



St Peter's College Newsletter - 20th February 2026

Coming up:

- DOE Bronze - Friday 20th and Saturday 21st
- Wanaka Challenge - Friday 20th
- Gateway First Aid Course - Thursday 26th and Friday 27th
- Board Meeting - Thursday 26th

March

- Work Day - Monday 2nd
- Year 12 PE Surf Camp - Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th
- Eastern Primary Athletics - Wednesday 4th
- Otago Uni Liaison visits 12pm - 3:15pm - Wednesday 4th
- Southland Secondary Schools Athletics Championships - Saturday 14th
- School Ball - Friday 20th
- Year 12 Biology Trip to Grant's Bush - Monday 23rd
- Southland Secondary Schools Golf Championships - Monday 23rd
- Southland Secondary Schools Bowls Championships - Friday 27th
- Ms Scorgie's 50 Year Teaching at SPC celebration - Saturday 28th
- South Island Secondary School's XC Motorcross - Saturday 28th
- Vietnam Trip - Saturday 29th March - Saturday 11th April.
- Senior Quad Tournament - Tuesday 31st

April

- Last Day of Term One - Thursday 2nd
- Term two starts - Monday 20th

Principal's Comment

Kieran Udy — February 17th, 2026

Kia ora e te whānau

The past fortnight has been very busy at the College with a wide range of activities and events taking place. I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers who make these opportunities possible and ensure that our students can experience a holistic education. These opportunities

are examples of living out our school values of commitment, compassion and community.

We were fortunate this year for our Opening Mass to be joined by Bishop Michael and also Fr Aidan Cunningham who was on staff here when the Rosminian Fathers were teaching at the College. In his homily Bishop Michael reminded us of the legacy of the Mercy Sisters and Rosminian Fathers and the charisms or spirit that underpinned their work. The Mercy Sisters very much striving for social justice, quality education and equal opportunities for all. The Rosminian's very much guided by the concept of a holistic education in conscience, academics and faith. We are also very fortunate to still have the support of Fr Sani Lam as the College chaplain, who is an active and visible presence around the school.

Ash Wednesday marked the start of the Lenten season, a time of preparation for Easter. Our senior students led the College in a reflective liturgy that reminded us of this time being one of preparation and renewal. During Lent we are all encouraged to undertake either almsgiving (donating to charity etc), additional prayer or fasting (giving something up). These three practices have a long tradition within Christianity and date back to the early Christians, and even beyond that back to the origins of Judaism. All three are designed to assist us to focus on what is most important and to reduce distractions and things that take us away from God.

Athletics Day was another great event and those students who did attend seemed to have enjoyed the day. We were fortunate that the weather played its part, and it was great to see the senior students encouraging all members of their respective houses to participate. These community days are a vital part of the culture of any school, and attendance at them is important. I would encourage all students to attend these days unless they are sick or have another legitimate reason to not be at school such as a funeral or appointment.

The celebration of Ms Scorgie's 50 years of teaching at St Peter's College is moving closer and I would encourage you to purchase a ticket from the school finance office if you are wanting to attend the event. The celebration will be on Saturday 28th of March at the Croydon Lodge starting at 5:30pm. Ms Scorgie has certainly demonstrated our school's value of commitment to a level that so few of us could ever match.

I also need to draw to your attention that if you want to collect your child early for an appointment or some other reason, please contact the school office ahead of time, send a signed note with your child or alternatively come into the school office to notify them. We cannot let students sign out without being notified by the parent/caregiver either with a phone call, text message, email, signed note or coming in person to notify the office. This helps to ensure that we keep your children safe while they are in our care.

Charity fulfills the law

Hole in one fundraiser \$3000 prize



PTFA Ball Drop Fundraiser

Families, keep an eye out for your raffle tickets coming home!

\$10 per ball

Prize: \$3000

This is a PTFA fundraiser to support the upgrade of the Susan Horrell Courts.

Thank you to High Country Helicopters for supporting us again.



On Monday, we celebrated our school's Open Mass, a special and meaningful way to come together as a community at the beginning of the year. We were honoured to have Father Sani, Bishop Michael Dooley, and Father Cunningham join us in celebration. The sermon focused on the Beatitudes and their relevance to young people living out their faith in today's Catholic world, while also reflecting on our Rosmini and Mercy charisms.

