St Peter's College
Hāto Petera

SEPT 2026
Newsletter

Principal's Comment



Kia ora e te whānau,

Term Three has been a busy time and seen further developments around our school site. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those parents, grandparents, staff and supporters of the College who have assisted with sports teams, school camps and cultural activities this term. Your support and expertise means that our students are able to have a range of experiences that would have been impossible without your help.

Our Year 8 students have been fortunate to attend the Deep Cove camp in Fiordland, which is a real highlight for most students. This year was no exception, and the students have built many memories that will last through their schooling. We are grateful to the trust that makes it possible for schools to be able to use this amazing facility and also to the manager Billy Williams, who is always welcoming. Thank you to the staff and parents who went on these camps for giving up your time to support our students.

We have begun our planning for 2027 already and are currently in the process of looking to introduce Agricultural Studies into our curriculum. The preference is to combine both Agriculture and Horticulture, with students being able to access this subject area from Year 10 to 13. We currently have a large tunnel house area and the beginnings of an orchard to support the subject. The School Board, along with the Senior Leadership Team, are looking at how to introduce a small paddock area for sheep and looking at whether other animals such as chickens and bees could be added in time. I have begun some work with the Council Planning office around this to ensure that anything we do introduce complies with the local planning rules.

Our construction course has been working hard progressing the portable home that will be sold this year. We are on track to complete this before the end of the school year and will then look to sell this. Mr McAllister has done a terrific job with the students he has had this year and based on the feedback we have had from the students involved they have really

enjoyed the process. We will be changing the design for 2027 and this will become an annual project. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those tradespeople and suppliers who have supported this project. A special thanks to Aaron Stevenson of Croydon Innovations who has provided a lot of guidance and support.

Our recent 'Hooked on Learning' and Subject Selection evenings were a great opportunity for both students and whānau to consider your subjects for next year. Please make sure that you login to Kamar portal and complete your subject selections. Some courses such as construction and SIT will have limited spaces so if you leave this to the last minute you may miss out on the subjects you would prefer.

With Prizegiving around the corner, I need to make you aware of some changes to our format for this year. We will be recognising the Year 13 Academic Blues at Prizegiving as normally students have left for university at the start of the following year which has meant traditionally we have simply sent them their award. This year these students will receive a medal for Academic Blues. Year 12 students will still receive their Blues awards at an assembly the following year. Sporting and cultural blues will not be changed.

Thank you to all those parents, staff, and students who responded to the uniform survey that was sent out this term. As you will be aware, we have been facing a range of challenges with supply and have been dealing with four separate uniform suppliers. The School Board has reviewed the feedback and made the decision to adopt the proposed changes in full other than the kilt which will remain in its current form. Students will be able to wear the existing uniform for a period of time to be determined by the School Board. You will receive all the relevant information around uniform at the start of next term. The School Board will also be reviewing the uniform rules in Term Four as part of its review cycle.

We have recently appointed Leo Shaw to our teaching staff for 2027. He will be joining the Year 7 & 8 Department at the start of Term One. Leo is a recent graduate of Otago Uni, an old boy of Verdon College and has a strong interest in extracurricular including Basketball and Rugby. We look forward to having him join our staff.

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October for Catholics is known as the month of the Rosary. It is a time when The Church calls us to consider this traditional prayer which has sustained people in their faith through challenging times over centuries. Well worth considering this practice in our current world.

Hopefully, the upcoming holiday is an opportunity for all students to rest and recharge for a busy Term Four. Goodluck to all those undertaking Derived Grade Exams in the first week of next term. Make sure to use the break as a time to revise and prepare for these exams which are important should you not be able to make the final exam or have a health episode.

Charity fulfills the law
Kieran Udy
Principal



Message from the School Board

On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge the continued growth and connection we are seeing across our school community as we reach the end of term 3.

Our recent Cultural Day was a wonderful celebration of the diversity within St Peter's, with students sharing food, stories, and performances. It reflected a strong sense of community across our college.

We also recently hosted a morning tea for senior parishioners, where students took the lead in welcoming and serving. This was a simple but meaningful expression of compassion and service, and another example of connection with our wider community.

A big thank you to Ms Burrows and Mrs Dickson for organising opportunities for our Year 7 students to hear from staff at Gore District Council as part of their learning about designing a city for the future. Experiences like this highlight the value of bringing our wider community into the classroom, helping students think about the future and the pathways available to them. It is a great example of community in action.

The Property Programme is also progressing well, with students involved in building a new home as part of their learning – a strong example of commitment in action.

Across these experiences, a clear thread emerges of compassion, community, and commitment in action. Alongside the strong academic focus of the school, these opportunities help develop the whole person, supporting our students to grow as capable, grounded, and well-rounded young people.

