

Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 5 March 2024



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

Congratulations to our Student Leaders for 2024

Christian Service Leaders
Samantha Alzona, Jewel Lajlu and Valentina Raso. Azekeiel Zapanta, Prince Del Socorro and Lucas Yusuf.

House Leaders

Redwood - Malaya Hernady and Billy Sloan
Mackillop - Charli Baxter and Angus Theobald
Williams - Georgina McGregor and Declan Mai
Mission - Sophia Rose and Noah Jordan

Cultural Leaders

Olivia Chevallier-Boutell, Norah Stephenson-Vaifele and Matilda Hoeraru-Hunt. Carter Wilson, Aidis Jijo and Thiridy Bachelier.

The new role of **Sports Ambassador** has been created this year. This is to promote and support the enjoyment of participating in a wide range of physical activity and sport.

Leena Leem, Milly Hawthorn and Nadia Burt. John Coote and Max Chevallier-Boutell.

Thanks also to our students who have taken on the leadership roles for the **library** and **road patrol**. Look out for photos in up-coming newsletters.

We know that all children have the potential to develop leadership skills and that leadership development can be a lifelong process. Here at school, we want to provide opportunities for our students to experience leadership, in its many forms. In doing so, they will grow in confidence, learn to solve problems creatively, work in a team, and work collaboratively with others.

Our swimming programme begins next week

There are so many advantages to being able to swim well but top of the list must be that it is a sport that can save a child's life. When we consider that drowning is a leading cause of death from injury in young people, it does make it absolutely crucial that all children know how to swim at a young age.

Our school would ideally like to provide more than eight lessons per year but the availability of suitable pool times and instructors, makes this extremely difficult to do. Therefore I do encourage you to keep up your children's water skills throughout the year so we can support each other to build children's confidence and competence in the water.

We are very fortunate to have a high level of parent help with our swimming programme. We will be relying on it even more, as due to a continuing lack of pool staff, all classroom teachers will be involved in swimming instruction. **If you are able to assist with swimming instruction then please let us know urgently.**

Even if you haven't signed up with the classroom teacher to help and you are down at the pool, please do step in and help out where you can. It will be most appreciated. The other way to help is to ensure your children are reasonably able to dress themselves and look after their own things. Practising this after a bath or shower is a great way to build up that independence. It's also a good idea to check that all items are clearly named. If you have ever been in a changing room with a group of 5 year olds you will know how helpful this is!

Progress and Achievement Tests

New Zealand teachers use a variety of tests to determine what level students are at, what progress they are making and where they may need extra help. Progressive Achievement Tests, commonly known as PATs, are one of the main sets of tests schools use.

Over the next two weeks, our year 3-8 students will be undertaking a multiple-choice test in Mathematics and year 4-8 in Reading Comprehension and Punctuation & Grammar. Some will be on-line and others paper and pencil tests.

The test results help teachers decide what kinds of teaching materials are needed and which methods or programmes are most suitable for their students. PATs are also important because they identify the progress a student is making from year-to-year. The results will be shared with parents at the learning conferences at the end of this term.

Kay Tester
Principal

[OUR WEBSITE](#)

