

# PORIRUA COLLEGE

# NEWSLETTER



**Term 1 - Week 4**  
Friday 21 February, 2025



Nau mai, haere mai, welcome back to Porirua College 2025! We have had a great start to the year with 118 Year 9s and 619 students on roll. We are particularly pleased to welcome all the new students and staff who have joined our PC whānau. We really enjoyed the Year 9 days out. It was a shame not to be able to do the noho marae this year, but we look forward to connecting with you all on goal setting day.

We have a great range of courses, options and subjects available this year. Senior Ko te Hāpori courses are now part of our whole senior timetable, but still overlap with juniors so that they can also work together.

Our prefects have started strongly, supporting the noho and setting up our student councils, which students at all levels are welcome to join:

Events - Hazel Teaurima, George Tapuoti  
Sports - Brayden Lemalu  
Cultural - Elaf Abduljawad, Mikayla Aitogi-Wilson  
Service - Luisa-Rose Va'a, Mikayla Aitogi-Wilson

Year 12 leaders are part of a STARS programme for the year growing their leadership skills. We can't wait to celebrate Colours Day together at the end of term.

Thank you for all your support with getting students into school, attending regularly and wearing their uniform. Being here and ready to learn is that first step to success and without you it wouldn't happen. It's great to see all the PC pride out there and students have made an excellent start on their learning.

When you are up at the college, take the time to look at our new Mahinawa 'purple' block and upgraded gym. We also have covered entrances to all 4 houses now and an outside building area under construction. Work has started on our new netball courts behind the gym with a car parking area beside it. We have also moved the library to the Wairere space on the side of Tangare so that we can have a Whare Wananga in the centre of the school. We are delighted to welcome our new Māori Performing Arts teacher, Motown Parata, who will work in this space, along with other kaiako.

During 2025, we will be developing a new three year strategic plan. We look forward to working with whānau and students to plan how to make PC even more amazing.

Ngā mihi mahana,

Ragne Maxwell  
Principal/Tumuaki

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FEBRUARY

Talano Ako	24 February
Simply Dental	25 & 27 February
Goal Setting Day (Students for appointments only)	26th February
School Photo Day	27 February
Athletics Day	28 February

## MARCH

Talano Ako	3, 10, 17, 24 March
Simply Dental	03 March
Kāhui Whetu o Porirua Athletics	04 March
RYDA - Driving Workshop	04 March
ESports	06 March
CSW Athletics Champs	20 March
Ignite Y11 Trip - Tongariro	19 March

## APRIL

Ignite Y12 Sports Leadership	08 April
Ignite Y11 Follow-up Workshop	11 April
Stars Camp	28 April
Ignite Y9 Choices Workshop	29 April

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



**CACTUS** first started at Porirua College in 2016, and is up and running again this year. CACTUS stands for Combined Adolescent Challenge Training Unit and Support. It is led by the Porirua Police Youth Team in conjunction with Porirua College and with the support of Porirua Healthy Safer City Trust, Porirua City Council and Partners Porirua.

CACTUS is designed to extend a young person's mind and physical capability, with a focus on teamwork, goal setting, leadership and discipline. It aims to instill discipline and self esteem into young people, encouraging them to look and listen before they act and increasing their future opportunities.

This year, for the first time, there are also three Porirua College students doing the course a second time as student mentors. The programme runs for eight consecutive weeks with students arriving at 5:30 am three days a week to complete physical training, army drill (marching), team building activities and to listen to guest speakers. This also includes each student choosing and sharing an inspirational quote. The programme finishes with the longest day- a twelve hour day full of many physical, mental and group challenges.



**VAI Cards** are back for 2025, and we're excited to reward students for demonstrating our school values! Staff members can give out VAI Cards whenever they see students showcasing positive behaviors. To award a card, staff will write the student's name, their own name, and the date on the card before handing it to the student. The student will then drop the card into the VAI box located in each house. At the end of each fortnight, the cards will be collected and recorded by the office.

Students can earn VAI Cards by showing our values through their actions, voice, and identity. Once they have collected 10 or more cards, they can redeem them for a variety of prizes. For Term One only, all prizes are worth just 10 cards, but after that, prize amounts will increase. Rewards include canteen vouchers, snack packs, sports items, and portable speakers. Students who collect 100 cards can even choose a special reward of their choice! Make sure to check with your Learning Coach (LC) to track your progress and start collecting those VAI Cards today!





WEAR YOUR  
HOUSE COLOURS



# PORIRUA COLLEGE ATHLETICS DAY

ATHLETIC EVENTS PLUS WATERSLIDE,  
CROSSFIT, 4 COURT VOLLEY &  
GUMBOOT THROW

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 9AM  
COMPETITIVE & FUN EVENTS!



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# TRADES



The image shows the cover of the Wellington Trades Academy Student Handbook. It features a blue header with the logos of Whitireia and WelTec. Below the logos, the title 'Wellington Trades Academy' is written in white, followed by 'Student Handbook' in a smaller font. A central photograph shows a young woman in a white chef's uniform working in a kitchen. The background of the cover is orange.

## Wellington Trades Academy

This year we have 21 students taking part in Wellington Trades Academy at our local Polytechnic. They spend one or two days a week gaining skills and qualifications in...

- Construction mixed trades
- Cafe services
- Digital Media Animation and Game Design
- Salon Hairdressing
- Engineering and Automotive
- Health Pathways
- Health - Anatomy and Physiology

Trades Academy is open to year 12 and year 13 students who want to learn one of the above trades. Applications are completed at the end of term 3 for the following year.

