

Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 7 March 2023



Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new students and families who have joined us since our last newsletter. Kōwhai welcomes Oscar, Sai and Xavier. We hope you have all enjoyed your start to school and feel very much at home here.

Swimming programme

There are so many advantages to being able to swim well. Children of any age or ability can take part and it is more accessible for children with special needs than any other sport. Top of the list must be that it is a sport that can save a child's life. When we consider that drowning is a leading cause of death from injury in young people, it does make it absolutely crucial that all children know how to swim at a young age. Introducing children to water in a positive, caring manner, sharing bath time and visiting your local pool are positive steps to developing water confidence and safety skills in your child. I've even been known to get in the local pool myself with the grandkids over the summer.

You might be surprised to know that only 27% of NZ schools provide a minimum acceptable combination of eight or more water-based lessons of 26-30 minutes duration per year. This percentage is worryingly low for a number of reasons, such as the closure of many school pools over the years due to the increasing cost of pool maintenance, difficulty accessing local pools and the transport costs to get there, availability of time slots even if you have a local pool, cost of instruction, availability of parent volunteers.

Our school would ideally like to provide more than eight lessons per year but the availability of suitable pool times and instructors, makes this extremely difficult to do. Therefore I do encourage you to keep up your children's water skills throughout the year so we can support each other to build children's confidence and competence in the water.

We are very fortunate to have a high level of parent support to support our swimming programme. This year we will be relying on it even more, as due to a lack of pool staff, all classroom teachers will be involved in swimming instruction.

Celebration of Learning

A reminder that on Thursday from 11:15 - 12:15 our classrooms will be open for whānau to visit and see the students in action. The focus is on this year's universal concept of POWER. Come and see how this universal concept is embraced across the school, driven by "big ideas" to add depth and breadth across the curriculum. Enjoy the entertainment on the deck area in the courtyard and a sharing of school-wide kapa haka at the end. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks to our retiring Board Chair

Tanya Wilton is stepping down from the role of Board Chairperson (now referred to as Presiding Member) after 4 years of wise and dedicated service to the school. The relationship between the Principal and Presiding Member is a very important one and I would like to acknowledge how grateful I have been to work alongside Tanya over this time.

Welcome and congratulations to Michael Vali who has assumed the role of Presiding Member of our Board.

Progress and Achievement Tests

New Zealand teachers use a variety of tests to determine what level students are at, what progress they are making, and where they may need extra help. Progressive Achievement Tests, commonly known as PATs, are one of the main sets of tests schools use.

Over the next two weeks, our year 4-8 students will be undertaking multiple-choice tests in Mathematics, Reading Comprehension and Punctuation and Grammar. Some will be on-line and others paper and pencil tests. The test results help teachers decide what kinds of teaching materials are needed and which methods or programmes are most suitable for their students. PATs are also important because they identify the progress a student is making from year to year. The results will be shared with parents at the learning conferences at the end of this term.

Congratulations to student Leadership positions for 2023

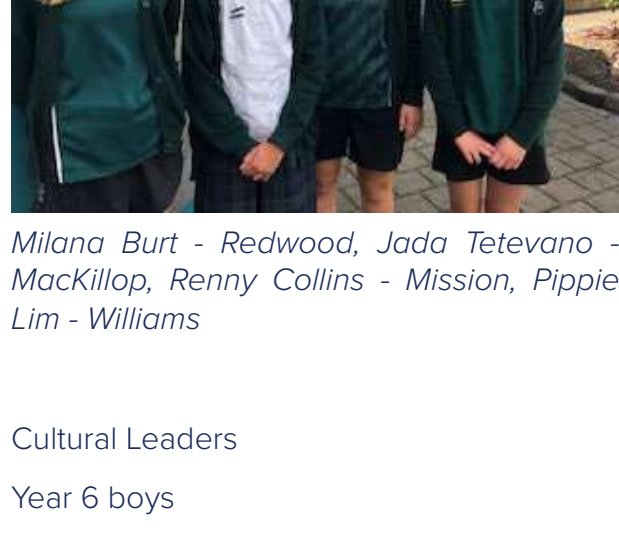
House Leaders

Year 6 boys



DeAndre Pingo - Retiwood, CJ Love - MacKillop, Lache Vaughan - Williams, Callum Bulloch - Mission