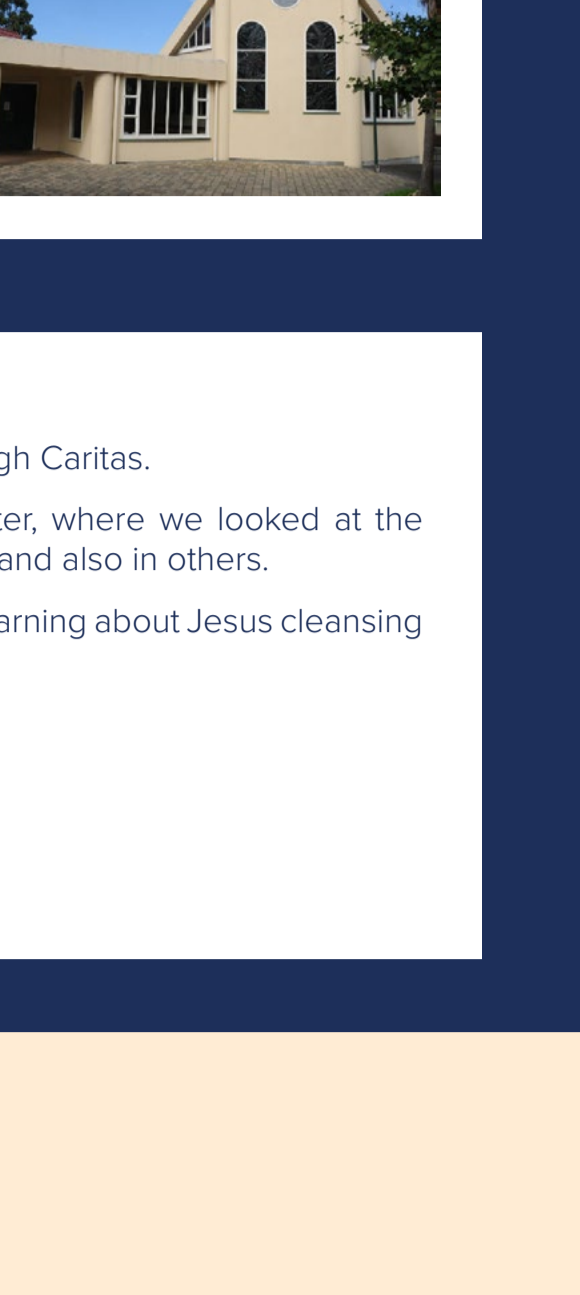
[PARISH WEBSITE](#)

Contents

From our Principal
Special Character
News from the Board
Kōwhai
Nikau
Pōhutukawa
Rātā
Kura Ahurea
Sport
Reminders & Updates
PTA

Events

Wednesday 6 March
PTA Dress as your Super Power non-uniform Day
Wednesday 13 March
PTA Meeting 7pm

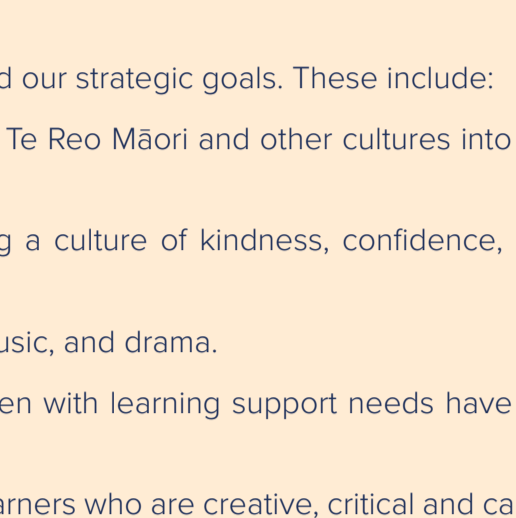


SPECIAL CHARACTER

Sacramental Programme 2023/2024

Important date reminders for Reconciliation:

Preparation session - this Sunday 10 March, 9am Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Church, followed by a short practice
Reconciliation Day - Sunday 17 March, 3-4pm



Our Lenten Programme

Students have been working through their Lenten Journey using resources provided through Caritas. We started Week 1 with the theme: Time for Preparation. Week 2 was Time for Encounter, where we looked at the Transfiguration and how we can take this time during Lent to encounter Christ in ourselves and also in others.

This week is the midpoint in our Lenten journey with a focus on Time for Justice. We will be learning about Jesus cleansing the Temple and what actions we can take to address injustice in the world today.

ka mihi, ka manaaki te Atua
Janine O'Styke
Director of Religious Studies

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Ss Peter & Paul School Strategic Plan 2024-2025

Kia ora Ss Peter & Paul School community,

We are delighted to share with you our new strategic plan for 2024-2025, which reflects our vision, values, and goals for the next two years. This plan is the result of a comprehensive and collaborative process that involved the input and feedback of our students, staff, parents, and whānau throughout 2023.

We would like to thank you all for your valuable contributions and engagement in the community consultation process. Your voices and perspectives have helped us shape a plan that is responsive to the needs, aspirations, and diversity of our school community. We appreciate your time, energy, and passion for our school.

