

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

[OUR WEBSITE](#)

[PARISH WEBSITE](#)

Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new students and families who have joined us this term. **Kowhai** welcomes Hannah, Elwin and Samuel.

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

Thanks to our PTA

A huge thank you to our small but incredibly dedicated PTA for their recent highly successful Quiz night. Organising a fun event and providing a delicious dinner was truly remarkable!

Thanks to everyone who was able to come along on the night and enjoy a community gathering as well as making a valuable contribution to our school fundraising ventures.

Teacher Only Day

Earlier in the year I wrote of the two Teacher Only Days the Ministry of Education has provided schools to enable teachers to spend quality time working on the refreshed NZ Curriculum.

The second of those days for our school will be **Friday 17 November**.

Health and well-being

You will have seen that the Government has announced the removal of the mandatory COVID isolation rule, which took effect on 15 August 2023.

Please be assured that here at school we continue with all our health measures to reduce any spread of illness. We appreciate all your efforts to support us with this. However, there are many unpleasant winter illnesses around at the moment and they are having an impact on students and staff.

These helpful guidelines from Te Whātu Ora - Health NZ are always worth a read:

Guidance on winter illness and children's attendance at early learning services and schools:

Healthy young children can have up to 8 to 12 colds or upper respiratory tract infections each year and these are a normal part of childhood.

With a rise in seasonal colds, flu and other respiratory infections already occurring in our communities, use this guidance to assist with decisions about children's attendance at early learning services and schools when they are, or have been unwell:

- A child should stay at home if they appear unwell or they develop one or more of these symptoms: new onset of a runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, they are off their food and drink or show signs of feeling miserable.
- For accurate and reliable information on how to manage colds and flu visit [Kids'Health](#) and [Health Navigator](#).
- Guidance on wellness indicators within children:**
- If a child has been unwell with a respiratory illness, they can return to their early learning service/education facility 24 hours after they have significantly improved and are behaving/eating normally. If they still have a runny nose or dry cough without any other symptoms such as a fever, vomiting or diarrhoea, then they are unlikely to be infectious and can be considered well enough to attend their early learning service/education facility after being unwell.
- Following vomiting or diarrhoea, a child must be symptom free for 48 hours before they can return.
- In general, a doctor's certificate or clearance should not have to be provided for a child to go back to their early learning service/education facility after being unwell.
- A child who has a runny nose after a change in temperature (e.g. moving from outdoors to indoors) or sneezes due to obvious stimuli (e.g. the sun or dust) does not need to be sent home.
- Hay fever and other allergies can show similar symptoms to the common cold such as sneezing, a runny or stuffy nose and coughing. If a child has a history of allergic symptoms and shows one or more of these symptoms, or an itchy face (especially around the eyes or throat), consider if hay fever or an allergy could be the cause.

Kay Tester
Principal

- Contents**
- From our Principal
 - Special Character
 - Board
 - Kowhai
 - Nikau
 - Pohutukawa
 - Rata
 - Kura Ahurea
 - Library
 - Sport
 - Reminders & Updates
 - PTA
- Events**
- [Please view our school calendar for upcoming school events.](#)



SPECIAL CHARACTER

Feast of the Assumption

We are delighted to share with you our recent Assumption Mass celebration to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, our cherished patron saint of New Zealand.

The Assumption Mass held special significance not only as a religious observance but as a tribute to the motherly love that binds us all.

As Father Patrick so eloquently expressed in his homily, Mary's example shines as a beacon of selfless love and unwavering devotion just like our mothers do.

The students sang well and read beautifully during the Mass, adding to the atmosphere of reverence to the celebration.

Ngā mihi mahana,
Aurea Casino
Director of Religious Studies

Any questions, please email me at drs@stpeterpaul.school.nz



NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Kia ora Ss Peter and Paul School Community,

In our recent meeting Kay Tester presented an update and actions which support our school goals. Just a kindly reminder of our school goals, particularly for new families:

- Goal 1** We live our Catholic Identity
- Goal 2** We honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Goal 3** Our approach to learning, empowers our learners to be the best they can be
- Goal 4** We work in partnership with our whānau
- Goal 5** Our school is a vibrant and valued part of our local community outreach

Thank you to families who joined us in our delayed Feast Day celebrations which went really well. Families, especially grandparents also responded very positively to Nikau's Grandparents' Liturgy on the Feast of St Joachim & St Anne.

It is pleasing to see that a majority of our children are working alongside our school curriculum at their relevant year level or above and are placed well against national levels.

The Board noted the insights and usefulness of information provided by families via the paper surveys provided at Terms 1 & 2 Learning Conferences. Thanks to your feedback and taking the time to fill these out. This is a key part of our community engagement, and to ensure the needs of all akonga are met, and the voices of all akonga and whānau are heard, to be able to develop and implement teaching and learning programmes to improve outcomes as needed.

