Principal's Comment



Kia ora e te whānau,

The year is quickly moving on, and we will soon be at the end of the school year for 2026. I want to take this opportunity first to wish our Year 13 students, as well as those in Year 12 who are finishing up, all the best for the future. We hope that you leave with plenty of positive memories and look back on your time at St Peter's with fondness. Know that you go with our prayers and best wishes. We are proud of the young men and women that you have grown into. Go and make the most of the opportunities life presents to you in the coming years.

There are several key events coming up in the next couple of weeks which I would like to highlight. We have our Sporting, Service and Cultural Blues awards on Monday 2nd of November at 9:45am. This will be in the school hall (formerly the hostel dining room). We also have the Leavers Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church on Wednesday 4th of October at 11:00am.

Our last day for 2026 will be Wednesday 9th of December where we will be open for instruction from 8:45am to 11:00am. This is a half day to ensure that we meet the required days open for instruction for the year. Students who come will assist staff with the final pack up for the year.

Congratulations to Eilish Greene on her recent Youth Mark Award and to Andrei Morus and Millie McFadzien on their Class Act Awards. All three students are great ambassadors of the College and should be proud of their many successes.

Well done to the Year 10 and 11 Commerce students on a very successful market day.

St Peter's College
Hāto Petera

OCT 2026
Newsletter

I am aware that many families will be looking to book holidays etc so below are the term dates for 2027:
Term One – January 28th to April 9th (Year 7's and 13's start on the 27th of Jan)
Term Two – April 27th to July 2nd
Term Three – July 19th to September 24th
Term Four – October 11th to December 13th

We also have teacher only days on 31st of March (work day), 4th of June and 20th of August.

As our Year 12 and 13's prepare for the NCEA External Exams, I wish them well in their preparations. Please make sure that you take advantage of the tutorials that your teachers are putting on as another preparation tool. Use your study leave wisely to best prepare for these exams and ensure that you gain the results for which you are capable.

As we head towards the start of November in the church calendar we come to the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. These two days are a reminder to think about those who have gone before us, including our family and friends. The Church invites us to remember these people in our prayers during the month of November. Praying for the dead is one of the corporal works of mercy encouraged by The Church as practical acts we can do to support the material and spiritual needs of others.

Charity fulfils the law
Kieran Udy
Principal

AKO – Teaching and Learning Update

As we prepare to farewell the Year 13 ākonga next Wednesday, I am acutely aware of the importance of the mahi they have been engaged in to get to this point. Tō Tātou Whakapono, our Bishop's Religious Education Curriculum, sets the following as the schoolwide achievement objective for Year 13:

"Understand that we are sent to make a positive difference in our world; that our Catholic worldview supports us to build a culture of aroha, respect and service, based on the teachings of Jesus."

Privileged to teach a diverse and engaged Year 13 RE class this year, I have enjoyed watching the development of these rangatahi as they turn their focus to the world beyond school next year. Amongst other things, we have grappled with a range of ethical issues including the beginning and end of life and learned about processes of discernment. Catholic Social Teaching has underpinned all the mahi we have done, not least our recent exploration of the policies of our political parties for the approaching election.

In a similar vein, our Gospel reading at Assembly on Wednesday was the Beatitudes, where almost every line began with the word "blessed". In my address to the ākonga I reminded them that by virtue of being at school, they experience a blessing that millions of rangatahi around the world do not have, and in some places, this would be particularly true for girls. I proposed to them that they might take the time to be reflective and consider all that they have to be grateful for regarding their education and make the effort to express that gratitude to all who have made this possible.

As we reflect on these things and consider the fine young people who are our departing tauira, we thank them and their whānau for sharing their important learning journey with us, a journey which has been far more than the accumulation of credits and qualifications. We wish them well and look forward to seeing them make a Christ-based, positive difference in our world as they become our decision makers and leaders.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL | BRIDGET RYAN | BRIDGETRYAN@STPETERSGORE.SCHOOL.NZ

Before they head away though, NCEA external exams begin next week. While formal classes for Years 12 and 13 conclude on Tuesday and Wednesday, kaiako will be offering tutorials in preparation for these exams. I will be emailing this timetable out to whānau early next week so that everyone is aware of these opportunities.

Planning for 2027 is underway, and part of that has been influenced by the feedback that we received from the ākonga and whānau who responded to the survey sent out by the Boys' Education Committee earlier this year. Thank you to all who participated in this. A key take away was how important "hands on" learning is for many of our young men. Part of our response to this has been the introduction of a new Agriculture and Horticulture course from year 10 to 13. Student selection numbers for this course as well as the Construction course, Gateway and SIT practical courses for the Murihiku Tertiary Academy are strong.

Another set of information that I will be emailing home next week will be the specifications for devices that ākonga need for next year. St Peter's is of course a BYOD school, and it is to every ākonga's advantage to have their own device that they are able to use on a regular basis. This is important, not least because all national benchmark testing happens online. In our experience, having your own device which you know well and can manage, alleviates some of the stress that ākonga feel when taking tests and exams.

Best wishes to you all as we end one month and begin a new one this weekend and manage our way through the changeable weather!

Ngā manaakitanga,
Bridget Ryan
Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning



Huge Congratulations to Mr Ryan!
How incredible that one of our very own teachers is launching a book?!
This is such an amazing achievement!
If you get the chance, please head along to his official book launch this Saturday, October 31st, at 5pm at the Hokonui Moonshine Museum.

Uniform Sale

50% off Selected Items Only

As we prepare to transition to a new uniform and supplier in 2027, we are offering 50% off selected current uniform items.
Please note that stock is limited, with only the sizes and items currently held on-site available.
These discounted items are offered **while stocks last**.
Students will be able to wear both the current and new uniform or a mix of both for the 2-year transition period.

