Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday 17 March 2026

OUR WEBSITE

PARISH WEBSITE

Kia ora e te whānau,

It continues to be a real pleasure being part of such a special school community. Ss Peter and Paul is a wonderful place filled with engaged learners and well-connected tamariki who clearly enjoy being part of their school. I feel very fortunate to work alongside such dedicated staff, supportive whānau, and enthusiastic students.

You can hear all about your child's progress at our learning conferences. The on-line booking system has now closed but you are still most welcome to ring the office (04 569 5759) and one will be organised for you from any remaining time slots for Thursday 26 March. Unless there are exceptional circumstances we ask that only one booking is made for each child.

I had a fabulous time joining the Kōwhai class on their trip to the zoo. The students were full of excitement and curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and making great connections to their learning. It was fantastic to see their learning come alive outside the classroom, and a big thank you to the staff and parent helpers who made the day possible.

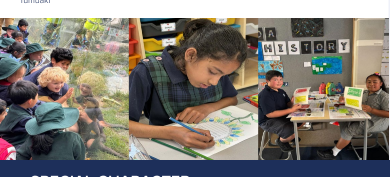
We would also appreciate your support in completing the cohort entry questionnaire. You'll find more information about this in today's newsletter. Your feedback is very important to us as we consider whether this is something our school may implement in the future.

Finally, we are excited to share that we have launched a new school Facebook page. This will be a great way for us to celebrate success, share updates, and showcase the many wonderful things happening across the school. We would love you to follow along and stay connected with our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school. Wishing everyone a wonderful week ahead.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Whaea Lindsey
Tumuaki



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Events

Wednesday 18 March
Learning Conferences, from 3.15pm

Thursday 26 March
Learning Conferences, from 3.15pm

Thursday 2 April
Easter Liturgy, 9.15am, all whānau welcome
Last day of Term 1, school closes at usual time

Monday 20 April
First day of Term 2

SPECIAL CHARACTER

United in Prayer: Strengthening Whanaungatanga with Kōwhai and Rātā

Our Kōwhai and Rātā classes came together last Friday for a special time of community prayer, strengthening our sense of whanaungatanga.

The Rātā students have been learning about our school values and they beautifully shared their learning specifically about JOY with the younger Kōwhai students.

Through leading prayers, singing and dancing joyful songs, and guiding a craft activity, the older students helped the juniors reflect on how we can recognise and share joy. In their little flowers, they prayed for the instances and people in their lives that bring them joy.

Here are some of the prayers written.

"I pray for my family and friends. May they have joy." **Roman**

"Dear God, when school starts, I get joy. Thank you for school and for my family." **Euan and Zara**

"It makes me happy when I get to see Nanny and Pops. It makes me happy when I come to school and play with my sister." **Cadence and Samantha**

"Dear God, thank you for my friends who make me laugh." **Gavin, Renata and Hine**

It was wonderful to see students supporting one another, praying together, and building connections across year levels. Moments like these remind us that joy grows when it is shared, and that our faith community is strongest when we come together in prayer.

Our Lenten Journeys

As we enter the fourth week of Lent, our school community continues to put focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We have particularly enjoyed exploring the important work and advocacies of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, reflecting each week on scripture that guides us to live with compassion, justice and love for others.

Here are some reflections from our tamariki in Pōhutakawa.

"Lent acknowledges the time when Jesus was in the desert. Our small acts of kindness and sacrifices can help us to be more caring. In Lent, we prepare our hearts for Easter and Jesus." **Room 13**

"In Lent, we pray, fast and give. Pray is doing a karakia before eating. Fast is giving up meat. Give is when I'm giving my time to walk Rory." **Gabby**

"The story of the blind man means that I always have to trust in God. Jesus teaches us to trust in God. God always has your back whether you are sad or happy." **Zahkiya**

"My Lenten promises - Pray: I will pray for the poor people. Fast: I will not fight with my brother. Give: I will give hugs to my brother." **Clement**

For some of our ākonga in Nikau and Pōhutakawa, this season is also a special time of preparation as they get ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Through their learning, they are encouraged to reflect on the importance of saying sorry, making things right and choosing to do better as Jesus would.

