Tuesday 25 March 2025

## Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

## Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new students and their families who have joined us since our last newsletter.

**Kōwhai** welcomes Ivah and Grace, and Jamie who joins his older siblings at school. We are very glad that you have joined our school whānau.

### Learning conferences

Our teachers are looking forward to catching up with you on **Thursday 27 March or Wednesday 2 April** to share and discuss your child's learning journey over this first term.

If you missed the on-line booking, you are still most welcome to ring the office and one will be organised for you from any remaining time slots. For our separated parents, we would appreciate you working together to make a booking, so that teachers have only one learning conference for each of their students. We do understand there can be exceptional circumstances where this is not feasible and can certainly accommodate these situations.

### Lockdown/shelter in place drill

Your children may have mentioned that we have been talking with them and practising our lockdown/ shelter in place drills and procedures. You can read more about these on the SchoolDocs site. We are always mindful to discuss scenarios that do

We are always mindful to discuss scenarios that do not cause any unnecessary alarm for our students. Please note that in both situations we do not allow anyone in or out of the grounds or buildings until we receive the "all clear."

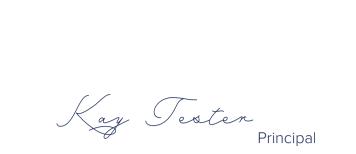
### Attendance

Many thanks for your efforts to let the office team know when your children are away from school. They have appreciated the time this has saved them.

### **Catholic Principals gathering**

I am currently in New Plymouth with other Catholic principals from around the Wellington Archdiocese. Our main focus is to learn more about the story of Parihaka.

Caritas, Aotearoa New Zealand have developed an excellent resource for schools about <u>Parihaka past and present</u>. The study of Parihaka - past and present fits in with both Social Sciences and the Religious Education topic, Justice and Peace. Our principal group will be visiting the Taranaki Cathedral for a pōwhiri, tour and talks. We will have a Parihaka presentation of the Caritas Resources. We will also be most fortunate to visit Parihaka. This is of particular significance for someone like myself, who grew up in New Plymouth, with very little knowledge of the events of Parihaka.





# Contents

From our Principal Special Character Kōwhai Nikau Pōhutukawa Rātā Kura Ahurea Sport Reminders & Updates PTA

## Events

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 Monday 28 April First day of Term 2

# SPECIAL CHARACTER

## Lenten Appeal

For the past few weeks, students across the school have been focusing on the "Keep it Simple" Action Plan. This resource guides us with a weekly theme, including Journey, Transformed, Impact, Hope, Love, and Unity. This week's theme is Hope, which aligns with Pope Francis' message for the Jubilee Year of being "Pilgrims of Hope." He invites us to actively embody love, compassion, and hope in our daily lives.



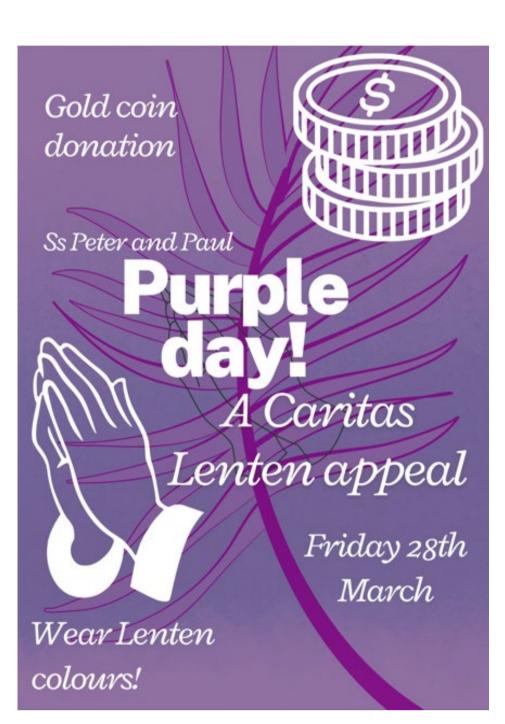


As part of this action plan, students are encouraged to make a small donation to the Caritas Lenten Appeal. The funds collected will support countries in need, including Ukraine.

