

# Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 8 March 2022



## Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

It was almost impossible to imagine we would ever see the sights from and around Parliament that occurred just a week ago, despite the warnings of the growing use of misinformation and disinformation for some time now. On Sunday morning, with our 3 year old grandson in tow, we stopped and went for a walk to Parliament. He was most fascinated by the great number of cones that were everywhere, enjoyed chatting to the many police officers who admired his spiderman outfit and loved touching the smooth warm backs of the two lions that make such a striking sight in front of the Cenotaph. We wonder what he will make of it all when he learns about it in years to come. But for the moment we felt relieved at what we saw and grateful for those that enabled this transformation to take place on so many levels.

I have been somewhat waiting for the conversation to turn to education so was not surprised to read Andrea Vance's very interesting piece in The Sunday Star-Times Now the reckoning, for the violent, the toxic and the cynical. In it she wrote ...'It was horribly clear that the education system has badly failed some protesters who could not grasp the basics of history, civics or critical thinking.' and further in the piece..... 'Bolstering our education system to provide future generations with critical thinking skills, a basic understanding of civics, and a healthy skepticism of simple solutions is crucial to reducing susceptibility to conspiratorial thinking. We need to return to a place where education is a public good aimed at turning out engaged and informed citizens, not just a workforce.

I couldn't agree with her more but the reasons why the need for such 'bolstering' are very complex. There would be many school leaders, like myself, who have always aspired to provide such an education to students. Here at Ss Peter & Paul, our vision for our students is "to nurture independent and collaborative learners who are creative, critical and caring in their thinking, strengthened by their Catholic Identity." To enable that to happen we have:

Introduced the Depth & Complexity framework with its range of tools that support the development of students' ability to think critically and deeply about complex ideas

An example of this are the Depth and Complexity Icons which are visual prompts designed to help students go beyond surface level understanding of a concept and enhance their ability to think critically.

These critical thinking tools help students dig deeper into a concept (depth) and understand that concept with greater complexity.

It is important for students to learn that expert knowledge in any field of study is defined as having depth and complexity.

Broadly speaking, expert knowledge can be categorized in two ways – depth: deep understanding of the content of the field; and complexity: scholarly insights into the connections across time, people and disciplines. The significance of scientific knowledge (or mistrust of) has been particularly evident during this pandemic.

A focus on Digital Technologies: Becoming digitally capable individuals requires the students to not only be users and consumers of digital technologies but to move beyond that. They need to understand how these technologies work and think critically about their purpose.

The focus is on teaching them to ask questions and to remain skeptical will help them to navigate the wealth of information that is available to them online. By asking questions they will be able to figure out the meaning of the messages they are receiving. Hopefully they will be able to recognise what is fake news, whether information they read is valid or not, whether sources are reliable, and if bias is present.

Students who practise critical thinking and evaluation skills are less passive in their consumption of content. It will also help them become more compassionate and empathetic when participating in an online world.

Working together with our parent community we can achieve this vision for your children.

### COVID-19 updates

#### Returning from isolation as a household contact

You may face a situation where your household all goes into isolation because one member has tested positive. If family members complete the initial 10 day period and have negative tests on days 3 and 10, and are symptom free, they can return to school on day 11.

The 10 day period only resets for any family member who does test positive during this time.

There is a helpful tool on the Unite Against

COVID-19 website which calculates a person's isolation period. [Find it here](#)

Please be assured that the current measures in place (masks, physical distancing and ventilation of rooms) continue to provide high levels of protection in a school environment.

### Attendance

It is a requirement from the Ministry of Education that schools record all non-attendance accurately. We have a number of codes that we use including a new one 'F' if a student is engaged in distance learning because they are undertaking mandatory self-isolation or the school site is closed. We are incredibly grateful for the very clear explanations for absences that parents are giving us. This ensures an accurate attendance record as well as who we need to organise hybrid learning for. Also, it means our Office staff do not have to spend extra time making calls to get this information.

We have an increase of positive cases across the school (8) as of the start of this week and a further number in self-isolation due to being a household contact. We wish everyone a safe and speedy recovery.

We are most appreciative of the way parents are keeping any unwell children at home and obviously monitoring carefully for COVID-19 symptoms such as: a new or worsening cough, sneezing and runny nose, a fever, temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste, sore throat, shortness of breath.

Less common symptoms include diarrhoea, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, malaise, chest pain, abdominal pain, joint pain, or confusion/irritability.

Our staff are doing exactly the same. The very clear message from Public Health is to monitor for symptoms and if any develop, get tested immediately. Then, stay at home until you receive a negative result, AND until you or your child is symptom free for at least 48 hours.

### Welcome

A special welcome to our new student and his family who started with us since our last newsletter. We have Flynn who has joined Kowhai. We hope you quickly settle into school life and make many new friends.

*Kay Tester* Principal



# SPECIAL CHARACTER

## First Reconciliation Sacrament

Dear Parents,

It is coming up to the very special time of First Reconciliation.

