



PAPATOETOE
HIGH SCHOOL

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Vaughan Couillault
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NEWSLETTER

Term 1

31 March 2021

Message from the Principal

Everybody is back!

It was great to see all students able to return to school last week as we were able to stop rostering students home. We have all been impressed and humbled by the support and understanding that the community has demonstrated over the first part of the 2022 school year. We are pleased to see attendance returning to normal levels (accounting for those isolating due to COVID-19 protocols) and thank you all for taking this step so promptly.

Changes to daily numbers and COVID-19 protocols

As you may have seen, in the last few days the media has reported a reduction in the number of daily cases.

While we know that cases in school will rise and fall with that of the level in our community, our health experts tell us that children are much more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 in the community than at school. We also know that nationally in mid-March no more than 4% of teachers in any seven-day period reported as testing positive. It is currently around 3.5%.

As you know, it's great for any child's wellbeing and learning to be at school with their friends, teachers and other school staff. You also know that we have very good systems in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. This is why we remain open at Red.

I would like to remind you that in our school we are keeping the additional layers of protection in place to help prevent or reduce the risk of onward spread. We know that being fully vaccinated and boosted reduces the risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. We are encouraging all adults in our school who are working with students to be vaccinated including their booster. If they are eligible, I encourage you to get your child vaccinated, too.

If you have any concerns about sending your child to school, please get in touch – our team are here to help. We want children to be at school and engaging in learning with their friends.

Your job remains the same, too: please continue to keep a really close watch of your whānau for anyone with symptoms. If unwell, please stay at home and get advice about getting a COVID-19 test.

Polyfest 2022

This year Polyfest was quite different than any previous year. Without an audience to cheer and food stall aromas, students from different cultural groups mixed and supported each other, it was hard to imagine how the Festival would work. There was only one group representing Papatoetoe High School at this year's event – the Fijian Group. Despite the disrupted practices due to years rostering and students isolating plus the new Polyfest conditions, they got into the spirit of this event from the moment they stepped on the bus. With a lot of hard work, they managed to put an outstanding performance, finishing **3rd** overall out of all the different cultural groups over the 2 days & **1st place** for the Oceania Continent Division.

Vaughan Couillault

Key information:

School Start Time:

Arrival time: 8:40 am everyday (Wednesday 9:40 am)

International Culture Week: 11 April to 14 April

Academic Mentoring Survey

There is a Survey available for senior students to complete on the Student Portal. This Survey aims to help students understand where they are in their NCEA journey and what they will need. Please encourage your son/daughter to complete this or talk to their Form teacher for more information.

Conservation Volunteer NZ's tree planting day

Level 2 Social Studies students will participate in Conservation Volunteer NZ's (CVNZ) community tree planting day at Dickens Farm, Brookby on **Friday 29th April** during Week 2 of the April holidays. The students will help plant 2,000 native trees along the Papakura Stream as part of an ongoing Auckland Council & Conservation New Zealand Restoration Project.

Practical Assessment at MIT

Lv3 Hospitality- Final Practical Assessments is scheduled **May 2nd and 4th** at MIT, Otara. Students who have practiced all the related dishes in school need to undertake the above-mentioned assessment from which they can gain credits.

It is a full day and your son/daughter will be required to be at school before **8.30 am** (around 8:15 am) to be transported by the taxi van to the venue and students will be returned to the school by the taxi van so as to meet afterschool requirements. Your son/daughter will be back in the school around lunch time and will be attending period 5 in the school.

ASB Polyfest 2022

The theme for Polyfest 2022 was “Family”. The idea the Fijian Group chose to explore was the Fiji Giriti, how Indians arrived to Fiji, became integrated into their community and became whanau/family to them - which was the overarching theme of Polyfest. They thought this was significant to the demographic / cultural makeup of our school & our students history. They also wanted to show how they feel in our school with different cultures being united and loving one another as whanau, regardless of their different backgrounds & traditions.

You can see their performance following the link below:

<https://youtu.be/lh-ByPfOVAM?t=16894>

Polyfest 2022 Speech Competition

We are so proud of Caitlin Asher-Kalauni (Year 12) and Tusipepa Tiitii (year 12) for representing PHS at the Polyfest Niue Speech Competition. Both achieved their level 2 Niue speech. Big congratulations to Caitlin who came 3rd in the senior girls category!

