added to this. Last week these challenging conditions even had local police monitoring driving behaviour around our Myrtle St road patrol crossing. Here are two behaviours we would appreciate you avoiding, even if it may mean adjusting your plans a little:

Please avoid any use of the staff car park. We have had to add an extra job for our road patrollers because of this. As well as setting up for the crossing they now have to put out cones across the driveway to dissuade people from pulling into the carpark.

Please don't pull in and park on yellow lines. Again we have to put out cones to dissuade this kind of behaviour. Apart from the fact it could earn a fine, it does make it very challenging for our road patrollers to have a good view of traffic.

COVID times showed us that finding a spot further from the school and having your child walk or scooter to meet you there proved very successful and many people have kept this practice up. Delaying your pick-up slightly also helps avoid congestion. When we come off road patrol at 3pm there are plenty of carparks available. We appreciate your support with this.

### Holy Week

We are now in the most important and solemn of liturgical seasons. Here at school the students are involved in many activities that build their understanding of the significance of Holy Week and the events that occurred. This will culminate in the sharing of a school wide liturgy on Holy Thursday morning. On behalf of all the staff, can I express our gratitude for all your support throughout this term. We wish you a happy and holy Easter and look forward to seeing everyone back on Wednesday 26 April.

*Kay Tester* Principal

[OUR WEBSITE](#)

[PARISH WEBSITE](#)

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## Events

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

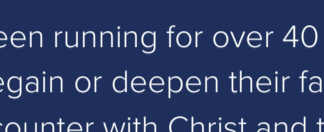
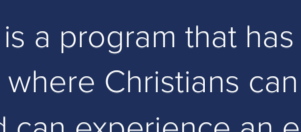
## SPECIAL CHARACTER

### Holy Thursday Liturgy, 9:30 am in the Church

You will have seen on our school calendar that our Easter Liturgy to commemorate Holy Week will be held on Holy Thursday beginning at 9:30am in the Church. The Chapel doors will be open and we would love you to join us for this special liturgical occasion.

Ngā mihi mahana,

**Aurea Casino** Director of Religious Studies



### First Reconciliation Sacrament

A big thank you to all the parents who supported their children throughout the preparation for the First Reconciliation. Your dedication and commitment to your child's spiritual growth is truly admirable.

It is also nice to acknowledge our priests, Fr Patrick and Fr Alfred. Their guidance and support have been invaluable in helping our children prepare for this important milestone in their faith journey.

It was heartwarming to see the children come forward and receive the sacrament with reverence and respect.

We hope this experience has deepened the children's understanding and appreciation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and that it will continue to be a source of spiritual strength and growth for them in the years to come.

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

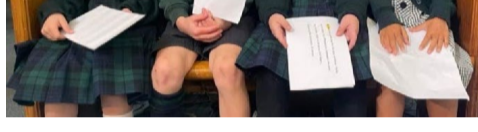
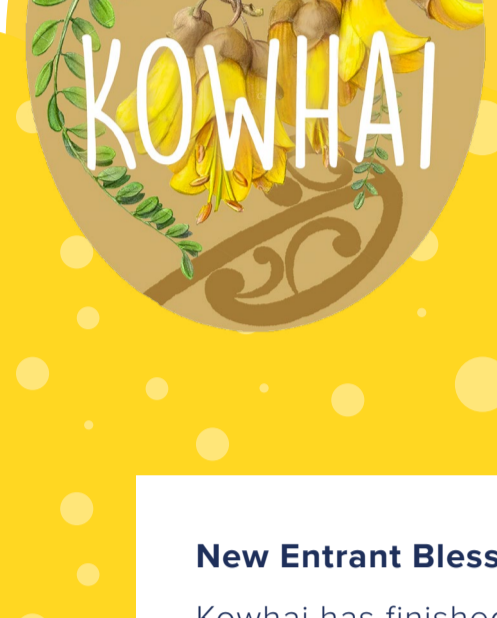
### Alpha is Coming (News from the Parish)

Alpha is a program that has been running for over 40 years all over the world. It is a safe space where Christians can regain or deepen their faith, and where those without belief in God can experience an encounter with Christ and the Holy Spirit.