Our commitment to almsgiving has also been visible in action. Fresh produce from our Te Māra Kai has been harvested and donated to our local foodbank, helping support members of our wider community.

As a school, Lent reminds us that it is not only about giving something up, but also about giving ourselves more kindness, compassion and forgiveness. Let us continue to pray for and support one another as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

Upcoming events

- First Reconciliation will take place on March 22 2026 at 3pm at Ss Peter and Paul Parish.
- Join us for our Holy Week Walk in Week 9. Details on the timings will follow.

Emalyn Jiang
Director of Religious Studies

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Kia ora Ss Peter and Paul School Community,

We are seeking feedback from our school community about the possibility of introducing cohort entry for new entrant students at Ss Peter and Pauls School.

Cohort entry means children start school in small groups at set times during the year, rather than individually on or just after their fifth birthday.

The Board of Trustees has not yet made a decision. Your feedback will help them understand the views of our whānau and community before a final decision is made.

The survey takes about 5 minutes and will remain open until 30 March 2026. Responses are anonymous.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

Ngā mihi
Michael Valli
Presiding Member
Ss Peter and Paul School Board

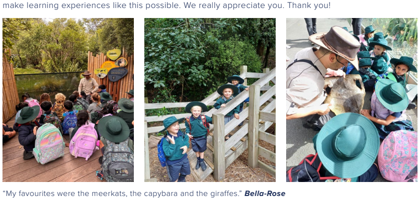
KOWHAI

Wildlife Explorers!

Last week, Kōwhai enjoyed an exciting trip to Wellington Zoo. It was a wonderful opportunity for kaiako, tamariki and whānau to explore the zoo together and learn about a range of amazing animals.

Part of the visit was learning sessions with the zoo keepers. Tamariki learned key concepts on animal adaptations - structural/physical, behavioural and physiological. We explored different wildlife habitats and discussed ways we can care for the environment and world around us.

We extend a big thank you to the whānau who joined us on this trip. Your support and involvement help make learning experiences like this possible. We really appreciate you. Thank you!



"My favourites were the meerkats, the capybara and the giraffes." ***Bella-Rose***

"I liked seeing the capybara." ***Jordan***

"I liked seeing the kangaroos at the zoo." ***Kianna***

"I liked the giraffes and I learned that they eat leaves." ***Elise***

"I saw some giraffes at Wellington Zoo. They were very, very tall, taller than my Dad! Then, we saw some kangaroos and a baby one. It was cute because it was little." ***Adela***

"I saw a giraffe and the giraffes were so tall but one eye was gone." ***Livia***

"I went to the zoo and I saw a meerkat. They were so cute." ***Olivia B***

"I loved going on the bus with all my friends." ***Riva***

"At the zoo, I ate my lunch. I liked my grapes. I saw chimpanzees." ***Eiden***

NIKAU

Learning Through Challenge and Creativity

Nikau kids were introduced to The Learning Pit by James A. Nottingham as part of their inquiry learning. During this lesson, they were encouraged to reflect on what they had learnt, the strategies they found most useful, and what they might do differently next time to make their learning more successful for themselves and others when they find themselves in the Learning Pit.

Over the past few weeks, they have been busy learning, creating, and collaborating through the different activities prepared for them.

In maths, they began their lesson on number structure, where they revisited prior knowledge and built on what they already know. They also had the chance to get creative, work alongside their classmates, and explore different strategies while solving the **Coded 100s Square**.

In Literacy, the students tapped into their inner poets and created their own original pieces. They chose to write poems about prayer or sunflowers, incorporating their learning about figurative language.

It's been great to see the Nikau kids challenging themselves, sharing ideas, and supporting one another as they grow as confident learners.

"I enjoyed using similes and metaphors, and learning about them. I found using the chart and writing 3 similes and metaphors helped me write my poem." ***Zara***

"I was proud that I wrote a poem using similes. I used what I learnt to help me work out the right words." ***Jack***

POHUTUKAWA

Pūrākau Prints

During our inquiry focus, we have been learning about the different Pūrākau (stories) that our mana whenua, Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika, have which help explain how they named places around our local area.