Careers Department

Term 1 has been a busy term in the Careers/Gateway department. We have had presentations from all the Universities to provide information to Year 13 students. The presentations focused on programs and information available through the various universities. This assists them in making proper choices as they navigate their pathway for next year. The Universities will come again in Term 3 to help students with course planning for next year. We have had students enrol at the MIT Trades Academy and NZMA Trades Academy where they pursue their pathway 1 or 2 days a week. The First Foundation Scholarship have opened up for Year 12 and 13 students. The criteria eligibility has been sent to the student’s school email. Please come and see the Pathways and Transition Advisor if a student is interested in applying for this scholarship. Students can start applying for University or any tertiary provider from Term 2. Tertiary Scholarships open from 15 May. I am available to assist all students with applications and scholarships. Please come to G5. Below is Ben Edmonds, Hola Muauulu-Saili and Emanuel Tanielu at NZMA Trades Academy.



- Gateway news
- Art news
- International Week

Gateway news:

Gateway is up and running. We are running the following courses at Papatoetoe High School in the April school holidays for Yr 11-13 who are interested. These courses are interactive and fun, our students always get a lot out of them. These courses can lead to the students gaining work experience in a café/restaurant/early childcare centre, should this be of interest to them.

Nursing/Early Childcare (1 day course)
Barista and Food Hygiene (3 day course)

Other Gateway options available in term 2 and 3 school time and holidays: Retail/McDonald/Scaffolding/Security/Travel and Tourism/ Computing/Hairdressing and Makeup

Please follow our Instagram page [Papatoetoe_high_careers](#) and read the daily notices for ongoing information about Gateway.



Sports news:

Although many of our Summer sporting codes were again heavily impacted by Covid-19 restrictions, we can look back on the past couple of months with pride and see plenty of positives going forward.

Our Lampada Games was a resounding success once again - this modified tabloid sports day is always a highlight on the school sporting calendar. Touch Rugby made a return to Papatoetoe High School this year and the Senior Mixed team improved significantly over the course of their Covid impacted season. 1st XI Cricket managed to finish their season on a high, and we saw plenty of commitment from our Boys and Girls Tag teams at training before their tournament was ultimately cancelled. Both our Senior Boys and Girls Volleyball teams saw success in their respective seasons despite juggling defaults and many of our own students in and out of isolation. Both teams are currently preparing for the Auckland Volleyball Champs next week at Bruce Pulman Park (6th-8th April)

Many of our Winter Codes have already begun pre-season training / trials over the last couple of weeks. It's great to see so many students out there giving it a go and putting the effort in preparation for Term 2. Students are reminded to read the daily notices and check their school emails each day to find out the necessary information regarding meetings, trainings and trials for the various sports they wish to represent for the school this year. As a Sports Department we are very much looking forward to putting our best foot forward going into term 2 and the start of the Winter Sport season.





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PHS NEWS

[Creative Studies Whale Tale Sculpture](#)

There are currently 80 large scale whale tail sculptures on display in Tāmaki Makaurau by emerging and established Artists. The Level 2 and 3 Creative Studies students collaborated in designing and painting a Pēpi (mini Tail sculpture). The circles on the sculpture reflect the individuality of each student and inspire a sense of community. The sculpture is on public display at the Papatoetoe War Memorial Library until the 18th April.



[International Week](#)

During the last week of Term 1, we will be holding our annual International Week. This exciting time is when students are invited to share their cultural identity in a number of ways, including performance, art, sports, costume and food. We have many different ethnicities in our school.

Here is this year's International week timeline.

PHS INTERNATIONAL WEEK 11-14 APRIL

Monday
CULTURAL SPORTS DAY

Wednesday
ARTS & CRAFTS DAY

Tuesday
CULTURAL FOOD DAY

Thursday
CULTURAL DRESS &
PERFORMANCES DAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MIRA RALPHS - ARTS & CULTURE COORDINATOR



PHS CARES

From Counsellors:



Suchi, Jason and Chrissy are the Counsellors at Papatoetoe High School. All three are registered members of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors (NZAC). NZAC membership ensures a high standard of care, and respect of confidentiality for the student. This is a free and confidential service that is available to all students.

To make an enquiry, or an appointment, we are able to be contacted by emails:

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Jason Litherland jalitherland@papatoetoehigh.school.nz