
Pohutukawa News



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Term 3 2024

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Kia ora and welcome to Term 3!

It was great to have the opportunity to meet with you last term to share and discuss your child's learning. As always, it was wonderful to see the children share their work with their families, confidently explaining what they had learnt and what their next learning steps are. We look forward to sharing more examples of their learning with you this term.

This week sees the completion of our swimming sessions at Huia Pool. It has been great to observe the progress made by the children especially our less confident swimmers. The input from the swimming instructors and the expertise they provide has certainly made a difference.

Curriculum

We continue to focus on our school universal theme of 'Exploration' through the big ideas of:

- 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



We have begun the term with a focus on prayer. Exploring what prayer is and the different ways in which we pray. We will look in detail at the 'Our Father' and the meaning in this traditional prayer. Alongside this, we will investigate the Psalms as prayer, poetry and song, identifying the purpose of them and what they express. Each class will then be inspired to create a class Psalm they can pray together.

Later in the term, our focus will be on Mary as a model of Christian discipleship and patron Saint of Aotearoa. This will link to a further exploration of wise and courageous women in the Bible who responded to God's call. Social Justice Week later in the term allows the children to learn more about the theme of 'Imagine Peace for All' by exploring how we can restore peace with others from a Christian perspective.

Mathematics - We have begun the term with a number focus on finding factors and multiples of our known number facts. Alongside this, the children are exploring how the associative property applies to addition and multiplication, and the distributive property applies to multiplication.

We will then move onto to learning about classifying 2D shapes and prisms using their understanding of spatial properties to justify their classifications.

Building the children's number knowledge continues this term with the exploration of how many tenths in whole and decimal numbers, recognising different representations of fractions and linking this to decimals and percentages.

You can support your child at home by encouraging them to practise their number facts and fractional understanding. Here are some links to the NZ maths site that will support you with doing this at home.

[Number facts NZ maths](#) Select 'Stage 6' Activities linked to fractions and decimals.

Literacy - This term sees us delving into the art of writing narrative stories. The children are busy in class planning their stories, thinking through carefully each part of their narrative and how they can use language features to make it interesting for others to read. They are very excited about publishing their stories and sharing them with others.

Our reading programme links to our writing focus with an opportunity for the children to read narratives, exploring the characters and themes in them. The children are encouraged to develop their inferring skills by reflecting on - What do you think is really happening here? What did you have to do to make those inferences? Encouraging them to look and find evidence in the texts they read.

Weekly spelling and handwriting lessons continue to 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. Ask them about the characters and plot in any stories they are reading.

Arts - Our Arts programme for this term will be connected to our Dowse Art Museum visit. The visit explores the artist Paul Maseyk and his response to NZ still life paintings recreating the jugs from artworks made by well-known artists. In our art sessions at school, we will further explore still life paintings and create a portfolio of artwork to share with whānau.

Digital Technologies - The children are continuing with their weekly Code Avengers lessons this term. As this is an online coding course the children can log in and do some of these lessons at home if they want to. To further develop their digital skills and use of technology as a creative tool, the children will be spending the first part of this term creating digital animations. The children are tasked with creating an animation on the theme of protecting New Zealand's marine mammals. They can select from a variety of visual animation tools to present and convey this message to others.

Inquiry - Later in the term, we move to a focus on developing the children's science capabilities. The children will be engaged in a variety of experiments involving different science areas. This will stretch them and require them to think and act like a scientist by using evidence, critiquing evidence and interpreting data. This will help the children to develop and build on an understanding of what it is to engage in the practices of science.

Coming up this Term:

Dowse Art Museum Visits: Week 3

Room 12 10-11:30 am **Room 15** 12:30 - 2 pm [Tuesday 6 August](#)

Room 14 10-11:30 am **Room 13** 12:30 - 2 pm [Wednesday 7 August](#)

School Mass for the feast of the Assumption Thursday 15 August 9:15 am

Book Week 19 - 23 August

Social Justice Week 9-13 September

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori Week 16-20 September

Learning Conferences - Weeks 9 and 10

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