

Nikau's Term 4 Newsletter

Welcome to Term 4, we have an exciting term ahead.

It is incredible that we are already in term 4. The year has flown by with all the exciting and sometimes challenging learning opportunities our Nikau students have had. You will see through the newsletter some of the wonderful learning experiences we have had. We are looking forward to sharing with you much more this term.

With Term 4 becoming hotter, sun hats are needed. If your child has not got a sunhat they can be purchased from the office or the uniform shop.

Dates to remember for Nikau:

Week 4, Labour Day

Monday 27th October - Labour Day - This is a non-school day.

Tuesday 28th October - Class photos

Wednesday 29th October - Interzone athletics

Friday 31st October - Individual school portraits

Week 6, Cultural Festival

Thursday 13th November

We have our annual cultural day festival, the children will be participating in learning experiences about other cultures, food, traditions and more. Closer to the time more information will be shared about the day's festivities.

Week 9, School Mass

Tuesday 2nd December

We will be having our final school mass at 9:15am, please come along and celebrate with us.



Week 9, Parent Helpers Morning Tea

Tuesday 2nd December

We have been very fortunate to have wonderful learning opportunities outside of the classroom. This would not have been possible without the support of our parents and caregivers. Please put in your diaries this date and closer to the time personal invitations will be sent out to invite the parent helper to share in morning tea.



Week 9, Nikau's end of year sharing

Friday 5th December, 1:30pm

To celebrate the end of the year and share some of our learning with you Nikau would like to invite you to Nikau's Kiwiana Christmas. This will be held in and around Nikau. We would love for you to come along and share in the festivities with us. Closer to the time the children will be bringing home invitations for you.

Week 10, End of year Assembly

Friday 12th December - 9:15am

Parents and caregivers are welcome to come along.

Week 11, Last Day of School

Monday 15th December

Don't forget our last day of school is on Monday 15th December, the school day will finish at 12:30pm.



Our learning this term

Literacy - Writing

We are continuing on with our creative writing. The children are learning about the structure of a narrative using fairy tales, myths and legends. Throughout the writing pieces the students are incorporating figurative language features and dialogue to build a picture in the reader's mind. The final aspect the children will be learning about is writing to persuade, they will be exploring the creative aspects of writing to convince the reader of a different perspective.



Literacy - Reading

The children will continue to participate in daily teaching of reading strategies. Exploring texts which support their understanding of new vocabulary, sentence structures, text structure, conventions of print and comprehension skills. The students have the opportunity to learn about different genres, styles and concepts.

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

Continuing on with our mathematics learning our students are building on their foundation skills they have learnt over the year. The first concept will be exploring rational numbers through fractions of sets. We will then move into our measurement unit incorporating time, perimeter and area. We will finish off the year with our unit on statistics.

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 learning games and techniques through net, wall, striking and fielding.

Religious Education

This term our students will be unpacking the theme of Church with the focus of 'My Spiritual Journey, where am I going?' The children will explore how the sacraments help in our hīkoi. By the end of the learning, the children will understand what a Sacrament is, their meaning, rituals, symbols and purpose. They will also explore how Sacraments connect to Jesus' life and deepen our relationship with God. Finally they will understand sin as broken relationships, our freedom to make choices, and the Church's Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick).

Inquiry / STEAM

We are exploring what makes Aotearoa unique and connects us together. The children will be learning through STEAM activities. STEAM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Towards the end of the term the children will be sharing their STEM creations with you.



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. It provides guidance of what to expect with your child's learning each year and how you can support your child at home.

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

Sharing of learning

Over the term we will have two pieces of learning we will be sending home, one will be a writing piece and the other will be a piece about New Zealand Histories. Keep an eye out as the children have put a lot of thought into the work they are bringing home to you.

Week 10, Reports

Monday 8th December

School reports will be coming home with your child to share with you.



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.



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)

Aurea Casino, Antoniette Cagalawan, Ryan Glentworth, Janine O'Styke and Grace Allan