The following items are available at the discounted price:
Blazers – girls and boys
Summer Shirts – boys
Summer Blouses - girls
Summer Skirts
¼ Zip Jumpers
Black Softshell Jackets
Socks – girls and boys
Vests – both red and grey
Scarves

For item and size availability, please contact:
Wendy Blythe
Uniform Shop Coordinator
wendyblythe@stpetersgore.school.nz

Year 11 Retreat

Year 11 students visited Te Tomairangi Marae and St Mary's Basilica in Invercargill on Thursday for their retreat. A big thank you to the people at the marae for the amazing welcome and hospitality.











DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES | BRENDAN TERRY | BRENDANTERRY@STPETERSGORE.SCHOOL.NZ

Young Enterprise Regional Finals

Results from the Young Enterprise regional finals last week recognised the incredible entrepreneurial spirt exhibited by Millie McFadzien.

For the second year in a row, Millie has won the Southland regional final of the Young Enterprise Trust competition. In December, she travels to Wellington to pitch to a panel of judges in the hope to be crowned the Young Enterprise national champion.

Throughout 2025 and 2026, Millie has demonstrated incredible entrepreneurial spirit. Her business, The Lost Larder, has worked with her first customer, Waituna Eel, to develop a boutique eel pate for the domestic market. Hundreds of hours of product development, phone calls, emails and visits around the country to find commercial manufacturers, achieve MAF food safety accreditation and distribution networks are some of the major achievements Millie has accomplished.

In addition to taking out the business of the year title, Millie was recognised as the Southland Young Entrepreneur of the year and winner of the excellence in innovation award.
https://www.facebook.com/p/The-Lost-Larder-61578396905468/





Young Enterprise Regional Finals

Anthony Lambert also received the Murihiku mover and shaker award for his Southland lamb jerky business. Having overcome many challenges this year, he is well placed to build on his knowledge and success when he returns for another round in 2027.

If you're into healthy protein snacks with a Southland flavour, then keep an eye out for this business in 2027!
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590484560391





Rounding out our mentions at the finals was the exciting new product 'Swish', which was also nominated for the excellence in innovation award.

Swish is an innovative business selling a product designed to correct and train proper shooting technique in basketball and netball. Jack Yang and Elmar Juanitas have a commercial manufacturer in place and are ready to take orders! A fantastic idea for a birthday or Christmas present....
https://www.instagram.com/swish815/?hl=en

Jackson's Football Opportunity

During the school holidays Jackson Vanderley attended the West Ham United Football Camp that was based at TSS Southport School on the Gold Coast of Australia. Jackson was one of 450 kids from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands to get the opportunity to attend.

Over four days, Jackson got to experience amazing specialised coaching and really enjoyed the opportunity to improve his skills and to take on board feedback to enhance his game. As a goalkeeper, Jackson was in a group of 15 boys that got to spend time with a specialist in this key position and get plenty of tips and learnings to take on board to improve his game. Jackson also really enjoyed meeting and spending time with all his fellow footballers, and the weather of course, was amazing, although Jackson says it was a bit hot for him.

Exciting news! Jackson has now been selected to go to London in April 2027 to attend the West Ham United Foundation Development Tour for 11 days. Only 45 kids from the Australia camp were selected, so a huge congratulations goes out from us to Jackson.







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River Session for the Fishing Group

Our keen fishing students got a chance to learn soft-baiting techniques from experts on Wednesday afternoon in the first week of term. Fish and Game staff, Cohen Stewart and Ben Febery, took us to the Mataura River bank for a session (but Mr Ryan was the only person to catch anything). Ben's connections to St Peter's College go back a long way (he was Head Boy in 2000). Thanks heaps to our mentor, Joel Hughes, for arranging this opportunity. We plan to get out on the river again at least a couple of times before the end of term. Fishing club continues to meet every Tuesday lunchtime in F1. Anyone is welcome to come along - all the gear is provided, and Fish and Game has organised a group concession licence for our river trips. Thank you, Fish and Game Southland!







Missing Uniforms

Please have a look around at home, check drawers, school bags, and under beds!

We are currently missing 3 SPC Year 7 & 8 Rugby jerseys that were taken home after sports photos.

These need to be returned to Mrs Chittock ASAP. Without a complete set, we won't be able to use these jerseys for next season.

Please help us get the full set back—every jersey counts! Thank you for your help. 🙌

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St Peter's College
Hāto Petera

COMING UP
NOV '26

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30 YEAR 10 BORLAND LODGE CAMP						01
02 BLUES ASSEMBLY	03 YEAR 12 RETREAT	04 LEAVERS MASS	05	06 DOE BRONZE	07 DOE BRONZE	08
09	10 NCEA BEGINS	11	12 YEAR 11 PE BIKE TRIP	13 YEAR 11 PE BIKE TRIP	14	15
16 DOE SILVER	17 DOE SILVER	18 DOE SILVER	19 JUNIOR ADVENTURE RACE SOUTHLAND JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP	20 LAST DAY FOR YEAR 11	21 DOE SILVER	22 DOE SILVER
23 DOE SILVER/GOLD YEAR 9/10 SPORTS DAY	24	25	26	27 ORIENTATION DAY	28 DOE BRONZE	29 DOE BRONZE

CAMPUS | 121 KAKAPO STREET, GORE 9710, MURIHIKU, NZ | +64 3 208 9060
FOR ABSENCES, PLEASE TEXT OR CALL 021 037 4924