The Christian Service Leaders will be visiting classes to promote Purple Day, a Lenten Appeal event that will be held on Friday March 28th. It will be a non-uniform day, and a gold coin donation will be greatly

appreciated.

Aurea Casino Director of Religious Studies





## **New Entrant Blessing**

Kōwhai had our first New Entrant Blessing for 2025. It was lovely to meet and welcome all of our new families to our school. We were treated to a beautiful song by the choir at the beginning of our gathering. Father Raja blessed each child as they stood in each group, with their families behind them in support. Then, all of Kōwhai sang the blessing song, which was very moving.





"I liked the music and how the parents came to join us. I also liked my certificate." **Sebastian** 

- "My certificate was really cool and I got to take it home." Olivia
- "I liked going to the church with my family to get blessed." *Lucas*
- "I loved getting blessed by Father Raja because I like to pray." *Kate*

## Pollination

Kōwhai has been doing amazing learning about pollination. In our investigation of how pollination happens, we started looking at the different parts of the flower. We know how these parts help in making a seed and then becoming a fruit. We also discovered that there are more pollinators other than bees. Birds, people and the wind can be pollinators too.

We looked at different kinds of bumblebees - queen, male, worker bees and noticed that queen bees are huge and the worker bees happen to be the smallest even if they do a lot of work. Using a magnifying glass, we had a closer look at the different parts of the bees. We even got to see a live beehive!



"We went to the garden, looked at the flowers and tapped on the pollen. I even tried tasting the pollen on my fingers. It was tasty!" **Zander** 

"It was nice to see the bees pollinating the flowers during our garden tours at discovery time." Yasmine

"Bees make honey, and honey is used for our food." **Naithen** 

"Pollination is good for the flowers." **Haydee** 

"In discovery time, I coloured different shapes and glued them together to make a bee. I taped it on a popsicle stick. It turned out good!" *Jewel* 

## Update on Patterns

In our discussion in all the curriculum areas, we have come up with the following big ideas:

Patterns are everywhere

#### Patterns repeat Patterns can be created

It would be cool if tamariki get more chances to notice these around their homes and communities too!



## Chapter Books for Nikau

The library has lots of wonderful chapter books of different genres that the children absolutely love. This week, as Nikau students from Room 10 visited the library, Anna took the time to read to them and introduced the book Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo. This was to encourage the children to read series chapter books and to re-orient them of the different books available for them to read.





# **Girls Futsal Tournament**

Some girls from Nikau eagerly participated in a friendly futsal tournament against other participating schools. They showcased their talent in the sport, discipline, as well as sportsmanship.



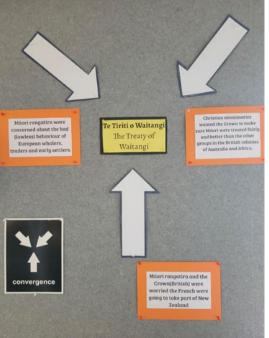
We were also blessed to have parent volunteers who took the time to coach the girls and encouraged them to keep on playing. The day ended with a visit from some team members of the Wellington Phoenix. The girls got to have





# New Zealand Histories

Pōhutukawa students have been digging into the past and learning about the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi. They are learning about what it means to think and act like an historian by using a variety of sources.









The use of the depth and complexity tools of convergence and multiple perspectives helps them to think deeper about this significant historical event, asking questions such as, how did different perspectives and events converge to bring about the idea of a treaty between the Crown and Māori?

Next they will explore the impact the treaty had over time for our Mana Whenua (local iwi); this will involve a visit to listen to Te Karanga share the experiences of his iwi.

