

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 teachers and students during the swimming programme. Likewise our recent sports zone events and Kowhai's upcoming day trip to the Wellington Zoo!

Learning conferences

Our teachers are looking forward to catching up with you on Wednesday 27 March or Thursday 4 April to discuss and share your child's learning journey so far this year. The online booking system is now open and will remain so until 4pm on Monday 25 March. Please go to <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz> Select 'Make a Booking' and enter the code **usyk**.

Should you miss the cut-off, you are still most welcome to ring the office and one will be organised for you from any remaining time slots. Unless in exceptional circumstances, we ask parents to work together before making a booking, so that teachers have only one learning conference for each of their students.

Assessment to improve learning

We use three-way conferencing at the end of terms one, two and three as a mode to present you with clear, comprehensible assessment information.

The term 'three-way' is used to explain that students, parents and teachers are all involved in the process. A role that teachers have during these sessions is to report students and parents to talk to each other about learning and assessment.

Obviously what this looks like for a 5 year old is different from an older student but along that journey your children will become more assessment capable; understanding where they are in their learning and where they need to improve.

An important outcome from the conferences is that parents are able to talk easily and knowledgeably with their children and the teacher about the learning that is being shared.

Road Patrol

It's very busy out there on Myrtle St at pick-up time and people go to great efforts to accommodate one another as you are pulling out or into car parks and approaching the Kiwi Crossing.

For your information please note the road rule that pedestrians must use a signalled pedestrian crossing or zebra crossing if within 20 metres of it. Our dedicated road patrolers, out there in all weather, certainly appreciate your efforts to support their work.

Teacher Only Days

The Ministry of Education has provided two Teacher Only Days during 2024 for schools to work on the refreshed NZ curriculum. For your diaries these dates for our school are:

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

Health & well-being

We are beginning to see more and more research that suggests it is highly plausible that access to social media via smart phones, which utilise their front-facing cameras and constant availability, has contributed to a significant decline in teenagers' wellbeing. I've been reading the results of a UK secondary principal's voluntary survey with their Year 12 students. The principal's first question was 'What should parents of Year 6 students do to ensure their child stays safe and develops a positive relationship with the digital world?' He wrote that a large number of students took the time to give thoughtful, nuanced and constructive advice. You can read more about it here:

[Children, smart-phones, social media and well-being](#)

Kay Teaton
Principal

OUR WEBSITE

PARISH WEBSITE

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Events

Wednesday 27 March
Non-uniform day, gold coin donation for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Learning Conferences from 3:15pm

Thursday 28 March
Easter Liturgy - Holy Thursday 9:15am, all whānau welcome

Thursday 4 April
Learning Conferences from 3:15pm

Friday 12 April
Whole school assembly 9:15am, all whānau welcome



SPECIAL CHARACTER

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

Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024

Each year, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand runs the Bishops' Lent Appeal to support their work to aid and empower the most poor and vulnerable in our society. The Caritas mission, as the Catholic agency for justice, peace, and development, is of vital importance to us all, 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 depends on to continue this vital work.

For our Catholic community, Caritas is the means by which we help our brothers and sisters in need – upholding their human dignity through partnerships grounded in Catholic social teaching.

Over the last couple of years there has been a drop 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 host a **non-uniform day on Wednesday 27 March** and ask that students bring a **gold coin** donation so that we can donate to the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024.

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

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



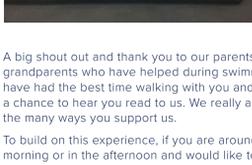
Kōwhhai came together on Friday 8 March for our first New Entrant blessing of the year. This event is a special time for our new entrant learners and their families. Father Raja blessed the students and Kōwhhai students welcomed their new friends with a scripture dramatisation, prayers and beautifully sung songs.

A big thank you to our families and to Father Raja for being at our blessing. It was a truly special event for everyone involved.

"My Mum came to my Blessing, it was special and we sang songs." **Alisa**

"I read a special prayer to the new kids and their families!" **Charlotte**

"I went up on the stage with my Mum and Father Raja was there. He blessed us." **Lucy**



A big shout out and thank you to our parents and grandparents who have helped during swimming! We have had the best time walking with you and having a chance to hear you read to us. We really appreciate the many ways you support us.

To build on this experience, if you are around in the afternoon and would like to read to your child/grandchild and their classmates, please let the Kōwhhai teachers know so that we can schedule you in.



