

# Ss Peter and Paul School

Wednesday, 7 February 2024



## Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2024. A special welcome to all our new students, families and staff who join us for the first time. **Kōwhai** welcomes Basil, Anthony, Zion, Elouise, Maxton, Lucy, Lara, Hallyn, Jordan, Isabelle, Zander, Aisa, Joel, Yasmine, Connor, Tiara, Aleia and Madeline.

New welcome additions to **Nikau** are Boston, Hewan, Genesis, Kairi-Rian, Anjola and Miss Grace Allan.

**Pōhutukawa** warmly welcomes Kevin, Kate, Max, George, Athel, Lenora, Jem, Riddhi, Dominic and Axel.

As does **Rātā** to Sara, Coco, Amelia, Azalea, Nataya, Kaylee, Sophia, Carlie, Sophie, Maya, Lilyah, Nadine, Heidi, Charlotte, Claudia and Faith.

We also welcome Fr Raja our new Parish Priest, and Fr Uili the Assistant Priest.

That's a lot of wonderful additions to our school community! We are very blessed to have you join us. Nau mai, haere mai, you are most welcome here.

### One hour a day

From the beginning of Term 1, 2024, schools and kura with students in Years 0-8 will spend an average of one hour a day teaching reading, writing, and maths. The change is part of the new Government's 100-day plan for education. You can read more about this here: [One hour a day information for parents](#)

These requirements are already well established practices within our classrooms. Our teachers are committed to providing an education for your children that ensures foundational knowledge is solidly acquired, and then continues to deepen. We believe that all students are entitled to a full, broad and rich curriculum and we look forward to working together to achieve this.

One important way for the above to happen is to have our students here every day (unless they are unwell or on course). Further information about school attendance can be found here:

[Student attendance: Guide for parents and caregivers - Ministry of Education](#)

Our attendance rate for the start of the year has been the best for a number of years. Many thanks for your support with this. These early days really do help children of all ages to settle in and feel confident in their new classroom environments.

### Phones away for the day

We have well established procedures for students who bring cell phones or smartwatches to school:

• They must be put in the classroom minding box on arrival at school and will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.

• Failure to follow these procedures will mean the device is removed from the student, sent to the office and parents will be rung to collect the item at their convenience.

Therefore, the Government's new policy 'phones away for the day' will be business as usual for us.

Should we need to contact parents for any reason during the school day you will receive a phone call from the office about this. Likewise should you need to get a message to your child, please ring or email the office.

### Collecting students during the school day

Could I just give a friendly reminder to everyone about our procedures for all visitors to school. You can find these in full on the SchoolDocs website which you access through the Parent Portal/ Contacts. A key requirement is that all visitors on site, except those dropping off or picking up students before and after school, are asked to report to the school office.

There are times where appointments must be made during school time such as specialist, doctors and dental visits. This is totally understandable. It would be most appreciated if other non-urgent appointments could be arranged after school has finished wherever possible. This reduces the need for the office staff to leave the office to collect children from around the school and avoids classroom interruptions. Many thanks for your support with this.

*Kay Teator*  
Principal

[OUR WEBSITE](#)

[PARISH WEBSITE](#)

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Special Character Board

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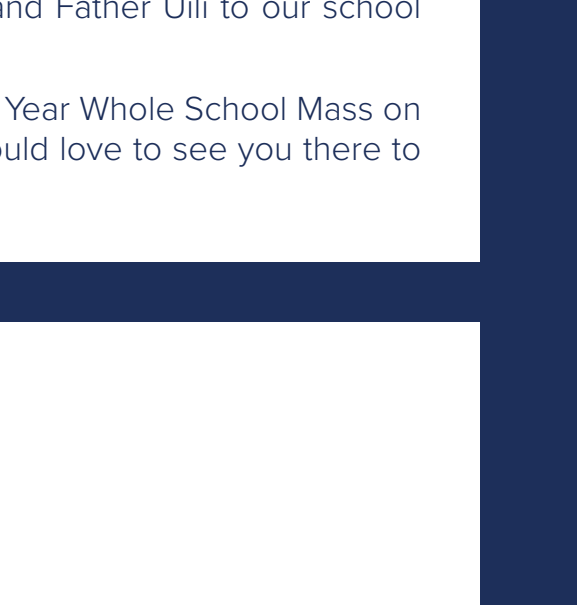
Reminders & Updates

PTA

## Events

Friday 9 February  
Beginning of the Year Mass and Mini Whakatai, 9am

Wednesday 21 February  
PTA Meeting, 7pm



## SPECIAL CHARACTER

### Nau mai ki te tau 2024, welcome to 2024

As you know, at the end of 2023 we said a sad farewell to Father Patrick from our school community as he set off on his new adventure at the Cathedral in Wellington. We now warmly welcome Father Raja and Father Uili to our school community.

