Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday 3 November 2026

OUR WEBSITE

PARISH WEBSITE

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Last day of Term 4 - school closes at 12:30pm

Dear Parents, Whānau, and Caregivers,

It has been a vibrant, action-packed fortnight across our school. Last week, our All Saints liturgies were a reflection of our school values and faith community. On the sports front, congratulations to everyone who gave their all at our school athletics! It was fantastic to see so much grit, determination, and house spirit on display. A massive good luck to all our athletes representing us at the Zone Athletics today - we know you will make our school proud!

Looking ahead, we are excited for our upcoming trips to The Dowse Art Museum for Kōwhai and Pōhutukawa and Staglands for our Nikau area. Outside-the-classroom experiences bring such depth to our learning, and our students are in for an inspiring visit.

Ngā mihi

Lindsey

Important Reminder: After-School Pick-Up Times

I want to share a gentle but important reminder regarding our end-of-day routines. Our school day concludes at 2:50pm, and all children should be collected by 3pm at the latest.

Recently, we have noticed an increasing number of students waiting in the office foyer well past 3pm on a regular basis. While we completely understand that traffic and unexpected delays happen from time to time, our teachers and support staff have scheduled meetings, professional development, and preparation work immediately after school, meaning we are unable to provide ongoing after-school supervision.

Students cannot wait alone on the playground due to safety risks. We are also unable to supervise children waiting to be collected by college-aged siblings, this is regularly a 30-50 minute delay. If collection by the required 3pm is difficult, please arrange alternative care. sKids offers a walking bus from our kura to their new location at Hutt Rec and other local providers offer a vehicle pick up service.

Thank you so much for your continued partnership and support in keeping our dismissal process running smoothly, safely, and promptly for all our learners.

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Celebrating All Saints' Day: Walking in the Footsteps of Faith

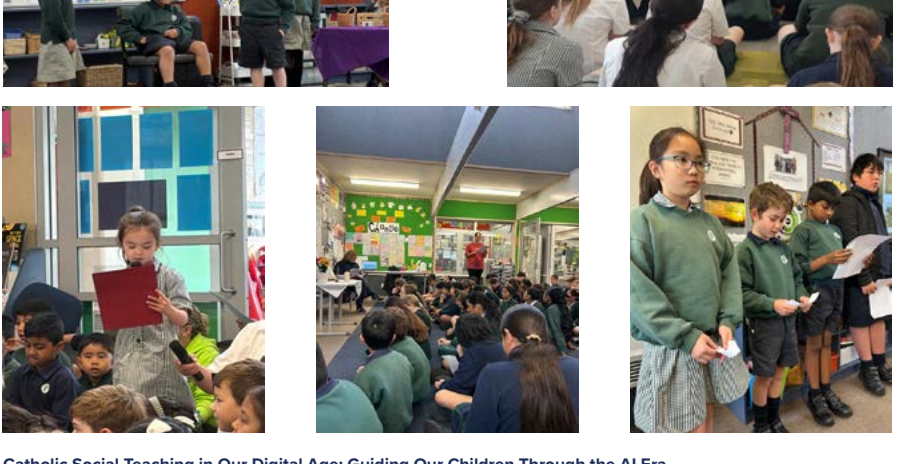
Last week, our school community gathered together for a beautiful All Saints' Day Liturgy to honour the men and women who have lived lives of exemplary faith, courage, and love.

Over the week, students reflected on what it truly means to be a saint in today's world. We were reminded that sainthood is not just a title given to figures of the past, but a calling for each of us to be one every day. The children explored how simple acts of kindness, inclusion, and integrity allow God's light to shine through our everyday actions.

It was inspiring to see our learners engage so deeply with our school values, drawing connections between the virtues of the saints and their own lives at school, at home, and in the wider community.

A special thank you to our student leaders, readers, and teachers who helped prepare and guide such a reverent, joyful celebration of our shared faith. May we all continue to walk in the footsteps of the saints, bringing hope and kindness to those around us!





Catholic Social Teaching in Our Digital Age: Guiding Our Children Through the AI Era

At our recent Wellington Conference, educators and leaders gathered to explore a vital question for our school communities: How do we guide our children to navigate artificial intelligence while remaining grounded in faith, ethics, and genuine human connection?