# ESPORTS



The image shows a large hall with a high ceiling and exposed pipes. A large screen on the left displays a Tekken 8 game. In the foreground, there are rows of red chairs. In the background, there are several computer monitors and a large red banner.

## Get Ready for the Tekken 8 Tournament!

It's game time! PC Esports is excited to kick off our first tournament of the year: Tekken 8. Students from all over the school will compete in knockout after-school matches, with the winners facing off in the finals during Week 7 Learning Coach. Through blood, sweat, and relentless button mashing, only one student will emerge victorious! Come along to cheer them on and be part of the action!



# EVENTS RECAP



## RANGATAHI DAY

### Porirua College Students Share Their Climate Vision at Rangatahi Day

Three Porirua College students recently joined the Climate Assembly Rangatahi Day, where they connected with young people from all over the region. The event sparked conversations about the impacts of climate change in both the Pacific and here in Porirua. The students shared the issues they're seeing and their hopes for a more sustainable world. It was an inspiring day, with everyone coming together to speak up for the changes they want to see in their communities and beyond.





# SPORTS UPDATE

## Sport Kicks Off Strong for Term 1!

Get ready, students—Term 1 sports are already in full swing! Our volleyball teams are back on their home court and started the season with a bang, winning all 4 matches. In rugby, pre-season training has seen an amazing turnout, with over 30 students joining in! Senior, junior, boys, and girls—all are getting involved and showing their team spirit. It's shaping up to be an exciting term for sports!



## Exciting Kilikiti Opportunity for Our Girls' Team!

We have an amazing opportunity for our Porirua College girls Kilikiti team to play at the Basin Reserve – a once-in-a-lifetime chance! Mark your calendars for Saturday, 1 March. Watch this space for more details!



# COMMUNITY NOTICES



## TALANOA AKO

### A Call to Parents with Children in College

**Dates and Time:** Every Monday from 24th February to 24th March, 6:30pm to 8:30pm.  
**Venue:** Rangituhi House, Porirua College.  
**Free Dinner:** Enjoy a nice hot meal provided at every session.

#### For More Info, Please contact:

[Kitiona Tauria](#)  
ktauria68@gmail.com / 021738645

[Chris Wood](#)  
Cwood@pen.net.nz / 02102310317

## NEW STAFF

### Annelies Orme



Tēnā tātou e te whanau, I am super excited to be joining te Kāreti o Porirua this year as the new science teacher in Whitireia! This is my first year as a teacher, but I was lucky enough to be introduced to the community of Porirua last year as a Masters student at Aotea College. My background is in Biology and Chemistry, having studied biomedical sciences at the University of Otago (and then studying teaching back up in Pōneke).

One of my goals as a teacher is to share my passion for science and make it something that sparks excitement in my ākonga. More than just teaching, I hope to build meaningful connections with my students and get to know them as individuals by understanding their interests and backgrounds, so I can support them in ways that matter most.

Outside of teaching, I enjoy playing bass, going to concerts, staying active, and spending time with my family and friends. I'm really looking forward to growing and bettering myself as a teacher in such a vibrant, supportive community, and I can't wait to see what the year has in store. My advice to all ākonga this year is to embrace challenges and always set high standards for yourself. Strive for your best, and don't be afraid to ask questions along the way!



# LEARNER LICENCE COURSE

*School Term Holidays*

Kia ora parents and caregivers, We are excited to announce that, in partnership with Partners Porirua, we will be running a Learner License Course for our students during the first week of the upcoming school term holidays! This is a fantastic opportunity for students to prepare for their Learner Driver's License and take an important step towards gaining independence on the road.



**Dates:** Monday 14th April - Wednesday 16th April 2025 (The course will run over 3 days during the first week of the school holidays).

**Cost:** \$50 (payable at the school office).

**Age Requirement:** Students must be at least 16 years old.

We are currently taking names for the course, but spaces are limited, so please make sure to register quickly to secure a spot. If you miss out on the Term 1 intake - we can add your child's name to the Waitlist for Term 2's intake.

Students will need to provide a valid Birth Certificate or Passport to verify their identity. This will also need to be brought to the course itself to ensure there are no issues when they are ready to sit their test with AA.



**RYDA Road Safety Awareness** is coming to Porirua. We are taking all of our year 12 students to this event.

**When:** Tuesday 4th March - 8:50am to 2:30pm

**Who:** All year 12 students

**What:** Road Safety Awareness Workshops

**Details:** Wear school uniform, and bring a pen. Be on Time, as the Buses leave at 8:50am.



## **Bus Safety Reminder for School Communities**

Kia ora,

You may have heard about the recent accident involving a student from Aotea College who was hit by a vehicle while crossing in front of a bus. To help promote bus safety, I'm working with Metlink and Tranzit Coachlines to provide resources for schools.

Tranzit has kindly allowed us to use their materials, including helpful bus safety guidelines. Please consider including a reminder in your school newsletter about the importance of safe driving around schools and buses, especially as school bus schedules settle in during the first few weeks.

Here are some key bus safety topics to highlight:

- Safe behavior when starting the school bus journey, especially for first-time bus users.
- The importance of driving at 20 km/h when passing a school bus.
- Encouraging good bus behavior from all students.

Tranzit also offers special bus safety presentations, mainly for primary and intermediate students. If you'd like to arrange something for older students, feel free to get in touch. When using these resources, please include a note: "Thanks to Tranzit Coachlines for sharing these resources with us."

I'll stay in touch with Metlink, and once their new resources are ready, I'll ensure they include local students to make it more relevant to our community.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Cheers,

Paulette Pavelich  
Porirua City Council  
Email: [Paulette.Pavelich@porirua.govt.nz](mailto:Paulette.Pavelich@porirua.govt.nz)







# CONTACT

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