Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 3 December 2024

OUR WEBSITE

PARISH WEBSITE

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

A very warm welcome to the season of Advent, a joyful time as we await the birth of Jesus and a spirit of preparation. It's a time rich with symbols as the colours in the Church change to purple and the Advent wreath and Jesse Tree appear. That excitement and joy is very palpable here at school. It's a particularly lovely place to be at this time of year. Our teachers are very mindful as they match the learning programme to the needs of their class; just the right mix to keep everyone going and smiling at the same time.

This is our last full newsletter of the year. We hope you have enjoyed reading them and seeing all the amazing learning that students have been involved in throughout the year.

Welcome

A special welcome to Weston who is the newest member of Room 5. We hope you have enjoyed your start to school Weston and have already made many friends in your class.

Reporting to Parents

Reporting on your children's progress and achievement has been continuous and timely throughout the year, with key times for more formal evaluation:

- Teachers have sent home a range of evidence of children's learning for you to view and discuss with them throughout the year. A summary document to highlight this information will be included with the end-of-year report.
- Three way conferencing opportunities have been provided at the ends of Terms 1, 2 & 3 for students, parents and teachers to share and understand information and insights about children's progress and achievement with their learning, along with social and emotional development.
- Written reports twice a year provide further summary information, particularly in the foundation areas of reading, writing and mathematics. All students contribute valued insight to these reports. The second written report will go home with students on **Tuesday** 10 December.

Areas for 2025

Our classroom structure and staffing will look a little different next year as you can see outlined below:

Kōwhai: Year 1-2 students - Elaine Stewart (Area Leader).

Pōhutukawa: Year 5-6 students - Sinead Senek (Area Leader)

Classroom teachers - Hugh Watson, Sinead Senek, Shanann O'Sullivan-Glynn and Sarah Swan. Part-time teachers - Andrea Spink and Alison Butler.

Rātā: Year 7-8 students - Freya Coote (Area Leader)

Classroom teachers - Ivy Abella, Freya Coote and Jenna Dyson. Part-time teacher - Victoria McHalick.

A stationery requirement list, which informs you about your child's classroom and teacher, along with a form about school donations, will go home on **Friday** 13 December. The full classroom lists will be shared with students during the day.

We find this helps to ease any concerns. Some children can be disappointed they are not in the same class as a particular friend or they may have a preconceived view about a particular teacher.

We appreciate your support with encouraging your children to be open to new friendships and experiences as this all helps to build their resilience and confidence.

Road Patrol Pool Party

This year's 'Thank You Road Patrollers!' event will be held at the newly opened Naenae Pool, Wednesday 11 December from 9-11am.

We are very grateful to these wonderful students who have been out there before and after school, in all kinds of weather, keeping their fellow students safe. We are pleased to have another great bunch of willing volunteers undergoing training for 2025.

We would love you and extended whānau to join us for our end-of-year celebrations

Kōwhai Christmas Story

Always a delight and not to be missed - Tuesday 10 December at 1.45pm in the Church.

Yr 5-8 End of Year Celebration (including graduation ceremony)

This special celebration will be held in the Church at 11am on Thursday 12 December.

Final school assembly

The perfect way to finish our school year together - come along and be entertained at 9.15am in the church.

Grateful thanks for the many ways our parents, grandparents and friends have supported us throughout the year. From the practical help on

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Tuesday 10 December

Kōwhai Christmas Nativity, 1.45pm - all whānau welcome

EOY reports to go home

Wednesday 11 December

Final Board meeting for 2024, 7pm

Thursday 12 December

Yrs 5-8 End of Year Celebration/ Graduation - 11am

Friday 13 December

St Vincent de Paul Advent food-drive and non-uniform day

Yr 6 Boys fun afternoon

Class and stationery lists to go home

Tuesday 17 December

Final school assembly, 9.15am - all whānau welcome

School finishes at 12.30pm

Classroom teachers - Giana Maroon, Sarah Tweedie, Margie Hahn, Suni Abraham, Emalyn Jiang, Laura Rose. Part-time teachers - Irene Gould and Nicky James.

