# Nikau's Term 4 Newsletter

Welcome to Term 4, we have an exciting term ahead.

It is incredible that we are already in Term 4. The year has flown by with all the exciting and sometimes challenging learning opportunities our Nikau students have had.

With Term 4 becoming hotter, sun hats are needed. If your child has not got a sunhat they can be purchased from the uniform shop.

*Dates to remember for Nikau students:*

**Week 3, Labour Day**
Monday 26th October

Labour Day - This is a non-school day.

**Week 4, Year 1 - 3 Athletics**
Friday 6th November

Year 1-3 Athletics Afternoon starting at 1:45pm

**Week 5, Staglands Trips**
Thursday 12th November - Rooms 7, 11 and 12 students from Room 9
Friday 13th November - Rooms 10, 8 and 11 students from Room 9

We would greatly appreciate parent help for our upcoming trip. If you are able to help please fill out the parent help form https://forms.gle/kgYQAGPPkyMhjCRZA. Room 9 will be split over the two days. If your child is from room 9 let us know the dates you are available and I can arrange the children to match parent helpers. This will be a non-uniform day.

**Week 9, McKenzie Baths**
Monday 7th December

We have our annual day out at McKenzie Baths. The children will be walking down to the pools and returning to school by bus. If you are able to help with the walk down and supervision at the pool please fill in the parent help form https://forms.gle/2dDEk7akVTij84u76. This will also be a non-uniform day.

**Week 9, Kowhai Nativity, Sing-a-long carols and Fish and Chips**
Thursday 10th December

1:45pm Kowhai Nativity
3:00pm Nikau Sing-a-long Carols
4:00pm Fish and Chip Supper

# Our learning this term

**Literacy - Writing**
We are continuing creative writing, using branching narratives to explore narrative structure and alternative endings with figurative language. To finish the year, students will learn letter writing structure and effective ways to communicate their experiences.

**Literacy - Reading**
The children will continue to participate in daily teaching of reading strategies. Exploring texts which support their understanding of new vocabulary, sentence structures, text structure, conventions of print and comprehension skills. The students have the opportunity to learn about different genres, styles and concepts.

**Literacy - Spelling / Handwriting**
We are continuing to learn spelling patterns through weekly lessons. As the students develop their proficiency in spelling it supports their learning in reading and writing lessons.

**Mathematics**
Continuing on with our mathematics learning our students are building on their foundation skills they have learnt over the year. The first concept will be exploring rational numbers through fractions of sets. We will then move into exploring financial maths, finishing our year with our unit on coordinates and pathways.

As a part of our learning of financial maths we are planning a small Nikau fair event where the children can apply their money skills through hands-on mini fair activities. We kindly ask families to look through their children's books and toys and consider donating any pre-loved items that are still in good, usable condition. These will be displayed at our fair with price tags, and students will receive a set amount of play money to spend. There will also be fun game booths for everyone to enjoy!

Any books or toys remaining after the fair will be donated, giving them a new home while teaching our tamariki about money management, making choices, and the value of giving and reusing.
They may start bringing their pre-loved items on November 2nd, the last day they can bring them will be on November 20th.

**Fitness and Physical Education**
Fitness and P.E is an important part of our daily learning. Being active helps us to explore new skills and increase our focus. Over the term we will be learning games and techniques through net, wall, striking and fielding.

**Religious Education**
This term our students will be unpacking the theme of Church with the focus of ‘My Spiritual Journey, where am I going?’ The children will explore how the sacraments help in our hīkoi. By the end of the learning, the children will understand what a Sacrament is, their meaning, rituals, symbols and purpose. They will also explore how Sacraments connect to Jesus’ life and deepen our relationship with God.

**Inquiry**
We are beginning our term learning about Staglands and the environmental impact we can make in our communities. A part of our learning will be building a 3D sanctuary model featuring bush canopies, freshwater ecosystems, safe nesting habitats and protective perimeter fencing. If you have any recyclable materials at home that we can use such as:

- Cardboard boxes
- Bubble wrap
- Plastic bottles
- Clean milk cartons
- Thin wire mesh
- Milk bottle lids

This can start to come to school from the beginning of November.

## Learning at home

Nikau students are expected to engage with books for at least 30 minutes a day at home. We want to encourage a love of reading. This can be school reading books, library books or books that you have at home. Encourage an enjoyment of reading by reading to your child or listening to them read to you. Talk about the books you are reading or ask your child about their favourite characters, the story line, the funniest moment etc…

If English is your child's second language, research shows that having a strong foundation in a first language makes acquiring a second easier. So speak in your first language! You are the best model for your child to develop strong vocabulary, proper grammar, and natural communication skills.

Other ideas to support your child at home:

- Talk with your child and have rich and meaningful conversations.
- Play games such as cards or board games to support your child's maths learning.
- Encourage outdoor and adventurous play to help develop your child's gross motor skills
- Help your child manage themselves so they can look after their belongings and become independent learners.

If you would like more information about understanding your child's learning, feel free to look through the ministry resource of the parent portal. It provides guidance of what to expect with your child's learning each year and how you can support your child at home.

https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal

## Sharing of learning

**Week 9, Reports**
Friday 11th December
School reports will be coming home with your child to share with you.

# Reminders

**Reducing Rubbish at School**
To support our school value of stewardship, Nikau is finding ways to reduce rubbish at school. One way we would like help is finding ways to bring less plastic wrapping in our lunchboxes. Consider what food items don't need to be wrapped or could use reusable containers to keep food in. It would be great to ask your child about ways they can reduce waste too.

**Toys**
To help ensure personal belongings stay safe, we ask that toys remain at home. This helps prevent the loss or damage of precious items and reduces disputes during play times.

**Naming Uniforms**
We have a steady supply of lost uniform items accumulating in the lost property box and in Nikau. Please ensure that all of your child's uniform items are clearly named so that we can return them promptly if they are misplaced.

# Contact information

Please chat with your child's classroom teacher if you require any clarification around school related concerns. You can either pop in to make an appointment or contact the classroom teacher through admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz or nikaual@stpeterpaul.school.nz

# Guiding our students

When a conflict situation arises teachers use the structure of restorative conversations. Teachers lead the students through the process of:

- Tell the story (what happened?)
- Listen to all perspectives (Who has been affected and how?)
- Repair the harm (what do we need to do to put things right?)
- Move Forward (How can we make sure this doesn't happen again?)

Teachers will at times make direct contact with parents and caregivers where it is necessary to discuss ways in which we can work together on supporting their child.

An important way you can support this work is if your child comes home upset about a conflict, please ask them if they have raised it with a teacher so teachers can follow up immediately.

Sometimes, children find it difficult to consider a viewpoint other than their own. Encouraging your child to share all parts of the story will help them to be responsible for their choices and understand there are always events that lead up to the conflict. Teachers spend the time to unpack and investigate the bigger picture; this enables us to understand and help find resolutions with all who are involved.

Ngā Mihi
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