



Enabling young people to serve God and society

Ponatahi Christian School

School with the Bible

06 3798840

6 Howard St Carterton

www.ponatahi.school.nz

office@ponatahi.school.nz

Kia ora koutou,

At the time I'm writing this, we are just at the end of the first school week. A week with a lot of 'new beginnings'. Starting as a new principal is exciting, but also very daunting. However, the Lord has been faithful! Jeremiah writes in Lamentations 3: 22-24:

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him.

It is not because of me or us that we can say that this first week went very well, it is because of the mercies of the Lord. We can see His goodness every day at school. His faithfulness is great, and His mercies are new every day. We can see it when the students and staff members arrive safely at school. We can see it on the faces of the teachers who are enjoying teaching your children. And above all, we can see it when we read God's Word with the students. God is at work, and He is in control. And because of that we can safely trust in Him and put our hope in Him.

Mr J.T. Reijersen van Buuren



Upcoming events

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|----------------|--|
| February 14 | Annual picnic day (9.15am flag ceremony, 10.15am activities in the park) |
| February 17-21 | Senior college camp |
| February 20 | y1-2 information evening |
| March 4 | Parent information evening (subject to change) CANCELLED |
| March 5-7 | Junior college camp |
| March 11 | 8.40am at school. Brett Harvey of Tāima Kōrero will have an informative presentation about the dangers of internet and pornography. See ad on the next page. |
| March 13 | Careers event Y11-13 |
| March 28 | Teacher-only day (this might impact the date of our last school day of the 2025 school year) |

Swimming

In the previous newsletter, the swimming dates still had to be confirmed. We now know that swimming is on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We won't have swimming at the end of the school year. If you want swimming lessons for your children, you will have to organise these yourself.

Newsletters

Newsletters will be written three times each term, and will be published in week 2, 6 and 9 of each term.

Prayer items

We are thankful for:

- The great start of the school year
- That the Lord spared all the students and staff over the school holidays

Please pray for:

- For the long term are we still seeking a new materials tech teacher (we are grateful that we have been able to organize things for the short term).
- Strength and health for all the staff members.
- Wisdom for the BOT, BOP and SLT in leading our school and thinking about a long-term vision for this school
- Safe trips for the senior college camp and the junior college camp.

If you have any items you want to include in this list, please let the principal know.

School Attendance

One of the things we are continuing to focus on in 2025 is student attendance. The Ministry of Education (MOE) has given regulations for schools to correctly register all absenteeism. One example is holiday leave during school time which is to be registered as an unjustified absence. Schools should consider thresholds for discretion including any limitations and therefore all parent/caregivers are required to email all leave requests (whether it be one day or a month) to the principal at principal@ponatahi.school.nz. Please include the office manager in your email, nellys@ponatahi.school.nz.

If we do not receive such a request, your child(ren) will be registered as unjustified absent. The MOE monitors our reporting of absences and will follow up if necessary.

Tāima Kōrero events

FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN AGED 3-18

TK Tāima Kōrero Time 2 Talk

THINK YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR KIDS ARE VIEWING ONLINE? THINK AGAIN...

Discover what our young people are *actually* viewing online, how they're putting this to use and how we can protect them from the harmful effects of the porn industry.
Presented by Brett Harvey of Tāima Kōrero - Time 2 Talk.

8.40am, Tuesday, March 11
Ponatahi Christian School Staffroom
6 Howard St, Carterton

Brought to you by:

Scan to register or visit tinyurl.com/ponatahi

If you cannot make it to this event, Brett is also planning to hold this presentation in the Masterton Reformed Church at 7.30pm on Monday 10th March.

News from room 2

Our Year 1 class has been off to a fantastic start and is buzzing with excitement about the year ahead! Everyone is settling in so well, and it's been amazing to see their enthusiasm. We kicked things off with a creative project where each student made their very own first-day-of-school photo frame, which they proudly took home.



We've also had some wonderful discussions about what the students are interested in and what they're excited to learn about this year.



We absolutely loved our first topic lesson with Mrs. Lockyear and the Year 2s, where we explored 'Aotearoa – Our Home.'



The students had so much fun identifying significant places and sights in the North and South Islands. We're looking forward to more exciting lessons together this term and can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings! Mrs Kotze.

School Begins for Secondary Classes

In New Zealand, secondary classes are often referred to as 'college' although to our North American readers 'college' means something very different. Also strange to northern hemisphere readers is that in New Zealand we begin our school year at the start of February after summer vacation in December and January.

This is room C1 where the Year 9 and 10 students are opening the day with their homeroom teacher Mr Assink. For the Year 9 students this is the very beginning of what can be up to five years in college classes, the Lord willing. For 2025 the Year 9 and Year 10 students will be in the same classroom for most of their school week, although they will be separated into their year groups on occasions.



On the other side of the new college block, Mrs Bosch is opening the day with the Year 11-13 students in C2. This combined group is not usually all together for their academic learning as they go to their specialist subject teachers or their teachers come to them.



This is the Year 11 maths class, taught by Mr P Bertram. They have been subjected to some diagnostic testing for most of the first week so that the teacher better understands how to plan for them for the year and what will be realistic goals for their individual pathways.



Some may be on the way to local trades and others may be on the way to university, God willing. Ponatahi Christian School is recognising and catering for individual pathways more and more in the senior college. And what is unique is that Y12-13 students may still be able to spend one day per week with "hands-on" learning at UCOL while pursuing an academic program to be prepared for university.

The Y11-13 homeroom has a couple of nice corners for the senior students to hang out at lunchtime. The seniors are also permitted to leave the school grounds with conditions. We thank the Board of Proprietors for providing the premises and the Y11-13 homeroom teachers of the last two years for making this a homely environment.





STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Alisha Wessels has been appointed as Head Student with Meg Lanser as Deputy Head Student. We encourage you in all your endeavours to be an inspiration to others. It only takes one person to start something!

We would like to ask the school community to pray for these young ladies in their new leadership position.

FUNDRAISER

This month I (Nathan Groeneweg, Year 10) am running 100km to raise money for people struggling with bowel cancer. You can find more details by clicking on the QR code or by searching Nathan Groeneweg on Move Your Butt 2025.

Your support would be much appreciated!

Thank you,

Nathan Groeneweg.



scan the QR code to donate (:



Creative thinking in Year 2