Nikau: Year 3-4 students - Sarah Gilmour (Area Leader).

Classroom teachers - Aurea Casino, Ryan Glentworth, Janine O'Styke, Grace Allen, and Antoniette Cagalawan. Part-time teachers - Alison Butler and Emma Gill.

school trips to the quick response to phone calls, the friendly supportive presence around the school, attendance at school liturgies and events - so many ways that together, we build a strong community.

Kay Tester
Principal

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Family Mass - Sunday 1 December

On Sunday, as part of the Family Mass, children from our school joined the Church Choir singing the songs we have been practising at school together.

It was a wonderful First Sunday of Advent to share together in our preparation for Christmas and parishioners commented on how beautifully the children sang.

Those at the Mass would have seen the first candle of the Advent wreath being lit, symbolising Hope. This coming Sunday, the second Sunday of Advent, the second candle is lit, representing Peace.

Confirmation Sacrament - Congratulations

Last Sunday some of our students, surrounded by their families, received the Sacrament of Confirmation, marking a significant milestone in their faith journey.

Both the 9am and 5.30pm Masses were led by Archbishop Paul, joined by Father Raja, who guided the students through this special and meaningful ceremony.

Special thanks to the Sacramental Team of Te Awakairangi Parish for preparing the children. Thank you also to all parents, caregivers and sponsors who prepared and actively supported the children for this important sacrament.

St Vincent de Paul Advent Food Drive 2024

Dear Parents

On Friday 13 December, will be having a non-uniform day. Students are warmly invited to wear Christmas- themed clothes, such as the colours of Advent (purple, pink, white, green) and to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

We thank you for your continued support of our annual appeal. Through this appeal, we are able to help families within our school and parish communities to celebrate the festive season through the food and other donations that we collect.

This year, like other recent years, has presented challenges for many families due to the cost of living impacting their livelihoods. As a school community we would like to offer our own families the opportunity to receive a Christmas hamper gift basket with all our best wishes for this festive season.

If you would like to be a recipient of a Christmas hamper this year, please email Molly Hoffman at je.mf.hoffman@xtra.co.nz

It would also be helpful if you can give her the following details:

- Your full name
- Address
- Contact phone number
- Number of children, their age and gender

Wishing you and your family a joyful Christmas.

Suggested food items to bring:

Breakfast cereals, Christmas treats, packets of biscuits, canned fruit, rice, pasta and/or pasta sauce, pudding, teabags, coffee, milo, chocolate drinks, jelly, noodles, mince pies, chocolates, lollies, powdered milk, sugar, peanut butter, jam, marmite.

Kia ora koe, kia manaakitia ai koe e te Atua

Janine O'Styke

Director of Religious Studies

Advent Preparation

Kōwhai has begun the preparation time of Advent for baby Jesus' birth.

We have been creating kindness calendars, advent wreaths and have changed our prayer table to purple to suit the Liturgical calendar we have been learning about.

You may be hearing some cheerful, catchy songs at home as we have been practising for our Kōwhai Christmas show on Tuesday 10th December at 1:45pm.

We look forward to having you join us and encourage you to begin arriving from 1:30pm.

“Advent is special because we are preparing for baby Jesus and the celebrations!” ***Elaine***

“The first week of advent was hope and the second week was peace. They are related because one is about you having light and the other is about you giving light to another.” ***Gianna***

“The feeling we all have right now is excitement; it’s like a fizzy feeling we get before something special happens like baby Jesus.” ***Quincy***

Dowse Art Museum

Last week all Nikau classes got the opportunity to visit the Dowse for an education session.

We explored the exhibitions of two artists; Yhonnie Scarce from Australia and Hanna Shim, born in South Korea and raised in New Zealand.

We then made our own sculptures based on Hanna Shim's art as inspiration.