We read and listened to the Pūrākau of Kupe, Maui, Taraika, and Tautoki. The children then drew a design that linked to our local landscape or to a symbol from one of the Pūrākau.

Using the technique of block printing, they created two prints from their design.

Here are some examples of their wonderful creative thinking and printing skills!

RATA

Technology Fridays!

In Rātā we look forward to our Friday afternoon technology sessions at Avalon Intermediate School. It is a productive, interesting and challenging way to end the week.

Students enjoy learning across food technology, fabric technology, woodwork, art, and hard materials classes with expert teachers. This hands on, practical learning is a wonderful opportunity to try new things and grow in confidence. Many students find new talents and interests.

One of the best parts is sharing their creations and learning with families and friends.

"I enjoy tech because it extends my learning by getting to try new things and learn about the different tools and equipment that I've never used before. Tech is a fun workplace to be creative and productive. Tech is a great privilege for the Rātā area to experience. It is fun for everyone." ***Natalie***

"The best thing about Tech is getting to try out new things I never got to experience before. I get to work with different types of tools and equipment and learn all about them. Tech is a really fun place where you get to be creative and find yourself through different activities." ***Ema***

"I like to go to Tech because it teaches me a variety of different things and allows me to experience how to use power tools and be creative. It makes me think outside of the box. It's a great privilege that we have in the Rātā area." ***Isla***

KURA AHUREA

Nau Mai Haere Mai
KURA AHUREA
PĀNUI

Introductions
Kāti, kei te pēhea tonu koe? How are you doing, really?
Ko koe kei te tihi o aku mahara. I've been thinking about you.
Kei te hiahia koe kia kōrerotia? Do you want to talk about it?
He wāhi rānei hei āwhina atu māku? Is there anything I can do to help?
Kei konei au ki te hiahiatia. I'm here if you need me.

SPORTS NEWS

Weetbix Kids Tryathlon

Congratulations to those students who participated in the Weetbix Kids Tryathlon on Sunday, in Kilbirnie.

Ka pai to Flynn, Brooke, Baxter, Manishvar, Noah M, Finnlay, Quincy, Tova and Noah F.

Flynn — Baxter and Brooke — Manishvar

Henry and Luka (former student) — Noah M and Finnlay

IMPORTANT UPDATES

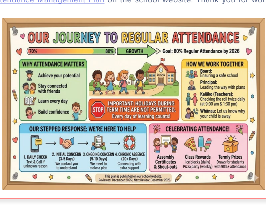
Working Together for Every Day Success

Regular school attendance is one of the most important ways we can help our students reach their full potential, build confidence, and stay connected with their friends and teachers. Currently, our school has a **70% regular attendance** rate, and we have set a goal to lift this to **80% by the end of 2026**.

To help us reach this goal, we ask for your support with the following:

- **Term-Time Holidays:** To ensure your child doesn't miss vital learning, please remember that **holidays during term time are not permitted**. We appreciate you planning family trips during official school breaks.
- **Daily Checks:** Our teachers check the roll at 9am and 1.30pm. If your child is absent without a reason, you will receive follow-up texts and calls starting from 9:15 am.
- **Support for Families:** If attendance becomes a challenge, we are here to help. We have a "stepped response" in place - from simple check-ins to formal support plans - to help overcome any barriers to getting your child to school.
- **Celebrating Success:** We love to reward students who make it to school! Look out for assembly shout-outs, class ice block rewards, pizza parties, and our termly prize draws for students with **90%+ attendance**.

You can find our full Attendance Management Plan on the school website. Thank you for working with us to build our students' tomorrows!



REMINDERS

Appointments During School Time

We kindly ask families, where possible, to please schedule appointments (such as medical or dental visits) outside of school hours. This helps to reduce interruptions to classroom learning and minimises the impact on our office and teaching staff.

We understand that this isn't always possible and appreciate your support and consideration when it can be managed.

Thank you for helping us make the most of learning time for all students.

Health and Safety

A quick but important reminder about safety at the beginning and end of the school day.

Please ensure you and your children cross the road only at the pedestrian lights or with road patrol. We ask that everyone waits patiently and models safe behaviour. Children should never walk between buses.