A big thank you to our Principal, Mr Udy, for his leadership and ongoing commitment to our college, along with our wider staff for their dedication and support of our students. Thank you also to our community for your continued support of our college.

I wish everyone a safe and restful break – may it be a time of rest and renewal for all. We look forward to seeing you all again in term 4.

Ngā mihi nui,
Ceri Macleod
Presiding Member, St Peter's College Board

Ski Trip

Finally made it to Coronet Peak, Queenstown, New Zealand, for a day of Snowboarding and stunning weather.

Our International students have a wishlist of activities for the year, and we managed to fit this activity in, before the build up to exams.
Huge thanks to Whaea Vanessa and Principal Udy for accompanying our students on a long but amazing day.

Shout out to the Coronet Peak Schools team for making the day's activities affordable, seamless and so enjoyable. With students' abilities ranging from beginner through to advanced, they ensured a wonderful experience for everyone.









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INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR | VANESSA WHANGAPIRITA | VANESSAWHANGAPIRITA@STPERSGORE.SCHOOL.NZ

Rotary Speech Competition

A huge congratulations to Eli Puna, who took home an impressive second place at the 2026 Rotary Speech Competition Grand Final in Dunedin on September 15th!

Reaching the grand final is a fantastic achievement in itself, and taking second place on the big stage is a true testament to Eli's hard work and talent.

We are exceptionally proud of Eli for representing our school community so brilliantly. Congratulations on an amazing performance and your second place.





HELA ENGLISH | LEEANNE KORTBAOUI | LEEANNEKORTBAOUI@STPETERSGORE.SCHOOL.NZ

Cultural Day Celebration

Our Cultural Day on the 16th of September was a wonderful celebration of the diverse cultures within our school community. Students proudly shared kai, enjoyed cultural performances and dances, and dressed in clothing that reflected their heritage and identity.

It was a special opportunity to learn from one another, celebrate our differences, and recognise the many cultures that make our school such a vibrant and welcoming place. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so memorable.















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Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 rugby team, who competed at the Global Games and brought home the Best and Fairest Trophy!!
Way to go, Team!

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SPORTS HELA | JANELLE CONLAN | JANELLECONLAN@STPERSGORE.SCHOOL.NZ

Winter Tournament Week

Winter Tournament Week has again wrapped up for another year, with SPC teams competing against schools from all over the South Island. Congratulations to everyone who took part, and a HUGE thank you to all our amazing coaches, managers and parent helpers. We are so very appreciative of all the time and effort you put in.



SPC Senior A Netball Team Report

This year, our Senior A travelled to Nelson to compete at the South Island Secondary Schools Tournament. We played eight games throughout the week against a range of strong teams, coming away with two wins on the final day against Otago Girls and Kaiapoi. While we faced some tough games and didn't always get the results we were hoping for, we continued to work hard and support one another throughout the week. Finishing with two wins was a great way to end the tournament on a high. We finished 29th overall out of 75 teams, meaning we maintained our A Grade status for next year. We were also the highest-placed team from our Eastern Southland region, which was a good result for us. SISS was a great experience for the team and a chance to compete against schools from across the South Island while learning from each game. It was also particularly special for Kelsey and I, as this was our final SISS and the end of our school netball careers. After playing school netball together for so many years, helping our team to maintain our position in A Grade made it a memorable way to finish. It was a result we were both proud of and a fitting end to our school netball journey!

– Ella Donnelly

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SPC Senior Mixed Hockey Team Report

The team has come a long way since the start of the season, showing huge improvement and determination throughout the Gore Hockey Tournament. They worked hard in every game, pushing through tough moments and even playing on despite injuries. Their effort, teamwork and commitment paid off as they made it all the way to the final. It was a great tournament for the team and a reflection of how much they have developed this season. We had our first two games on Monday ending up on top winning both against CSC Boys 6–1 and CSC Girls 12–0, the second day we had much better weather and had a good win against Aurora 12–0. We then lost to Māruawai 4–1, before beating Menzies 2–0 the day after. We made it to the final against Māruawai again but unfortunately lost 2–0.

Overall, it was a great tournament, and I'd like to thank Aidan Forbes for organising it, and Mr Sanson, Martin and Wendy for coaching and managing the team. We would also like to thank all the supporters who took time out of their day to cheer us on, it was amazing to see.

– Harrison Mackereth

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SPC U15 Rugby Team

The SPC U15 rugby team loaded up the vans and headed for Westport. Buller was the host region for the 40th annual South Island Secondary Schools Rural Livestock Rugby Tournament. The weather had been terrible and our route to the West Coast needed to be adjusted due to road closures. We travelled in convoy, stopping several times to take in the view, snack and stretch our legs. We finally arrived in Westport and settled into our accommodation for the night. Up bright and early the next morning, a good cooked breaky then followed by the team naming.