Year 8 girls



Milana Butt - Retiwood, Jada Tetevano - MacKillop, Renny Collins - Mission, Pippie Lim - Williams

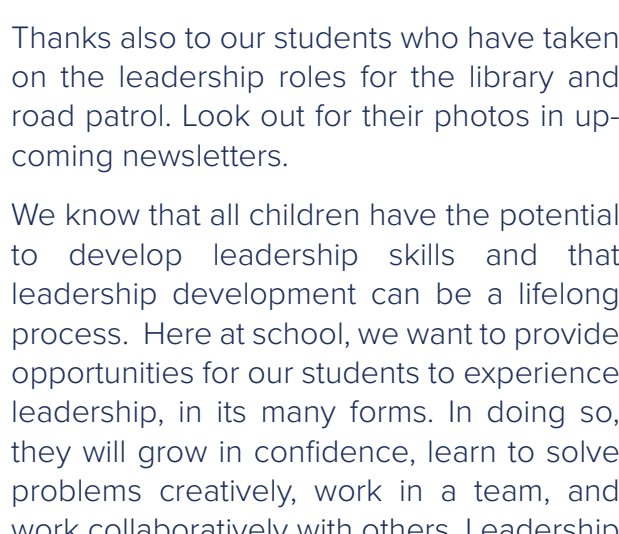
Cultural Leaders

Year 6 boys



Frankie Beavers, Jackson Allen and Jayden Wang

Year 8 girls



Nina Perrenas, Gabbi Collins and Kayla Wong

Thanks also to our students who have taken on the leadership roles for the library and road patrol. Look out for their photos in upcoming newsletters.

We know that all children have the potential to develop leadership skills and that leadership development can be a lifelong process. Here at school, we want to provide opportunities for our students to experience leadership, in its many forms. In doing so, they will grow in confidence, learn to solve problems creatively, work in a team, and work collaboratively with others. Leadership gives children many opportunities to develop responsibility.

Kay Teaton Principal

OUR WEBSITE



PARISH WEBSITE



Contents

From our Principal
Special Character
Kowhai
Nikau

Pohutukawa

Rata
Sport
Reminders & Updates
PTA

Events

[Please view our school calendar for upcoming school events.](#)



SPECIAL CHARACTER

Christian Service Leaders 2023

Congratulations to our Christian Service Leaders for this year: Stefan Doyle, Theo Domdum, Ryan Fisher, Rossabelle Curato, Khassandra Sturm and Riana Bautista.

Cyclone Victims Donations

A big thank you to all for your generous donations. So far we have collected \$1464.20. Your kindness and generosity are most appreciated.

Reminder:

Sacrament of Reconciliation session 2 - Sunday 9am Mass
Reconciliation day - Sunday 26 March, 2pm

Proverbs 11:25 "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed"

Ngā mihi mahana

Aurea Casino

Director of Religious Studies

Any questions please email me at drs@stpeterpaul.school.nz



Kowhai in Action

Kowhai has been preparing for Easter during Lent. We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with our fabulous parent helpers. We had so many offers of help that we found we were unable to accept all offers. Thank you to everyone that was able to organise and prepare pancakes with our children as well as all the generous offers of help. Everyone had a great time and had a lovely treat to take home for afternoon tea.

We then came together as a cohort to celebrate Ash Wednesday. We sang some waiata, prayed together and received ashes. Thank you to all who attended, including Father Patrick who blessed us all.

Throughout Lent we will reflect on our uniqueness. We will focus on making new friends, giving to others, and making the people around us smile.