The community consultation process revealed some key themes and priorities that have informed our strategic goals. These include:

- Celebrating and embracing the cultural diversity of our school community, and incorporating Te Reo Māori and other cultures into our curriculum and everyday practices.
- Supporting the academic, social, and emotional development of our learners, and fostering a culture of kindness, confidence, and inclusivity.
- Providing a challenging and creative learning environment that integrates technology, arts, music, and drama.
- Strengthening the home-school partnership and communication, and ensuring that all children with learning support needs have the support they need to succeed.

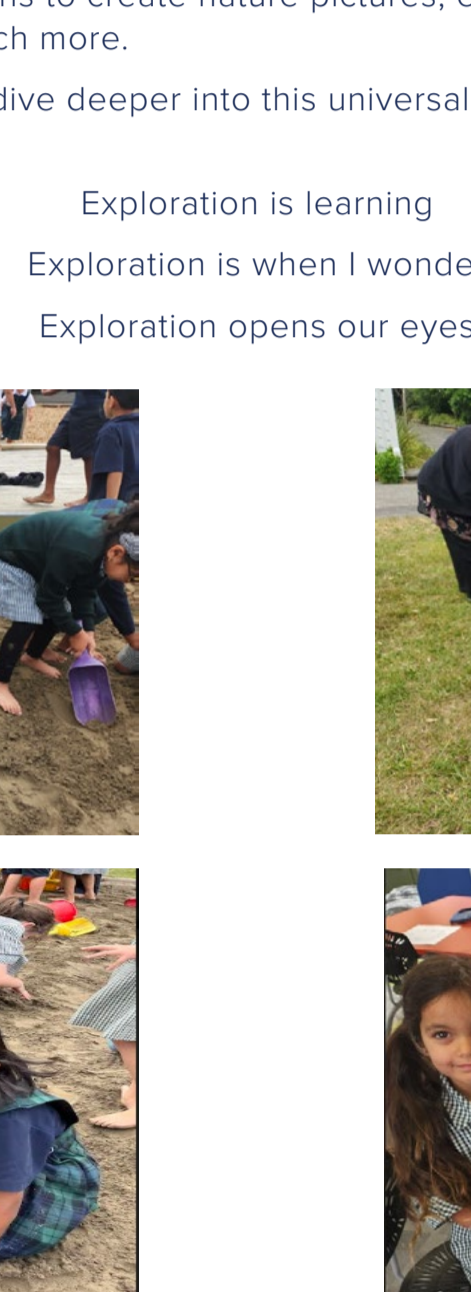
These themes and goals are aligned with our vision "to nurture independent and collaborative learners who are creative, critical and caring in their thinking, strengthened by their Catholic Identity", and our values of "Aroha, Stewardship, Joy, and Faith".

We invite you to read the full [strategic plan](#) document, which is available on our schools website from today. We look forward to working with you as we embark on this exciting journey of growth and improvement for our school.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Vail
Presiding Member
On behalf of the Ss Peter & Paul School Board