"Yhonnie Scarce's exhibition reminded me of World War 2. Her land in outback Australia was used to test nuclear bombs. It made me feel scared inside the shelters because it was cold and dark. After seeing both of the exhibitions we made our own sculptures. When I was making my sculpture it started out big and then I twisted it to make it smaller." ***Ronan***

"In the first exhibition the glass sculptures represented the nuclear bombs. The glass was cool because it was tinted black. I liked the shelters. We made plants out of pipe cleaners to represent the plants from the Pillow Garden exhibition. There was clay at the bottom for the base. We twisted the pipe cleaners together and painted them." ***Evan***

"One of the exhibitions was called 'The Pillow Garden' and we first got to feel the cushions before going in. They were like boxing gloves. Inside the exhibition the trees were made out of cotton and had apples, a snake and a worm on the trees." ***Hayden***

The Impossible Bridge

For some of our literacy time over the last week all classes were working on the book 'The Impossible Bridge'. After reading about this we got to experiment and make our own bridges.

The rules were that we were only allowed to use one piece of paper, cut it once and use no sticky tape or glue. We were all amazed at the creativity and results that occurred from this challenge.

Can you believe that one piece of paper with no glue can be strong enough to hold a shoe up!

"At first it was hard to make it sturdy but after a while of experimenting and changing it I managed to make it strong enough to hold all my pencils." ***Victoria***

"I was balancing my shoe on top of my impossible bridge. I couldn't believe that it would be able to support a shoe!" ***Stella***

Recording Our Brookfield Experience

Following Pōhutukawa's exciting experience at Brookfield, we set out to record our experiences by capturing them in a moment of time. We were challenged to write using a sense of tension and select specific language features to craft our writing to engage the reader.

Here are some examples from Pōhutukawa.

Kayaking

I was shaking as I got into my kayak, trying not to fall in. The seat was wet and soggy, dirty water went in between my toes. I found myself gripping the paddle with sweat on my palms. Without a second thought, I lunged myself forward with my oar, I then knew what I was born to do...Two minutes later I crashed, plants went up against my face as I tried to brush them away. I needed to think smart to get out of this situation. I then grabbed my paddle and pushed it against the bush. Hooray, I was free! Until I crashed and got stuck again.

Lia

The Ladder

I lift my foot up to the first wooden slat. I gaze at the slanted ladder, going up all the way into the abyss. My heart is pounding. When will it end? What if the damp ladder collapses to the ground? I finally have the courage to ascend two more steps. There is nothing to see on both sides but trees dripping with ice-cold rainwater. My foot slips, skidding below to the step beneath me. My heart skips a beat. What if it happens again? What if I fall backwards? I sigh. Here comes the easy part - another damp ladder but straight as a line on the murky mud.

Finally, it's over.

Kloie

Kayaking

I sauntered over to the kayak, half trembling; now everyone was looking at me. I slowly stepped ahead and stared at the kayak; it was bobbing at me. I walked forward, and stared down into the shallow water, I pulled myself back quickly, gasping at the still murky brown water, which was now reflecting back at me, "Come on sweetie!" said the teacher. I looked around, and my friends were pointing and guffawing at me. "I'll show them", I said to myself. I put a toe on the wet kayak and as quick as lighting pulled it back. I need to get over my fear. I took a deep breath and hopped into the kayak and anxiously sat down, really aware I might slip off. I felt like my heart had just leapt out of my chest, and my body started filling up with negative thoughts. What if I fell? I got handed the paddles. I clutched the paddles tightly. I started moving them through the water slowly. I was getting the hang of it. I was gliding across the water. Less than 5 minutes later, the teacher called us over to put our kayaks back and to go to the next activity. I punched the air in delight; I had finally done it. I grinned, "Can I do it again?" I asked her.

Norah

My Experience at the Confidence Course

As I look down the plank I feel a rush of adrenaline pumping through my blood. I start my walk down the plank with a nervous smile on my face. I look down and see the peaceful river flowing. I look forward, seeing that I have one more step to go until I reach the end. One of the adult helpers puts out their hand. My sweaty palms grab onto their hand, I close my eyes and take a deep breath. I gulp. My life flashes before my eyes.