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

Constable Leaf taught them how to be safe when crossing roads and walking past driveways. The students particularly learnt about 'sneaky driveways'.

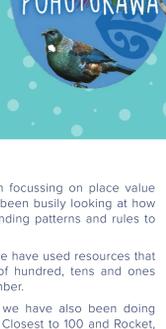
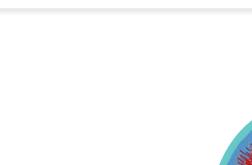
She explained that 'sneaky driveways' have bushes on each side, with fences and are often long.

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

"My favourite part was going for a walk and seeing the sneaky driveways." **Boston**

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

"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." **Mikai**



Place Value
Students in Pōhutukawa have been focussing on place value knowledge during maths. We have been busily looking at how a number can be constructed by finding patterns and rules to assist us.

Using our interactive whiteboards we have used resources that visually show how a combination of hundred, tens and ones place value blocks can create a number.

To further help our understanding we have also been doing warm up activities like Traffic Light, Closest to 100 and Rocket, and we also watched online explanations from the Maths Antics website. These videos help us to understand what decimals are and where these decimal numbers are placed on a number line.

As our knowledge of decimals has improved we have also been able to round numbers (up or down) to the nearest whole number.



"I liked playing most of the games because they helped me to understand a number and how big or small a number is. I really liked Close to 100." **Renata**

"I enjoyed Traffic Light because we had to guess the exact numbers for a four digit number." **Luka**

"I like multiplying and dividing numbers by 10 and a hundred. This is my second year doing level 3 place value and it is becoming easier." **Azekiel**

"The games we have played have been fun. They helped us work with other people. I understand bigger numbers better now." **Liyansa**

"It has helped me learn about rounding. Before I didn't know how to round or what it means. Now I feel confident rounding numbers." **Jamie**

"I like playing the games because it is a fun way to learn and talk with other people about my thinking." **Tova**



Technology on Fridays!
Our year 7 and 8 students go to technology classes every Friday afternoon with specialist teachers. They enjoy food, visual art, hard materials, wood and fabric classes over the course of the year.

It is a fun, inspiring and creative way to end each week and always one of the highlights of being a year 7 or 8 student. The practical, hands-on lessons focus on students exploring and designing as they create a wide variety of items, artworks and delicious foods.



"Food technology is enjoyable and tasty. Our teacher is teaching us to be independent in the kitchen. We are learning how to measure accurately and use lots of different techniques. We are also getting really good at using an oven and staying safe around hot and sharp things." **Heidi & Sianne**

"Art has been fun and challenging. So far we have made clay pots, learnt about colour mixing and this week we are going to be making paper mache ice creams." **Isia**

"Wood technology is really fun and quite hard work. We have been taught how to use tools like the drill and saw. We used these tools to cut wood in straight lines and make things like puzzles." **Janet**

KURA AHUREA

Te reo kupu/kianga to practice at home. Kōrero: simple Te reo with your whānau.

Kia ora (Greetings!)
Ko wai koe? (What is your name?)
Ko _____ ahau (My name is _____)
Kei te pehea koe? (How are you?)

SPORTS NEWS

Term 1 sports
Touch Rugby is drawing to a close and the weather has been great so far. The students I have spoken to tell me they are really enjoying their games.

Future Ferns Netball for Years 1-4 continues for another week and they too have been having some great fun.

Term 2 sports
Netball - Years 5-8 begins next term. We are completing Year 7/8 trials at the moment and then will let parents know. Year 5/6 teams are also on the way.

Basketball, Miniball and Tinball - while we are all set to go with our teams we are awaiting communication from Hutt Valley Basketball re entry dates, times etc. I will then communicate with families about their teams.

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.aischools.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 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.

School Opening Time

Just a friendly reminder that **school classrooms are open for students from 8.15am** We are finding that some students are arriving at school before 8am.

If this is a regular need for you please see our [skids program](#) to ensure your children are safely looked after. Teachers are busy in their classrooms preparing for the day and therefore there is no supervision available for students at this time. Students can wait quietly in their classroom cloak bay on a wet/cold day, should they arrive before their classroom is open.

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

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

Uniform

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@stpeterpaul.school.nz

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.



DELICIOUS EASTER BUNS & BISCUITS AVAILABLE

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