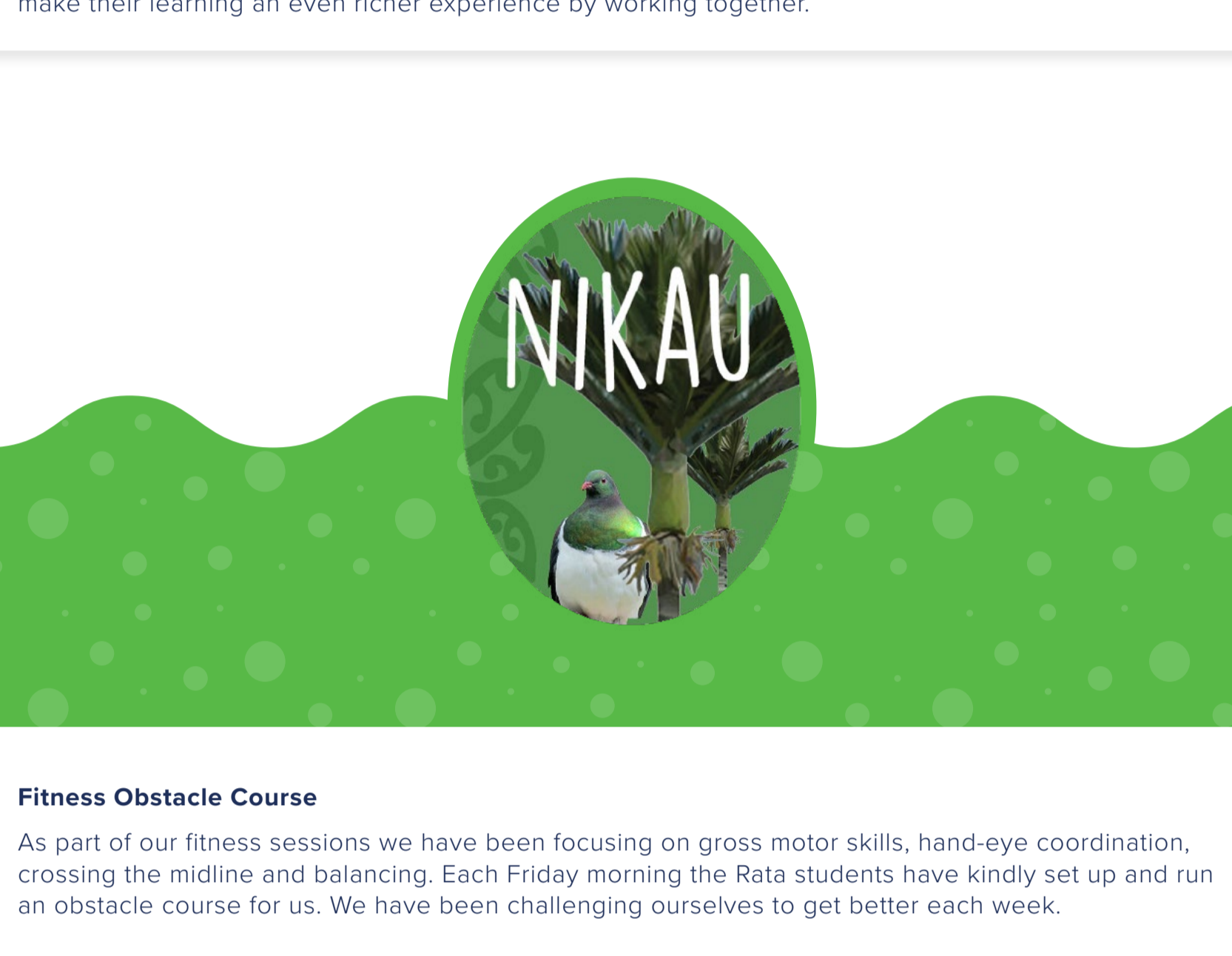


Exploration

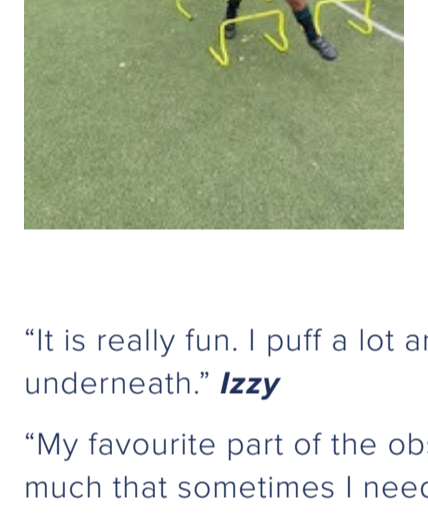
Kōwhai had the chance to experience our universal theme through Discovery. We explored many different things. We hunted for treasure in the sandpit, explored sound, beat and rhythm with musical instruments, we looked in the gardens to create nature pictures, explored the strength of our bodies through an obstacle course and much more.

As we go through this year, we will dive deeper into this universal theme of **Exploration** through these co-constructed big ideas:

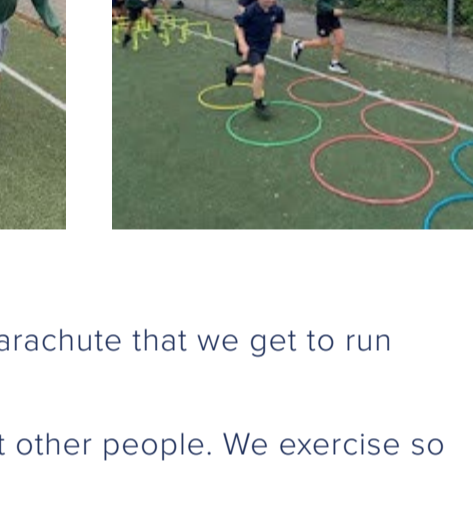
Exploration is learning
Exploration is when I wonder
Exploration opens our eyes



A big shout out to Connor and Yasmine who took their learning home and built upon it to create some artwork to share with their classmates.