All are welcome to attend. If you know anyone who would benefit from Alpha, please encourage them to come along.

Introductory Sessions where you'll find more information about Alpha and ask any questions you may have, are being held at Ss Peter & Paul Church Hall after 6pm Mass on Saturday 29th April and after the 9am and 5.30pm Masses on Sunday 30th April. We look forward to seeing you there.

Enquiries: Christine Walkerdine (04) 496 1706



### New Entrant Blessing

Kowhai has finished this term on a beautiful note! Last Friday we blessed our New Entrants. It was a joyful celebration of our mahi, school values and our growing community.

We are very proud of this term and we are glad that we have been able to share it with our loved ones. Thank you so much for being a big part of our learning journey so far!

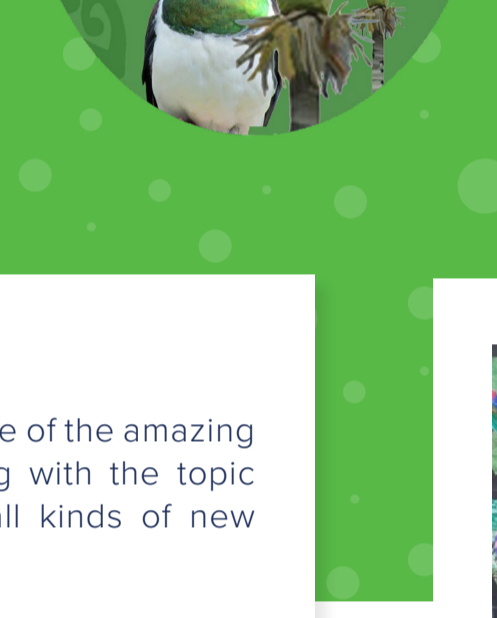
"I think my Mum was proud of me during the blessing I saw her smile and she hugged me" **Keon**

"I enjoyed the singing at the blessing I sang every word!" **Finn**

"Father Patrick was great, he blessed us and I felt happy for myself!" **Darren**

"I felt loved and so grateful to see my Mum, Mila and Auntie Trish!" **Luca**

"Father Patrick blessed me it was beautiful" **Oscar and Manishvar**

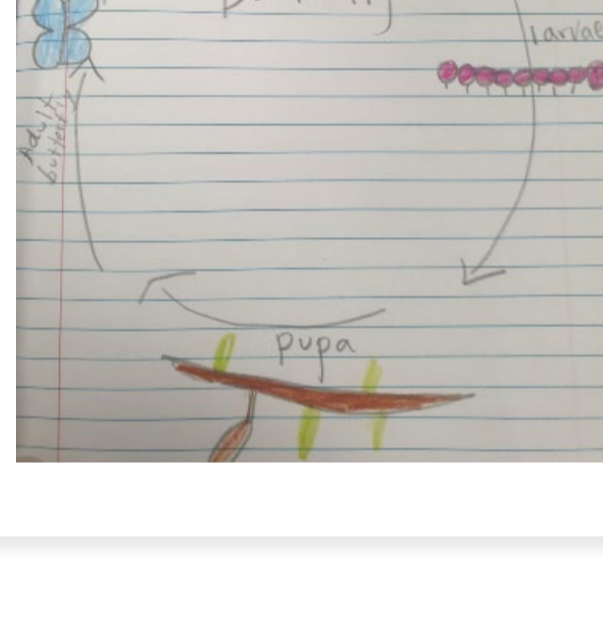


### Amazing Artwork

We are thrilled to share with you some of the amazing artwork this week Nikau has been working with the topic 'insects'. We have been learning all kinds of new things, such as:

- The body parts that insects have;
- Three parts to their body
- Two pairs of wings
- Two antenna
- Three pairs of legs
- The Metamorphosis life cycle of insects
- Egg/ Larvae/ Pupa / Adult
- What all these different insects get up to in their busy everyday lives.

We also have all had a lot of fun searching around for any insects to bring into class to share with everyone. We have all kinds of insects arriving in Nikau, such as Bees, Lady-Bugs and even Dragonflies!



