



Ponatahi Christian School

School with the Bible

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Kia ora koutou,

This morning (of the day I'm writing this), we started our weekly staff devotion with the question: Are we a school with a prayer culture? Together, we read three sections of scripture and saw the example of Paul's prayer for the people in Ephesus (Ephesians 3:14-21), the power of prayer in the example of Elijah (James 5) and Paul's exhortation to pray for each other:

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

Each newsletter includes prayer items, and I would appreciate it if you could pray for us. Please lift up these specific needs before the Lord. And also pray that both staff and students may see and know that only through Christ we can come to God the Father. Please also give thanks to God since He invites sinners to come to Him!

Mr J.T. Reijersen van Buuren,
Principal

Upcoming events

April 11	Last Day of the term
April 25	ANZAC day, some students from Ponatahi Christian School will lay a wreath in Carterton
April 28	First day of term 2
May 14	Open Day, parents welcome to view lessons.

Prayer items

We are thankful for:

- The teacher only day on the 28th of March. Primary staff went to Wellington and learned about crafting lessons from a Christian perspective. College staff went to Hastings to meet colleagues from other Christian Schools teaching the same subject areas, learning about their subjects.
- The opportunity to teach from a Biblical Worldview in a state-integrated school setting.

Please pray for:

- The six new entrant students starting in term 2, and Mrs. Kotze, who has the privilege to teach them.
- Miss Hagan, whose mother passed away last week.
- The teaching vacancies (both in primary and secondary) at our school.
- The new representatives from the BOP on the BOT.

Pick up students at the end of the school day

If you pick up your child(ren) at the end of the school day by car, please stay away from parking close to the zebra crossing. Unfortunately, our driveway is quite narrow, so be careful when you drive around the corner. If you cannot pass safely, please stay in the line and do not try to pass if there are potentially cars coming from the other direction.

News from the BOT

At our last BOT meeting, we said goodbye to Daniel Geuze. Daniel has served for six years on the BOP, and also a considerable number of years on the BOT. Daniel, thank you very much for your time and all you have done for the school.

During our April meeting, we hope to welcome two new BOP representatives. Please pray for them as they will have to find their way.

