PUKETAPU SCHOOL

Manaakitanga Whanaungatanga Rangatiritanga

Paraire 6 Noema / Friday 6 November Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Pupils, and the Puketapu Community. Tēnā koutou ngā mātua o te kura.

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua - Finishing Strong, Preparing Well.

We are already four weeks into the term, which means our end-of-year assessment window is well underway. Our Year 3 to 8 students are currently working through the SMART testing tool, and our teachers are drawing on these results alongside PAT data, classroom assessments, and daily work. Together, these measures give us a complete, accurate picture of each student's progress and achievement, which will be reflected in their end-of-year reports.

Looking back at our Term 3 attendance, our overall percentage dipped below last year's figures for the first time in 2026. Heavy winter illnesses played a major part in this drop, but other factors also contributed. Alongside family holidays, we noticed a rise in unjustified absences. These occur when you let us know a student will be away, but the reason falls outside official guidelines, such as long weekends, birthday days off, or casual family visits. We understand life gets busy, but every school day counts. Please help us keep learning a priority by reserving absences for illness or truly unavoidable situations.

On another note, I am delighted to share that our Board and Parent League are partnering to develop a safer, more practical footpath along the front of our school. Many of you know the frustration of the current layout, which stops halfway along the road, remains uneven, and leaves very little room for safe walking or parking. We are finalising a design that will extend safe access all the way to our main gate. This vital upgrade is only possible thanks to the hardworking Parent League and the incredible fundraising support from our community.

The end of term will approach quickly, so please keep checking the weekly reminders and newsletter for key dates and upcoming events.

Nga mihi,

Sam Hocking

Nai Mai Haere Mai

A very warm welcome to all the new students and families who have recently joined our school community. We are so excited to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you and your whānau.

ROOM 4A
CHARLI, AUBREY, COLTON, SPENCER, AVA

PPP Iceblock draw winners!



Dates to Remember Term 4



NOEMA - NOVEMBER

Thursday 12th - School Athletics Year 3-8
Thursday 19th - Year 4 Camp
Tuesday 24th - Interschool Athletics

TĪHEMA - DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st - Kapa Haka Presentations
Wednesday 2nd - Sports Assembly 1.30pm
Monday 7th - BoT Meeting
Tuesday 8th - Prize Giving
Wednesday 9th - Prize giving postponement
Thursday 10th - Year 7 and 8 Breakup Evening
Friday 11th - Reports go home today
Tuesday 11th - Leavers assembly and final day of school finishing at 12.30pm

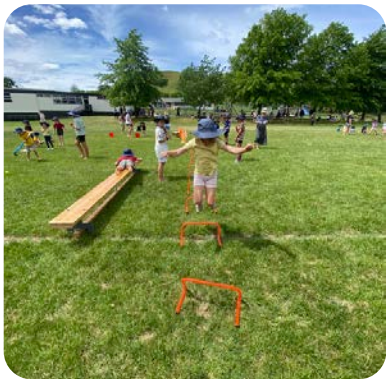
Term 1 2027 - Monday 1st of February

Junior Tabloid Sports

What a fantastic day for our Tabloid Sports Afternoon!
A huge thank you to all the parents and whānau who came along to cheer from the sidelines. A special thanks to our HQ students who did an amazing job encouraging and supporting our juniors throughout the afternoon.






Book Character Day



Whole school PPP reward day!

What a wonderful way to celebrate our students hard work and positive behavior! Our students wore their favorite pajamas for our Whole-School Reward Day and enjoyed lots of activities together.

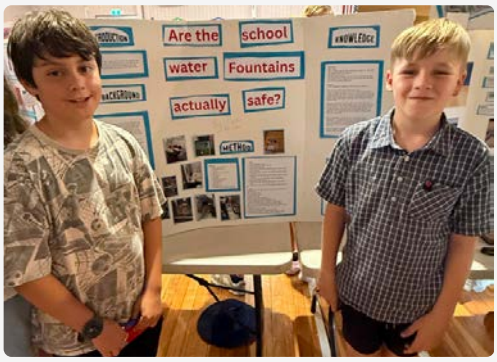






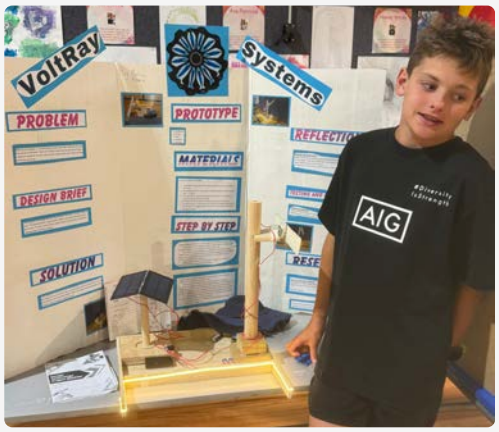

Year 7 and 8 Science Fair

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 students for their outstanding mahi on their science fair projects! Over the past few weeks they have poured incredible effort and creativity into their projects.