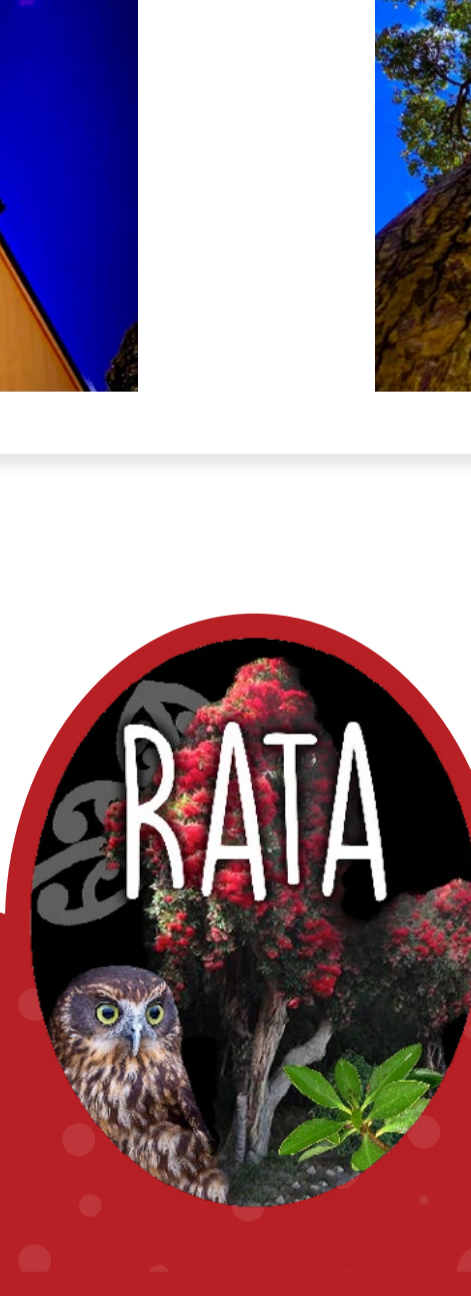


"We were learning about camouflage and what animals did so I made my own camouflaging animal. It's hard to find at first!"
Connor