As digital tools rapidly transform how students learn and interact, Catholic Social Teaching (CST) offers a timeless compass for our families and schools. Key themes from the conference highlight how we can foster a healthy, balanced approach to technology together:

- **Human Dignity Comes First:** Technology is a tool to serve humanity, not replace it. A person's worth is never measured by output, efficiency, or digital data.
- **Protecting What Schools and Homes Offer Best:** Real growth happens through shared, embodied time, meaningful relationships, and holistic character formation, not just the fast delivery of information.
- **Forming Critical Thinkers:** Rather than relying on algorithms for quick answers, we are focused on helping young people develop deep discernment, moral judgment, and ethical decision-making.
- **Building a Genuine Educational Alliance:** Navigating age limits, screen time, device use, and online safety works best when families, schools, and policymakers work hand in hand.

Rather than trying to race alongside every new digital trend, our priority remains cultivating a culture centered on truth, care, and everyday love. We look forward to partnering with you as we guide our students to use technology responsibly, wisely, and with heart.

Emalyn Jiang

Director of Religious Studies

KŌWHAI

Athletics Rotation

Our Kōwhai learners have been active and energetic during our athletics rotations!

Over the past few weeks, students have been hard at work building fundamental movement skills – focusing on running, jumping, and throwing.

Through a variety of fun games and practice stations, they are honing their balance, coordination, sprinting technique, and jump distance, all while encouraging one another and demonstrating great sportsmanship and perseverance.



Please join us for the combined Kōwhai and Nikau Athletics afternoon on Friday 6th November, starting at 1:40pm.

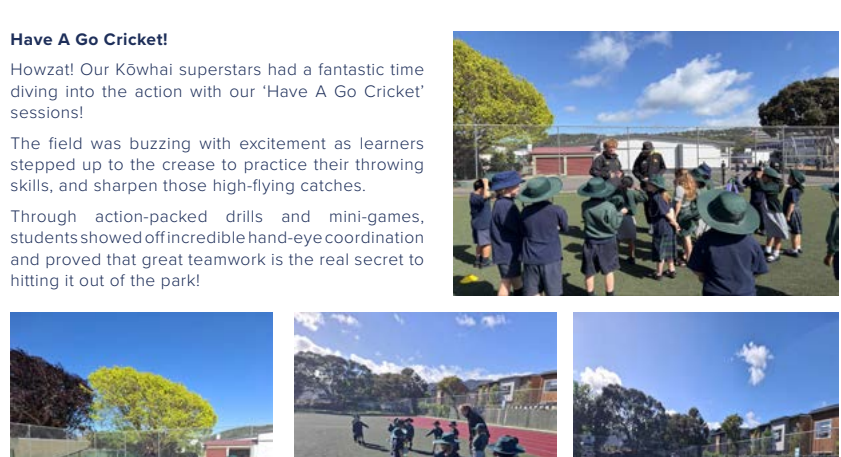


Have A Go Cricket!

Howzat! Our Kōwhai superstars had a fantastic time diving into the action with our 'Have A Go Cricket' sessions!

The field was buzzing with excitement as learners stepped up to the crease to practice their throwing skills, and sharpen those high-flying catches.

Through action-packed drills and mini-games, students showed off incredible hand-eye coordination and proved that great teamwork is the real secret to hitting it out of the park!



NIKAU

Understanding our Native Habitats

This term Nikau are discovering how our native species in Te Awakairangi are protected and what we can do to help preserve their natural environments. This is connected to many areas of our learning including Social Sciences and our upcoming trip to Staglands.

Staglands has created a natural reserve for native species especially the rare Blue Duck (Whio) and the native New Zealand Falcon (Karearea). As part of their exploration in order to create a safe environment, the students have had to research and collate information about what these native animals require to survive.

The students have created images displaying what environment is ideal for the birds. As a collaborative area we will soon be creating a life-sized sanctuary including all aspects of what a safe sanctuary would look like using recycled materials.

We are also guided by Ladauto Si, Pope Francis's landmark calling on all people to embrace an "integral ecology" by caring for the Earth is an urgent moral obligation. With this guiding our project we are motivated to use recycled materials and resources wherever possible to create our display.