I take the jump. THUMP! My shoes meet the ground yet again. I grin harder than I ever have before. I see the next obstacle in front of me. The long and damp wooden ladder. I walk up to the ladder and grab onto it. The dampness can be felt from my hand. I start my climb up. I look up to see the branches of the trees and the light peeking through the branches. I look down to see the forest floor filled with mostly rotting leaves and a few little plants poking out of the floor. Step-by-step I move up the soggy ladder. Wind blows into my face and I can see the end.

"Just a few more steps!" I mumble to myself. I can now see the end. "Just one more step!"

I take the step. And I've made it to the top. Just as I thought my journey was over, I saw the concrete tunnel.

I ducked down to enter the tunnel. It was darker than the vacuum of space. My knee starts to hurt and my hands are getting dirty. I can see the little cracks of light coming through unclosed parts of the tunnel. I can only now see the end of the tunnel.

“Almost there!“ It’s brighter and brighter. “I’m here!”

A large grin appears on my face as soon as I emerge from the tunnel. I feel proud as I wait in line with other kids as we wait for a teacher.

Ethan

The Kayak Awaits

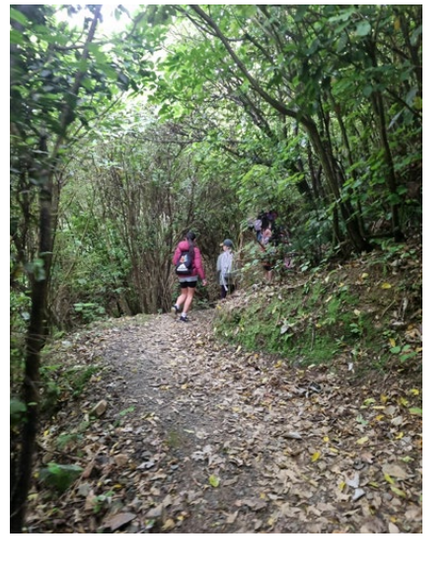
My heart is racing nervously. I take a deep breath. I have endless thoughts. I think to myself you can do it. I gathered up the courage to get in the kayak. My legs are trembling. I step in a murky green kayak. I silently mutter to myself, just try your best, it’s now or never. Suddenly I find myself sitting down in the wobbly structure. A fear strikes through my mind: What will happen if I topple over? I breathe in and breathe out. The sun reflects on my face. Miss Rose hands me my paddle. I take another deep breath. ZOOOOOM!

I paddle into the humid, murky abyss.

Isla

4 Degrees Track, Belmont Regional Park

Pōhutukawa has spent today exploring our wonderful local environment. We walked the 4 Degrees track, named after its gentle four degree gradient. It is great to see how the bush is being regenerated and looked after.



Our Shona McFarlane Visit!

Some lucky year 8's got to visit the Shona McFarlane retirement village to spread some joy and Christmas cheer! Here's what some had to say.

"My highlight was getting to do the residents versus student quiz. They all had such great knowledge and I found it really fun learning about what they knew compared to what we knew. They really did know a lot!" ***Leena***

"My highlight was playing bingo with a man called Oscar. He was really funny and he made me feel welcome! We had a really fun time working as a team and finding all the pictures during the Christmas themed bingo." ***Charlie***

"A few highlights that I experienced at Shona McFarlane was listening and comparing how different their times were compared to ours. I also enjoyed playing bingo with them and winning them marshmallows. It was a very unique and special experience for me because they got to tell us lots of interesting stories from their past." ***Bianca***

"My highlight of our trip to Shona McFarlane was meeting everyone, getting to sing Christmas carols with them and hearing their stories of when they were my age and from when they went to school." ***Nadia***

"My highlight was hearing about all of the different stories and traditions from their childhoods and comparing them to now. This was a great experience to have with the residents, spreading Christmas cheer and making memories for us all." ***Sophia***

Year 8 Leavers' Celebration

Last Thursday our year 8's went to watch Moana 2 at the Lighthouse Cinema for their end of year celebration.