If you haven't already met Father Raja, he will be helping us celebrate our Beginning of the Year Whole School Mass on Friday 9 February. The Mass will start immediately after our Mihi Whakatai at 9am. We would love to see you there to share in our celebration.

### Sacramental Programme 2023/2024

The Parish has asked me to share the following dates with you all:

#### First Reconciliation - Sunday 17 March 2024

Parent meeting - Tuesday 13 February, 7:30pm in the Chapel  
Preparation session - Sunday 25 February, 9am Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Church  
Preparation session - Sunday 10 March, 9am Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Church, followed by a short practice Reconciliation Day - Sunday 17 March, 3-4pm

Kia ora koe, kia manaakitia ai koe e te Atua  
Janine O'Styke  
Director of Religious Studies

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

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

### Ss Peter and Paul School Board - Casual vacancy for a parent representative

A casual vacancy has occurred on the school board for an elected parent representative.

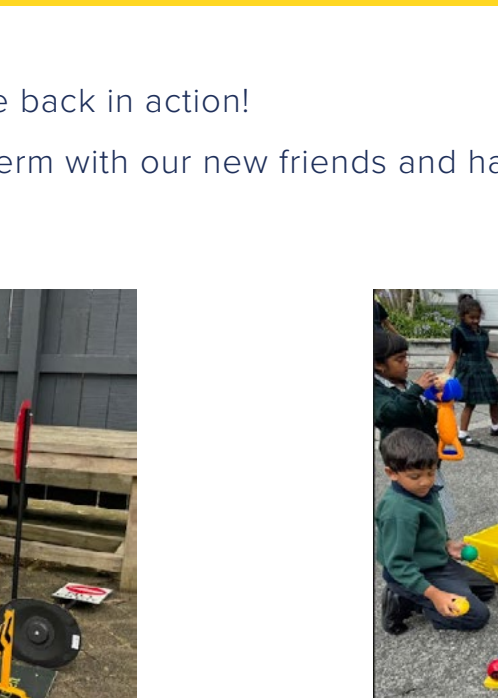
The board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be sent to:

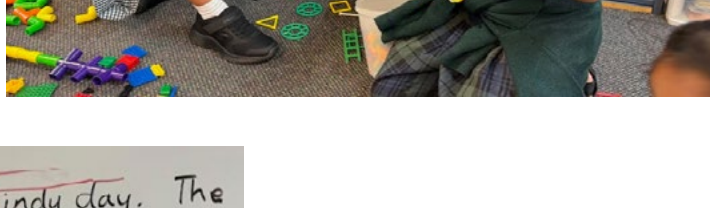
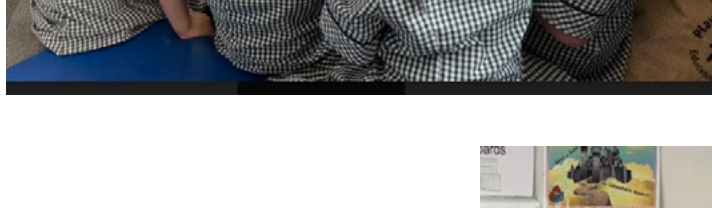
Michael Valli  
Presiding Member  
Ss Peter and Paul Board  
Myrtle Street  
Lower Hutt 5010

by: Tuesday 5 March 2024



Our Kōwhai children are happy to be back in action!

We have enjoyed the beginning of term with our new friends and have had time to get to know our new teacher and classroom.



### Welcome to 2024!

Nikau students have settled into the new school year so well. We have been making new friends, establishing new routines and learning our new classroom expectations.

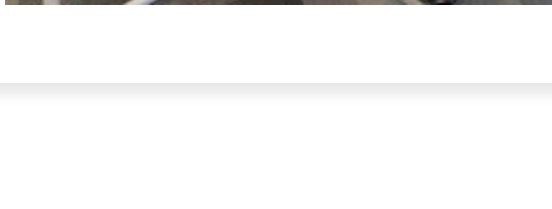
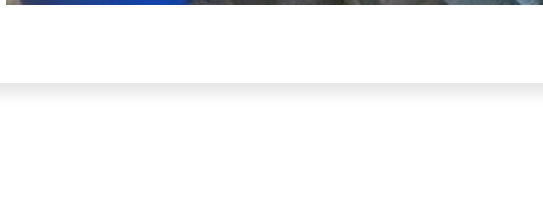
Part of our learning has been to unpack our school values and understand how they guide all of our actions this year. We have also started investigating what our Universal theme for learning 'Exploration' is all about.

