



St Peter's College Newsletter - 20th March 2026

Coming up:

March

- 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 — March 18th, 2026

Kia ora e te whānau

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the first term for 2026. I want to thank all those students who have applied themselves to their studies, worked well with others and lived out our school values of compassion, commitment and community this term. We are blessed as a college with the great students we have, and the reason our school exists is to help form these young people into the person that God has created them to be.

Our school community celebrated St Patrick's Day with a mufti day with the theme of dressing up in green. The life and example of St Patrick is one of service to others and forgiveness. Patrick forgave his captors, the Celts, and would return as a missionary to Ireland to spread the Gospel message. Our mufti day raised funds for St Vincent de Paul Society who do so much work to support the disadvantaged and vulnerable in our society.

Parents and whānau will be starting to receive feedback from teachers on how your child is progressing with their learning. Students from Year 10 – 13 will be receiving their ATL grades and comments, while Junior students will be receiving their ATL grades. Thank you to those parents of Year 7 & 8 students who have made the time to come in for the student led conferences for these students. The time commitment put in by their teachers to make this happen is greatly appreciated. Subject interviews are being held in term two on the 6th of May.

I need to draw your attention to an issue that has arisen around students coming to and leaving school. Our carpark area is rather busy and can get congested during pick up and drop

off times. Students need to use the designated paths next to the driveway to avoid the cars that are coming in and out of the main carpark on Robertson Street. I would also ask that parents who are picking up their children from Kakapo Street use the street parking where possible as this area can also get congested. The School Board will be looking into ways that we can improve the safety of both of these areas moving forward.

On Thursday 19th of March our school chaplain and parish priest Fr Sani joined us to bless the newly upgraded Science and Commerce classrooms as well as the new school van and the building programme site. This now completes the upgrade of the Science area, and the builders have now moved onto what was the hostel games room, admin and tv rooms. These will become classrooms with the games room becoming a Whare Ako for the school. This has come about after requests made at Whānau Māori hui for a dedicated space. The Hokonui Runanga and Mataura Marae have guided us through this process and has now gifted us a name for this space "Te Rangimarie" which roughly means peace. We thank the Catholic Diocese of Dunedin for the recent upgrades to our buildings and the ongoing plan of upgrading our site to better suit the needs of our community.

As we enter into the last week of Lent, a traditional time of examining ways that we can grow closer to God our focus moves towards Easter and the sacrifice of Jesus. Sadly, for many of us as we grow older the significance of this sacrifice sometimes fades with time. I would encourage all members of our community to take the time to give thanks to God for this great sacrifice. To reflect on the fact that Jesus died for each and everyone of us. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13).

Charity fulfills the law



Farm Visit for the International Students

Nikki Cunningham — March 19th, 2026

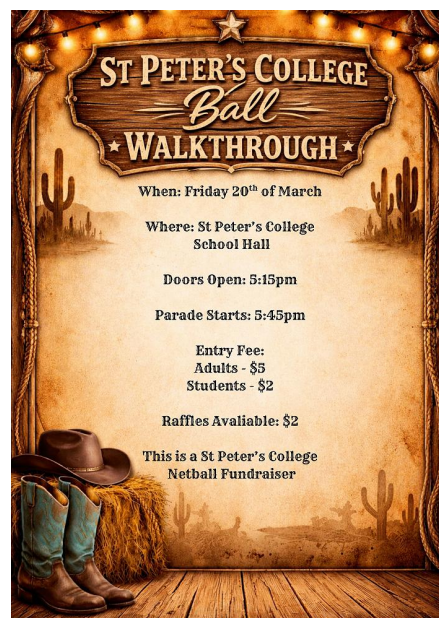
aking the most of the recent run of sunny weather, our international students headed out to the Perkins farm at Tuturau for a true Kiwi farm experience.

The students enjoyed watching sheep shearing, yard work, and dogs moving sheep—they even had a go at moving the sheep themselves! They also spent time feeding the animals and learning all about the many uses for wool. The day finished perfectly with an afternoon tea of pikelets and cheese rolls.

A huge thank you to Aaron and Lisa Jane Perkins for welcoming our students to your farm. These experiences are something they would never get in their home countries of Thailand, Sri

Lanka, and Japan, and the opportunity is very much appreciated.

Gallery





Uniform Orders and Payments

Paula Robertson — March 5th, 2026

Jerseys, Kilts and Blazers

These items need to be pre-ordered from the uniform shop. At the time of ordering, they will be added to your child's school account. Full payment will be required before the uniform is collected when it arrives. You are welcome to make smaller automatic payments between ordering and collection to ensure it is paid in full.

