Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday 11 March 2025

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers, Welcome

A very warm welcome to Ameya, the newest member of Kōwhai, and her family who have

joined us since our last newsletter. A special welcome to one of our ex students, Molly Lunn who will be joining Room 8 for periods of time during the year. This is for the teaching experience component of her first year of study to become a teacher. A great career choice Molly! **Congratulations to our Student Leaders for**

2025 When making selections for these leadership positions, students from across the Area have input. Teachers also consider the demands of the role. Some require public speaking, others organisation, commitment and all roles need the ability to work well with others. Students are always well supported in their roles.

Christian Service Leaders

Charlotte Peszynski, Chido Guwuriro, Claudia Cooray, Harry Peszynski, Nathaniel Manahan & Luka Bartel.

House Leaders

Redwood - Sianne Jones & Night Geary MacKillop - LeAniva Feaunati & Adam Fisher Williams - Katsianah Pedro & Dominic Hiess Mission - Iylah Sydney & Jamie Reynolds

Cultural Leaders Isabella Baliwag, Heidi King, Sophie Shaw, Jacob Ursua, Arlo Cassidy and Isaac Wright.

The new role of **Sports Ambassador** was established last year to promote and support the enjoyment of participating in a wide range of physical activity and sport.

Carlie Hotton, Ceylon Alefaio, Amelia Hiess, Leo Macdonald, Joel Martin & Lucas Rose.

Thanks also to our students who have taken on the important roles of **librarian** and **road patroller** - Look out for photos in up-coming 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.

Swimming programme for 2025

It is about this time of year that our swimming programme normally begins. However Huia Pool is closed for maintenance for the first 3 terms of the year. If the work keeps to schedule, we hope to offer swimming during Term 4.

Year 4-8 Athletics

With this in mind, we have moved our school athletics to this term with a confirmed date of Tuesday 18 March (postponement 19 March). Practices for athletics are well underway and we are very appreciative of Sacred Heart making their gym and high jump gear available to us.

We would appreciate all offers of help to run the event. This will be the first opportunity for students to wear their House Colours!

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 3-8 students will be undertaking a multiple-choice test in Mathematics and year 4-8 in Reading Comprehension, and Punctuation & 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.

New Mathematics Curriculum

On Friday 31 January, we began the official school year with our first Ministry provided Curriculum Day for the new mathematics curriculum. Teachers valued the input provided by the facilitator. When planning and teaching with the new curriculum, teachers are very pleased with the greater clarity and direction it provides.

Our school year now finishes on Monday 15 December. We have one more mathematics curriculum day available to use and are waiting to hear when this will be in Term 2. You will be notified the moment the day is confirmed as it will mean school is closed for students on that day.

You may have heard about the new maths textbooks and student work books that have been provided to all schools by the Ministry of Education. We have received our allocation and teachers will be using them to complement their classroom programmes.

Kay Jester Principal

OUR WEBSITE

PARISH WEBSITE

Contents

From our Principal **Special Character** Kōwhai Nikau Pōhutukawa Rātā Kura Ahurea Sport

Reminders & Updates

Events

Thursday 27 March Learning Conferences, from 3.15pm Wednesday 2 April Learning Conferences, from 3.15pm Sunday 6 April

First Reconciliation, 3pm

Thursday 10 April Easter Liturgy, all whānau welcome,

9.15am Friday 11 April

End of term assembly, all whānau welcome, 9.15am

Last day of term 1



SPECIAL CHARACTER

Ash Wednesday

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our Ash Wednesday Liturgies across the school. We are so lucky to have such a supportive school community. It was wonderful to see the students take on leadership roles in the readings, prayers, and singing.

Student feedback on the Ash Wednesday Liturgy:

"I felt calm after receiving the ashes on my forehead. It made me think about my Lenten promises, which are to help others and try to be closer to God by doing random acts of kindness." Chanelle "When I received the ashes, I started reflecting and observing what was going on around me. It felt good to be part of the liturgy. I feel lucky to be a part of this school." Amelia

"It was nice to experience the relaxed atmosphere in the church. Everyone seemed reverent. I felt that our school is truly a special place to be." Charlotte





Commissioning Mass

Teachers and staff from the Archdiocese of Wellington's Catholic schools gathered for the annual Commissioning Mass, held on Tuesday 4 March at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Mass was presided over by Archbishop Paul Martin SM, along with priests from Wellington. The event also served as a celebration for several staff members from our school who were congratulated for completing qualifications and certificates in Catholic Education.