"I like that there's new people and faces to get to know in my classroom." **Gabby**

"I have already made some new friends and I've enjoyed catching up with my old friends too." **Elizabeth**

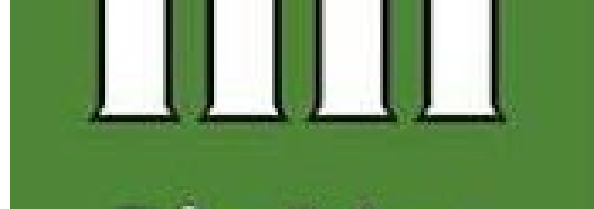
"My little sister has started school and it's great to be able to see her in the playground." **Grayson**

"I like learning about our universal theme exploration because we get to explore new stuff." **Johnny**



### Statistical Literacy

Rooms 13 and 14 have started the term by exploring the themes in the shared story 'Rhino's Horns' by Michael Terry.

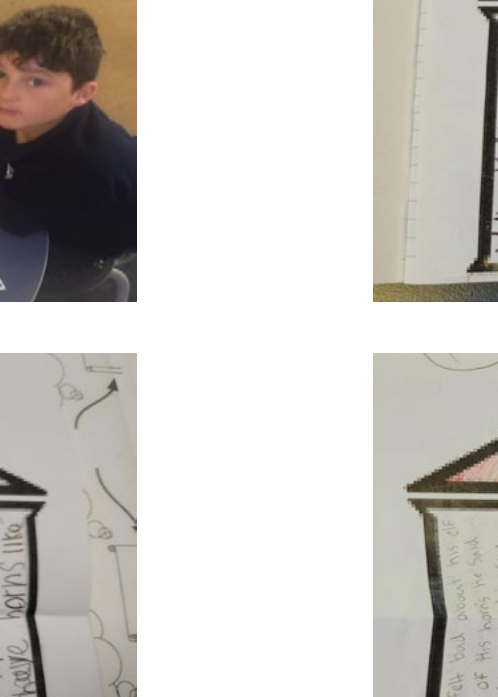
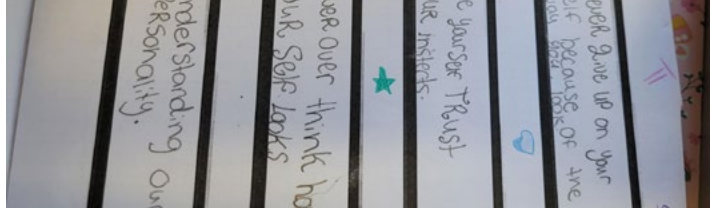
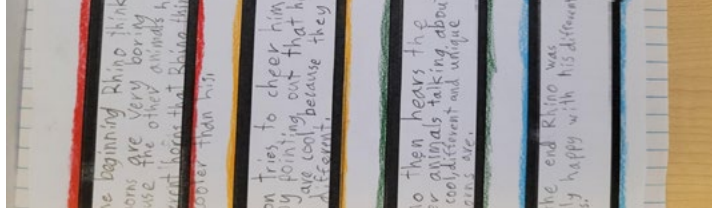
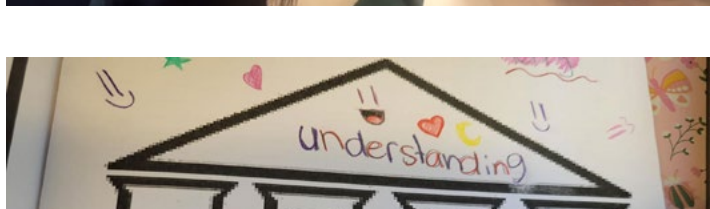
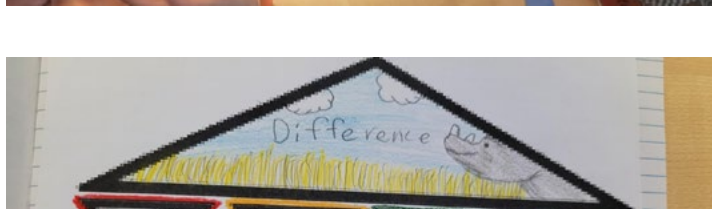
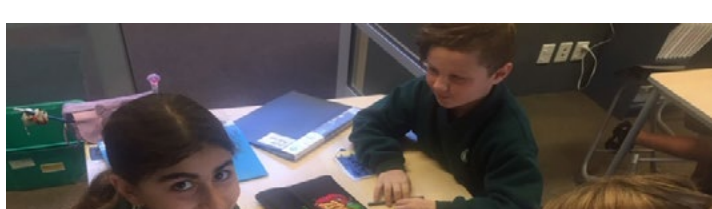


The children listened to the story then worked together in groups to share their thoughts. To help them explore the themes, they used the 'Big Idea' depth and complexity tool. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the children working together and sharing their understanding of the story.

