

Nikau Area Term 3 Newsletter

We had a brilliant and exciting time in Term 2 especially with our Trip to Zealandia. Please see the link below for our small video from the trip.



 Zealandia video.mp4

Welcome to Term 3, we have an exciting term ahead.

Dates to remember for Nikau:

Week 2, Friday 25th July - Nikau Liturgy - 9:15am

You will have seen the invites come home on Tuesday. All families are welcome to celebrate the feast day of St Anne and St Joachim. They are honoured as the earthly grandparents of Jesus and are recognised for their role in raising Mary, who would become the mother of Jesus. We would like to especially invite all Grandparents or special family members of our students to our Liturgy to celebrate with us. Following the liturgy we will host morning tea with our grandparents and special family members in Nikau.

Weeks 3 and 4, Life Education

Over Weeks 3 and 4 our students will be participating in Life Education sessions. Our focus is how do our bodies get energy from the food we eat? Each class will participate in two sessions in the Life Education Bus linking to our big idea.

Week 4, Bible Reading Competition

Through karakia and Religious Education time the students will be choosing and practising a bible scripture to share with their class. The teachers will support the students to engage with their passage using these criteria.

1. Can I hear and understand the words?

Voice projection, articulation, word management

2. Am I drawn into the scripture?

Confidence, timing, sense, general insight

3. Do I get the message?

Clarity of meaning, phrasing, inflection, emphasis

4. Do I feel involved?

Sense of shared worship, connection with scripture

5. Is this a 'God Moment'?

Proclaim the Word reverently without dramatics

Week 5, Feast of Assumption Mass

This will be a whole school mass on Friday 15th August starting at 9:15am. This feast highlights Mary's unique role as the Mother of God and her closeness to God, serving as a reminder of the promise of eternal life for believers. It's a day to reflect on Mary's virtues and her example of faith.

Week 6, Monday 18th August - Cricket Smash Play Junior Session

We are excited to have Cricket Wellington come and complete cricket sessions with Nikau. The children will need to bring to school their sports gear and shoes. The cricket equipment will be provided for us.

Week 7, Wednesday 27th August - Arts Splash Festival

Some of our Nikau and Pohutukawa students will be participating in the Arts Splash Festival at the Michael Fowler Centre at 7:30pm. If you would like to come the tickets will need to be purchased through ticket master www.ticketmaster.co.nz. They will be available from the 21st July 2025.

Week 8, Wednesday 3rd September - Gymnastics sessions

We are fortunate to have Sacred Heart College working with our Nikau students in building our gymnastics capabilities. Year 13 students will be running sessions with our classes over the day. Please remind your child to pack their sports gear so they can successfully participate in the sessions.

Reminders

Reducing Rubbish at School

To support our school value of stewardship, Nikau is finding ways to reduce rubbish at school. One way we would like help is finding ways to bring less plastic wrapping in our lunchboxes. Consider what food items don't need to be wrapped or could use reusable containers to keep food in. It would be great to ask your child about ways they can reduce waste too.

Sports uniform

We have some wonderful opportunities to be a part of over the term that will require sports gear. We will remind the children when these events come up. The children participate in P.E sessions every Monday and Wednesday and fitness every other day. If the children could please bring their P.E uniform each day it would help them to feel more comfortable in participating in the sporting activities.

Our learning this term

Literacy - Writing

Our first unit of learning will be exploring writing to inform. The children will be building their understanding of sentence structure and paragraphing to communicate an information piece. They will continue to explore more about editing and revising their writing pieces. Our second unit of learning will be delving into creative writing by learning about narratives. The children will be learning more about the structure of a narrative and how to incorporate figurative language features to build a picture in the reader's mind.

Literacy - Reading

Through daily teaching of reading strategies the students are exploring texts which support their understanding of new vocabulary, sentence structures, text structure, conventions of print and comprehension skills. The first key focus for this term is summarising and drawing conclusions, by identifying the central message or main idea in a text and providing the key details in sequence. The second main focus is identifying perspectives by sharing what they notice is included and missing from texts and explain the effects of language, text features, and visual images are used to influence feelings, thoughts, and actions.

Literacy - Spelling / Handwriting

We are continuing to learn spelling patterns through weekly lessons. As the students develop their proficiency in spelling it supports their learning in reading and writing lessons.

