



Kōwhai Area News

DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Kia ora koutou katoa

We trust that you are keeping warm and well, and are all geared up for this exciting and busy new term! To our new families, we extend a warm welcome to our school community. We also welcome back Ms. Margie Hahn to our teaching team. Margie has been working in our school as a day to day reliever and also started up our New Entrant class last year. She will be working with our newest students joining us over the next two terms in Room 4.

It seems that the weather has suddenly moved us into winter, but we look forward to the arrival of spring! With this changeable weather in mind and a number of trips and outdoor activities planned, we ask that all children come to school with a warm and waterproof jacket each day.

CURRICULUM AND INQUIRY

We will continue this term with our overarching concept of 'Power'. A reminder that the 'Big Ideas' we have been relating our learning to this year are:

- There is power in learning
- Power can be good or bad
- Power is everywhere
- Power changes

Religious Education

One of our learning areas in RE this term will focus on Mary and other Saints. We will help the children to develop their understanding of Mary, her holiness and the holy qualities which are seen and recognised in the lives of Saints. The children will also learn the Hail Mary prayer and understand that it is a great Taonga that belongs to Catholic people.

Sacrament will be another area of learning this term. The children will begin to learn that the Sacraments are outward signs of our internal faith. They will see that they are expressions of our faith that they likely observe on a regular basis, but may have a lot of questions about! We will explore Faith as a whole-life experience, developing our understanding that it isn't just something we know in our minds, or feel in our hearts.

Science and Technology

In these curriculum areas we will be learning about the six simple machines. We will look for examples of these in our everyday lives. As we begin to understand the purpose of these simple machines, we will design and develop our own game or activity with this new learning and knowledge in mind. It will involve planning, reviewing and talking about the process and outcomes we were trying to achieve.

Understanding the Curriculum

Mathematics

There are many ways you can use every day experiences and equipment at home to explore Mathematics and support your child's learning at school.

Click [here](#) to find out more

Reading Tips

- Make reading FUN
- Keep reading aloud to your child no matter how old they are
- Share the reading – take turns
- Read in your first language
- Read a variety of texts, e.g. books, magazines, newspapers, the TV guide, recipes, poems, rhymes, emails, letters.
- Play card and board games together
- Sing waiata/songs together
- Read poems and make up rhymes together
- Point out words in the environment such as road signs, shop signs, advertisements.
- Play word games, e.g. "I Spy", "Simon Says"
- Visit the library regularly and get your child to choose books to share
- Link stories to your own lives/experiences
- Talk about the pictures in the book
- Encourage your child to retell favourite stories or parts of stories in their own words
- Help your child with any words they don't understand – look them up in the dictionary together
- Ask who their favourite character in the story is and why
- Get them to predict what they think might happen next
- Ask them what they have learnt from their reading
- Talk a lot with your child while you are doing things together
- Encourage your child to read to younger members of the family, whanau or grandparents as this will give them the opportunity to practise reading aloud
- Ask other family members to read to your child
- Make your home a 'reader friendly home' by having lots of books, magazines, comics/graphic novels, newspapers. Look in local second-hand shops or fairs for books
- Ask your child to give their opinion and talk about why they think that
- Encourage your child to read and re-read favourite books. Re-reading helps with fluency, expression and comprehension
- Talk every day about things that are happening at home, school, or in the neighbourhood. Add interesting words into the discussion
- Play games with sounds and letters for example. 'Can you guess what word is h-a-t ?
- BE A ROLE MODEL – LET YOUR CHILD SEE YOU ENJOYING READING. Talk about what you are reading



Coming up this term

Gymnastics experience at Sacred Heart College - Friday 4 August (please refer to earlier correspondence)

Walter Nash Fun Day - Thursday 10 August (all day)

If you are able to help with either of these trips, please advise your child's classroom teacher or email deputyprincipal@stpeterpaul.school.nz, admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz, or phone the office on 04 569 5759

Book Festival Week 4 - do you have a favourite picture book and enjoy reading to your children? If you do, we would love to invite you to come in and read a picture book of your choice to one or two classes during week 4. If you or another family member (grandparent, aunty, uncle etc.) are able to spare us 10 minutes of your time at the end of a busy school day, we would love to hear from you! Please see your child's classroom teacher if you are able to help us promote and foster a love of reading in this way.

Learning Conferences - Wednesday 6 September and Thursday 14 September

New Entrant Welcome - Friday 25 August 9:15 - 10:15am

Sharing of Learning this term - please check your child's book bag for the learning they will be sharing with you this term. You can expect to see evidence of Writing in week 3, PE in week 4, Maths in week 6 and Technology in week 10. You will receive an email closer to the time to remind you to look out for these pieces of work.