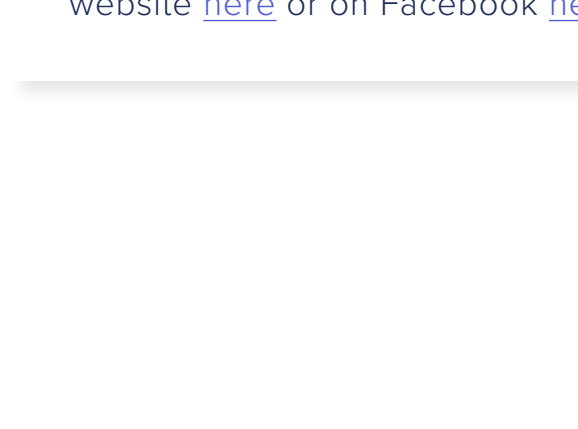
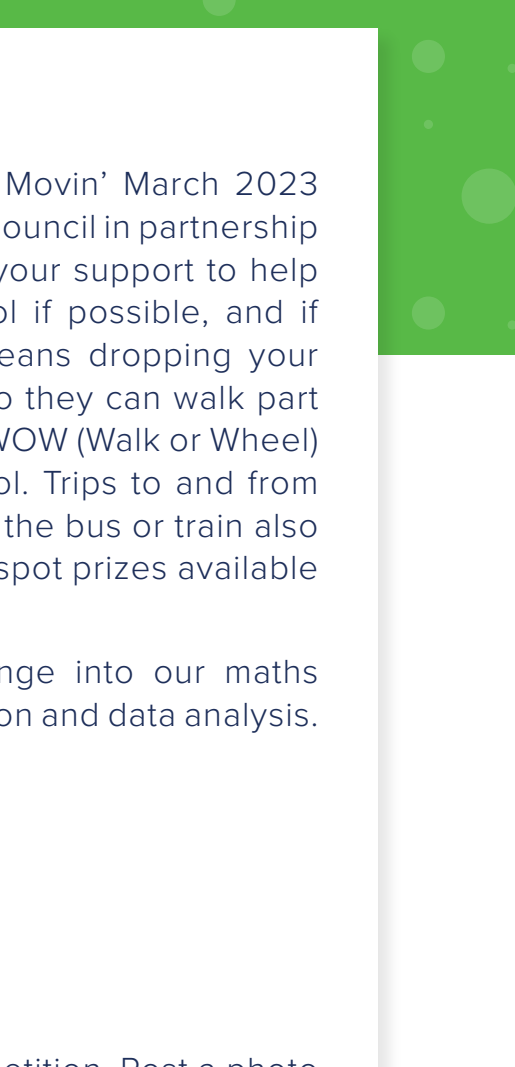
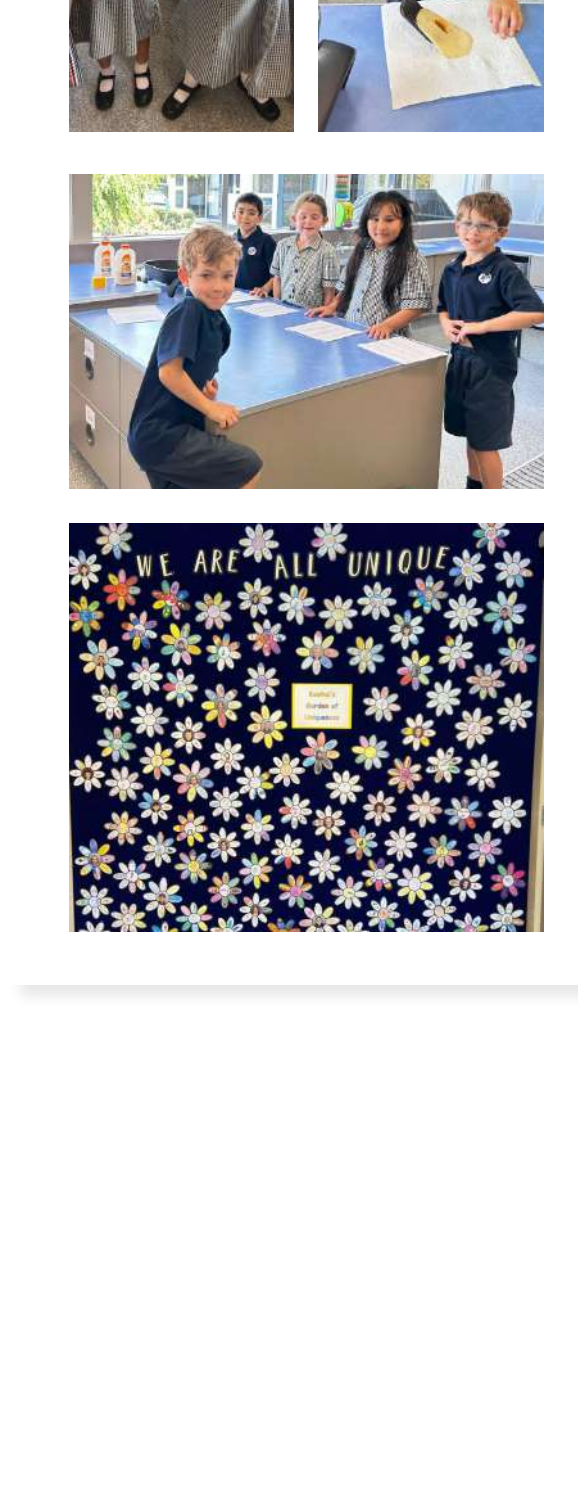
"During Lent I am going to make my Mum laugh everyday" **Jamie**

