



All Glory to God alone

Ponatahi Christian School

School with the Bible

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Kia ora koutou,

Since the start of this school year, we have been meeting every Thursday morning before the start of the school day for staff devotions. Last week we thought about 'Who or what in your life brings you joy?' There is much in life that brings us joy, but in the end, the only thing that brings true happiness is knowing the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. With that in mind, we read from Philippians 4:

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

There is much that causes worries and troubles, but the apostle Paul encourages us to bring everything to God in prayer. God promises that He will give us peace. It is that joy, and that peace that we need every day.

Mr J.T. Reijersen van Buuren

Upcoming events

Tuesday 18 March	3Way conferences – school bus will leave at 12.30pm and South Wairarapa parents will have to pick up their children
Friday 28 March	Teacher-only day
Friday 11 April	Last day of term 1
Monday 28 April	First day of term 2

Prayer items

We are thankful for:

- The Lord's sparing hand over us during our senior college and junior college camps.
- The opportunity to come together with the staff and students during the assemblies on Monday mornings and with the staff during the staff devotions on Thursday mornings.
- The beautiful Picnic Day on 14th February.



The senior students at the TipTop factory in Auckland

Please pray for:

- The teaching vacancies (both in primary and secondary) at our school
- Strength and health for all the staff members.
- Wisdom for the BOT, BOP and SLT in leading and thinking about a long-term vision

Farewell to Mrs Marshall

Mrs Marshall has expressed that at the end of term 1, she will resign as a teacher at Ponatahi Christian School. As you can imagine, this is a big step for Mrs Marshall and a loss for the school. I want to use this opportunity to thank her for all she has done for Ponatahi Christian School in the past six years she has worked here. In the coming weeks, we will start advertising to fill this vacancy. Please pray for Mrs Marshall and for us that the Lord will help us fill this vacancy.

End of school year 2025

Due to our teacher-only day on the 28th of March, our last school day of the 2025 school year will now be on Friday 12th of December.

SchoolDocs

At Ponatahi, our school policies are provided by SchoolDocs. SchoolDocs is an independent service that provides core policies that meet legislative and regulatory requirements and good practice, incorporating relevant school-specific information. To check our policies, go to <https://www.schooldocs.co.nz>. Click on: search for your school, search for Ponatahi Christian School and use the following details to have a look at our policies:

Username **ponatahi**

Password **SchoolWithTheBible**

News from the BOT

Due to sickness in his family, the presiding member of the Board, Bas Schot, had to make the difficult decision to step back from his position on the board. We want to thank him for all he has done for the Board and the school and wish him and his family health and strength. Our new presiding member is Mrs. Tash van den Bosch. You can contact her via chair@ponatahi.school.nz. Please remember both Bas and Tash in your prayers. Later this year elections for the BOT will be held; you will be informed about that in due time.

Activities in College

A lot has happened since our last newsletter! Our senior students recently travelled to Auckland for their annual camp, and it was an incredible experience. It was a time of



bonding, exploring our own country, and enjoying both fun activities and meaningful conversations. The days were packed full, but this made it possible to see and learn a lot every single day. A big thank you to Malien de Vries, who was our chef this week and provided amazing food for us. The group visited several exciting places, including Rangitoto Island, the Sky Tower, the Tip Top Factory, the Auckland Museum, the Zoo, Mr. Brown's Mission House, the MAF Hangar, Rotorua, and Whakarewarewa. It was an awesome week, full of exploration, but also digging into God's word. During our devotions, we reflected on God's creation, the fall of humanity, redemption, and restoration, deepening our understanding of His Word.



Meanwhile, our junior students had their own camp experience at Forest Lakes Camp in Otaki. Focused on team bonding and building friendships, the camp was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to connect. During our devotions, we explored the theme of friendship in the Bible, with Jesus as the ultimate example of love and service, even offering His life for His enemies. It was a great time of growing



closer together and participating in activities like kayaking, team-building challenges, archery, bowling, mini-golf, and a sandcastle competition. We also enjoyed some fun beach activities. On the way back to school, we visited the impressive Patuna Chasm and walked through this stunning piece of creation. 'How great Thou art.'



Lastly, here is a quick update on our Year 9-10 students who are taking cooking this term: They are busy preparing a three-course meal to serve to their families during the final week of the term. It's a great opportunity for them to practice hard work, teamwork, and culinary skills. The dishes they've been bringing home are looking better every week Proud of those young chefs!



Nga Manu (Junior) Pod

In year 2 (Tuis), after a lot of learning in the mornings with maths and literacy, it's good to do something lighter in the afternoons.

In our creative art time, Samantha was a busy little bee, working on her art.



Mason made a contraption and Lego investigated with the TV box. Emily and Zekie made beautiful costumes which they wore and were very proud of.



On Friday afternoons, we're with year 1 (Kiwis) and do discovery through play. This is a good way for them to experiment with different types of play. We have been discovering through play with water, building with block magnets, being curious in the kitchen,

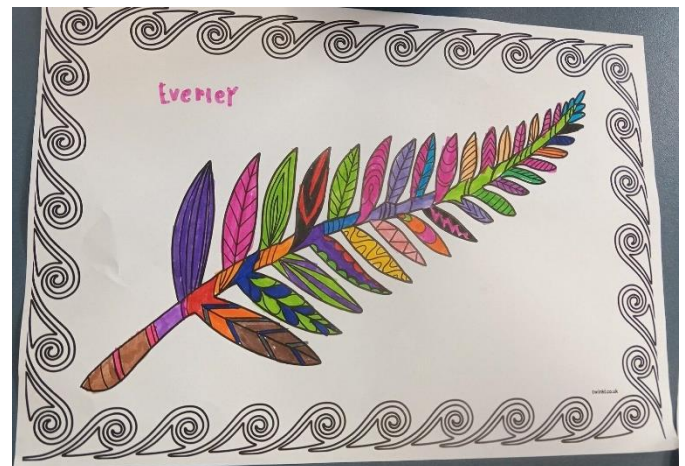


and wondering how we could be creative, dressing up playing princesses, having fun with wigs, and being a firewoman, having fun on the jungle gym and in the sandpit.





On Monday afternoons we are working on our inquiry topic of our land, New Zealand, and about us and our family/whanau. We had looked at some NZ celebrations in which we were intrigued by the Maori costumes, so we looked at the New Zealand flag with different Maori-type patterns on it, and the silver fern (our national leaf) and found that the underside, which is silvery white, catches the moonlight and can be useful for guiding through dense forest. These are a couple of drawings we were working on.



We are looking forward to making our own Maori costumes.

Matilda and Emily playing trains on the slide



Wonders of the World Picnic Day 2025



To kick off Picnic Day 2025, all the students and staff gathered around the flagpole under bright blue skies to raise the flag and sing the national anthem. After that, primary students piled in the bus to catch a ride to Carrington Park, while college and intermediate students sharpened

their appetite for morning tea with a brisk walk to the park.

This year's theme was "Wonders of the World." Students rotated around seven stations featuring games such as freeze tag and tug of war, and challenges such as carrying materials along the Great Wall of China; hunting for lost treasures in the rainforest; building a Pyramid; and racing camels and solving riddles to find the hidden city of Petra.



Parents and grandparents cheered students on and then shared a picnic lunch with families and friends under the shade of the trees. After lunch, everyone cooled off in the Carterton Pools, diving, splashing, sliding, and having heaps of fun in the water. It was another super fun school Picnic Day, and we thank all of you for coming to enjoy this special day with your child(ren), grandchildren, and friends! A special thanks also to the parent volunteers who took a group of students around the activity stations—we couldn't have done it without you! Thanks so much!



