

Nikau Area

Rooms 7-11

Welcome to Nikau

We are pleased to welcome you all to Nikau. In Nikau we have five teachers who work collaboratively to plan and deliver a rich and engaging curriculum.

Classrooms

Room 7 - Aurea Casino

Room 8 - Janine O'Styke

Room 9 - Sarah Gilmour

Room 10 - Antoniette Cagalawan

Room 11 - Emma Findlay

Area Leader - Sarah Gilmour -
nikau1@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Support Teachers

Alison Butler

Emma Gill



Nikau in Action

Ka nui nga mihi ki a koutou, a warm welcome to the new school year.

We are pleased to see Nikau students settled and developing relationships with their peers and teachers.

It is great to welcome new families and teachers into our Nikau area. We look forward to developing our learning together.



Nikau in Action



School Values

Our school values of faith, joy, aroha and stewardship continue to provide the foundation of our school community. We continue to build on the students' understanding of these by identifying and putting into practice what they look like in action throughout the school day. We aim to model and encourage the students to see the importance of these values to them and the well-being of our school community.

aroha

- Be kind and fair to everyone
- Understand others. Be inclusive and learn from one another
- Work together! Support one another to be the best that we can be
- Have the courage to speak and act with honesty

stewardship

- Do 'small things with great love' around your local area
- Take action! Make a positive difference
- Be a kaitiaki of others and our world
- Enjoy and explore our beautiful world

joy

- Be adventurous and try new things constantly
- Stick to it! Learn to keep going even if it's hard and have fun figuring it out
- Be curious about learning and life - ask questions and seek answers
- Laugh a little! Be able to laugh at yourself

faith

- Recognise God's love for us in those we meet every day
- Be Jesus to others even when they make it hard
- Choose to serve others in little things even when no one will notice
- Try to recognise and do the right thing

General Information

Smart watches and Devices - If your child has a smart watch or device at school, it will need to be placed in the minding box in the morning and it will be returned at the end of the school day.

Sunhats and Uniform - All students require a named school sunhat in Term One and Four. These can be purchased from the office. It is also helpful to have a named jersey and rain jacket each day in case of a change in weather. Please ensure all uniform items are named.

PE - Is every Wednesday and Friday. PE uniform is required for all year 3 and 4 students. The students will change into their gear during lunchtime and back into their uniform before the end of the school day.

Library - Students can get 3 books out of the school library each week. These will need to be returned before more are issued.

Birthdays - We love celebrating birthdays, however, due to allergies we ask that you do not send in treats to share with the class. We will ensure your child's birthday is celebrated in class in another way.

Toys - Please keep toys, and trading cards at home, this minimises any issues that can occur.

Sharing of Learning

Learning Conferences - You will be invited to meetings throughout the year. Your child and their teacher will share learning, goals and successes. Our conferences this term will be on

Wednesday 18th March and Thursday 26th March.

Closer to the time bookings will be opened and shared with you.

Please talk 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 phone the office on 04 569 5759.

You can also contact Sarah Gilmour directly at nikaua@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Curriculum



Our learning throughout the year will be around the universal theme of **change**.

Through this conceptual approach we aim to develop the students' capabilities and critical thinking skills. It will form the basis of cross-curricular learning for the year.

Curriculum

Reading

Each class is building a depth of reading skills and understanding. In a day of learning the students will explore fundamental skills through shared reading, guided reading and reading to. We use these opportunities to explore vocabulary, sentence structure, comprehension strategies and critical thinking.

Writing

Throughout the day we explicitly teach and support handwriting, spelling and writing skills. The children will be supported to explore and consolidate their understanding of vocabulary, structure of language, writing for different purposes, crafting, editing and revising. Our first piece of writing will be poetry, we will then move into writing to inform.

Mathematics

Nikau is developing their mathematical understanding through a range of strands. Our initial exploration will be through geometry learning about shape and spatial reasoning. We will then move into number structures and end the term with a focus of time.

Curriculum

Religious Education

Each day the children participate in morning karakia and religious education sessions. The focus of this term is Ā Tātou Whakapapa 'Our Story'. Through this concept we will be exploring God's Whanau, God's Grace, Mary and Joseph, Praying for and with my whanau and Fairness, Compassion and Courage.

Fitness and P.E

Fitness and P.E is an important part of our daily learning, being active helps us to explore new skills and increase our focus. Through fitness we are learning about teamwork while incorporating agility and speed. In P.E we are initially focusing on striking and fielding through a range of kiwi sports activities.

Inquiry

To begin the term we are developing our understanding of our concept patterns. The children have been participating in immersion activities to explore patterns through all curriculum areas. The students are in the process of developing big ideas linking to our universal theme.

Curriculum

Enriching Local Curriculum

Over the year there will be wonderful opportunities for Nikau to explore our local environment and enrich our learning. To have successful outings we need parents to come along. We will let you know via the area email of events coming up. If you can help please respond so we can confirm and make the events possible.

The Arts and Technology

We have been learning about each other and exploring art techniques so the students can publish their first art piece to share about themselves.

Te Reo Māori

The focus for this term will be around language development and waiata. Throughout the day teachers are integrating te reo instructions and greetings.

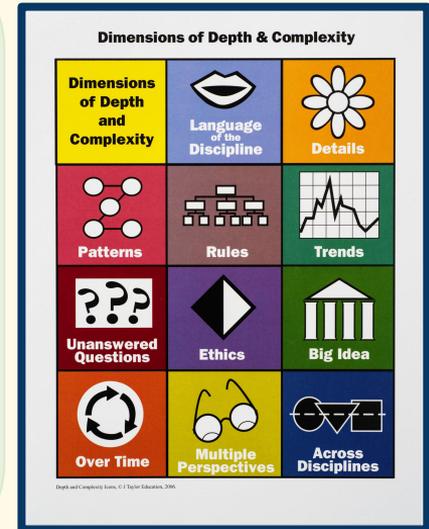
Learning to Think and Thinking to Learn

The Learning Pit

We encourage our students through our school values to ask questions, work together, stick at it and be prepared to have a go even when new learning is tricky. Nikau has been exploring the concept of the 'The Learning Pit' to support us to be more comfortable with challenge; to develop problem solving strategies; and to articulate learning.

Depth and Complexity

Depth and complexity tools are used in each class by teachers and students. The tools take students of any age deeper into a study of any content area. Each of the prompts acts as a different lens, prompting students to look at a topic in a new way. The tools are displayed in class and used each day during our learning.



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.

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.

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.

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>

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.

Learning at Home

Talking with your children about their day

Sometimes at the end of a busy and engaging day the students are worn out and are quite happy to enjoy after school activities and family time. As parents want to find out how their child's day went the question is asked... How was your day?

Parents regularly reports back that their child responds with; good, ok, or it was fine.

If you would like to encourage your child to share more about their days you could ask in different ways. Here are some questions you could ask to seek a different response.

What was the funniest moment of the day?

What made you laugh the most?

What challenge did you stick at and tried your best?

What nice thing did you do for someone else today?

What was your best question you asked?

Who was someone new that you worked with or included in your games?