Pohutukawa students have been learning about their local area and the wonderful places we have in the Hutt Valley. As part of their literacy focus they have written descriptive sentences about our river Te Awa Kairangi, and described the places you can visit and enjoy in the River Valley. Here are some examples of their river descriptions.

Te Awa Kairangi gushes through curves and smashes onto rocks. **Ben**

Te Awa Kairangi silently flows over the rock bed on a sunny day. **Sancho**

The river flows calmly. It shines as the crumbly stones sink and the soft leaves swirl across the river while the cold water reflects the sunlight. **Georgia**

Te Awa Kairangi gracefully dances down the mountain, sparkling, swift and strong, flowing into the harbour. **Kaelyn and Rosalina**

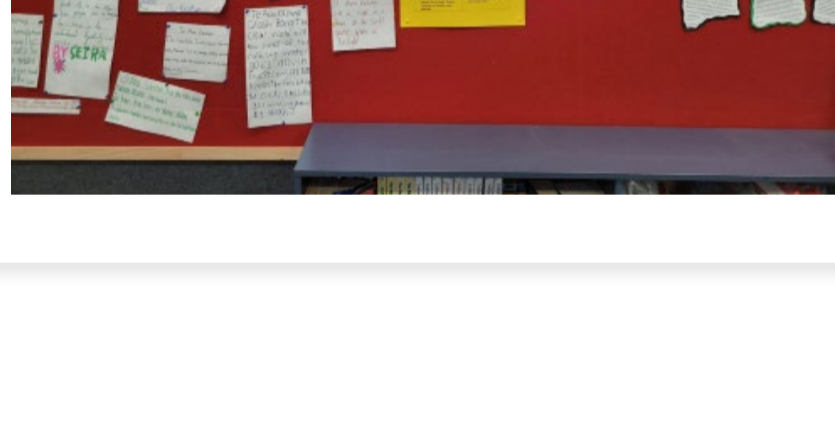
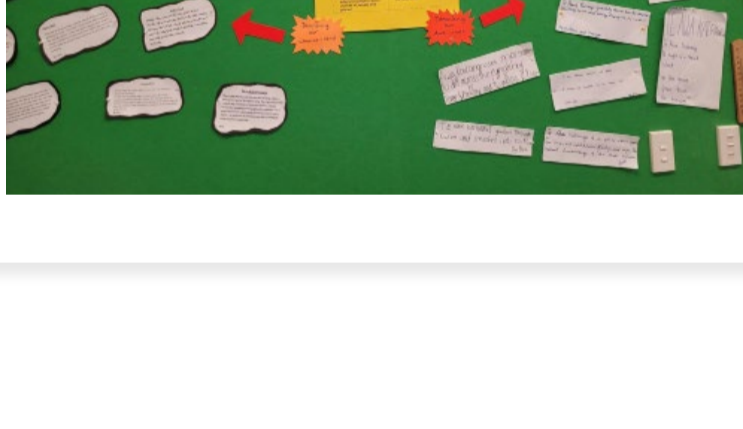
Te Awa Kairangi's clear water, smooth and calm, slowly flows through the Hutt Valley. **Declan**

Te Awa Kairangi crashes into the land bandishing the ground with its endless flowing water. **Aastha**

People get comfortable sitting on the embankment around the beautifully carved rocks on the riverbank. **Seira**

Te Awa Kairangi uses momentum to drift swiftly and to catch the attention of our eyes. **Callum**

Mini waves flowing down the river. Birds tweeting like they are singing a song. **Sophia**

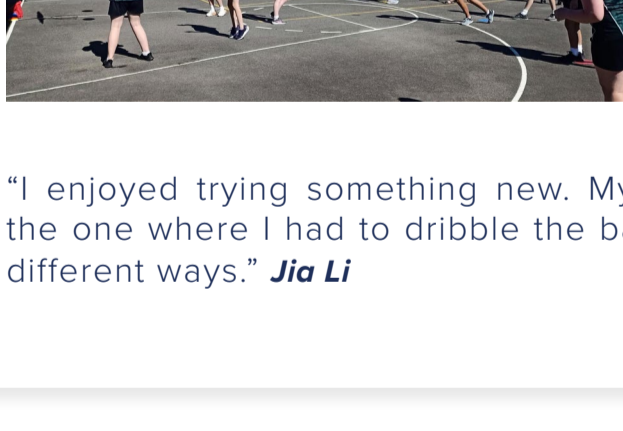


### Ball Skills

Capital Basketball gave our Rata girls a round of basketball drills and skills. The 40-minute practice was packed with intense drills to help them improve their dribbling, passing, catching, and shooting abilities.