Here are some of the themes they came up with:

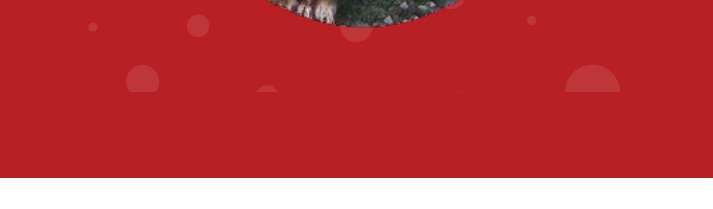
"We are all unique." **Lavinia**  
"Be yourself. Everyone is unique in their own way." **Riddhi**  
"Everybody is different and that is okay." **Dominic**  
"Be grateful for who you are." **Carter**  
"Don't be ashamed of who you are and be proud of our differences." **Harry**

The children then had to capture the theme in one word and use examples from the text to support their thinking. We further explored how these themes are important to understanding and accepting how we are all unique in our class.



### Our universal theme for 2024 is Exploration!

Our ākonga have been brainstorming and exploring our new universal concept. We explored our environment and asked questions about things that sparked our curiosity. It is exciting to see what discoveries await us and where our new universal concept will take us on our learning journey.



## KURA AHUREA

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

### Greetings

- Greeting one person (Tēnā koe)
- Greeting two people (Tēnā kōrua)
- Greeting three or more (Tēnā koutou)

### Farewell

- Farewell one person who is leaving (Haere rā)
- Farewell one person who is staying (E noho rā)
- Farewell two people who are leaving (Haere rā kōrua)
- Farewell two people who are staying (E noho rā kōrua)
- Farewell three or more people who are leaving (Haere rā koutou)
- Farewell three or more people who are staying (E noho rā koutou)

### Acknowledgements

- Well done - Ka pai (koe, kōrua, koutou)
- That's great - Ka rawe (koe, kōrua, koutou)
- Keep going - Haere tonu (koe, kōrua, koutou)

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

### School Opening Time

Just a friendly reminder that **school classrooms are open for students from 8:15am.**

Classroom teachers are very busy prior to this getting ready for their day and need the time and space to be able to concentrate on this.

Students can wait quietly in their classroom cloak bay on a wet/cold day should they arrive before their classroom is open.

We really do appreciate your support.

### School Parent Portal

For families who are new to our school, the Parent Portal provides you with quick access to:

- your child's contact details - click on 'My Child': Check contact details. Please advise the school office if there are any changes to be made
- view your child's account (under accounts, download the statement to view your current balance)
- school policies & procedures (under contacts)
- view your child's attendance for the year to date (click on 'report an absence' then scroll down to view)
- be able to report an absence.

How to access this...

Please visit your app store for your phone, either Google Play or the Apple App Store and search for the app called @School Mobile or to login via the internet go to <https://www.atschool.co.nz/>.

You will then be able to use the username and password that you have been emailed to log in and see information about your child. If you have not received your user id and password please email [admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz) to have your login details sent to you.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Teresa or Lisa in the school office.

### Reporting an absence

It is a requirement from the Ministry that you inform the school if your child is going to be absent.

**Please report all absences before 9am** via the below options:

1. Through the school website.
2. Call the absence line 04 569 5759 option 1.
3. Email [absences@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:absences@stpeterpaul.school.nz)

Please ensure you leave a reason for your child's absence. Any unexplained absences will be coded as unjustified and truant.

### SIGNING OUT

Please ensure you sign your child out at the school office if they are leaving the school grounds during school hours. It is important that we know where your child is, in case of an emergency.

### Parking Reminder

Could we please remind our parent community to avoid making use of the Church carpark for parking or as a drive through for drop offs and pickups.

Many thanks.

## PTA News

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Presidents, Hannah Stewart and Rewa Mahoney, wish to welcome students and families who have returned for another year, and also to new families who have joined the Ss Peter and Paul School community.

The PTA Committee encourages the school community to connect, meet new people and form ideas on how to continue building the school community and fundraise towards school projects that benefit the students and school. Attending meetings is a great way to hear about what is happening at our school and discuss and be involved in future PTA commitments.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, which are held twice a term, usually at 7:00pm in the School Staffroom. Events for 2024 will be discussed at the first PTA meeting. Click [here](#) to join the PTA face book page to view news and PTA events. Dates of each meeting is available on this page.

Feel free to contact us by email [pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz)

'Would be great to hear from you!