Mathematics

We have a busy term ahead with our mathematics learning. We are beginning the term with rational numbers, in particular we are learning to identify, read, write and represent fractions using equal parts. We will also be making comparisons and ordering equivalent fractions. Our next unit of learning will be focusing on probability investigations and critical thinking. Our third unit is exploring geometric shapes and spatial reasoning. Our final piece of learning will be exploring financial maths which incorporates our previous learning in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Fitness and Physical Education

Fitness and P.E is an important part of our daily learning. Being active helps us to explore new skills and increase our focus. Over the term we will be exploring athletic skills to run, jump and throw. We will also be participating in cricket and gymnastic sessions.

Religious Education

This term our students will be unpacking the theme of Te Atua God with the focus of 'What has God got to do with me?' The children will explore how God is a Trinity of 3 Persons who overflow with love and understand that each Person of the Trinity is special and shares gifts with us. By the end of the learning the children will understand that The Trinity of three persons helps us to grow in a loving relationship with God, Jesus' life is an example of how to live a Christian life and the gifts of the Holy Spirit help us connect with God and one another.

Inquiry

Our students are delving into two learning opportunities.

The first opportunity is through Life Education. We will be unpacking the key question of 'How do our bodies get energy from the food we eat?' We will begin with initial sessions in classes and follow up with two sessions in the life Education Bus.

The second opportunity is through Aotearoa (New Zealand) Histories. The children are unpacking the key understanding of Tuia i runga, tuia i raro, tuia i waho, tuia i roto, tuia te muka tāngata. Relationships and connections between people and across boundaries have shaped the course of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories. In particular the students will be exploring the key knowledge of The ways different groups of people have lived and worked in this rohe have changed over time. Traditional Māori economies were finely tuned to the resources within each rohe, which provided the basis for trade between iwi. There were complicated economic relationships between iwi and early newcomers as newcomers sought resources.

The Arts

We will be continuing our learning through music. While we have children participating in Art Splash, the rest of the students will be having a session a fortnight rotating around in groups to work on skills like, making music, creating songs, and exploring instruments.

Learning at home

Nikau students are expected to engage with books for at least 30 minutes a day at home. We want to encourage a love of reading. This can be school reading books, library books or books that you have at home. Encourage an enjoyment of reading by reading to your child or listening to them read to you. Talk about the books you are reading or ask your child about their favourite characters, the story line, the funniest moment etc...

If English is your child's second language, research shows that having a strong foundation in a first language makes acquiring a second easier. So speak in your first language! You are the best model for your child to develop strong vocabulary, proper grammar, and natural communication skills.

Other ideas to support your child at home:

- Talk with your child and have rich and meaningful conversations.
- Play games such as cards or board games to support your child's maths learning.
- Encourage outdoor and adventurous play to help develop your child's gross motor skills
- Help your child manage themselves so they can look after their belongings and become independent learners.

If you would like more information about understanding your child's learning, feel free to look through the ministry resource of the parent portal.

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal>

Sharing of learning

Learning Conferences - You will be invited to meetings throughout the year where your child and their teacher will share their learning, goals and successes. The dates are Thursday 4th September and Wednesday 10th September.

Contact information

Please chat with your child's classroom teacher if you require any clarification around school related concerns. You can either pop in to make an appointment or contact the classroom teacher through admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz or nikaual@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Guiding our students

When a conflict situation arises teachers use the structure of restorative conversations. Teachers lead the students through the process of:

- Tell the story (what happened?)
- Listen to all perspectives (Who has been affected and how?)
- Repair the harm (what do we need to do to put things right?)
- Move Forward (How can we make sure this doesn't happen again?)

Teachers will at times make direct contact with parents and caregivers where it is necessary to discuss ways in which we can work together on supporting their child.

An important way you can support this work is if your child comes home upset about a conflict, please ask them if they have raised it with a teacher so teachers can follow up immediately.

Sometimes, children find it difficult to consider a viewpoint other than their own. Encouraging your child to share all parts of the story will help them to be responsible for their choices and understand there are always events that lead up to the conflict. Teachers spend the time to unpack and investigate the bigger picture; this enables us to understand and help find resolutions with all who are involved.

Ngā Mihi

Sarah Gilmour (Area Leader)

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