As you will know, due to the current restrictions we are unable to have large gatherings in the Church, so we will not be able to meet for the parent meeting or preparation sessions together.

Two years ago, in the lead up to First Reconciliation we went through a similar time and so we adjusted the way we prepared for and experienced this sacrament. We intend to do the same this year...

The first letter that was sent out had all the links to help you with the preparation. There are also hard copies of the worksheets available from the school office and parish office, in case you are unable to print them at home.

A link to book a time for First Reconciliation

[Please book an individual time for your child to attend their First Reconciliation](#) with Fr Patrick and Fr Joy on either Saturday March 19th or 26th, between 9.30-11am.

The smooth running of our event relies on all parents keeping to the timetable. Please consider other parents and arrive at least 5 minutes earlier than your allotted session time. Thank you.

Please help your child to examine their conscience in the few days leading up to their reconciliation. This means to think of a few things that they are sorry for that they would like to share with the priest on the day. Please reassure your child that this is a relaxed time and there is no need to feel apprehensive. It is a time to experience

God's Love and Forgiveness and that you will be there in the Church too, just a distance away from them.

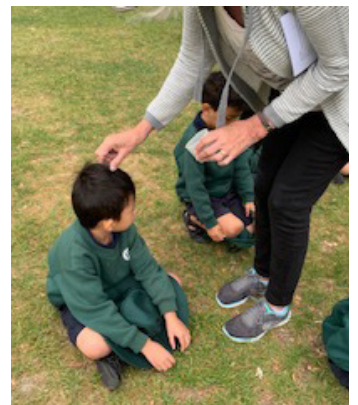
On the 19th and 26th one of the team will be at the Church to greet you at your booked time, scan vaccine passes and to see that the bookings flow well.

Please work through the worksheets with your children in the coming weeks and feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

Because we will not have the parent meeting in person, at which we were to hand back the scrapbooks - we still have the scrapbooks that were handed in to us after Confirmation, so when your child has completed their worksheets they can bring them into school to glue into their scrapbook or you can contact Kathryn at the parish office to add their worksheets (if you do not attend the school)

God Bless you all

Fr Patrick, Fr Joy, Aurea, Lyn and Kathryn



***‘Each year during Lent we are reminded that “goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realised each day” Pope Francis***



# KOWHAI

Our Learning Week 6, Term 1

Kowhai students had a trip to the zoo. We were so excited about the whole experience from planning what we were going to do, the trip on the bus and then exploring all the sights within the zoo itself!



*Harry's work shows his 'Big Idea' thinking about why wild animals should not be in the zoo.*

The animals must like the zoo keeper - it must be a good relationship to keep them both safe or a lion would eat the zookeeper - **Honor and Jack**

The meerkats spy for bad guys and they do it to keep the babies safe, so maybe that's what the mummy meerkat was doing - **Harper**

The giraffes wouldn't be able to survive without their long necks because they eat their environment which is tall like trees - **Johnny**



Some students wanted to make their own zoo. They wanted to group the animals according to their environment. They used water, forest, safari and petting zoo.





# NIKAU

Our Learning Week 6, Term 1

Last week we went on a trip to the Island Bay Marine Education Centre. We had a great day! Our guides, Eddie and Victor, were full of knowledge and enthusiasm. We explored the rock pools and were able to pick up and touch the creatures in the Gently Feel Pool.



“My favourite animal was the wandering sea anemone. I found one in the rock pools.” - Chanelle

“I saw a cushion sea star. I held it and it felt really soft.” - Harper I



“We saw lots of crabs and some fish and brittle stars. I liked holding the wandering sea anemone.”  
- Carter

“I liked the little, squirming fish that I caught in the rock pools. I didn’t get to hold it because it was too quick.” - Sofia

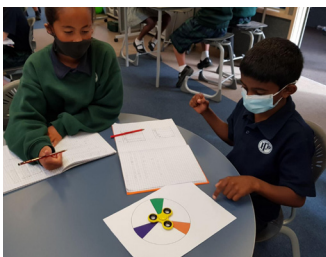
“I liked the cushion sea star because it felt soft and it sucked my hand when I held it.” - Kaleb



## Island Bay Marine Education Centre





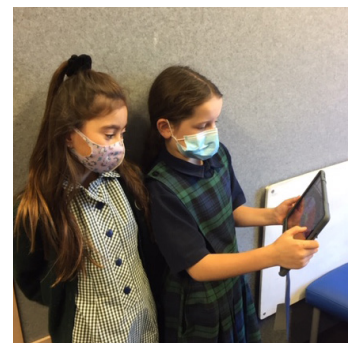
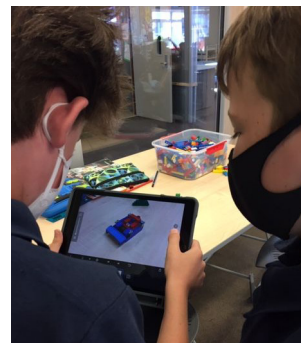


The children in Room 13 and 14 have had a lot of fun with using different resources over the last couple of weeks in their learning programmes. In maths, they used fidget spinners to explore probability on pie charts.