"During Lent I am going to play more games with my family because we all love games!" **Belle**

"During Lent I am going to play with my friends and make new friends" **Gus**

"During Lent I am going to make everything more fun with a smile and a laugh!" **Felix**

"During Lent I am going to make breakfast for my whole family!" **Roman**



Join Us for Movin' March

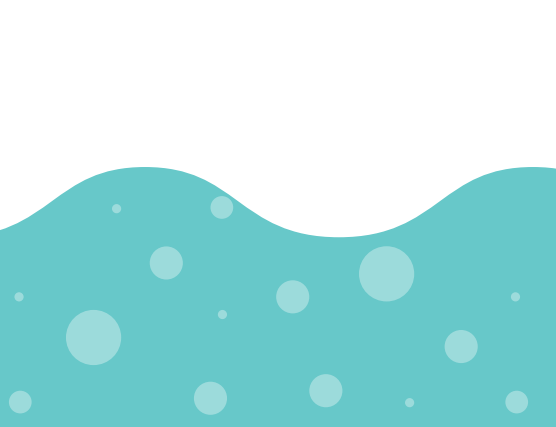
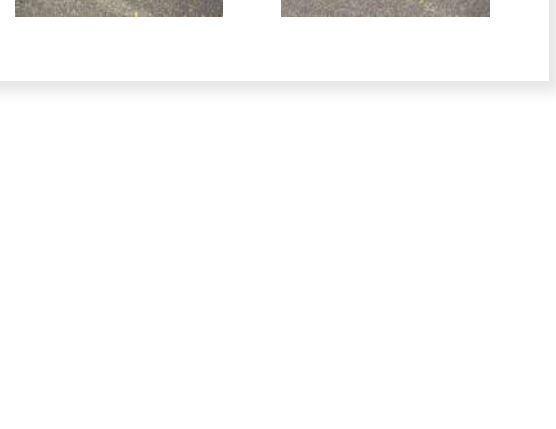
Nikau students are participating in Movin' March 2023 run by Greater Wellington Regional Council in partnership with local councils. We would love your support to help children to walk or wheel to school if possible, and if not, then 'Park and Stride'. This means dropping your children further away from school so they can walk part way. The tamariki will all be given a WOW (Walk or Wheel) Passport to get marked off at school. Trips to and from school both count and walking from the bus or train also counts, and there will be a range of spot prizes available during the month!

We are integrating this fun challenge into our maths learning with a focus on data collection and data analysis.

Active travel is good for :

