



Pohutukawa Area News Term 2 2024

Kia ora,

What a great start to Term 2. It has been lovely to have a continuation of our wonderful autumn weather as the children returned to school. All classes are settled in and ready for another term of learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Craig Horan back to the teaching team here in the Pohutukawa Area. He will be teaching in Room 12 while Miss Gilmour is on maternity leave. Mr Horan has worked with us previously and we are very happy to have him as part of our teaching team.

We have begun the term with a Health focus on building positive relationships. The students are exploring and identifying ways in which they form friendships, solve any issues that may arise, and how our school values guide us with maintaining supportive friendships.

Our next inquiry focus for the term will be science based. The students will be learning about marine mammals in New Zealand, their habitat and how they respond to environmental changes that may occur. This will link to a visit at school from the Blake VR outreach programme. It aims to connect thousands of young New Zealanders with the marine environment through the use of virtual reality technology, and this is something that will definitely get the children engaged in the topic.

Curriculum

We continue this term with our universal theme of Exploration.

Through this conceptual approach we aim to develop the students' capabilities and critical thinking skills.

The big ideas we continue to investigate are:

- Exploration is when we are challenged by the unknown
- Exploration may result in 'new findings' or confirm what I know
- Exploration encourages us to question ideas and see new perspectives

Religious Education

For Religious Education, the children have been learning about the importance of the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost in our liturgical calendar. They will be exploring what it means to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live out the Gospel message in our daily lives with each other. The children will also be reflecting on the meanings in different Scripture readings as part of their preparation for our School Bible reading competition this term.

Curriculum Programmes

Mathematics - We have begun the term with a number focus on improving our recall of multiplication and division facts. Alongside this, the children are exploring the relationship between how number operations behave and the rules for these. We will then move onto to learning about different measuring tools and how to use these accurately when solving problems that involve measurement. You can support your child at home by encouraging them to practice their number facts. Here are some links to the NZ maths site that will support you with doing this at home.

<https://nzmaths.co.nz/number-facts-activities> Select '**Stage 6**' Activities

Literacy - We have continued this term with a focus on acquiring and using information and ideas from informational texts. The children will then move on to exploring poetry and the specific language features that poets use. The weekly literacy programme involves the children developing their understanding of text structures through comprehension, vocabulary and sentence structure activities. Weekly spelling and handwriting lessons also form a part of our literacy programme. You can support your child to develop their literacy skills by encouraging them to take home books from our school library to read and share with you at home.

Arts - Our Arts programme for this term will be concentrated on our universal concept of 'Exploration' through the mediums of drama and dance. In drama we continue to explore the Maori legend (purakau) of Tara and later in the term we look forward to exploring different dance styles with the help of Mark, a professional dance instructor.

Digital Technologies - The children have all begun coding lessons with Code Avengers. This programme is aligned with the Digital Technologies curriculum and provides the students with the opportunity to learn different aspects of coding. As this is an online course the children can log in and do some of these lessons at home if they want to.

Coming up this Term:

Teacher Only Day Friday 31 May

Kings' Birthday Monday 3 June

Learning Conferences Thursday 20 June and Tuesday 2 July

Hutt Science STEMM Challenge (For those students involved in this) Tuesday 21 May

St Bernard's College Open Day Saturday 25 May 2024 from 10.00am until 2.00pm.

Sharing of Learning this term – Evidence of Learning will be shared with you at Learning Conferences this term. We also look forward to sharing our dance skills with you. (Day to be confirmed closer to the time)

Reminders

Students who bring a smart watch, mobile phone or other items for safekeeping to school are required to put them in the minding box as soon as they arrive at school. This box is located in Room 14.

School sports uniform is required at school every day for daily physical fitness and skills programme. We encourage the children to bring their sports uniform at the beginning of the week and take it home at the end of the week.

The partnership between home and school is critical to the success of our learning community and the quality of learning experiences. If you need to communicate with your child's classroom teacher please contact them through admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz or pohutukawaal@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Ngā mihi,

Sinéad Senek, Hugh Watson, Janine O'Styke, Craig Horan, Andrea Spink

Pohutukawa Area Teachers