ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL TAUPŌ

TE WHAKAPONO ME ANA MAHI - FAITH IN ACTION

ATAWHAI | KINDNESS

TAPATAHI | INTEGRITY

HIRINGA | DETERMINATION

KOTAHITANGA | UNITY

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Thursday 26 November

Kia ora koutou

It is great to see so many of our children active during the break times. This week some spaces have been mown and set up to ensure all students have room to enjoy their break activities. These are the times where Kindness and Unity should shine as children look out for, and support each other.

All Abilities Day

What a fabulous day some of our students enjoyed yesterday. This was an event sponsored by the Halberg Foundation that provided opportunities for the children to participate in adapted games and activities in a safe and supported way. Well done to our children who all returned smiling! Thank you to the team and parents who accompanied them, allowing this valuable experience to happen for them.

Construction underway

Many of you will have noticed that construction of the area for the universal bathroom is now underway. Safety fences are erected and will remain in place for most of the holiday period. Along with this, our long awaited resurfacing of the turf will be getting underway toward the end of January. For these reasons we will be locking the school gates at the end of the term and we ask everyone to respect that this is for safety reasons. Having both these projects completed in the new year is exciting.

Library books

Shortly, our annual library stocktake will be underway. Please ask your children to check carefully at home for any books that need to be returned to school. Thank you in advance, the job is made that much easier when all books are returned.

Continued . . .

Term 4 happenings and tiredness

In the last newsletter I talked about it being 'business as usual' at school, and this continues. We wish for all students, and staff, to have the smoothest possible finish to the year. We thank you for supporting us to make this possible. A reminder too, that if your child is having a bit of an unsettled or dysregulated morning the breakfast club, in the hall between 8.30 and 8.45am each day, is a great space to start their day. Those 15 minutes can help shape a positive day ahead for the children.

Manaaki to Atua
Vicki and team



DONATE A BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS!

Kia ora St Pats Pawhānau,

We are collecting donations of **brand-new** Kiwi books to gift to families in **Taupo** who can't afford to buy Christmas presents for their kids, or who struggle to access good books in general.

Please consider buying an extra book or two next time you are shopping and add them to our donation box situated **in the St Pats office.**

Baby books, picture books, chapter books, YA books — we'd love them all!

All books will be distributed to local families in need.

GIFT CARDS

You can also purchase gift cards through the website and donate a book on behalf of someone else. They make ideal presents for staff, colleagues, friends and family—please do check them out!

https://shop.kiwichristmasbooks.org.nz

Donations close on Wednesday, December 9th.

You can read more about us here:
www.kiwichristmasbooks.org.nz

Thank you for your support!

Harcourts Taupo
49 Te Heuheu Street
07 378 1112
info@harcourtstaupo.co.nz

KIWI CHRISTMAS BOOKS

Registered Charity CC60356

KIWICHRISTMASBOOKS.ORG.NZ #GIVEBOOKSTOKIDS

R.E. REFLECTION



ADVENT

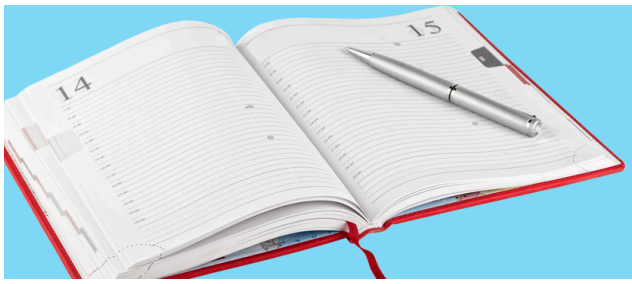
Advent is upon us. Advent is a special time for families to get ready for Christmas by remembering that Jesus came to live among us and by welcoming him into our lives today. It invites us to slow down, pray together, show kindness, and make room for people who need our care—not just focus on presents and parties. As parents, you can help your children learn to wait with hope and joy, and to see that Christmas celebrates God's love for us in Jesus.

This week's Gospel reading is about being awake and ready for our Saviour.

Advent begins with the encouragement to stay awake and be ready for the coming of our Saviour. There are no shortcuts or artificial ways to do this. And we have only four weeks to prepare ourselves. It's a short period of time, especially when we are ironically so busy with preparing for what we are trying to celebrate. So what are we to do? We need to take the time to remember why we have all these traditions: the tree, ornaments, presents, parties – all of this must be put in their context. We can either walk through them like we are asleep or become frantic and overstimulated by it all. Or we can make the conscious choice, as Advent begins, to pray and reflect on what the birth of Jesus means to us and to our world and how we can make the presence of Jesus more real for ourselves, our loved ones, and people of good will. Today we have the time. But we know how quickly this time will pass.