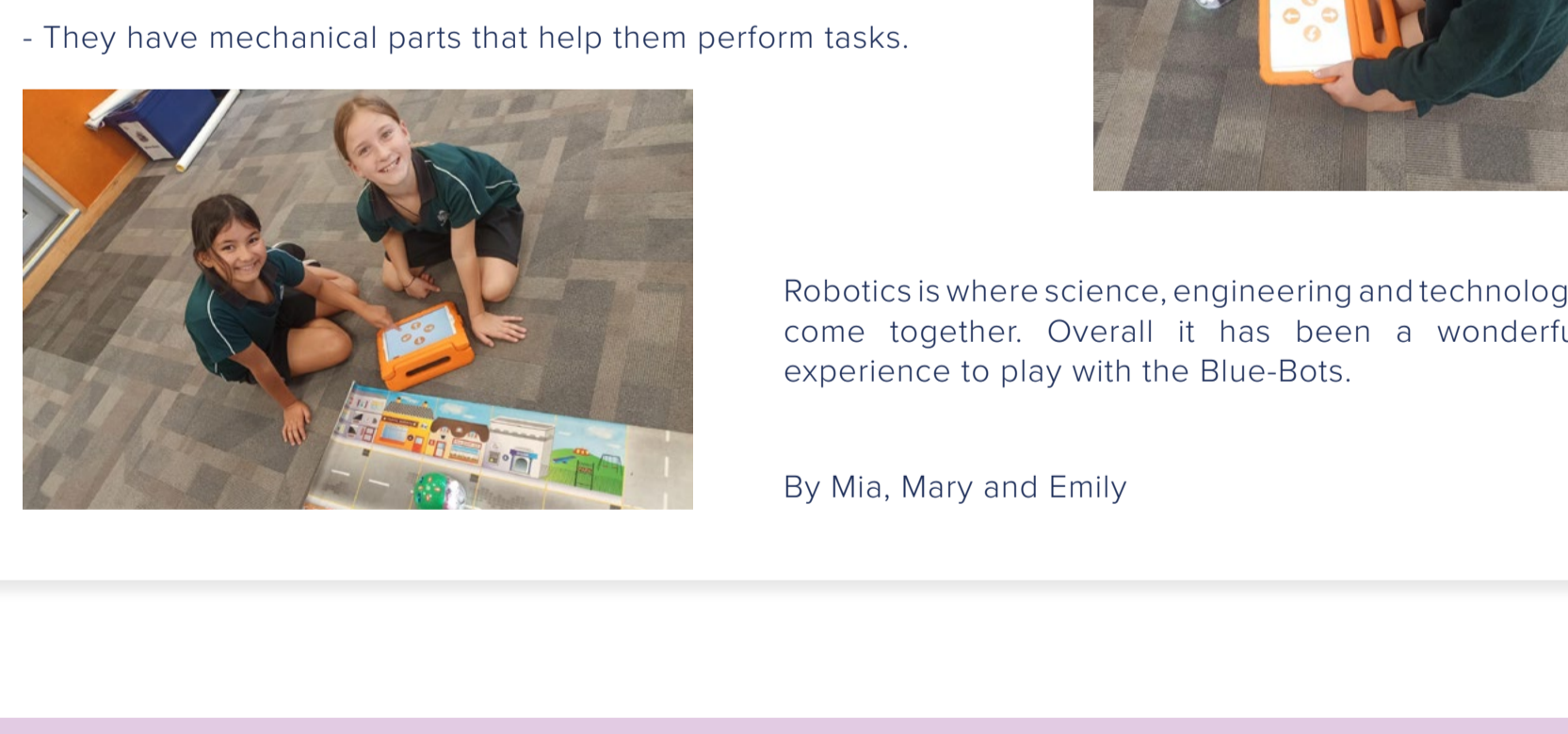
"I liked learning about the insects that hide in the trees. It's hard to find my stick insect. They stay very still so that birds don't eat them!"
Yasmine

When talking with your child about their work, look at how you can build on what they have done to make their learning an even richer experience by working together.



Fitness Obstacle Course

As part of our fitness sessions we have been focusing on gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination, crossing the midline and balancing. Each Friday morning the Rata students have kindly set up and run an obstacle course for us. We have been challenging ourselves to get better each week.



"It is really fun. I puff a lot and quite a few laps. My favourite part is the big parachute that we get to run underneath." **Izzy**

"My favourite part of the obstacle course is the relays. I really like racing against other people. We exercise so much that sometimes I need to take a break!" **Felipe**

"We have to keep going around the laps even if we are tired." **Hannah**

Digital Citizenship

We have been learning about digital safety and how we can be good digital citizens. Good digital citizens help us to make our school a safe and positive place for everyone.

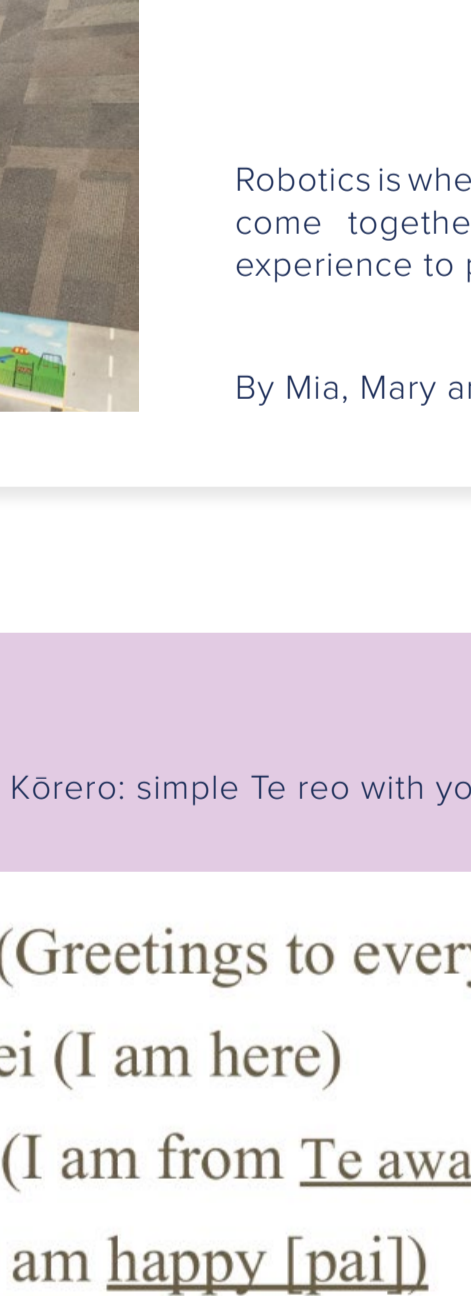
As part of our shared reading we have been exploring the <https://theinternet.govt.nz/> story and we have unpacked our school digital user agreement.