As Kaitiaki of our Whenua we will ensure that all of God's beautiful creations are nourished and protected for future generations.



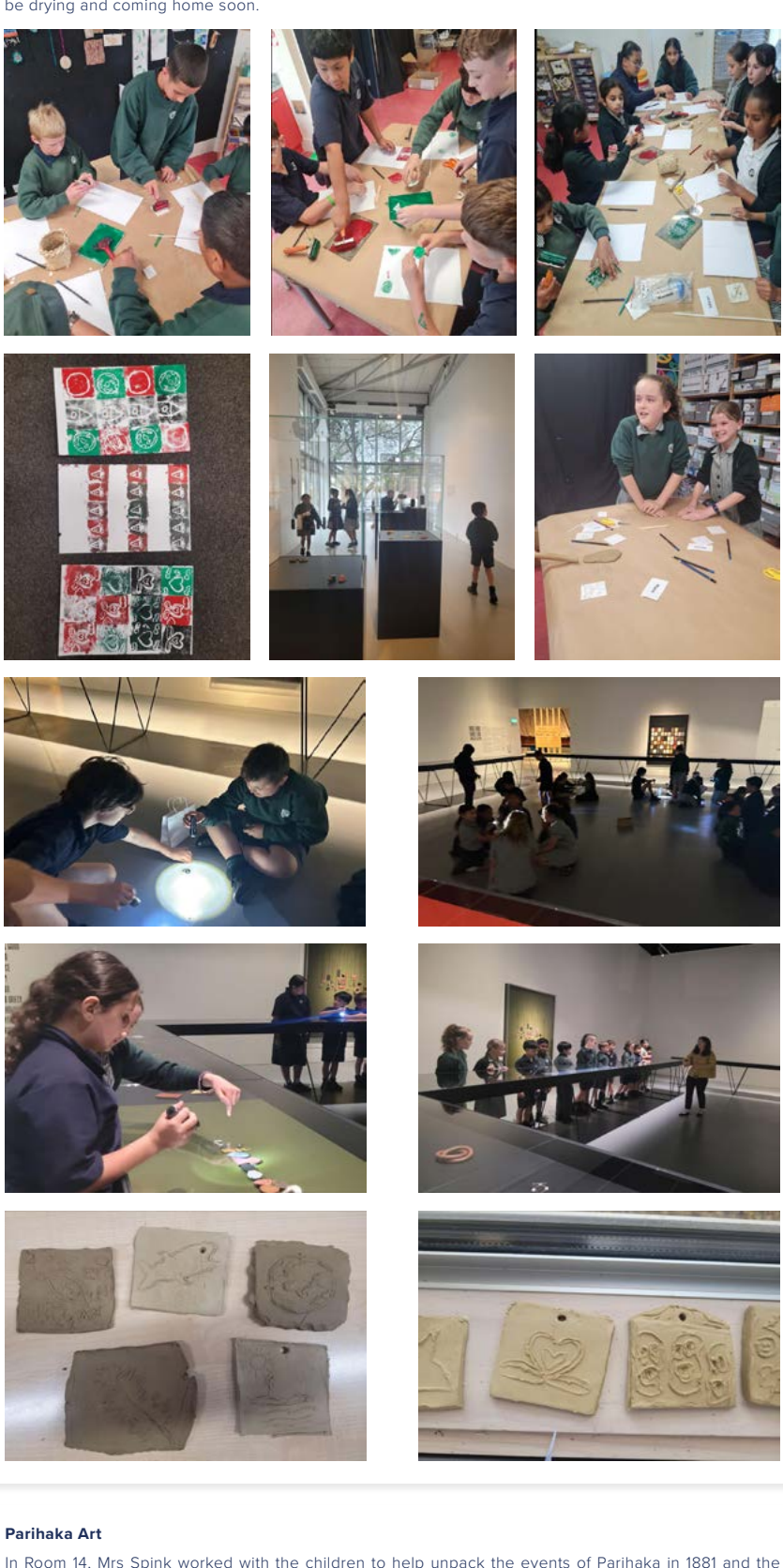
PŌHUTUKAWA

Art

Last week, Pohutukawa Area classes had an inspiring trip to the Dowse Art Museum in Lower Hutt. During the visit, each class had the privilege of exploring the exhibition Hook Hand Heart Star by renowned Aotearoa jeweller and artist Warwick Freeman. Here they learned how artists use symbolism to express ideas, convey emotions, and tell powerful visual stories.