Gallery



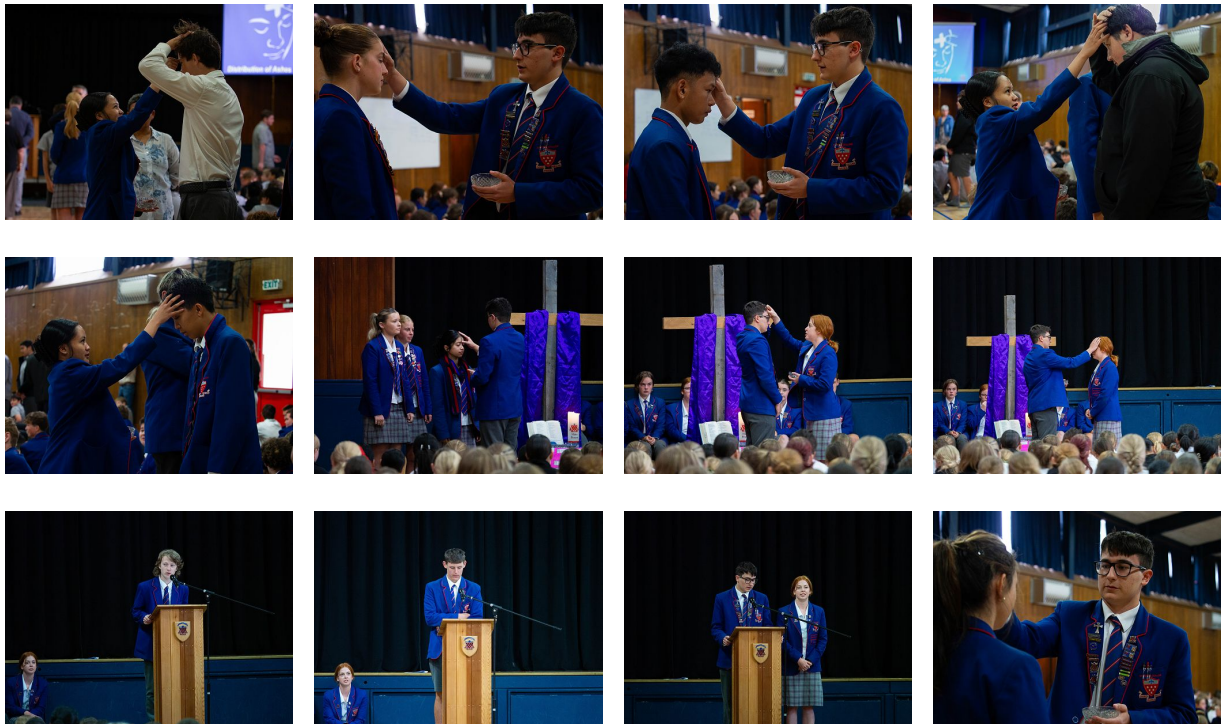


Ash Wednesday

SPC — February 20th, 2026

We came together for our Ash Wednesday liturgy, marking the beginning of Lent. This is a significant time in the Catholic calendar. During the liturgy, students and staff received ashes as a symbol of humility and a reminder to live with kindness, compassion, and faith.

Gallery





Sacramental Programme 2026

Brendan Terry — February 18th, 2026

As a Catholic school, we believe that the sacraments are an important part of our students' spiritual growth and development. In partnership with St Mary's and the Gore Parish we are offering the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion to students.

If you would like to know more about the programme, please contact our Director of Religious Studies Mr Brendan Terry at brendanterry@stpetersgore.school.nz.



Be Still, Adore, Rejoice...

Bridget Ryan — February 18th, 2026

... these are the words of invitation above the door of our beautiful Chapel. All are welcome to join in the silent, prayerful adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Peter's every Friday morning between 8.20am and 8.40am. There's nothing required of you; just feel free to drop in

and spend some quiet time with Jesus before the busyness of the day gets underway. This could be the meaningful prayer time that you have been looking for this Lent!