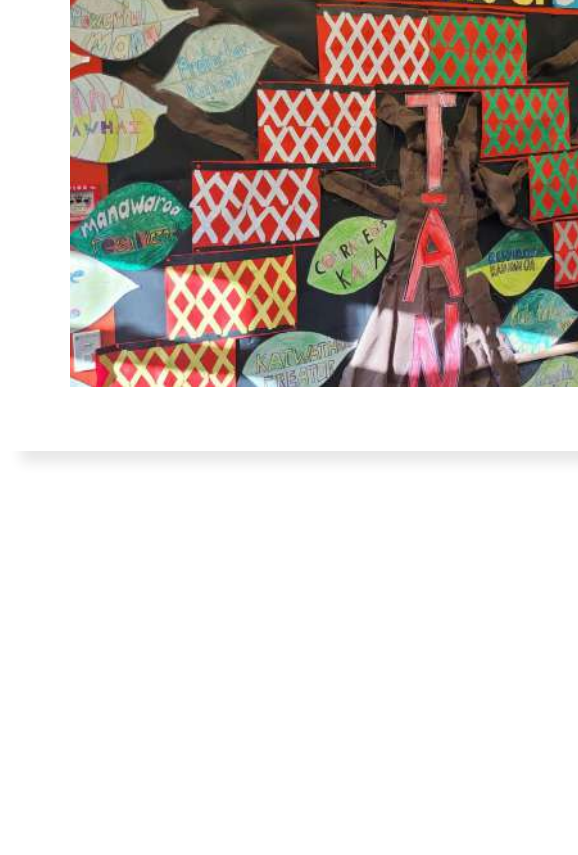
- Well-being
- Making connections
- Kinder on the planet
- Builds confidence
- It's an adventure

There is also a Whānau Photo Competition. Post a photo and message on Facebook or Instagram responding to weekly themes and you are in to win a Micro Scooter with helmet, Zealandia Family pass or a Staglands Family pass. Further details can be found on the Movin' March website [here](#) or on Facebook [here](#).



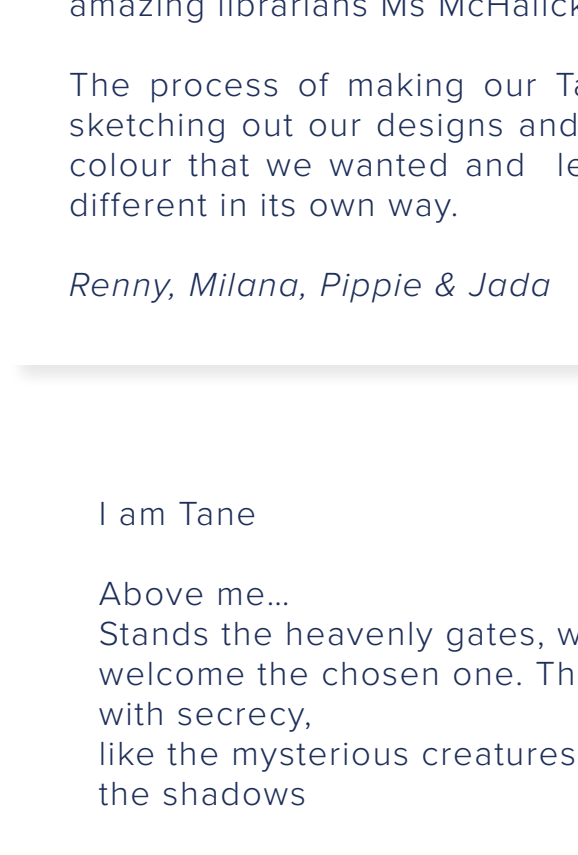
School Garden

Apples from the fruit trees in our school garden were picked by the students from the Pohutukawa area. They then sorted through them to find the best ones to give to the Lower Hutt Foodbank. The Foodbank was very grateful for the fresh produce. A wonderful way to start our Lenten focus on almsgiving!



Te Ao Māori

Across the Pohutukawa area Mrs Spink has been sharing the Pūrākau of Ngā kete o te wānanga - Tāne and the three baskets of knowledge. The children explored the characteristics of Tāne and reflected on how those characteristics related to their own learning journey. Perseverance, resilience, challenges and his willingness to keep learning was a main focus. Further themes from this story are being explored in our literacy programme. It is also a great opportunity to learn stories from our mana whenua.



This week at our first full school assembly of the year we shared some of our preposition poems. We were inspired by the Purakau Tāne and the three baskets of knowledge, we wrote from the perspective of Tāne as he journeys through the twelve realms of heaven. We chose to use strong imagery and powerful words to give the reader a clear picture of the scene, with the help of our amazing librarians Ms McHalick and Anna.