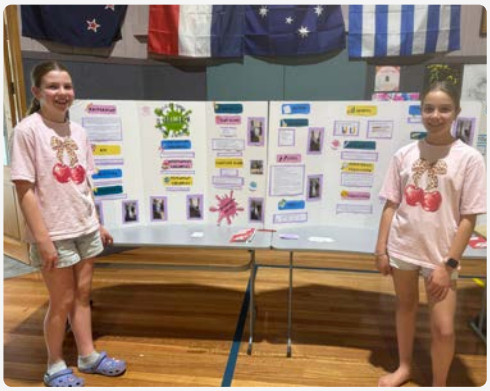


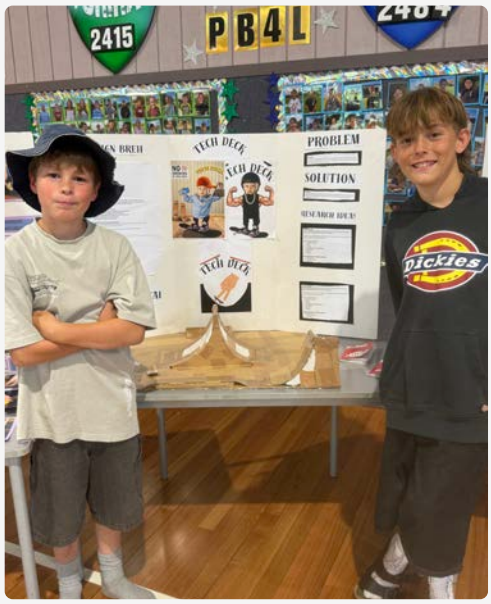
















PET AND PETALS DAY 2026
























FAREWELL MR HARVEY R8 & MATUA PEYTON HQ1

We farewell our wonderful student teachers today. Connor and Peyton finished their 3-week placement with us. We have loved having them in our classrooms and they will both be missed we wish them every success in their teaching journeys.





Tennis Finals

Our tennis final was held yesterday and it was a tense time indeed, partly due to the fact it was sibling vs sibling with Nikos vs Olivia! The ultimate winner was Nikos and Olivia was gracious in defeat and was very happy for her brother.









Road Patrol & Bus Moniters

Our Year 7 students are trained and ready to keep our students safe in 2027!
Thank you Officer Ken Hunt for training our road patrol and bus monitors for next year.









Staff v Students Netball Round 2!

The Students vs. Teachers netball showdown lived up to the hype! The students brought energy and speed. However the teachers used their experience, sharp passing and cool heads under pressure to secure a 13 - 8 victory. Well done everyone and bring on next years game.









BETTER NATURE
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

3November 2026

PEST CONTROL OPERATIONS – 9 NOVEMBER 2026 TO 8 NOVEMBER 2027

We wish to advise that Better Nature Ltd will be carrying out a series of ground-based pest control operations in the Rissington area between the above dates to target possums. The work will be carried out under contract to TBfree New Zealand.

OSPRI manages the TBfree programme which aims to control and eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand. Wild animals, mainly possums, are both the main carriers (vectors) of bovine TB and source of the disease. It is important that we keep their numbers low, as we work towards eradicating TB from New Zealand over the long term.

All landowners are contacted by Better Nature and permission of entry is obtained before any work commences on their properties. Landholders are able to prescribe the control methods to be used on their property.

Methods of control may include:

- Trapping (kill traps or leghold traps) with a non-toxic scented flour blaze to attract possums. Kill traps
- are used in areas where it is inappropriate to use toxins, such as near houses or schools.
- Encapsulated cyanide pellets (Feratox) in bait stations and/or blue paper bait bags fixed to trees or
- similar objects in possum habitat.
  Brodifacoum pellets (Pestoff) in bait stations.
  Diphacinone pellets (Pestoff 50D/Ratabate) in bait stations and/or Ratabate strikers.

All toxic baits are dyed green.

Warning signs will be displayed at all access points into the operational area when work is in progress and will remain in place until toxin caution periods have expired.

Risk to humans: All baits are poison and are harmful to humans, especially young children. Do not allow children to wander unsupervised into areas which have baits laid in them.

There is a risk to roaming dogs if possums or rats tip bait out of a bait station or rip a Feratox bag and the bait falls to the ground. There is also a risk if dogs lick around the mouth of a dead possum. Care needs to be taken to prevent them roaming or scavenging when and where possum control is going on.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us should you have any questions about our work.

Other possum contractors may be carrying out similar work in the region.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Brenstrum
General Manager

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