First up we faced Motueka. The boys were fired up, and we played well, taking the win 26 – 7. Our second game was against Geraldine. The boys again played well as a unit, and we had a good win 30 – 19. The next day we faced up against Lincoln. They were big and had the edge on us. Unfortunately going down 32 – 5. This score definitely did not reflect the game, as a couple of late intercept tries to them blew out what had been a pretty close and hard fought game. Next up, it didn't get any easier; we were to play Buller High at Buller High School and kick off was in their school's lunchtime. Even though it was pouring with rain, the hardy West Coasters were out watching and cheering their team on. We started slow and let them get on the scoreboard early before we started to get some go forward. A much better second half saw us get some good tries in but not quite enough, going down 31- 14. This was the end of pool play and resulted in us coming 9th place out of 17 Teams. The final day of tournament was a "cross over" pool match. We played Dunstan in what was a close battle from start to finish. Tries going either way, with both teams really wanting that final day win. Unfortunately, we couldn't hold on to a slight first half buffer and lost 14 – 10. Back to Bazils to shower and pack up and then we headed off to Christchurch for the night. On the way the management team surprised us with a visit to the Hamner hotpools. It was awesome to rest our sore bodies, recharge, have fun and relax.

Thanks very much to our coaches Jamie & Dave, and the management team of Jacqui, Rebecca, Craig and Eryn for a great tournament.

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SPC Senior Boys Basketball Team

What a week for our SPC Senior basketball team had! Unfortunately, we didn't win a game, but honestly, this tournament was still amazing.

We enjoyed every minute we spent together on the court and made some memories that will stick with us forever. Each game we stepped up and ready to give our absolute best. We played hard, played from the heart, and backed each other up, through all the hard moments. When someone was down, we lifted them up. When the game got tough, we kept pushing together.

Scores don't tell the real story. They can't capture our effort, our energy or the bond we built. We got closer as a team, learned heaps, and experienced from each game, and we are proud to represent SPC.

Massive thanks to coaches Mr Udy and Mr Sollano for your patience and great coaching. Thank you for coaching us and sticking with us. We couldn't do it without you!

– Jack Yang



Equestrian

This year, I had the opportunity to attend the South Island Secondary Schools Equestrian Championships in Christchurch. SISS is a large event, with approximately 280 secondary school riders making up 50 teams from across the South Island. It is also recognised as the largest equestrian event held in New Zealand, having grown to overtake Horse of the Year in size. I was part of a team of three riders from the Hokonui area.

With both Mum and Dad busy calving, I travelled to Christchurch with Poppy on my own. I towed the float, navigated rush-hour traffic, arrived safely, settled Poppy in and managed everything myself. Although it was daunting, it was a valuable opportunity to become more independent and take responsibility for us both. Travelling alone meant carefully managing my time throughout the week. I had to plan our travel, arrive at each event on time, prepare and warm up Poppy, cool her down terwards, organise her feed and water, keep her comfortable, maintain her gear and allow enough time for rest between classes. I also had to prepare myself by learning dressage tests, walking show-jumping courses and keeping up with the competition schedule. Balancing all these responsibilities was a valuable learning experience.

The competition began with dressage on Monday and Tuesday, giving Poppy and I time to settle into the event and adjust to the new environment. Wednesday's show jumping was a highlight. Poppy and I had a great day, jumping clear to finish 3rd individually. I was also really proud to receive a sportsmanship prize during the show-jumping competition, which was a special recognition of how I conducted myself and supported others throughout the event. On Thursday and Friday, the focus changed to games. Although I play games at Pony Club, I am not usually a competitive games rider, so I had to learn the rules and understand exactly what was expected. This was a new challenge that required preparation and concentration. My games partner and I worked well together, placing in every game we competed in and finishing 5th in each session. Overall, SISS was a busy week of riding, competing and having fun, as well as an important step towards becoming more independent. I gained confidence and experience in travelling, preparing and caring for Poppy. I was proud of what Poppy and I achieved and grateful for the opportunity to attend SISS.

– Sophie White

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Missing Uniforms

Please check at home, in drawers, in school bags, and under your bed for any SPC Yr 7 & 8 Rugby Jerseys, SPC Snr Hockey Uniform and SPC Basketball Uniforms.

These need to be returned to Mrs Chittock asap. Without the missing items we do not have full sets and these will not be able to be used next season!