For digital technologies, the children have been using the 'stop motion' app on the iPads to create movies about what happens in our brains when we are learning something for the first time.

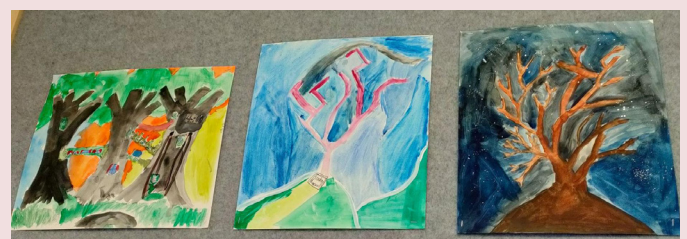
It was great to see the children so engaged in these lessons and they look forward to sharing their finished films with their families.



## Room 15 Tree Art

Room 15 has been working with Mrs Owen on a series of art based on the theme of trees and related to our shared book 'The Night Gardener'. We started by looking at most of the tree features and trying to make our own tree art. Mrs Owen asked us to start by drawing six trees all of which were different and unique. Soon after we started our main piece of art, we worked with watercolours. Our tree art was created from our own imagination and ideas.

*By Katherine, Sianne and Lotte*





# RĀTA

Our Learning Week 6, Term 1



In Rāta we have been Bingo-ing enthusiastic for bingo! Under the last of the summer sun, with some top tunes playing, our girls have been eyes down searching for the numbers as we play a fun few rounds of bingo. From the smiles and enthusiasm the girls have been enjoying this socially distanced game. The bingo is giving the girls the opportunity to socialise safely across the syndicate area and reconnect with

their friends in the other classes. KC was one of our lucky winners this week, I wonder who it will be next week? Throughout the last 5 weeks the girls have shown amazing resilience and perseverance. Well done girls! your kaiako are proud of you, let's keep it up! Soon we will switch to a new game, I'm sure our girls have some fabulous ideas of games we could all play together, be sure to tell your teacher.



# PTA

Ss Peter and Paul School PTA are running a Heavenly Bun Fundraiser in conjunction with Silverstream Bakery at the end of Term 1. We have partnered with Silverstream Bakery as the owners, Craig and Mika Beveridge and their two boys, are part of our school community. We are offering three different types of heavenly buns (otherwise known as Hot Cross Buns) and some delicious biscuits.

Orders will close on Thursday 24th March. We are running two delivery dates, the first will be delivered on Thursday 31st of March and the second on Wednesday the 13th of April. You can order for one or both delivery dates! Goodies will be delivered to your child's classroom for them to bring home at the end of the day. Please feel free to gather orders from friends and whanau, but please ensure they make internet payment with your child's name as a reference, otherwise we will not know who to deliver the goods to.

# SPORT

Touch (Year 3 to 8) and Netball (Year 1 to 4) continue and we are in the preparation for Year 5 to 8 Netball team selection.

A reminder that we will be trialling Year 7, 8 at school from 3pm to approx 4:30pm on Wednesday 9th.

## Miniball, Tiniball

The registration form for these sports will be sent out this week. Please keep a lookout.

There will be a week in which registrations and payments need to be received.

The number of teams in each year group are limited so we do need to get entries completed quickly,

As always teams cannot be entered if we do not have the parental support.



0800 565 565  
[info@lunchonline.co.nz](mailto:info@lunchonline.co.nz)

## Sushi and Subway

delivered to school weekly

It's simple; all you need to do is register at

[www.lunchonline.co.nz](http://www.lunchonline.co.nz)

and follow four easy steps to get started

- 1 Register an account
- 2 Add member/s including your child's name, school and classroom
- 3 Make a payment so you have funds in your account before you order
- 4 Select your lunch and place an order

Each packet of buns ordered will receive one complimentary donut (of your choice) coupon to be used at Silverstream Bakery. In addition, all orders will go into the draw to win a \$100 cake voucher to go towards a personalised/specialised cake of your (or your child's) choice! In the unlikely event that the bakery is unable to fill our orders, an alternate delivery date will be advised (sorry, no refunds will be available).

In order to pack up the buns and biscuits, we would also really appreciate any donations of brown paper shopping bags. Please give these to your child who can leave these on the children's desk in the office (parents are welcome to drop them off also if preferred).

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and the community. If you have any queries, please contact [pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz)

[Click here to place an order](#)

Have you joined the PTA Facebook group yet? Stay up-to-date with school community events by joining our page!



# ABOUT OUR MEDIA

Be sure to keep an eye out on our school website for further news about what our students are getting up to. You will find these under 'Our Learning'.

Please leave feedback about our newsletter at anytime by clicking [here](#)