"The experience was fun, and it was nice to learn a new game and play as a team," **Lily**

"I haven't played basketball before but it was fun to participate in the drills. My favourite drill was when we had to listen carefully to the instructions and when the coach said, "ball" we had to grab the basketball before our partner." **Pippa**



"I enjoyed trying something new. My favourite drill was the one where I had to dribble the ball back and forth in different ways." **Jia Li**

## SPORT NEWS

### Touch

With the Touch season finished for Term One a big thank you to the parents who volunteered their time so teams could participate- Abbie Maclean, Donna Ferrari, Chontel Foley, Jason Love, Trent Wilson, Maria Ropati, Eric Thom, Nadine Stemberidge, Neil Smith, Ravi na Sherifden, Louisa and Andrew Turner, Kate Maxwell, Rose and Nathan Martin, Greg Stechman and Christy Jensen.

Congratulations to Korimako from Year 5 and 6, to Year 5 and 6 Māhōe who were 2nd in Pool B, to Pohutukawa who were 2nd in the Year 5 and 6 girls grade, to the Year 7 and 8 girls who were 3rd in their division.

### SWIMMING SPORTS

These are scheduled for Friday 19th May.

### Netball Years 1 to 4

Thanks are due to the parents who volunteered to be Star Helpers - Meg Rapson, Aimee Page, Kelly Venus, Venus Tauauvea and Lisa-Marie Imray as without their willingness to be involved our teams would have not been able to play.

### Basketball & Netball Years 5 to 8

These teams have now been finalised are set to play in Terms 2 and 3.

### Cross country

The School Cross Country is scheduled for 26th April, weather permitting, otherwise postponed for the 27th at Hutt Rec. This is the first day back in Term 2.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

### Lost property & second hand uniform items

With the end of term one this week, we are looking to reunite misplaced uniform items with their owners and also offer you the opportunity to pick up some new items from our donated uniform table for your children. These have been kindly given to us by past school families.

Any lost property items that are not collected will be donated

**Date: Tomorrow, Wednesday 5 April 2023**

**Time: 9am to 2pm**

**Where: Room 16 (sKids room)**

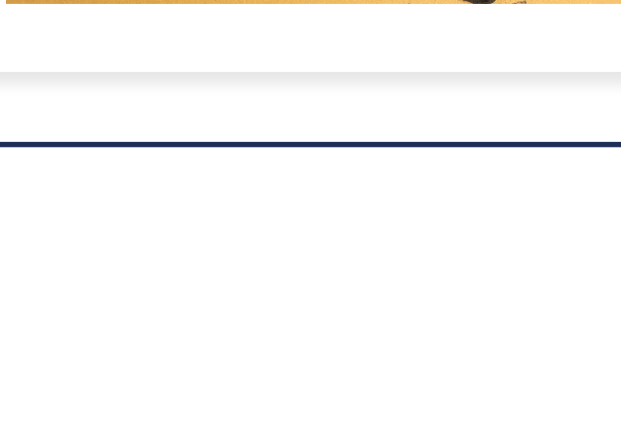
### VisTab

Please remember, 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 have noticed a lot of incorrect uniform being worn. Please refer to our school uniform regulations brochure on the school website, to ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform.

A reminder that socks can either be the school socks - navy ankle or knee high with green stripes or white socks. Plain black or navy socks and leggings are NOT regulation.



## PTA News

The Green themed non uniform day on 17 March was a great success and the kids enjoyed the prize packs. Thanks for your support with this PTA fundraiser. As a school we raised \$385.

Hopefully some of you will be enjoying the hot cross buns and hot chocolate this week. Thanks to Silverstream Bakery and Cocolato for supporting the school community with providing these delicious goodies.

Have a safe and enjoyable Easter weekend and holidays.

PTA Committee

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