Year 13 Retreat

Year 13 — February 18th, 2026

On Wednesday, February 4th, we had our Year 13 Retreat. We started the day with prayer, which was fitting, because the fact the whole Year 13 cohort managed to be there on time was a miracle. Then us Head Students, shared our visions of the year, speeches which embraced the three values of community, commitment and compassion as well as emphasising the importance of working together as a group to make St Peter's the best place for everyone, not just the Year 13's.

A key part of the day is when we brainstormed how we want to leave our mark on St Peter's as a year group, and despite many differing ideas they all came down to one thing, not huge one-off gestures but consistent daily actions and attitudes.

We learned about MBTI personality types. It explained a lot, why some of us make colour-coded plans, some go off vibes alone and some volunteer before they even know what they are volunteering for. But it also showed something important, leadership isn't one-dimensional. The loud leaders, the quiet encouragers, the planners and the chaos all need each other.

My favourite part of the day was writing notes of affirmation for each other, sometimes it's just simple words of kindness that make you remember how special everyone is to you, no matter how small their role has been in shaping you as a person. Sometimes we don't say the things we think about each other, in a world so fast. Sometimes we just need to slow down and look at the people around us. That was the real reward of the day. Not just plans for the year but understanding of the people who we'll lead alongside.

As we begin our final year, we hope to contribute to a culture where students feel known, valued, and confident in who they are. Our leadership will not come from any one person, but from choosing, each day, to support one another and serve the wider St Peter's community.

Big shout out to everyone who made this wonderful Year 13 retreat possible, especially Mr Terry, and the brilliant Year 13 cohort we have!

Gallery



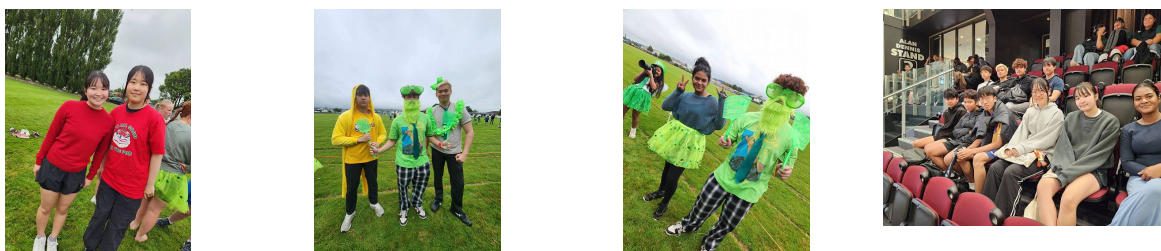
International Student's News

Nikki Cunningham — February 19th, 2026

It has certainly been a sport filled week for the International students, with SPC athletics on Tuesday and International sports day in Invercargill on Wednesday. The students were joined by International students from all around Southland to try new sports and make new friends.

Special shout out to Sasmitha (Sri Lanka) for being awarded the Indoor Cricket prize for energy, enthusiasm and commitment.

Gallery





SPC Athletics Day

Rebecca Chittock — February 19th, 2026

We had a fantastic SPC athletics day, here are some photos. Results will be announced at assembly next week and will also be shared in the next newsletter.

Gallery



Southland Secondary Schools Triathlon

Rebecca Chittock — February 18th, 2026

The Southland Secondary Schools Triathlon was held on Friday in Winton. Congratulations to Charlotte McVicar, who took out the gold medal in the Girls U19 individual race, a super effort!

Shout out to Preston Byars, who also competed in the Year 8 Boys Individual Triathlon, showing determination to cross the finish line despite feeling unwell. Well done, Preston.

Gallery



Uniform

Wendy Blythe — February 19th, 2026

Next week will be the final opportunity to place a jersey order for this round, so please make sure your order is in before the deadline.

A friendly reminder to please return all kilt order forms as soon as possible. Thank you.