I am Tāne
Above me...
Stands the heavenly gates, waiting to welcome the chosen one. They are filled with secrecy,
like the mysterious creatures that lurk in the shadows
Around me...
are bloodthirsty insects with malicious intent. The mighty tornado of beasts lunges towards me like daggers piercing my skin.
Beside me...
are my brothers, their determination is far greater than the power of the wind's cries.
Coming for me...
is Whiro, controlled by his unjust ideal of justice. His rage and anguish bloom with every stomp he takes, consuming the clouds as they hide away from the monster jealousy has created.
Behind me...
the clouds elegantly close in. They dance like the winding waves that shook our waka out at sea.
Ahead of me...
lies the sacred kete. They hold the pure knowledge of a thousand gods.

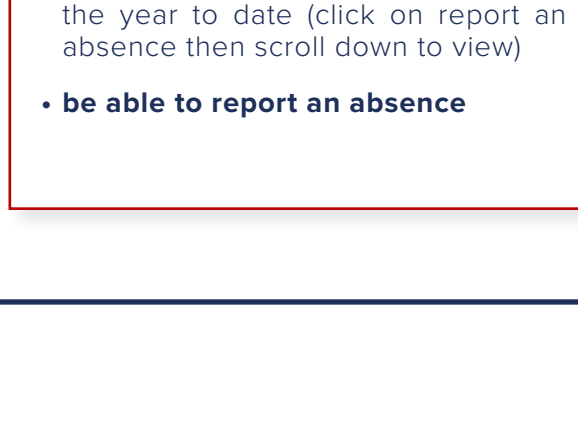
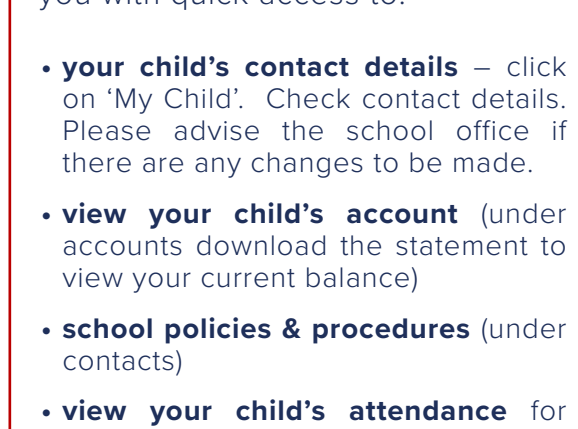
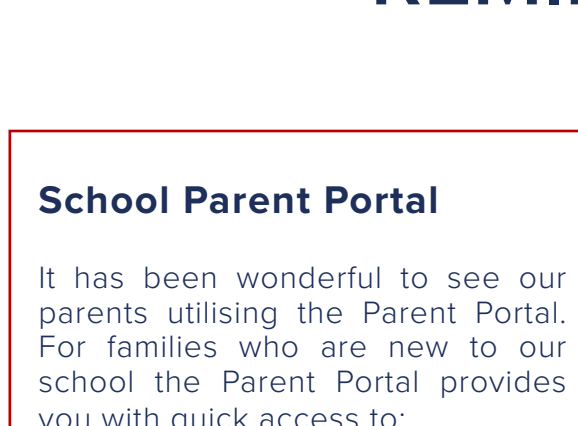
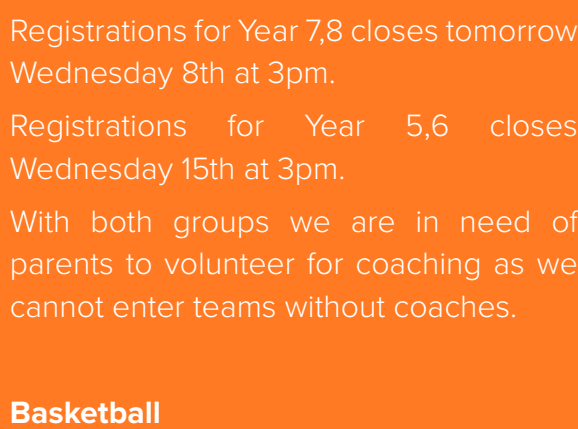
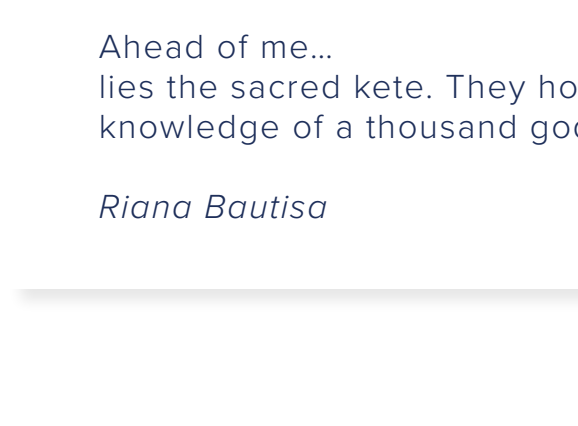
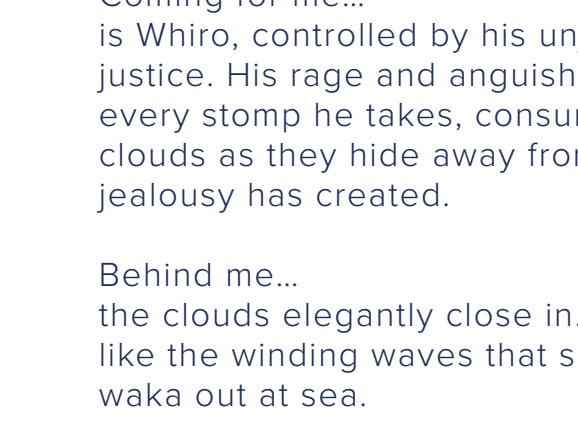
Riana Bautisa