Absence principal

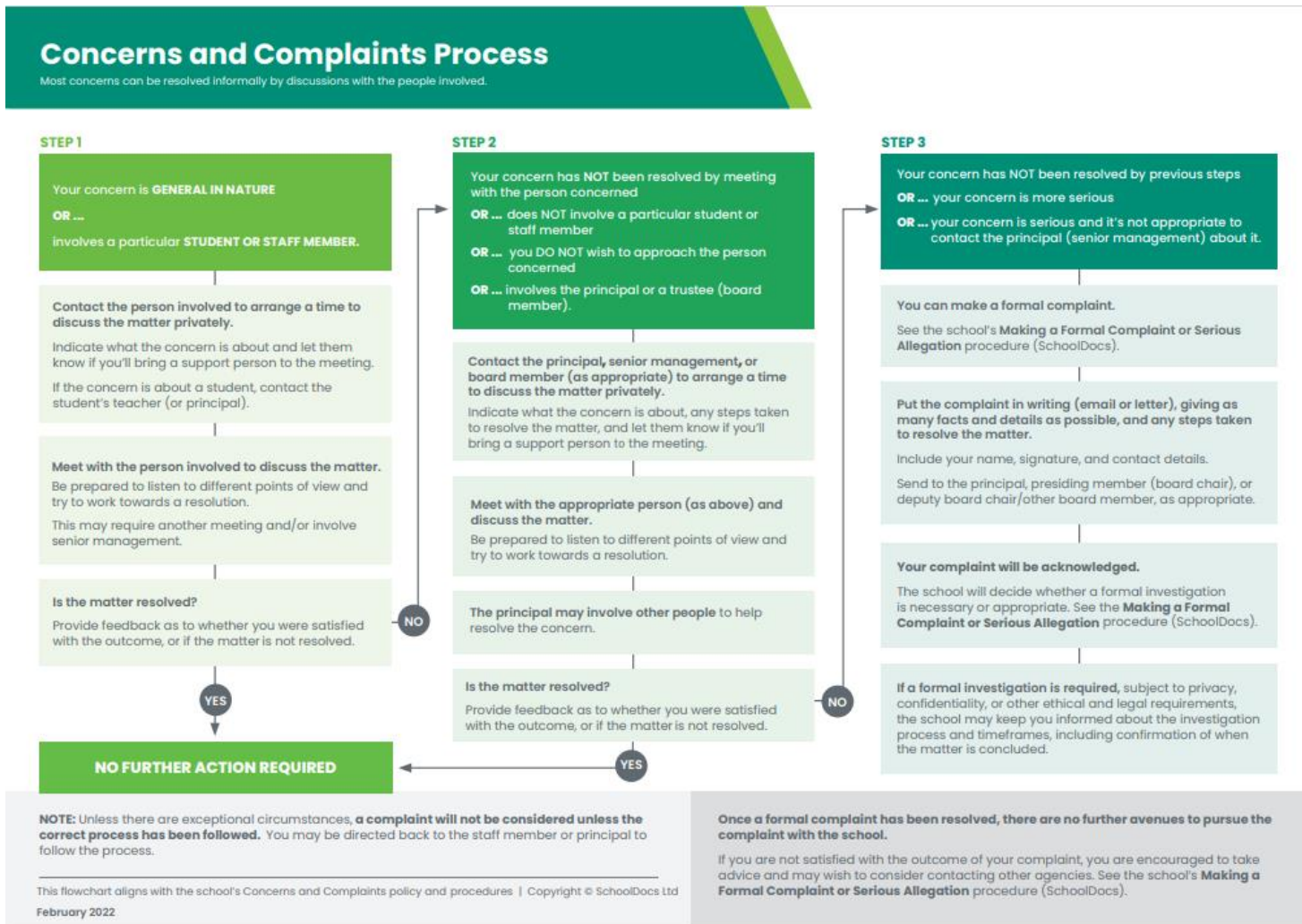
From the 8th of April till the 9th of May, our family plans to travel to the Netherlands to visit our families and friends. We are looking forward to seeing them again. If you need to contact the school, please contact Mr. R. Bertram (ronaldb@ponatahi.school.nz) for primary related questions and general information, and Mrs. K. Bosch (Karinb@ponatahi.school.nz) for secondary related questions. If you are not sure who to contact, please contact our office manager, Miss N. Slabbekoorn (nellys@ponatahi.school.nz).

ANZAC day

Please see the attached flyer for information about the ANZAC Day on D.V. 25th of April.

Complaints flowchart

In our last newsletter, we pointed out that you can access our policies via SchoolDocs. We are updating our complaints procedure flowchart. The following flowchart is the current one. We encourage you to follow these steps if there are any concerns.



A SNAPSHOT OF RECENT HAPPENINGS IN OUR SECONDARY SPACE

During the recent weeks our students have had the opportunity to be involved in both some fun hands-on learning activities and exciting new opportunities. Here's a quick look at some of the things that have been happening.

Pasta Making in our y11 Health Science Class

In our y11 Health Science class we were privileged to host a guest teacher from Canada, Mr D.A. Stares. He taught our students how to make pasta from scratch, and when paired with a homemade tomato-based pasta sauce, it was a huge hit!



Megan Bosch, Saskia Slothouber, Lydia de Leeuw, Hannah Verbeek enjoying the experience



Hadassa Reijersen van Buuren deep in conversation with other y7-8 students.

Christian Leadership Course

On Friday, 14th March, a few of our students had the exciting opportunity to join other Christian school students at a leadership course. The course was run by the Lower North Island Christian Kahui Ako, of which we are now a member, and was held at Longburn Adventist College in Palmerston North.

Students from Year 7 to 13 were chosen by their teachers or nominated by their classmates to attend. The focus for the day was Christ-like servant leadership and how to bring that into their classrooms. Our students had the unique opportunity to spend the day with student leaders from Hastings Christian School, Cornerstone Christian School, Longburn Adventist College, Faith City School, Totara College, and Maranatha Christian School.