In January 2023, new legislation for planning and reporting came into effect for schools relating to refreshing our strategic plan and annual implementation plans effective from 2024. From recent engagement with other School Boards, it was evident that we are making good progress in how we engage with our school community, particularly understanding who is part of our school and needs for more support, and via our regular review of school policies and procedures.

We will be further engaging with our school community to check that the information we have gathered is accurate, to be able to use what we have heard to determine the Board's priorities for change and setting the key strategic goals going forward. Upcoming engagement will relate to some questions determining targeted groups in our community.

Ngā mihi
Karen Wong
Parent Representative
Ss Peter and Paul School Board

WALTER NASH CENTRE

Kowhai enjoyed a fun-filled day at Walter Nash! We had an amazing day full of activities like; Gagaball, Lego, Kickball and 'Red light, Green light'. Have a look at all of us in action!

We had a fantastic time and would like to say a big thank you to the Walter Nash team and all of our fabulous parent helpers!



NIKAU

Fractions

Kowhai are currently focusing on fractions. We have been learning about dividing things into equal parts so people get fair shares. We have been learning how to find fractions of lengths and groups, and have been practising adding and subtracting fractions.

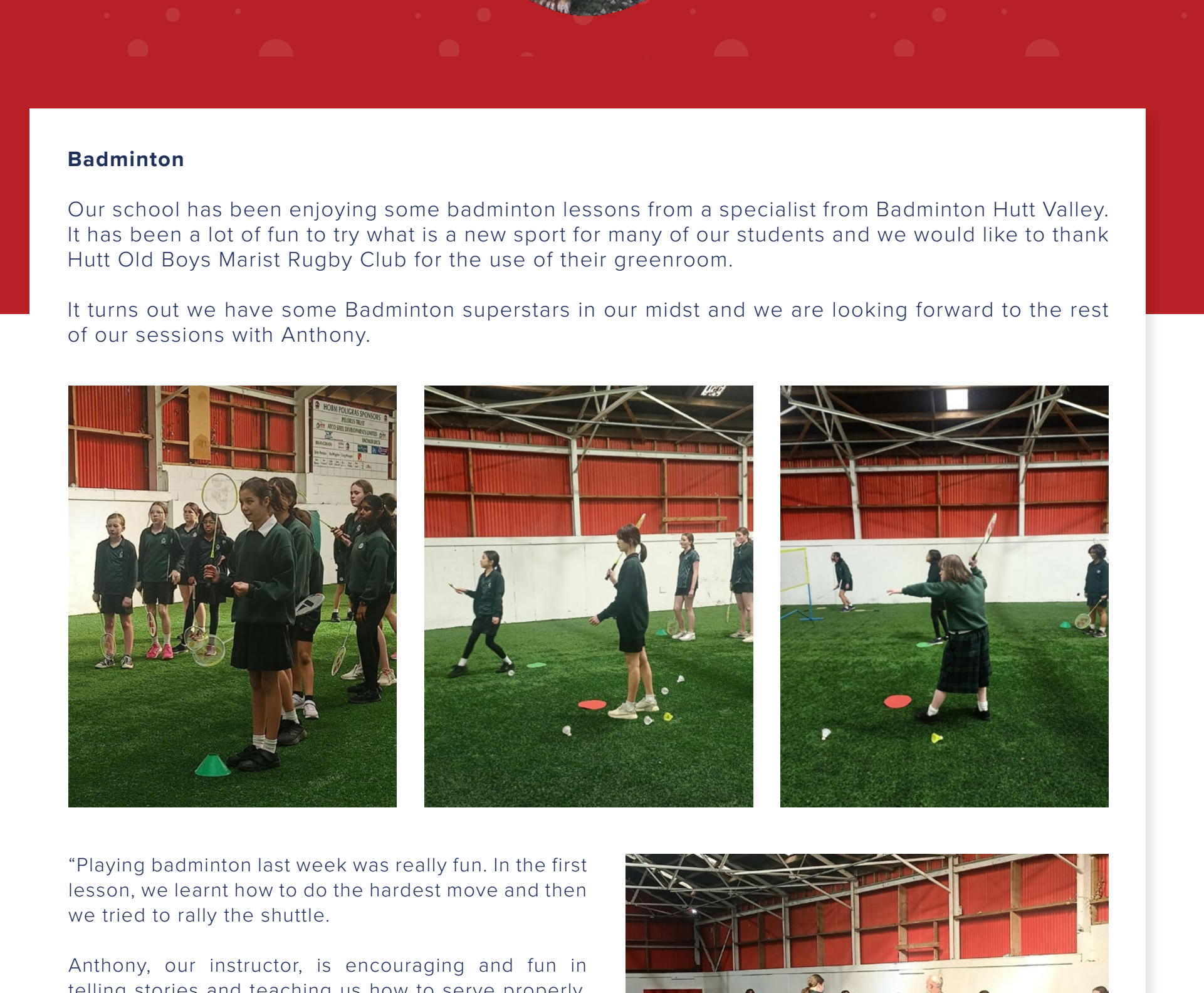
At home, you can help support our learning by drawing your child's attention to any fractions you use, such as in cooking or when sharing kai or meals.