Above me is the scorching hot sun, its nearly unbearable heat pounding down on my bare back as I climb to the heavens.
Around me the bright sky stretches, wide and empty, as a raging ocean, reminding me of the gaping mouth of a huge whale, swallowing what seems to be half the sea.
Beside me are the light fluffy clouds, rolling and bouncing in the wind like dolphins playing in the waves.
Coming for me are the muddy insects and pests, yearning to suck my body dry of blood.
Behind me are the levels of the heavens that I have already climbed and passed.
Ahead of me, the baskets of knowledge await for me to collect and carry back down to earth.
Beneath me, my whaea, papatuanuku and my older siblings dwell on earth waiting for me to return home.

I am Tāne.

I am a Warrior.

Annabelle Treadwell



My team's name was the Mets. My favourite part was fielding. I nearly got a good catch. I even got a certificate at the end of the day for sportsmanship.

Johnny

It was very fun but it was also hard. My friend and I got the biggest hit when we were batting. My most favourite thing in Non-Stop Cricket was the batting.

Maddie

We played Non-Stop Cricket at Fraser Park with lots of other schools. We all had mixed gender teams and I liked batting the most. It was a fun day!

Cooper

The bus trip was very cool, I got to bat and it was very fun. I even played against my old school.

Zavier

My team's name was the Mets. My favourite part was fielding. I nearly got a good catch. I even got a certificate at the end of the day for sportsmanship.

Johnny

It was great to see the sportsmanship and enthusiasm displayed by all our teams. The day was certainly lots of fun! Seeing everyone having to bat, bowl, wicket keep and field gave all players a chance to use their skills.

From Mrs Bartlett:

It was great to see the sportsmanship and enthusiasm displayed by all our teams. The day was certainly lots of fun! Seeing everyone having to bat, bowl, wicket keep and field gave all players a chance to use their skills.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

School Parent Portal

It has been wonderful to see our parents utilising the 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 your 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.stpschool.co.nz/>. You will then be able to use the username and password that you have been assigned 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.

After School Bus Service

Roadworks are planned for the 13th-16th March on Knights Road (weather permitting). This will affect the bus stop where the School Buses pick our students up from after school. A temporary stop will be set up around the corner on Bloomfield Terrace.

VisTab

Please remember, if you are running late and have reported this through the website or telephone, your child will still need to sign-in (on the tablet) at the office and take a red card before going to their classroom.



Non uniform Day
Green theme
Friday 17 March
Gold coin donation
2023

PTA News

Join us

The PTA Committee encourages the school community to connect, meet new people and form ideas on how to continue building the school community and fundraise towards school projects that benefit the students and school.

Attending meetings is a great way to hear about what is happening at our school and discuss and be involved in future PTA commitments. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, which are held twice a Term. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 29 March, 7pm. Venue TBC and will be notified on PTA Facebook page

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