To make it more special we are donating the funds we raised to a children's charity. Between the movie tickets and raffle we have raised $450. The teachers organised a fun giveaway where students could buy tickets for a chance to win a prize.

It was a fantastic experience for all the Year 8's as we prepare to move on to college, truly a night to remember!

Frankie, Vethmi & Diya

We would like to thank Queensgate Shopping Centre and Wholly Bagels for their generous contributions towards our raffle prizes.

WHOLLY Bagels & Pizza

QUEENSGATE SHOPPING CENTRE

KURA AHUREA

Ngā kupu/kīanga to practise at home.
Kōrerohia simple kōrero with your whānau.

If you want to know who performed a particular action, use nā...i...

Nā wai ngā kākahu i horoi?	Who washed the clothes?
Nā wai te waka i hautū?	Who drove the car?
Nā wai tēnei mahi i?	Who did this?
Nā wai au i āwhina?	Who helped me?

Source: Morrison, 2019

LIBRARY

The annual library stocktake has begun!

Please return any school library books as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

SPORTS NEWS

Interzone Athletics

Although the weather wasn't as good as our Zone event, the day was completed successfully. Thanks to Miss Casino who was our Team Manager. From this event, athletes qualified for the Regionals which were held in Wellington last week.

Abby (Yr 4) - 1st in Long Jump

Jirah (Yr 4) - 3rd in Vortex

Night (Yr 5) - 2nd in 150m and 3rd in the 80m

Aastha (Yr 6) - 1st in Vortex

Chanelle (Yr 6) - 3rd in Vortex

Iylah (Yr 7) - 2nd in 100m

Charlotte (Yr 7) - 2nd in 200m

We had 2 relay teams who were 1st in their event, the Year 4 girls - Jalayne, Izzy, Indy, Lucy and Ivana and for the Year 7 girls - Iylah, Charlotte, Ellie and Ceylon.

Congratulations to all our other students who performed well, however only those named above qualified for Regionals.

Regional Athletics

As can be expected the competition at this level was certainly a step up.

The athletes from Ss Peter and Paul who represented the Hutt Valley schools were; Abby, Jirah, Jalayne, Izzy, Indy, Lucy, Ivana, Night, Aastha, Chanelle, Iylah, Charlotte, Ellie and Ceylon.

We were thrilled with our results.

The Year 4 Girls - Jalayne, Izzy, Indy, Lucy and Ivana were victorious in winning the relay, whilst Aastha (Yr 6) was 1st in the Vortex.

The rest of our competitors performed well against some serious opposition and we are pleased their skills got them to this level of competition.

Touch

The season for Touch ends soon, so we thank the following for all the work they have done coaching and managing, so our teams are able to play each week: Joe Hiess (2 teams!), Michelle Hotton, Sam Jones, Chris Theobald, Barbara Noguera, Rob Overdevest, Christy Jensen, Mike Eglinton, Aimee Lewis, Graeme and Kylie Corin, Louisa and Andrew Turner, Greg and Lucy Stechman, Kerryn Johnston and Rob McIntyre.

2025 registration information will be sent to parents in late January. The games for Years 1-6 (on a Friday) will be played at McEwan Park in Petone, as Hutt Park will be under maintenance. Years 7/8 will continue to play at Fraser Park on a Thursday.

Netball

More thank yous to our Star Helpers for Term 4: Kelly Wilson, Lexie Jensen, Christy Jensen, Nadia Burt, Milana Burt, Katy Yung, Shane Olsen and Sam Ives.

Their willingness to commit to helping the Year 0-4 teams play each week has been hugely appreciated.

The games for Term 1 2025 focus on Years 1-4 and this information will come out in late January. In mid February we will be sending out registrations for Years 5-8.

Lunchtime Rip Rugby!