After the exhibition, the children went to the art classroom for an interactive session led by The Dowse's skilled art teacher. The children created and etched a symbol that held significance for them onto a piece of polystyrene. They subsequently made a clay tile featuring their symbol pressed into it, after which they employed a basic ink printing method to explore the repetition and design of their symbol.

Be sure to ask your child about the special symbol they chose for their clay tile. The finished pieces will be drying and coming home soon.



Parihaka Art

In Room 14, Mrs Spink worked with the children to help unpack the events of Parihaka in 1881 and the legacy of Tohu Kākahi and Te Whiti-o-Rongomai, using visual storytelling.

Through their artwork, they looked beyond historical facts to explore the powerful symbols at the heart of the Parihaka story.

Using soft pastels to create shading and depth, each piece reflects not only an understanding of what took place but also how symbols can carry messages of hope, resilience, and rangimārie (peace) across generations.

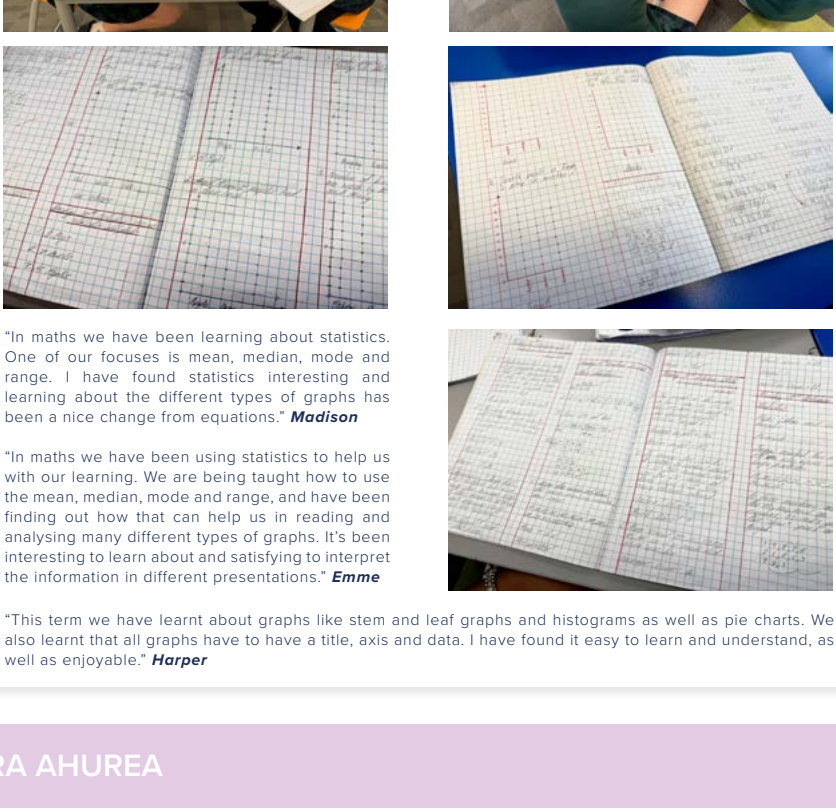


RĀTĀ

Mathematics - Statistics

Students in Rātā have been introduced to a variety of models to represent data. These have included tables and graphical representations of data sets such as stem and leaf graphs, dot plots, and histograms. Complementing this work, we have also been learning how to identify and calculate the average (mean), median, mode and range.

We are now looking at probability and chance theory. This work has a focus on using probability scales and calculating the relative frequency of an event.



"In maths we have been learning about statistics. One of our focuses is mean, median, mode and range. I have found statistics interesting and learning about the different types of graphs has been a nice change from equations." ***Madison***

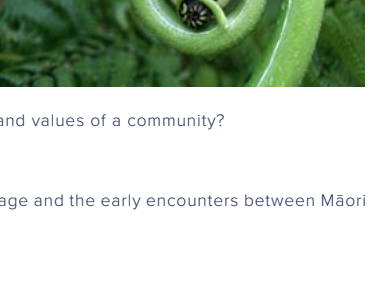
"In maths we have been using statistics to help us with our learning. We are being taught how to use the mean, median, mode and range, and have been finding out how that can help us in reading and analysing many different types of graphs. It's been interesting to learn about and satisfying to interpret the information in different presentations." ***Emme***

"This term we have learnt about graphs like stem and leaf graphs and histograms as well as pie charts. We also learnt that all graphs have to have a title, axis and data. I have found it easy to learn and understand, as well as enjoyable." ***Harper***

KURA AHUREA

Discover Our Local Māori Heritage!