"There are improper fractions. This is when the top number is bigger than the bottom number." **Jacob**

"Fractions come in all sorts - there are halves, quarters and thirds." **Lincoln**

"I have enjoyed learning about fractions. I know that fractions can be quarters and halves." **Lara**

"Fractions are when you divide things into equal groups." **Maryann**



POHUTUKAWA

Art

On Thursday afternoons, Pohutukawa students and Year 6 students from Room 17 get together for their Arts programme.

This term they are exploring the power of contrast in visual art by experimenting with contrasting colours, layering colours over shape and creating textures.

They have begun to work on their main piece of art, a landscape image incorporating contrasting colours, shape and texture.



RATA

Badminton

Our school has been trying some badminton sports from a specialist from Badminton Hutt Valley. It has been a lot of fun to try what is a new sport for many of our students and we would like to thank Hutt Old Boys Marist Rugby Club for the use of their greenroom.

It turns out we have some badminton superstars in our midst and we are looking forward to the rest of our sessions with Anthony.



"Playing badminton last week was really fun, with the green stripes. We learnt how to do the hardest move and then we tried to rally the shuttle.

Anthony, our instructor, is encouraging and fun in telling stories and teaching us how to serve properly. Most stories in the class are really good at playing and enjoy rallying with their friends." **Anushka**

"We thank you Anthony for taking your time to teach us badminton and for your skills in badminton. We are very grateful that you have encouraged us to try out a different sport.

You loved everyone laugh and have fun. I never knew I loved badminton this much but it wouldn't have happened without your help. Thank you Anthony and we hope to see you again soon!" **Francesco**

"We really appreciate the help, time and effort Anthony put in teaching us badminton. Thank you for introducing badminton and guiding us in learning new sports skills." **Kayla**

KURA AHUREA

Te reo kupu/kiainga to practise at home. Kōrero: simple Te reo with your whānau.

Ngā kupu mihi Greetings **Hi**

...koe" *...to one person* **...koutou"** *...to more than two*

...kōrua" *...to two people* **...tātou"** *...to more than two*

"Āta mārie" Good morning **"Āta mihi o te ahiahi"** Good afternoon

LIBRARY

Winter Book Festival - Book Swap

Thank you to all the families that donated books for our first ever book swap. Students who donated books participated in the book swap at morning tea, and other students were invited to join at lunchtime.

It was wonderful to see our school families on display, including stewardship, aroha, and, most evidently, joy from choosing a book!

NZ Book Awards

On Thursday during our Book Festival week the student librarians tried a new experience that none of us had ever done before. We caught a bus to the New Zealand National Library.

We sat in an auditorium and listened to authors and illustrators talking about their work and how they became who they are. All the panellists were finalists in the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

Hearing them talk about their own books made us want to read their work. They were excited to share their ideas about their stories with us.

The most useful advice would be to write or draw every evening even if you don't have inspiration then inspiration will find you. It gave us a fresh perspective on writing to know with the right inspiration we could all be writers. They told us adults will put up with bad writing, but children won't. Children expect mysterious or happy endings.

Going to the NZ Book awards was a great experience that we appreciate and will never forget.

By Mila and Milana

SPORTS NEWS

Interzone Swimming

After our trials on Friday, the following students have been selected to attend the Interzone Swimming event at Hula Pool on September 1:
Tia Cox, Bailey Mayo, Renny Collins, Bailey Newbound, Addyson Hall, Reide Volier, Ryan Fisher, Jayden Wong, Peyton Kelekolio, Izabela Ibanez, Kora Gee, John Cooto, Carter Wilson, Declan Mai, Chanelle Brien, Mia Moriarty, Sophie Turner, Ciara Wehrly, Tova Grootcott, Adam Fisher, Luka Barthel and Hine Wilson.

Congratulations to them all and a thank you to all those who trained, successfully and unsuccessfully, for their positive attitude to our trials. A special thanks to Nicole Galuszka, Angela Moriarty and Tanya Hall who gave up their time to help us at the trials and to Mila Burt, Mila Duncan, Caprie Falleni-Tonga and Kayla Wong from Year 8 who helped with the timing.

Collins' Cup

On Thursday 24 August, after a hiatus of three years, we once again have this competition involving our Catholic schools and their Year 7/8 students.

There will be games of netball and rugby. Our Kiwi netball team look forward to playing against the seven other schools involved.

The points from the two sports are combined to find the overall winner.

We look forward to a busy and rewarding day of games.

Term 4 Sports

A reminder that registrations for Touch (Yrs 0-8) and Netball (Yrs 0-4) will be out next week.

