Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday 10 February 2026 | Week 2 | Term 1

OUR WEBSITE

PARENT PORTAL

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back everyone to what is sure to be an exciting, Principal of the Year kind of term! I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to spend time in classrooms learning alongside our students, staff, whānau and community members. Thank you for your kind words and support over the last few weeks.

The 2026 Whānau Handbook is now available on our website. It has been designed to be a practical guide for the parents/whānau of the school and our school community. Our Catholic Faith and our commitment to our Māori heritage are at the heart of our school. We believe our Catholic Faith and our commitment to our Māori heritage are what make our school community unique and special. We want our students to be proud of their Catholic Māori heritage and to be able to fully participate in it.

Across the school, I want our special character heart to be strong as it is what sets us apart from other schools. We want our students to be able to participate in our special character and be able to confidently talk about our special character. We want our students to be able to say they are a Catholic Māori school and be proud of that.

I also want to acknowledge our fabulous staff. Their professionalism, care and commitment underpins our school community. Our staff are the heart of our school and they do a great job. Thank you to our staff for their commitment to our students and community. They rock!

The same has been extending work. I have been interested in the use, overseas's culture, of the Kaupapa Māori Assessment Framework. I have been working with Te Kōtahi Māori Trust Board, Te Kōtahi Māori Cluster and Te Kōtahi Māori Kaiarahi to develop a Kaupapa Māori Assessment Framework for our school. Although this is a long term project, I am very interested in this. Of things that matter to school and Māori whānau.

Ngā mihi nui ki ōtou katoa,
Principal of the Year
Ms Jo Kennedy

Ko te ātaria ki ngā ara i ngā ara ō te ngākau!

Ko te ngākau ki te ngākau ki te ngākau ki te Ngākau Tapu o Hēsu!

Welcome to the gateway to our hearts and our school community.

Welcome to the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Welcome to our school community.

Kia ora koutou,
Tumuaki

Contents

Welcome to Principal
Special Character
Awards
Whānau
Publications
PPA
Kura Ahurea
Sports
Attendance & Updates
PTA

Events

Wednesday 25 February
Ash Wednesday
Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Ash Wednesday Mass
Parent Consultations
Friday 27 February
Tuesday 3 March
Tuesday 10 March
Tuesday 17 March
Tuesday 24 March
Tuesday 31 March

SPECIAL CHARACTER

A Reflective Beginning: Teachers' Retreat at Home of Compassion

Our teachers began their term by reflecting on our special character at the Home of Compassion in Lower Hutt. Although it was a day primarily meaningful opportunities to explore the connection between our spiritual lives and our school, teachers were also reminded of the importance of our special character in our classrooms and our school community. Our special character is what sets us apart from other schools and our special character underpins our school culture. It is important that our special character is not just something we do in our classroom and school. Our special character is what we are.

Welcoming the Year with Faith and Whanaungatanga

Our school community came together on Friday 6 February to begin the year with a special Mini Whānau and Beginning of Year Mass. It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new students and their whānau into our school community and to pray for the year ahead.

Father Paul Kennedy presided over the Mass and reminded us to look for God in our larger world. Through prayer, hymns and reflection, we were reminded of our shared faith and the importance of building strong relationships with one another. It was a joyful and meaningful start to our school year, and a reflection of the strong sense of community we want our students to experience.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting, of prayer, of giving. It is a sacred time for prayer and personal reflection. There will be an Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 1:30 pm in our Parish Ash Wednesday Liturgy on February 18th. Each class will be invited to attend.

Ash Wednesday Timetable:
Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Parent Consultations

Ash Wednesday Mass
Thursday 19 February Senior
Friday 20 February Junior

Sacramental Programme 2026

Thank you for taking a further in preparation for the Parish Meeting last Tuesday. If your child is receiving the sacraments please have the one of the presentation dates:

First Reconciliation - Sunday 22 March 2026
Mass and Reconciliation - Sunday 22 March, 9am at Ss Peter and Paul Church (parents and children)
Mass and Practice - Sunday 8 March, 9am at Ss Peter and Paul Church (parents and children)
First Reconciliation - Sunday 22 March, 9am at Ss Peter and Paul Church

First Communion - Sunday 3 June 2026
Mass and Practice - Sunday 3 May, 9am at Ss Peter and Paul Church (parents and children)
Mass and Reconciliation - Sunday 3 June, 9am at Ss Peter and Paul Church (parents and children)
First Communion - Sunday 3 June, during St Kolbe's Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Church (everyone)

Primary Jesus
Director of Religious Studies

KOWHAI

Hey kid, hold mo! It is here - Welcome back to school!

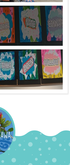
Welcome back to Kowhai. We're looking forward to this year, and know that we have great learning, experiences, engaging activities, and exciting discoveries.

Our theme for the beginning of the term has been reflective of the significance of Beginning Day as marking the start of new opportunities, learning, and growth. We have been exploring what it means to be a learner.

Together, we discussed the importance of being kind our school community, and we created our classroom agreements to ensure everyone feels welcome to share and contribute to our learning.

"Hang in there for day of fear / I am very scared" - **Avaire**

"Hang in there for day of fear / I am very scared" - **Avaire**



Innovations on the Big Idea - Change

This year our school-wide concept is 'Change'. It simply and meaningful start to explore, especially as we navigate our way through our new Catholic Māori Character and our Kaupapa Māori journey.

At Kowhai, it has inspired many deep, Māori-focused learn and reflection on how this character and our Kaupapa Māori journey will shape our learning, our relationships, our school culture, and our sense of belonging. Change is an age, a time, not only in our business, but one of the rose innovations we take on.

Our Kowhai Big Idea for Change has been shaped by our Māori-focused learning and our continuing reflection, celebrating the journey we are on together.

We dive into the Times up of the Bell activity and transformed a circle and a pendant were into beautiful, meaningful, and creative representations of change. This activity encouraged deep reflection and conversation. The pendant were then hung in our classroom as a lovely reminder and passers-learn-learn of our shared journey of change.

From Room 6's discussion, here are some of their thoughtful reflections on what change means to them:

"Change is good." - **Jonathan**
"Change schools." - **Ashton**
"Present also change." - **Esther**
"Change my hairdo." - **Marcyan**
"Move things and rearrange." - **Jaylyn**
"Change my clothes." - **Ruby**
"My change can school." - **Rosie K**
"Change is also when day becomes night, and night becomes day. Change is when something becomes something else."

"I was a change in the classroom (or Miss Pearson's replacement) and we are changing together." - **Ariel**

NIKAU

Getting to Know Kevin Ohlsen, and Tongarewa

Nikau students have been learning all their new surroundings, and also many learners and the classes are and after the end of enthusiastic students who are interested to know returning to school.

Nikau students have been learning about our new teacher, Kevin Ohlsen, and his family. Kevin is a teacher in Room 8. He explains many fun facts about himself and enthusiast on how his classroom is a place where students can learn and grow. Kevin's classroom is a place where students can be happy and feel safe. Kevin's classroom is a place where students can be happy and feel safe. Kevin's classroom is a place where students can be happy and feel safe