In Māori culture, the koru is inspired by the young, unfurling frond of a fern. Its spiral shape is often associated with growth, new beginnings, hope and renewal.



Just as a fern gradually unfolds, we too grow through learning, practice and new experiences. The koru reminds us that growth takes time and every small step matters.

This week, we encourage whānau to explore one of these special places in Lower Hutt:

1. Nuku Tewhatewha – The Dowse Art Museum

Discover a beautifully carved Māori pātaka (storehouse) and learn about its history and cultural significance.

45 Laings Road, Lower Hutt

Whānau question: What can carvings tell us about the history and values of a community?

2. Petone Settlers Museum - Te Whare Whakaaro o Pito-one

Explore the history of Pito-one and learn about local Māori heritage and the early encounters between Māori and European settlers.

The Esplanade, Petone

Whānau question: Who lived in Pito-one before European settlers arrived, and what can we learn about their history?

Your Whānau Challenge: Visit one of these places, discover an interesting fact about its Māori history, and share what you learned with your tamariki.

Every place has a story, and every story is an opportunity to learn, connect and grow.

Mā te ako ka tipu tōtou - Through learning, we grow.

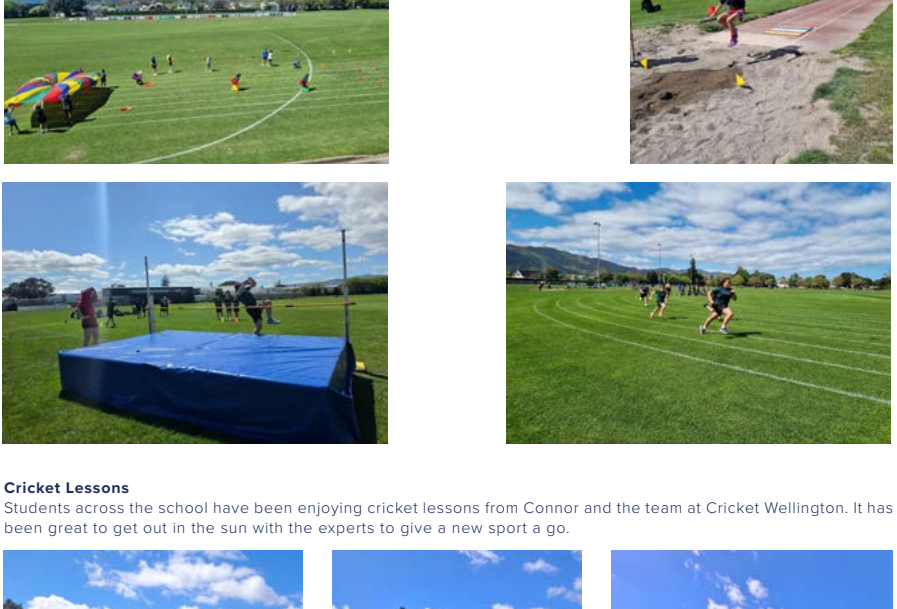
SPORTS NEWS

Athletics Day!

The sun was out, the spirits were high, and this year's School Athletics Day was an absolute triumph! A massive well done to every single student who poured their energy into running, jumping, and throwing their hearts out.