Pray
God of Peace, strengthen me to be a sign of your love and stillness.
When life feels rushed or uncertain, help me pause and remember that you are near.
Let your peace shape the way I listen, the words I choose and the kindness I offer.
Teach me to trust that no matter what comes, your peace will surround me.
Amen





DIARY DATES

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday 1 December - Koru Hub Biking
- Friday 4 December - Toki Hub Water Fun Day AC Baths
- Tuesday 8 December - Pikorua Hub Nativity Play TBC / Board Meeting @ 6.30pm
- Thursday 10 December - Year 8 Leavers Dinner 5 - 7pm
- Friday 11 December - Meet Next Year's Teacher / Reports Go Home
- Monday 14 December - Year 8 Leavers Liturgy 2.10pm in the Church
- Tuesday 15 December - School Prizegiving 5.30pm in the Church
- Wednesday 16 December - Term 4 Ends @ Mid-Day



2027 Term Dates

Term 1	Wed 3 February - Fri 9 April
Term 2	Tues 27 April - Fri 2 July
Term 3	Mon 19 July - Fri 24 September
Term 4	Mon 11 October - Wed 15 December
TEACHER ONLY DAYS	Tuesday 8 June Monday 16 August

FUNDRAISING THANKS TO YOUR LUNCH ORDERS!

Great news! Thanks to everyone ordering lunch through Ezlunch by Kindo we were able to raise just under $900 so far this year.

Reminder: 10% of every lunch order comes straight back to our school. It's a simple way to support our school, just by ordering lunch.

Yet to try Ezlunch?
Download the Kindo app or visit shop.kindo.co.nz to place your first order.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST PAT'S...

CALENDAR ART EXTENSION

Thank you so much for all of your Calendar Art orders. The response has been fantastic and we've had great feedback. We've also had a number of families asking for extra items or letting us know they missed the first order window. To make things easy for everyone, we are opening one final short order period to include all remaining requests.

Orders close 02/12/2026 with no extensions.

Follow these instructions to place your order online:
1/. Go to www.kidsartworks.com
2/. Use the Entrance Code: KZ1244
3/. Enter your child's room & name when prompted

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

Congratulations to our athletics team, who represented our school at last week's interschool event. It was fantastic to see everyone challenging themselves, supporting one another and giving their very best.
We are incredibly proud of all our athletes and would like to celebrate the following individual achievements:
Year 4
Sophia Van Veen: 2nd= Long Jump

Year 5
Sienna Lagas: 2nd Long Jump; 3rd High Jump; 3rd Sprints
Zac Eastwood: 1st 400m; 2nd Long Jump; 3rd 800m

Year 7
Felicity Dawson: 3rd High Jump
Penny Lagas: 1st Long Jump;
2nd Sprints; 2nd; 400m

Year 8
Mollie Blewitt: 3rd High Jump
Jessica Chen: 2nd Shotput
Cooper Jolly: 1st 800m -
(setting a new course record)





WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST PAT'S...

13



FILM NEGATIVE

13 A

14



FILM NEGATIVE

14 A

KiwiSport with Lake Taupo District Sports Advisory Council

- With Lake Taupo Cricket, thanks for the Cricket Taster Sessions pictured left. Our students have loved learning the skills, drills and having the opportunity to give cricket a go!

- What an awesome day at the Taupō All Abilities Sports Festival featured below! It was fantastic to see so many students having the opportunity to try different sports, challenge themselves, and enjoy being active in a fun and inclusive environment. A huge thank you to Halberg Foundation and everyone who helped make yesterday happen....including our wonderful schools, teachers, support staff, sporting organisations, Taupo-nui-a-Tia College students and volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!











Link to purchase tickets



Helensville School is turning 150 years old in 2027!

Are you a former student or staff member of Helensville School? We welcome you to be a part of our alumni community!

Please join us in celebrating our history - share your memories with us and connect with past whānau of Helensville School.

If you would like to be kept up to date on all the festivities to celebrate our special 150th birthday occasion to be held in 2027, please email: admin@helensville.school.nz



We would love to see people from across the generations come together for this special occasion.

Please send your stories, memories and photographs to:

150years@helensville.school.nz.