Disappointingly, we are seeing adults leading tamariki into unsafe situations by crossing in the wrong places or weaving through traffic. Your schedule is never more important than the safety of your child. The few extra seconds it takes to cross safely can prevent a serious accident. We all share responsibility for keeping our children safe, and they are watching and learning from us.

All children must also be picked up promptly at 2.50pm. Any student who remains at school after 3pm will be taken to the school office, where parents and carers will collect them. Students are not permitted to stay and play in the school playground after school, as there is no supervision in place and this is unsafe.

If you require after school care, please ensure your child is enrolled in the SKIDS programme. You can find information and enrolment details here.

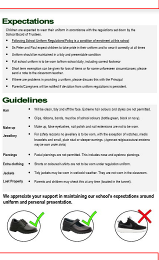
Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe.

Regulation School Uniform - Term 1

A reminder that sun hats are compulsory in Term 1. Slouch hat (Yrs 1-4) $12, bucket hat (Yrs 1-8) $12 and cap (Yrs 5-8) $10. These can be purchased from the school office or from the uniform shop (on Wednesday afternoons).

Girls have the option of wearing the summer dress.

We have noticed that long white socks, black leggings and coloured hair accessories have started to creep in. A reminder that these are **not** part of our school uniform. Please refer to the uniform regulation brochure on our school website and the graphic to the right.



Expectations

Children are expected to wear their uniform in accordance with the regulations set down by the School Board of Trustees.

- Following School Uniform Regulations/Policy is a condition of enrolment at this school
- Ss Peter and Paul expect children to take pride in their uniform and to wear it correctly at all times
- Uniform should be maintained in a tidy and presentable condition
- Full school uniform is to be worn to/from school daily, including correct footwear
- Short term exemption can be given for loss of items or for some unforeseen circumstances; please send a note to the classroom teacher.
- If there are problems in providing a uniform, please discuss this with the Principal
- Parents/Caregivers will be notified if deviation from uniform regulations is persistent.

Guidelines

Hair	Will be clean, tidy and off the face. Extreme hair colours and styles are not permitted. Clips, ribbons, bands, must be of school colours (bottle green, black or navy).
Make up	Make up, false eyelashes, nail polish and nail extensions are not to be worn.
Jewellery	For safety reasons no jewellery is to be worn, with the exception of watches, medic bracelets and small, plain stud or sleeper earrings. (Approved religious/cultural emblems may be worn under shirts)
Piercings	Facial piercings are not permitted. This includes nose and eyebrow piercings.
Extra clothing	Shorts or coloured t-shirts are not to be worn under regulation uniform.
Jackets	Tidy jackets may be worn in wet/cold weather. They are not worn in the classroom.
Lost Property	Parents and children may check this at any time (located in the tunnel).

We appreciate your support in maintaining our school's expectations around uniform and personal presentation.

Borrowed Uniform

If your child has borrowed uniform from the office, please ensure that it is washed and returned.

Our stock is now extremely low and we may not be able to lend out any more uniform. Extra underwear in your child's school bag if needed, would also be most helpful.

Absences

Please remember to inform the office if your child will be absent from school.

We are still encountering many parents who do not notify us, and this creates a significant amount of administrative work in following up with everyone.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

How to report an absence

t 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 one of 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.

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.

PTA NEWS

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed items for the Easter Raffle — we really appreciate the generosity of our community.

Please keep selling those tickets! If you need more raffle sheets, pop into the school office and we will happily provide them. They are also great to leave at your workplace or share with friends and whānau.

We are really looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Whānau Picnic on Tuesday 31 March 5pm - 7pm at school. It will be a wonderful opportunity for families to connect, relax and enjoy some time together as a school community.

Looking ahead, we will be holding a PTA social evening on Thursday 7 May for anyone interested in learning more about being involved with the PTA. Whether you are keen to join the executive, help with a specific project, lend a hand from time to time, or simply find out what we do, we would love to see you there.

Come along as a group and bring your Ss Peter and Paul parent friends! You might like to get involved in a small way, or perhaps you have some big ideas to share — everyone is welcome.

Ngā mihi,
The PTA