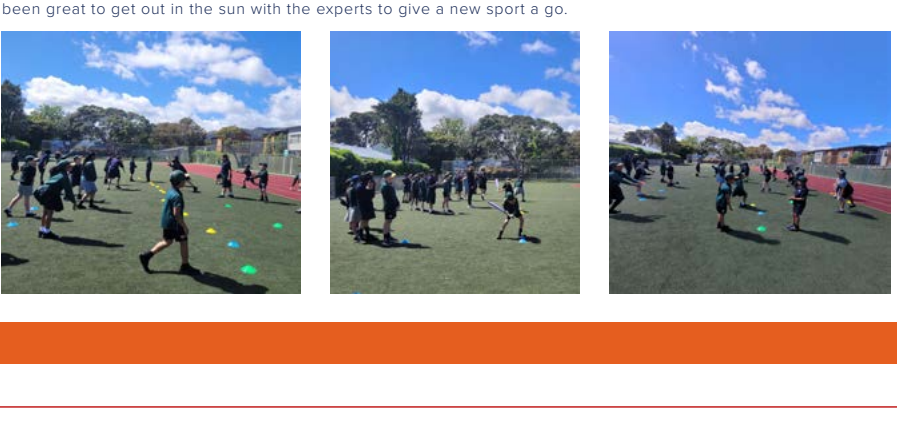
An extra-special shoutout goes to our fantastic parent helpers and the awesome volunteers from Sacred Heart College - we truly couldn't pull off events like this without you putting your hands on deck.

Finally, huge congratulations to all our athletes who earned a spot at Zone and Interzone! We're so proud of you and can't wait to cheer you on as you represent our school.



Cricket Lessons

Students across the school have been enjoying cricket lessons from Connor and the team at Cricket Wellington. It has been great to get out in the sun with the experts to give a new sport a go.



REMINDERS

School Uniform

Regulation School Uniform - Incorrect footwear and socks seem to be creeping back in again. Sneakers and trainers are not part of our school uniform and are only to be worn during PE or fitness. Black school shoes must be worn to and from school unless your teacher has been advised otherwise.

Navy school socks with green stripes or white socks are regulation socks. **No plain black socks or leggings.**

Please refer to the uniform regulation brochure if you are unsure of any uniform requirements.

Borrowed Uniform - If your child has borrowed uniform from the office, please ensure that it is washed and returned.

Our stock is now extremely low and we may not be able to lend out any more uniform. Extra underwear in your child's school bag, if needed, would also be most helpful.

Appointments During School Time

To minimise interruptions to classroom learning and reduce the load on our office staff, we kindly ask that families schedule medical or dental appointments outside of school hours, whenever possible.

We appreciate that this isn't always achievable and thank you for your support when it can be managed.

Attendance and Absences

Please notify the office by 9am if your child will be absent. We are still seeing a high volume of unnotified absences, which creates significant administrative work for our staff who must manually follow up on every child.

How to report an absence:

- **Parent Portal:** Log your absence directly via the School Parent Portal. (This is our preferred method).
- **Email:** Send details to absences@stpeterpaul.school.nz.
- **Phone:** Call the office at **04 569 5759** and leave a message on the absence line.

Note: If your child is late (arriving after the 8:50am bell), they must sign in at the office before heading to class so we can update the register.

Finance and Payments

When making payments to the school bank account, please include your **child's name** and the **purpose of the payment** as a reference.

Assistance: If you have questions regarding your account or wish to discuss payment options, please reach out to our office team in confidence.

Signing Out During School Hours

For the safety and accountability of all students, any child leaving the school grounds between 8:50am and 2:50pm must be signed out.

1. **Visit the Office:** Parents/caregivers must come to the front office first.
2. **Vistab Tablet:** Use the electronic tablet to sign your child out.
3. **Collection:** Once signed out, your child will be called to the office to meet you.

Ezlunch (via Kindo)

Healthy, delicious school lunches are available for delivery to the school.

- **Availability:** Orders are available on Thursday and Friday each week.
- **How to Order:** All orders and payments are handled through **Kindo**.
- **Cut-off Time:** Please ensure orders are placed by **9am** on the day of delivery.

Click here to log in or create your Kindo account. View the Ss Peter and Paul menu here.

Thank you for helping keep our school running smoothly and our tamariki safe!

COMMUNITY NEWS

BNZ Kiwi Hoops After School Sessions are coming to Central Lower Hutt (run at Eastern Hutt School) this November! We're bringing more basketball to the community, giving tamariki in Yrs 3-8 the chance to develop their skills, build confidence, make friends and, most importantly, HAVE FUN!

Wednesdays, 3:30pm - 5pm, starting Wednesday 11 November, finishing Wednesday 16 December. $40 per child.

For more information and to register your child, click here.