COMMUNITY NOTICES

You're invited to our

CHRISTMAS Gala

A FUN COMMUNITY EVENT FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

Monte Vista
NGĀTI TŪWHARETOA
RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY

Caring for our community

All proceeds go towards educating tamariki in our community!

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER
3.30 pm -6.30 pm

$1000'S OF PRIZES TO BE WON

MONTE VISTA RESIDENTIAL CARE
13/21 SHEPHERD ROAD, WAIPAHIHI, TAUPŌ

CHRISTMAS GALA STALLS

Local businesses, community groups, schools, families and individuals showcasing and selling their amazing products.

$25 PER STALL

$10 PER STALL FOR KIDS U12

FUN & ACTIVITIES

HAROLD & SANTA WILL BE THERE!
Bring the tamariki for a special visit!

HĀNGI
A delicious traditional feast. Pre order only

RAFFLES
Amazing prizes to be won!

SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE

Funds raised help Life Education deliver vital health and wellbeing education to tamariki across our Central Plateau.

LIFE EDUCATION
Learning with Harold

Thank you to our sponsors

Taupo Mini Golf. The Drop Zone - 10 Pin Bowling. Karen's Café. Doug Bro's."Confinement" Escape Rooms. Euphoria. Lárte Café and Art Gallery. AJ Hackett Bungy. Earnest Kemp. Lake Fun Taupo. Lava Glass. Huka Falls River Cruise. Hukafalls Jet. Pearce Developments Ltd. Arepa. Stoney Creek. Orakei Korako. De Bretts. Skyline Rotorua Luge. Purex. Got Wood. EventRent. Starlight Cinema. Lake Taupo Hole in One Challenge.

Contact: centralplateau@lifeedtrust.org.nz
for hāngi and stall bookings/information



NEW ZEALAND TRAVELLER DECLARATION

Going overseas for the school holidays? Everyone travelling into New Zealand must complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration, including returning New Zealand passport holders.

If you haven't used it yet, the digital declaration is FREE to complete using the official NZTD app or online form. You can do it before you land and it helps to make the border process easier and far less overwhelming for families. It's your go-to tool for a smoother trip when returning to New Zealand.

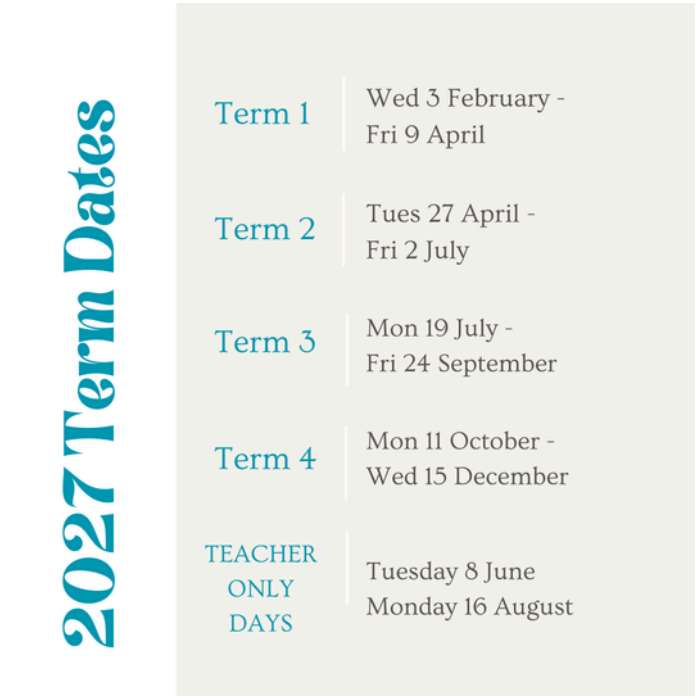
If you're travelling as a family or group and completing multiple declarations, the NZTD app makes completing declarations for the whole family easy. You can copy your travel details across multiple travellers, and all the submitted declarations display together in the app.

You can complete your declaration up to 24 hours before your flight back to New Zealand, and this is where the magic happens. Doing it early means:

- No last-minute rush at the airport
- More time to focus on kids, luggage, and boarding
- A smoother, easier experience when you land

Head to travellerdeclaration.govt.nz today!







THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES THAT GENEROUSLY SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

Please support them when you can!

STEEL WORX
ENGINEERING
TAUPO

bme LTD
BEVAN MARTIN ELECTRICAL







greenstone entertainment

Thank you **Amanda & Dean Calvert**, owners of Greenstone Entertainment, for generously supporting our school for many years!