CANTEEN MENU			
Hot Food		Snacks	
Hot Chips GF	\$5.00	Muffin	\$4.50
Hot Dog GFA	\$4.80	Cake/Slice GFA	\$5.00
Fish GFA	\$7.10	Fruit	\$POA
Plain Sausage GF	\$4.90	Potato Crisps	\$2.80
Deep Fried Cheese Roll	\$4.00	Chocolate Bar	\$3.20
Steak & Onion Roll	\$5.90	Ice-Creams	
Curry Roll	\$5.90	Magnum	\$5.00
Spring Roll	\$5.90	Ice Cream Tub	\$4.50
6 Chicken Nuggets & Chips	\$11.00	Cookie Crumb	\$3.60
Chicken schnitzel	\$6.00	Paddle Pop	\$2.50
Chocolate Donut	\$3.00	Calippo	\$3.40
Donut	\$3.00	Drinks	
Jam Wrap	\$4.20	Smoothie	\$4.70
Pork Riblet	\$5.00	Pump	\$4.50
Chicken Burger (chicken schnitzel, sweet n sour sauce)	\$8.00	Mozz	\$4.50
Cheese Burger (beef patty, cheese and Tsauce)	\$7.50	Cool Change Juice	\$4.00
Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$5.00	Powerade	\$4.50
Lazanga Topper	\$5.00	Flavored Milk	\$3.00
Mini Pizza	\$5.00	Iced Coffee	\$4.50
Pie - Mince or Mince and cheese	\$5.00	Interval snacks will be available. Please ensure lunch is pre-ordered during interval.	
Sausage Roll	\$5.00		
Mouse Trap (ham, cheese, pineapple and relish)	\$4.00		
Sandwich (ham, cheese, pineapple, carrot, honey mustard sauce)	\$9.00		

Canteen

Opens next week, Monday to Friday. Intervals and lunchtimes.

There will be window specials.



Are You Interested in a Volcanoes Tour?

Jacqui Thompson — February 19th, 2026

Mrs Thompson is collaborating with Otago Boys' High School to offer a science trip to the North Island to study volcanoes. Earth & Space Science is the fourth branch of science that unfortunately we do not have the capacity to offer at a senior level at St Peter's College.

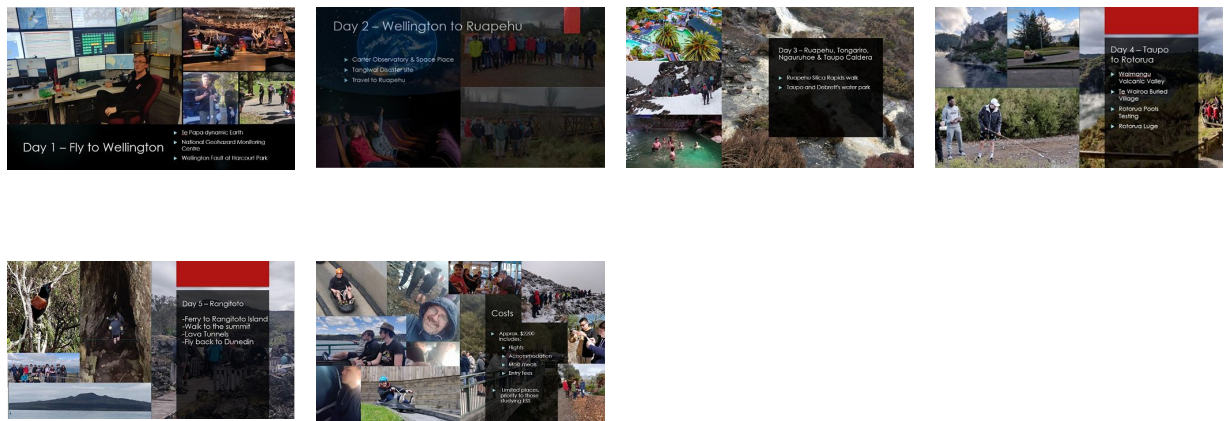
The trip is run by a company called Learning Journeys whose founder is an experienced science teacher with expertise in geology. The students get to meet and talk with GNS experts and go out into the field and carry out experiments as well as visit a range of volcanic sites around the North Island and learn about their formation.

This is a fabulous, action-packed trip that for anyone with a personal interest in Aotearoa's unique landscape or a taster for anyone who may be thinking about studying geology at university.

Mrs Thompson needs expressions of interest to her by Monday 23rd February (Teams message or e-mail) and a deposit of \$350 to be paid to Otago Boys' High School by Friday 27th February to secure a spot. (Bank details will be sent through after expressions of interest are received.

This is the weekend AFTER King's Birthday weekend.