#### **Girls Futsal Festival**

A fun day was had by all the girls who attended the futsal festival at Walter Nash Centre. It was wonderful to see the girls work together as a team and enjoy the opportunity to run around and engage in a fun sporting event.



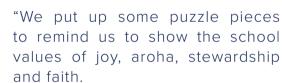












faith

joy

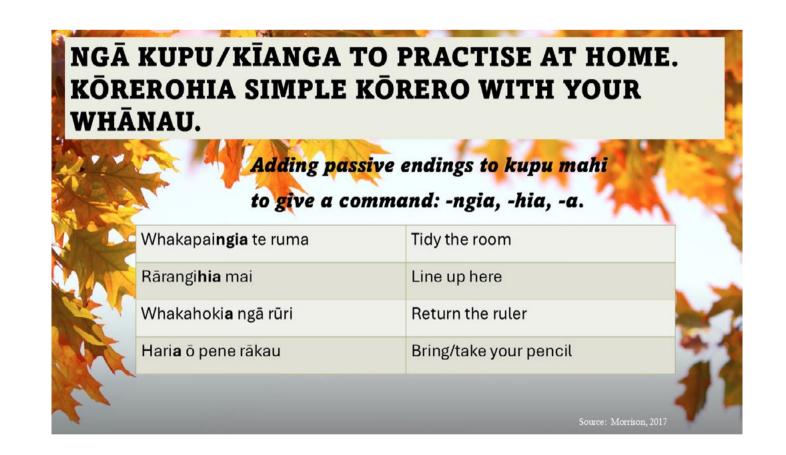


We picked a value that stood out to us and drew how we showed this in the classroom and playground as well as at home!" *Isla and Arianna* "During Prayer time we also created

a butterfly display which represents our goals for this year.

The goals are based on ourselves and our learning as well as how we act with others around us." **Sianne** 

# **KURA AHUREA**



# **SPORTS NEWS**

# Netball

Year 5-8 registrations have been completed and we are set for Term 2. Thanks to all those who volunteered to coach, manage and score (scoring in Years 7/8 only).

Years 1-4 are due to finish this week so a big thank you to Karen Wong, Kayla Wong, Kelly Wilson, Mike Bignall and Shane Olsen who have been the Star Helpers for these teams. **Touch** 

The season for Years 1-8 is due to finish this week.

Thanks to our volunteers, coaches and managers - Joe Hiess, Michelle Hotton, Sam Jones, Aimee Lewis, Louisa Turner, Sinead McCarthy, Barbara Noguera, Aidan and Karly Jordan, Noah Jordan, Naph and Nella Leau, Lucy Stechman, Millie Houghton, Kerryn Johnston, Rob McIntyre, Jason Love and Chontel Foley.

# Tiniball, Miniball and Basketball

Registrations have closed and with a high demand from the Hutt Valley schools, we were able to get five of our seven teams into competitions for Term 2.

Thanks are due to those who have put up their hands to take on the coaching and managing positions with these teams.

# **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 <a href="https://www.atschool.co.nz">https://www.atschool.co.nz</a>

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 <u>admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz</u> 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.

# Signing Out

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 <u>before 9am</u> 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.

# Ölunchonline

Sushi and Subway delivered to school weekly It's simple; all you need to do is register at www.lunchonline.co.nz and follow four easy steps to get started

Register an account
 Add member/s including your childs name, school and classroom
 Make a payment so you have funds in your account before you order
 Select your lunch and place an order

# **PTA NEWS**

# PTA Committee

The PTA committee had their first meeting this month and explored ideas for the coming year. We are always keen to bring the community together with planning events and fundraisers.

If anyone is interested in joining the PTA please reach out to us at <u>pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz</u>

We would love to hear your ideas and ways to continue bringing the school community together. Everyone is welcome! Nga mihi

# PTA committee

yet? Stay up-to-date with of community events by joining

0800 565 565

info@lunchonline.co.nz