



Pohutukawa Area News Term 4 2024

Kia ora,

Welcome to Term 4!

It was wonderful to have so many of you attend our Still Life art exhibition at the end of Term 3. The children really enjoyed having the opportunity to share their drawing skills with their families and look forward to more opportunities to share their learning this term.

A busy last term lies ahead with lots of different opportunities for learning inside and outside the classroom. We have started this term with a health focus on personal safety. The children are learning the skills to keep themselves safe online, in the community and their general personal safety. It was great to have our School Community Officer, Constable Tanya start us off with this learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Horan, Mrs Spink and Mrs Butler for their ongoing teaching and care of the children in Room 12 while Miss Gilmour has been on maternity leave. We look forward to welcoming Miss Gilmour back to the Pohutukawa teaching team next week.

Our next inquiry focus for the term will be an integrated Religious Education and Social Science topic. The students will be learning about different Christmas traditions around the world and how Christmas traditions in New Zealand have changed over time. It is also an opportunity for the children to share about their family Christmas traditions.

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 are learning about the early Church communities. They will be exploring what these communities were like and how the people of these communities stood up for justice and truth because of their faith. This will connect to our understanding of Church communities today and how we as part of the Catholic family must do good things for others, aroha mai, aroha atu.

Later in the term, we will begin preparation for the liturgical season of Advent by identifying what is being celebrated and why this is significant for Christians.

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 algebra and probability, and how mathematics can be used to predict and suggest possible outcomes. Following on from this, the children will explore scale factor, how to find the perimeter and area of rectangles and the volume of rectangular prisms. You can support your child at home with improving their number recall by encouraging them to practice their number facts. Here is a link a New Zealand maths site that will support you with doing this at home. [Prototec Maths Practice](#) Select '**Stage 6**' Activities.

Literacy

For writing, our focus is about learning and using different persuasive writing techniques. The children have been developing their understanding of how to present different viewpoints and counter arguments by debating a variety of topics with each other. They look forward to sharing their viewpoint with you in a piece of persuasive writing that they will take home later in the term.

The weekly literacy programme involves the children developing their understanding of text structures through comprehension, vocabulary and sentence structure activities. The texts we read often align with our writing focus so the children can see the connections between the two literacy skills. 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 medium of music. In music we will explore the use of our body as a percussion instrument. The children will be learning about dynamics, beat and rhythm in music. They will also be creating and performing body percussion routines with each other.

Education Outside the Classroom

This term provides the opportunity to get outside the classroom and explore our local area. We have two trips planned for this term. Our first trip will be to the Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre in Wainuiomata on Monday 11 November. The second trip is a bush walk in Belmont Regional Park on Tuesday 3 December. More details about each trip will be shared closer to the time.

Coming up this Term:

Teacher Only Day Tuesday 29 October

School Athletics Wednesday 30 October

All Saints Day Mass Friday 1 November

Cultural Day Thursday 14 November

Brookfield EOTC Trip Monday 11 November postponement day Tuesday 10 December

Belmont Regional Park EOTC Trip Tuesday 3 December

St Bernard's College Orientation Day (For those boys enrolled for 2025) Friday 22 November

Sharing of Learning this term – Children will be taking home examples of their work throughout the term to share with their families

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 programmes. 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, Sarah Gilmour, Andrea Spink

Pohutukawa Area Teachers