Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Swimming programme

Many thanks for all the help, being provided to our swimming programme. Lessons for our senior classes, Kowhai, Kauri and Kamari's upcoming day trip to the Waterworld are underway.

Learning conferences

Our teachers are looking forward to catching up with you on Wednesday 27 March or Thursday 28 March to discuss your child's learning journey so far this year. The online booking system will open for bookings at 12 noon on Monday 25 March. Please go to https://www.schoolconferences.co.nz/ Select **Make a Booking** and enter the school code **ssptp**.

Should you miss the cut-off, you are still more welcome to come and see your child's teacher. We are focus only scheduling time slots, meaning a teacher may be available to meet with parents who work together before making a booking, so that we can make the most of this one learning conference for each family.

Assessment To Improve learning

We are introducing Learning Conferences only at our senior class, two and three as it makes to present you with clear, comprehensive information.

The term 'three-way' is used to explain that teachers, students and their families are involved in the process. A risk that teachers have is that it takes resources to support students and parents to be able to talk about learning. We want to avoid this.

Obviously what this means for us for a year, we will need to be very clear about what we are that journey your children will become more independent in their learning and they need to be able to share their learning.

An important outcome from the conferences is that students will be able to share their learning with their children and the teacher about the learning that is being shared.

Road Patrol

It's very busy out there on Blyth St at pick-up time. Please remind your child to be careful when crossing at pedestrian crossings and anything out in side car parks and approaching the Kiwi Crossing.

For more information please note the road rule that pedestrians must use a signposted pedestrian crossing if one is within 20 metres of the place they are at. Our dedicated road patrollers, out there in all weather, certainly appreciate your efforts to keep our children safe.

Teacher Only Day

The Ministry of Education has provided two Teacher Only Days during 2024 for schools to work on the reformed NZ curriculum. For your diary the dates for this school are:

- Term 2 - Friday 31 May (Friday before Queen's Birthday)
- Term 4 - Friday 25 October (Friday before Labour weekend)

Hoodie & sand bag

We are beginning to see more and more research that suggests it is highly plausible that access to hoodies and sand bags, can stop our children from having cameras and constant availability, has a positive impact on their learning. We are looking at a possible partnership with our Kapa Haka and our secondary principal's voluntary survey with their students, to see if this is a high priority for them as well. What should parents of Year 6 students do to ensure their child stays safe and develops a healthy relationship with their phone? We know that a large number of students took the time to give thoughtful, nuanced and constructive advice. You can read more about it here.

Children, smartphones, social media and sleep

Kia ora koe

Principal

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Congratulations to those students who celebrated their First Reconciliation on Sunday.

Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024

Each year, Catholic Aotearoa New Zealand runs the Bishops' Lent Appeal to support their work to aid and empower the most poor and marginalised in our society. The Caritas mission, as the Catholic agency for justice, peace, and development, is of vital importance to us, especially the vulnerable communities they work with across the Pacific and beyond.

The Bishops' Lent Appeal is the most direct way of providing the resources Caritas desperately requires to continue this vital work.

For our Catholic community, Caritas is the means by which we help our brothers and sisters in need – uplifting their dignity and providing them with the tools they need to build a better future.

Over the last couple of years there has been a shift in giving to Caritas, putting pressure on their ability to fund programmes that serve those most in need.

As a school, we are going to run **a non-uniform day** on **Wednesday 27 March** and ask that students bring a **gold coin donation** to support the Bishops' Lent Appeal. Donations can be made online.

If your family would like to make a special gift to the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024 you can do this online at www.caritas.co.nz/ or using the envelopes provided at Mass. This will recognise the giving of alms and will mean so much to those the Caritas helps.

Ka ora, Ka manaaki te Atua

Kia ora koe

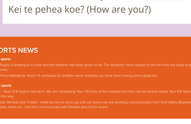
Director of Religious Studies

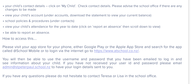
KOWHAI

A belter came together in Kowhai for our first New Zealand blessing of the year. This event is a special time for our new entrant learners and their families. Father Raja blessed the students and their families with beautiful words, filled with a profound international prayer and beautifully sung songs.

A big shout out and thank you to our parents and grandparents who have helped during swimming! We know that this has been a tough ask for some and a chance to have you need to do. We really appreciate the many ways you support us.

To hold you in the prayers, if you are around in the morning, please come and join us for school bible time to your child/grandchild and their classmates, please let the Kowhai teachers know so that we can schedule you in.





NIKAU

Road Safety

Last week Nikau learnt about road safety with visits from Constable Lord! After some discussion in classes the students went for a walk on the pathways outside the school.

Constable Lord taught them how to be safe when crossing roads. Nikau were very impressive. The students particularly learnt about 'smoke threatens'.

She explained that 'smoke threatens' have bushes on each side, with fences and are dead ends.

Here are some thoughts from the students about the visit from Constable Lord:

"It's important for our understanding we have also been doing." **Ruben**

"I found it very exciting that a police officer come to school and showed us her equipment she uses to keep herself safe like handcuffs and pepper spray! **Amber**

"It was really cool that we got to see her police car and she taught us why it's important to stop, look and listen when crossing the road." **Wilson**