Gallery



Ms Scorgie

Celebrating a
Golden Milestone
50 years
of dedication, teaching and
service at St Peter's College

SATURDAY 4:00 PM | **28** | MARCH 2026

CROYDON LODGE
\$60 - MEAL ONLY

Tickets for sale until 20th March 2026
from the Accounts office at St Peter's
College or email Lisamarie
lisamarieharvey@stpetersgore.school.nz

LETTING US KNOW

Please let the school know if your child is going to be late, has an appointment, needs to leave early, or will be absent, along with the reason. This allows us to correctly record attendance in line with the Ministry of Education guidelines and is also important for health and safety.

You can contact the school in the following ways:
Kamar - Absence Report (please complete all required boxes)
School App - Absentee
Phone - Ring and/or leave us a message 208 9060
Text or call - 021 037 4924

If your child needs to leave school for an appointment and we have not heard from you, we are unable to let them leave until we have spoken with a parent or caregiver. Students must also sign in if they arrive late, sign out if leaving during the day, and sign back in when they return. This helps us maintain accurate records and keep all students safe.

Amy-Rae Rooijackers — February 4th, 2026



Kamar School Accounts and Payments

Paula Roberston — February 3rd, 2026

The school board has recently adopted a new procedure for 2026 around the management of outstanding school accounts.

All uniform and sport are goods and services already paid for by the school, and as such are chargeable and recoverable items that we require prompt payment for. If you have uniform or sport on your account from 2025, please ensure this is paid immediately. Kamar requests for payment will be emailed out very soon before any 2026 subject donations are added.

The new procedure means that from this term all accounts will be monitored very closely and if you have retrospective unpaid sport and uniform on your account you can expect to be contacted in regard to outstanding debt.

For future charges to school accounts, we will be following the new procedures outlined.

If you have genuine financial hardship, please contact me on the below email address to put a plan in place around this.

The school's bank account details are as follows:

St Peter's College Board

12 3434 0012635 000

Reference: Your child's name

If there is a specific item you would like to pay for, please also use this in the reference. Otherwise, we will allocate the payment at our discretion. If you have more than one child you are paying for, we encourage you to have separate payments for each child to ensure correct payment allocation. Please also update any existing automatic payment references with the correct reference details, particularly if one child has now left school.

Thank you

Paula Robertson

Business Manager

execofficer@stpetersgore.school.nz



SPC — February 20th, 2026

We kindly ask that dogs are kept off our school field. Our students regularly use this space for sports and activities, and it is unpleasant when they come into contact with dog waste. We appreciate your support in helping us keep our field clean and enjoyable for our students.



A hard hitting, eye-opening evening for parents

Presented by
ROB COPE
Presenter. Film Maker. Speaker



This powerful in-person presentation equips parents with practical tools and critical insights to help keep children safe in an increasingly digital world

WHAT WILL BE COVERED?
ONLINE RISKS & REALITIES

- Cyber Bullying
- Social Media & Mental Health
- Gaming & the Developing Brain
- Online Predators
- Selfies
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Porn vs Healthy Sexuality

Monday 16th March
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Buy tickets through
www.eventfinda.co.nz
\$22.00 pp

Maruawai College Hall
Gore

A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY EVENT WITH:
Maruwai College. Blue Mountain College.
Menzies College. St Peters College

COME INFORMED...LEAVE EMPOWERED

DRIVER COACH
Helping you support your teen driver

Online Event



ONLINE -
Free teaching your teenager to drive parent evening

Kia Ora Bridget

We're excited to invite your community to our **FREE online event** happening on **26th February, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm (NZDT)**. But we need your support in helping us spread the word. Would you be able to please share these details with your school Facebook page and newsletter. If you happen to know anyone else that might benefit from this course we would really love for you to also let them know.

Your community will learn how to:

- Unlock the Mysteries of the Teenage Brain: What Makes Driving a Challenge?
- Decode Risk Factors for Young Drivers
- Learn the art of Coaching a Learner Driver
- Help you support the transition to solo driving
- Set a plan for collaborating with Driving Instructors
- And much more.

Could you share the event details on your social media channels or parent communication platforms?

Even a quick post could make a big difference, helping us reach more families and ensuring this opportunity benefits as many as possible.

[Register for free now](#)