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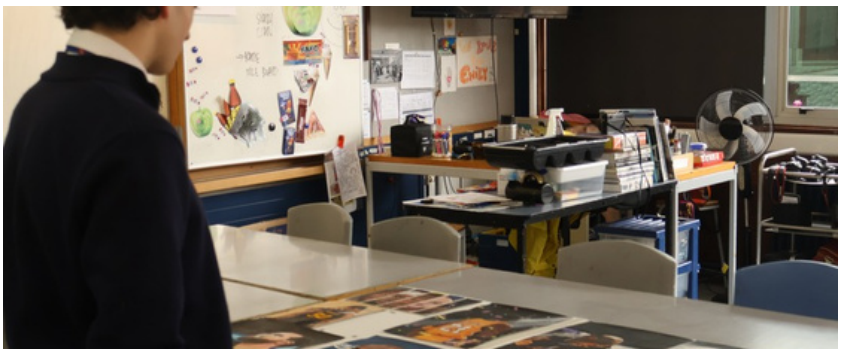
Senior Art | The Last Month of Making

The art room is in that interesting part of the year where projects are becoming portfolios.



Isabel Dickson | L3 Painting

Our Year 12 and 13 Art students are entering the final month of work before submission. The focus now is refinement: editing, selecting, printing, painting, and making careful decisions about what belongs on the board.





Devlin Grant | L3 Painting

To support students, the Art Department will be open during the first week of the holidays:

TUES 29 SEP	**10AM - 2PM**
WED 30 SEP	**10AM - 2PM**
THU 1 OCT	**10AM - 2PM**



Kaitlyn Brady | L2 Photography

Portfolio Due Dates

Level 2 Art Folios: Tuesday 20 October
Level 3 Art Folios: Friday 23 October

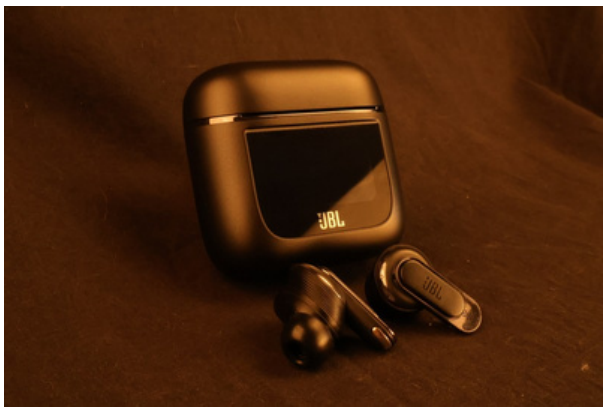
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11PHOTO | He Taonga

A camera is a curious thing. Point it at something ordinary and, with enough attention, it becomes important. Through their He Taonga project, Year 11 Art students are developing technical camera skills while photographing the things that matter to them. Along the way, they're learning that photography is as much about seeing as it is about using a camera. Here are a few images from the project so far:



Cian Smith



Roxanne Dickson



Tyson Tweedie



Ai Kato



Monte Robinson

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10ART | Ngā Pikitia Kararehe [Animal Pictures]

Before the carving begins, there is the drawing. Before the print, there is the plan.

Year 10 Art students have been busy developing their Ngā Pikitia Kararehe woodcut printmaking project, carefully refining their own animal pictures and preparing designs for transfer onto woodblocks.

The next stage involves carving into the wood itself, where these drawings will begin their transformation into prints.



Holly Argyle | Plan + Transfer to Woodblock





Cam Chandler



Lexxi Kelly



Libby Hoyle



Noah Berrio



Y7 + 8 Junior Art students are bringing their Taniwha to life with Ms. Sorrel!

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COMING UP
OCT '26

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12 TERM 4 BEGINS DERIVED GRADING EXAMS	13 DERIVED GRADING EXAMS	14 DERIVED GRADING EXAMS	15 DERIVED GRADING EXAMS	16 DERIVED GRADING EXAMS	17	18
19	20 LEVEL 2 ART PORTFOLIOS DUE YOUTH MARK	21	22	23 LEVEL 3 ART PORTFOLIOS DUE	24	25
26 LABOUR DAY - NO SCHOOL	27	28	29 YEAR 11 RETREAT	30	31	

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







ATHLETICS GORE

Athletics for Term 4 starts on Tuesday the 13th October 2026, 5:30pm at Newman Park.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again, new members most welcome.

Any queries please contact
Sarah Wiegersma 021 141 6518
Nadia Hicks 021 213 9186

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GENERAL NEWS
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Downloading School Apps NZ
a step by step guide



Once you have downloaded School Apps, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school

1. Open School Apps - you will land on a welcome page.
2. Search for your school.
3. Select your school.
4. Sign in to your school if required.
5. Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.
6. To add onther school, tap on the menu in the top left hand corner of the main screen, tap "Add School" and repeat steps 2-5.

NEED MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?
Call School Apps NZ on 0800 238 379

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