Charlie Stolte, Felicity Bosch and Alisha Wessels working on an active team challenge



Esther van Rijn and Crystal Soh participating in group discussions

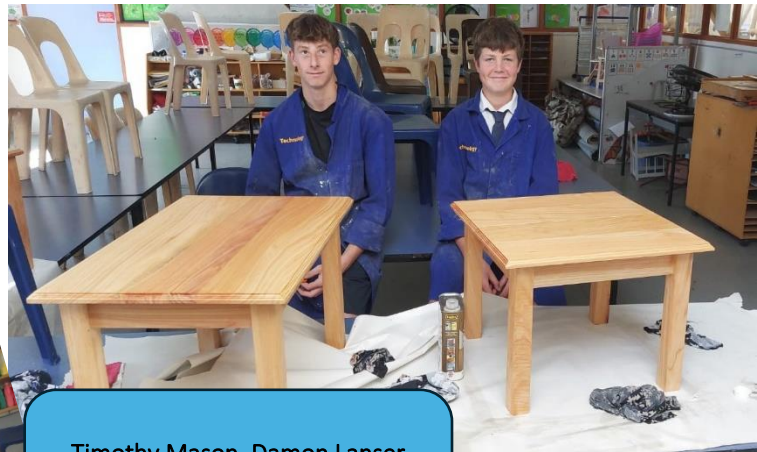
Year 12 RYDA Defensive Driving Course

Each year, our year 12 students have the opportunity to attend the RYDA Defensive Driving Course run for the Wairarapa Colleges. The highlight of this course is always the visual demonstration of how long it takes for a vehicle moving at different speeds to stop.



Year 11 Material's Technology Classes

In the Material's Technology class, the students have been busy crafting beautiful coffee tables. The end results have been impressive. These students will soon have a brand-new coffee table to take home.



Timothy Mason, Damon Lanser and Jared Bosch with their completed tables.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS ON A TEACHER'S ONLY DAY?

There are various reasons why the Senior Leadership Team suggests a Teacher's Only Day, but this past Friday was specifically to allow our teachers to attend a professional development day organized by the Kahui Ako. Our primary teachers had the opportunity to visit the new campus of Wellington Hills Christian College, where they met up with primary teachers from Christian schools across the larger Wellington area. They had the privilege of spending the day focusing on what a curriculum with a Christian worldview actually looks like.

Our secondary staff visited Hastings Christian School along with other secondary staff from Christian colleges across the Manawatu/Hawke's Bay region. They spent their time networking with different subject departments, discussing curriculum changes, new technologies, and other issues affecting their subject areas.

It was a very worthwhile day for all of us. It is always empowering and encouraging to get together with our colleagues from other Christian schools. All our schools are different, each with our own special uniqueness, but in essence, we are all motivated by the same purpose: to be used as tools in Christ's kingdom, working with young people not only for their academic needs but, even more importantly, for their spiritual needs.



How many of our staff members can you spot?

VOLUNTEER DRIVER REQUEST

The Masterton bus is full and we have more students coming. To alleviate this somewhat, from the start of term 2, the school van will be used to facilitate the carriage of students from the Norfolk Road bus stop. If anyone would like to volunteer to help run this service, then please contact Mr R Bertram. Options are varied: eg a Masterton parent could drive to Carterton, leave their car at school, do the afternoon run, keep the school van in Masterton that evening, then do the next morning run before returning home in their own vehicle again. And so on. Being a 12-seater van, the usual full car license is all that is required.

2025 ANZAC SERVICE & PARADE DETAILS

10.45am
Parade meets at the Carterton Events Centre,
50 Holloway Street

11.00am
The route is: Holloway Street – High Street – Memorial Square

At the end of the service
Following the Parade and Memorial Service, you are invited to
join us for conversation and light refreshments at the
Carterton Club, 35 Broadway

Friday 25th April