If you want to learn more, Netsafe has great information for families <https://netsafe.org.nz/online-safety-for-parents/>

"You should always be safe, respectful and nice to people online and you shouldn't message people you don't know." **Riley**

"When you are talking to your friends on the internet, always be respectful just like in real life." **Indy**

"I learnt never to share my personal details with anyone online." **Nathan**



Exploration Photography

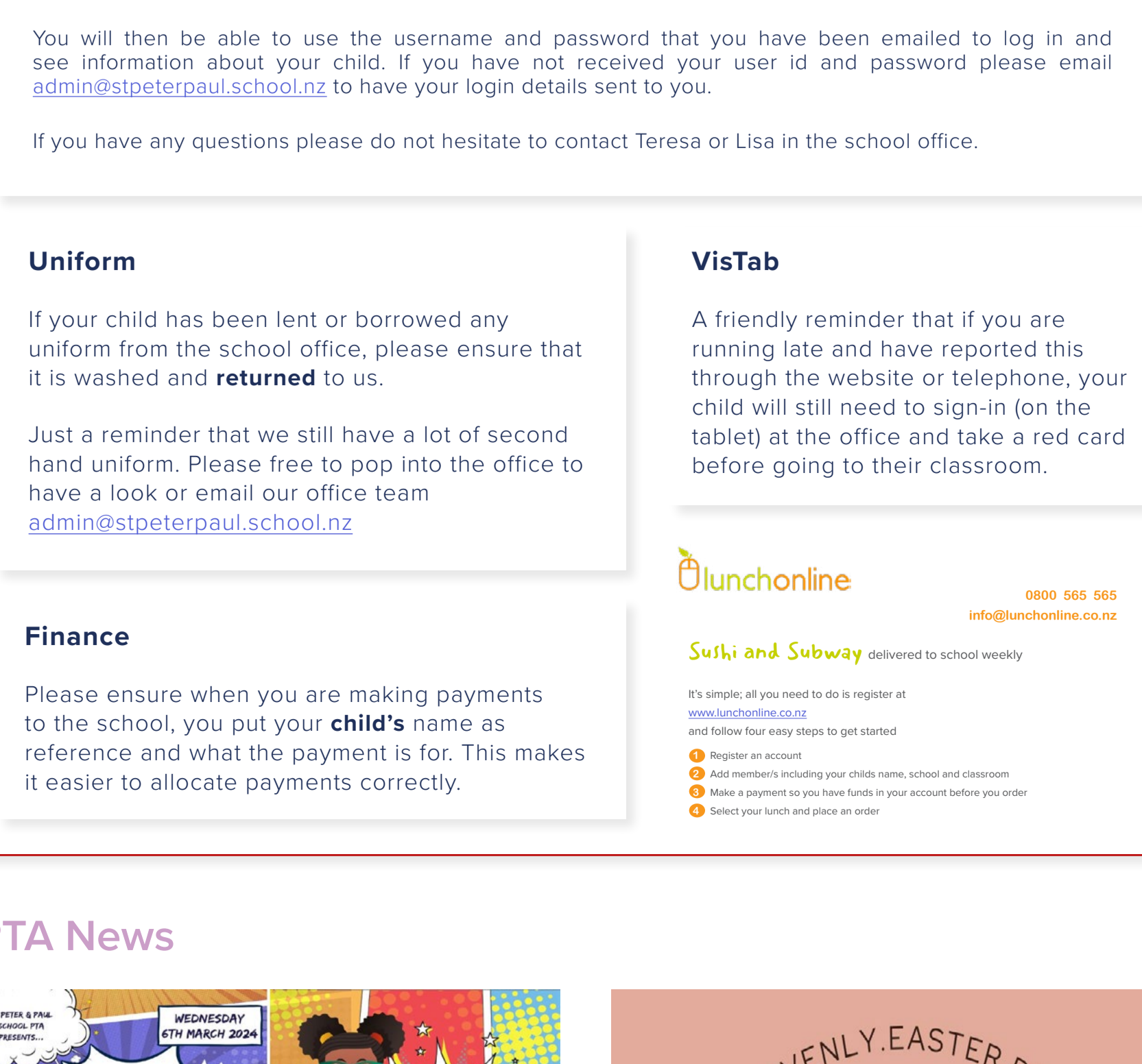
For the first few weeks of term, Room 12 has been focusing on learning the different and unique perspectives of our people, planet and past.