For the last few weeks we have been running lunchtime games of Rip Rugby for Years 3-8.

These few games have all been so much fun for those who have and haven't played before.

We've also really enjoyed running this for the younger students.

Sports Leaders

Nadia, Leena and Milly

IMPORTANT
REMINDERS AND UPDATES

Collection of Medicines - by Tuesday 17 December

All medicines that are kept in the school office for your child/children are available for collection at any time with the cut-off being 12:30pm on Tuesday 17 December 2024.

Any medicines left at school will be taken to a local pharmacy for their appropriate disposal.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Dates to Remember - 2025

Uniform Shop Open by Appointment Only

Wednesday 29 January & Thursday 30 January, 10am - 4pm

To make your appointment please follow the below steps:

Please go to https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Select 'Make a Booking'

Enter the code: ceq7w

Quick Link: Link to Uniform Shop Bookings for 29 & 30 January 2025

School Office Opens

Monday 27 January 9.30am - 3pm & daily thereafter during the same hours until school commences for the new year.

School Commences

Monday 3 February 8:50am

Click here for 2025 Term Dates

Attendance Dues

Attendance Dues will be increasing by 5% in 2025.

Attendance Dues have remained at their current rates since 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the decision to increase the rate was due to the increasing costs of materials and construction as part of the National Attendance Dues pool – Te Puna Waihanga component.

Across the year, this is an approximate increase of .50c per primary student and $1.00 per secondary student per week.

Change to rates

Primary School: $572 per student (previously $545).

Secondary School: $1,147 per student (previously $1,092)

For more information visit www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/schools-in-thearchdiocese/attendance-dues

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 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.

Finance

A reminder when making payments to the school bank account, to put your **child's name** and what the payment is for as reference.
Thank you for your assistance.

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.

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.

lunchonline

0800 565 565
info@lunchonline.co.nz

Sushi and Subway delivered to school weekly

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

1. Register an account
2. Add member/s including your childs name, school and classroom
3. Make a payment so you have funds in your account before you order
4. Select your lunch and place an order

Parking Around Schools

Please see the Hutt City Council's updated changes regarding stopping and parking around schools.

Picking up and dropping tamariki off at school?

How you park and drive can protect them, or put them in danger.

Drivers and children need good visibility around schools to be able to see each other. Parking restrictions are in place for this reason - to protect our tamariki.

As a driver, you can help to reduce the risks:

- Park legally and safely at all times
- Do not exceed P5 or P10 time limits
- Park further away and walk with your child to or from the school gate
- If you need to turn around, find a safe place well away from the school gate
- Always slow down as you approach a busy school or pedestrian crossing
- Choose alternatives to driving - allow your child to walk to school, start a walking school bus, or find another family to carpool with

Parking safely near schools

Stopping on broken yellow lines, across driveways, on a bus stop, and double parking are illegal and risky moves that endanger children and other pedestrians.

If you choose to stop or park illegally you risk receiving a fine.

Stopped / parked on broken yellow lines	$100
Vehicle obstructs entrance or exit of driveway	$70
Park vehicle in special vehicle lane (bus lane or cycle lane)	$100
Park vehicle on footpath or cycle path	$70
Park vehicle on pedestrian crossing	$100
Any stopping or parking that is inconsiderate to other road users, including pedestrians	$100
Exceeding a P5 or P10 time limit (by up to 30mins)	$20
Stop on or near level crossing so as to obscure view	$255
Failing to stop and remain stopped for a school patrol sign (fine and 20 demerit points)	$150

Please put children's safety first at all times. Enforcement by Police and parking wardens is designed to keep all road users safe

Find out more:
hutt.city/saferschools

HUTT CITY
TE AWA KAIRANGI

PTA NEWS

The PTA had their last meeting for 2024 last week and highlighted how fantastic it's been. We have enjoyed working on various school community events such as the School Disco and recent Colour Run. Great to fundraise and make opportunities for everyone to have fun together.

All the best over summer, travel safe and see you in the new year.