Weekly Uniform Shop Purchases

If your child requires uniform supplies at the times our Uniform Shop is open on a Thursday and they are wishing to purchase items, these will need to be paid for prior to taking them home.

Option 1 – please send your child with eftpos to pay at point of sale on the day. They will then be able to take the uniform home.

Option 2 – we will send a payment slip home with your child. The uniform will be held at school until the payment is received, either by bank transfer or eftpos. The uniform can then be collected.

If you have genuine financial hardship, please contact the Business Manager Paula Robertson on execofficer@stpetersgore.school.nz to arrange a payment plan or alternate arrangements.

The school's bank account details are as follows:

St Peter's College Board

12 3434 0012635 000

Reference: Your child's name, uniform

Uniform Information

Wendy Blythe — March 19th, 2026

Please ensure all winter uniform items are purchased before the current school term ends. The uniform shop will be closed during the school holidays.

Update on Kilts

We are currently awaiting a shipment of kilts, estimated to arrive in the second week of the holidays.

- If they arrive earlier, you will be notified immediately to arrange collection.
- If they are not here in time for the first day back term one, students can wear their summer skirt with the black tights, until they arrive.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

Update on School Jerseys

School jerseys are scheduled to arrive at the start of term two.

Payment & Collection

Please make sure the kilt and/or jersey are paid for before collection.



International Women's Day

Millie McFadzien — March 19th, 2026

On Tuesday 10 March, head girl, Eilish Greene, and I were fortunate to attend the International Women's Day dinner hosted by Soroptimists International, Gore. It was a great evening celebrating the lives of women. We heard from guest speaker, Annie Nelson who was named SI Gore Woman of the year for 2025. She had wise words for all of us and some great points on navigating this world as a woman and using our different, but still valuable strengths to help the world around us.

PLEASE REMEMBER

**These are Kids
This is a Game
The Coaches are volunteers
The Referees are human
Let's ensure our words reflect
respect and kindness**

Living Our Values on the Sideline

SPC — March 19th, 2026

Our school values **community, commitment, compassion** don't stop at the sideline. Please remember that the student refereeing or coaching is someone's child, grandchild, brother, sister. They are volunteering their time to make sport possible for our juniors. They are learning to lead just like our juniors are learning to play. Let's make sure that our words reflect the respect and kindness they deserve as they learn and lead.



Third Place Overall for Annie Sloper

Rebecca Chittock — March 18th, 2026

Huge congratulations to Annie Sloper, who completed all four rounds of the 2026 National XC Series and finished up third overall. Outstanding effort, Annie, well done.

Gallery



Southland Secondary Schools Athletics

Rebecca Chittock — March 18th, 2026

Southland Secondary Schools Athletics were held on Saturday, 14th March in Invercargill. In what were some of the most changeable weather conditions possible, more than 300 athletes battled the driving rain, blustery winds and a bit of sunshine thrown in for good measure. Congratulations to all our SPC athletes. Great work!

Student	Results
Millie McFadzien	1st – Snr Girls 2000m Steeplechase 1st – Snr Girls 3000m 1st – Snr Girls 1500m
Jude Terry	1st – Snr Boys Javelin 6th – Snr Boys 1500m
Eli Puna	5th – Snr Boys 3000m
Layne Talbot	1st – U17 Boys Javelin 5th – U17 Boys Discus
Madelyn Chittock	3rd – U17 Girls Javelin 3rd – U17 Girls Discus 3rd – U17 Girls Shot Put

Lily Gemmill	2nd – U16 Girls 400m 2nd – U16 Girls 800m 3rd – U16 Girls 1500m
Holly Argyle	1st – U16 Girls 400m 3rd – U16 Girls High Jump 6th – U16 Girls Javelin
Archie Jackson	3rd – U15 Boys Triple Jump 3rd – U15 Boys 300m 4th – U15 Boys 400m 5th – U15 Boys High Jump
Mason McBeath	4th – U15 Boys High Jump
Kate Hicks	1st – U15 Girls Long Jump 1st – U15 Girls Triple Jump 2nd – U15 Girls High Jump
Mason Chittock	2nd – U15 Boys Javelin 5th – U15 Boys Triple Jump
Maisy Jackson	2nd – U15 Girls Triple Jump 4th – U15 Girls Long Jump 5th – U15 Girls 200m 6th – U15 Girls 100m
Trelise Evans	5th – U15 Girls 800m 6th – U15 Girls 400m

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Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award

John Ryan — March 16th, 2026

Now is a great time to encourage your young person to register for the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award. This youth development programme has been running for more than 60 years in New Zealand, and St Peter's College is proud to be able to offer it to our students. It's not too late to register for any level of the Award. Just go to <https://dofehillary.org.nz/>

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The Marsh Below the Mountain

Jerome Assen — March 19th, 2026

Coughing, spewing, gargling, choking
Squelching, squirming, always churning
As if the mount coughed up entrails
The marsh below the mountain.
Air damp, water stank
Covered in algae, air rank
Like rotten intestines still alive
The marsh below the mountain.
A muddy dark green wasteland
A desolate place at hand
If bog and mud bore child
The marsh below the mountain.