We have taken some photos showing exploration and discovery throughout the school using perspectives that have not been thought of before. It was interesting to see all the varying ideas people could come up with.

Here are some helpful examples we have been able to invent using an experimental mindset.

By Clara and Hejal, on behalf of Room 12.

Where do you think these perspectives are from...?



Robotics

On Friday afternoons students in Rātā have been investigating some STEAM activities. Last week the students were looking at robots.

The year 6s in Room 17 have been operating and programming Blue-Bots to follow a set of commands. We have also learned about the different designs and purposes of robotics.

What defines a robot?

- They need a source of power.
- They have to be programmed to perform a task.
- They have mechanical parts that help them perform tasks.

Robotics is where science, engineering and technology come together. Overall it has been a wonderful experience to play with the Blue-Bots.

By Mia, Mary and Emily

KURA AHUREA

Te reo kupu/kāinga to get at home. Kōrero: simple Te reo with your whānau.

Nga mihi kia koutou (Greetings to everyone)

Ko _____ tenei (I am here)

Nō _____ ahau (I am from Te awa kairangi [Lower Hutt])

Kei te _____ au (I am happy [pai])

Kia pai to ra (Let's have a good day!)

SPORTS NEWS

Rippa Rugby Tournament

Last week teams from across the school went to a fun rippa rugby tournament. There were teams from lots of different schools. Everyone had such a great time playing Rippa rugby all day.

"It was a cool experience!" **Billy**

"I had fun ripping tags off people!" **Ryan**

"I had fun playing with lots of people!" **Holly**

"It was so fun I wanted to play a million games!" **Ishmael**

"I enjoyed the rippa rugby tournament as I love to play sport. It was challenging to play teams from other schools. It was a new experience for me to be a part of the line out!" **Katsianah**

"I think more people should get into rippa rugby because it's really fun. It's a good opportunity to put your running skills to the test. It is also fun to be a part of a team. I had never played rippa rugby before. I really enjoyed this new experience!" **Jennifer**

Kiwi Hoops with Capital Basketball

The entire school has been enjoying basketball lessons with the talented teachers from Capital Basketball. Students have enjoyed working on their dribbling, shooting and defence. It has been wonderful to get outside in the sunshine and enjoy some sport!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

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.spschool.pta.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@stpeterandpaul.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.

Uniform

If your child has been lent or borrowed any uniform from the school office, please ensure that it is washed and returned to us.

Just a reminder that we still have a lot of second hand uniform. Please free to pop into the office to have a look or email our office team admin@stpeterandpaul.school.nz

VisTab

A friendly reminder that if you are running late and have reported this through the website or telephone, your child will still need to sign-in (on the table) at the office and take a red card before going to their classroom.

It's simple: all you need to do is register at www.lunchonline.co.nz/ and follow our easy steps to get started

- Register an account
- Get feedback on your child's name, school and classroom
- Make a payment to pay for lunch in your account before you order
- Use your lunch online app to order

PTA News

DELICIOUS EASTER BUNS & BISCUITS NOW AVAILABLE
ORDER VIA KINDO
Orders open until Thursday 21st March, all orders will be delivered to students' classrooms on Wednesday 27th March