Aurea Casino Director of Religious Studies



Lenten Period

Pancake Day!

Shrove Tuesday was Pancake Day in Kōwhai. The children enjoyed making pancakes with the parents and sharing activities that related to the meaning of Shrove Tuesday. They learnt that traditionally it was a day when people used food like flour, eggs, milk and butter before Lent, which is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



"I liked eating the pancake. It was made with batter and tasted like a pancake. I enjoyed colouring the pancake poem." *Elouise*

"I liked eating the pancake and flipping it. We sang songs and listened to pancake stories." Nathalie

"I liked listening to the pancake story about the runaway pancake." Eiden



Ash Wednesday

The following day was Ash Wednesday, and the children participated in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy. There was a focus on service and what everyone could do to mark the period of Lent. We learnt two big words - humility and integrity. These words describe how one could give to others without needing praise and doing it even if no one was looking. The children are working on an action plan for Lent which involves things like giving up complaining or watching TV for a day, helping someone with a task and saying 'I can' instead of 'I can't.'









Art for the Library

This week Nikau was lucky to have Anna and Victoria come in and do an art lesson with the Year 4s. This was an immersion activity that encouraged our tamariki to explore patterns in nature and enhance their personal creativity. "We had to pick a character from nature and we had to decide what patterns we notice about these animals." **JeMaine**

"The art was about patterns and we had to use animals to put the patterns inside. I choose a narwhal, I used dots as my patterns." Clement

"I drew a lizard because they can camouflage and have lots of different patterns on them." *Ezekiel*





Rounding in Maths

In maths we have been learning about rounding to the nearest tens, hundreds and thousands. This learning has continued to grow and linked to our number knowledge place value, which has been our prior learning. The students are recognising patterns in our rounding using place value houses, number lines, poems and word equations.

"We are learning about rounding and using place value to help us." Gianna "To help us learn how to round we have been looking at number lines."











School Sunflowers



P(

Room 13 has been admiring the growth and beauty of our school sunflowers in the garden near the office and the library. This inspired us to write descriptively using language features such as similes and personification while also naming parts of the flower. Here are some examples of our writing.

Sunflowers

The stem stands as strong as a muscle outside Mrs Tester's office. The yellow petals are as bright as a teacher's duty vest. The sunflowers dance in the breeze of a February summer. Guarding Mrs Tester's office are some giants that have a stem as soft as a pillow and as spiky as a soft prickle. The soil is as dry as an old cheesecake forgotten at the bottom of a fridge. The leaves are shaped and are almost as big as an elephant's ear. They keep shining brightly like our blazing sun.

Sunflowers

Jax

Climbing upwards like furry vines. Basking in the golden rays of summer's sunlight. Standing guard wearing green vests wrapped around their leaves. Their luxurious padding with the roots embedded in it nurtures the sunflower till its eternal rest. The sun's rays reflect off the eye of seeds. The petals are forming the shape of a bonnet, tied under the seedlings eye. Petals shining like the sun's boiling hot jewels. The chilly wind makes the sunflowers wave as the children pass by. They glow as the light catches onto their petals. The sunflowers bring joy to all our school.

Gabby

Sunflower

The big sunflowers are as tall as a beanstalk hidden under the dirty ground with many creatures in it. Rising up to see the library, reflecting off the window like it's a mirror. Each is staring at their own reflection in the sunshine. The soft and spiky back feels like my dad's beard in the morning. The big leaves are as big as my face with patterns like a lily pad. The flowerbeds are surrounding them like they are celebrities. The mane of the flower is like a lion standing to attention. It is like they are ruling the world. Dancing in the wind like they are having a ball. The rich golden petals are blooming in the sunshine. The leaves are a place for bumblebees to get their breakfast in the hot morning sun. The bumblebees take a nice warm bath in the jet-black seeds as they hum along in the nice breeze.

Sunflowers

Mataya

Standing tall like a goalkeeper watching the ball. The sunflowers shine as bright as the sun. Sunflowers have leaves like stairs going up to the top floor. The giant sunflowers bloom through the library window. Kids look at the majestic sunflowers. The sunflowers dance in the wind like a professional. The soft soil planted the seed is where the sunflowers like to rest. The bees collect nectar all day long. The sunflowers look up at the sun as it shines its lovely warm rays down on the ground.