International Student's Farewell

Nikki Cunningham — March 16th, 2026

While our International team **loves** to have dinner at Koji Japanese restaurant in Invercargill, we do **not** love it when it is for a student's farewell.

It is time to farewell Ruka and Kaya as they head back to Hikaroigoka School in Nagoya, Japan. Hikaroigoka is a sister school to St Peter's College and has been since 1997!

Students come for 12 months—April to March—and are always studious, enthusiastic, kind, and caring members of our school community. They are always keen to try everything and go everywhere.

Ruka and Kaya received their leaving certificates from Mr Udy as well as gifts, including a St Peter's medal and a personalized photobook of their time with us.

Safe travels, Ruka and Kaya! We look forward to following your life journey from here.

Our new students will arrive shortly to start their year at SPC, and Ruka and Kaya will meet with them before their departure to NZ to share their experiences and what to expect!

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Rob Cope - Digital Safety Evening

SPC — March 19th, 2026

A huge thank you to Rob Cope for joining us in Gore recently to pull back the curtain on the digital world. His presentation on the realities and online risks facing our children was a wake-up call, providing our parents with the critical insights and practical tools needed to navigate this landscape safely.

It was incredible to see Maruawai College, Blue Mountain College, Menzies College, and St Peter's College all come together for this collaborative community evening.

Our sincerest thank you to our sponsors. This event simply would not have happened without the generosity of MLT (Mataura Licensing Trust) and Community Trust South.

We are so grateful for your commitment to the safety and well-being of our local students!



Anna van Riel and The Back Road Revolution

This Saturday at Ashby School of Music (Old H&J's Building, upstairs)

Join us for an evening of folk, jazz and blues for the launch of Anna's 7th studio album "Wooden Leg"

Tickets \$20 via Humanitix or at the door.

Fundraiser 2026

Te Whanau Kai Miro

Alternative Education Gore

\$25 Bucket New Easter Potatoes

Limited to 60 Buckets



Contact Toni-Ann at 0276317371

45° Fibre
Deep South Fibre Festival
10am 2nd May 2026
Gore Town & Country Club
2 Bury Street
Gore, NZ

KID'S CRAFT
Craft Stations

- *Mermaid Neckless (shells, beads and diamantes) and also a Platted Headband - using wool
- *Felt Purse (felt template- embroider blanket stitch and embellishments)
- *Needle Felting- Pumpkin or Apple (wool and felt needle)
- *Flax flower using flax, so fibre
- *Dance Sticks (wood handle, ribbon and decorations)
- *Pom Pom animals (wool, felt and cardboard)
- *\$2 bags to decorate and become the curryall. (Bags, paint pens)
- *Sales table



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BUSHCRAFT & SURVIVAL SKILLS

Holiday Experiences

CHILD VS WILD [5 Days]

7 to 13 year olds
Invercargill
9am to 3pm
13th April to 17th April 2026

An Adventure quest in different locations. Children spend four days learning and acquiring bushcraft and survival skills ready to be tested on the final day in a teamwork survival challenge.

BUSH KIDS [1 Day]

5 to 16 year olds
Invercargill & Gore
9am to 3pm
Wednesday 8th April - GORE
Friday 10th April - Invercargill
One day of bushcraft and survival skills

*Advanced fire starting, knife skills, carving, exploring the bush, finding your way, building shelters, cooking over flames, first aid in the wild, plant uses, foraging.
Every day feels different, shaped by the weather, the place and the season.*

NATURAL CREATORS [1 Day]

5 to 16 year olds
Invercargill
9am to 3pm
9th April 2026

A one day creative cooking experience on a farmlet preparing nourishing meals from scratch. Children will come home enthused, feeling capable and independent as well as having enjoyed feeding the goats and chickens.

WILD & GAME [1 Day]

11 to 16 year olds
Invercargill
10am to 3pm
Saturday 11th April 2026

A day of connection around the fire, preparing and cooking hunted and gathered foods. Learn how to skin and butcher animals, build hand-on bush skills, and taste a range of nourishing kai. A day just for the older children.

www.trueinnature.comKatie: 0226 381 497