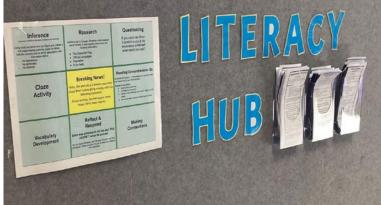
Reading

In reading, we have been working on our book called Hatchet. This has been a super cool opportunity, and all the activities have been very engaging and fun. My top two favourite activities are: Breaking news, which is where we are tasked to create a 2 minute news story about Brian's disappearance. This has been an area wide favourite, because you get to use technology to create a mini movie, and edit it with

My second favourite was an activity where we had to create a poster about Canada. This was really cool, because we got to find out fun facts about Canada and create a fun and informative poster. This has been such a fun reading activity, and I hope to do more this year.

Charlotte

effects and sound.



could do if stranded.

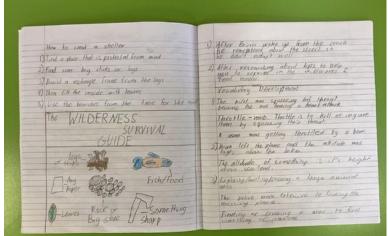
I quite enjoyed the inference because we could draw a missing poster of Brian and a description of him. The making connections was interesting as well because we could write instructions about how to survive in the woods and learn about what we

in our literacy hub.

We had to do nine activities (making connections, reading comprehension Qs, questioning, research)

Researching was also a highlight of the reading hub, because I learnt new things about Canada. Emily





ATION: 40million GUAGES! French & English

5 FUN FACIS Manada is the 2nd largest country 2) Canada have the biggest Moose popular 3) Canada has 6 time zones Alanada is 158 years old as of 2025

5) The coldest temp recorded was -63°

We have been reading the book Hatchet. We have nine fun activities to do and my top two favourite activities were the research and news. Research was a cool way to learn some interesting fun facts about Canada, and where Brian's plane had crashed. I found out that Canada has two official languages, French and English. It has a population of 39,742,430. With the breaking news, I teamed up with my new peers and got to make an imovie

I really liked how we were all having fun and being creative. I also get to make new friends in my class and an opportunity to try something new.

Chanelle

with them





KURA AHUREA



SPORTS NEWS

Netball

Year 7/8 registrations have closed and trials are to be held on Thursday 13 March. We are still looking for coaches so all those who have registered can be placed in teams.

Year 5/6 registrations close this week, on Friday 14 March. Please remember - full payment is needed before the closing date.

Future Ferns Netball (Yr 1/2)

It is great to see such a keen group of our younger students keenly involved with the Future Ferns programme on a Saturday morning.

This is the start of their playing journey!



Tiniball, Miniball and Basketball

Registration information has been sent out and a reminder these registrations close this Friday 14th March, with full payment required. The payment is for two terms - we have found this makes it much easier to get places in this very popular sport (which does enrolments for each term, rather than both).

Once again we will rely on parents volunteering to be coaches and managers so our students don't miss out.

Whero players L-R: Ethan, Cadence, Haydee, Kaylee, Indie, Maraea, Elise

IMPORTANT **REMINDERS AND UPDATES**

Payments to school

A friendly reminder - when making payments to the school, please include your **<u>child's name</u>** as a reference. This helps allocate the payment correctly and efficiently.

Thank you for your assistance.

School 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 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.atschool.co.nz

You will then be able to use the username and password that you have been emailed 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

Signing Out

school office.

Please ensure you sign your child out at the school office if they are leaving the school grounds during school hours. It is important that we know where your child is, in case of an emergency.

Reporting an absence

It is a requirement from the Ministry that you inform the school if your child is going to be absent.

Please report all absences before 9am via the below options:

- 1. Through the school website.
- 2. Call the absence line 04 569 5759, option 1.
- 3. Email <u>absences@stpeterpaul.school.nz</u>

Please ensure you leave a reason for your child's absence. Any unexplained absences will be coded as unjustified and truant.

ðlunchonline

0800 565 565 info@lunchonline.co.nz

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1 Register an account 2 Add member/s including your childs 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