

PORIRUA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Term 1 - Week 9 2026



Kia ora whānau,

A huge shoutout to our incredible whānau, ākonga, and staff for such a fantastic start to the year! We have seen a wonderful jump in our attendance numbers so far this term and this excellent result is directly due to the collective mahi we are all putting in. This reminds us, "It takes a village to raise a child".

Attendance at school truly matters. Every day counts towards your tamariki gaining the skills and knowledge they need to choose their own path for the future. When students attend regularly—which means being at school over 90% of the time—they stay connected to their learning and their friendships, and it reduces the stress that can come from falling behind. Regular attendance also strengthens their academic, personal, social, and cultural identity, empowering them to "know who they are, be who they are, and show who they are".

We want to keep this amazing momentum going! At home, you can continue to help by setting a good morning routine, preparing your children the night before, asking them what they did at school, and praising their efforts. Talking positively about school and how "better attendance means brighter futures" makes a massive difference.

Please note that when a student is absent for morning learning coach, period 1 and period 2, you will receive an email/SMS to let you know. It is important that if your tamariki is sick or has a medical appointment and needs to be absent or is running late, please let us know as soon as possible on the day. You can reach us by:

- **Text:** 027 237 5465
- **Freephone:** 0800 00 23 73 (please leave a clear message)
- **Email:** poriruacollege@pen.net.nz

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us keep our students engaged, learning and safe. Let's keep up the great work!

Enjoy the school holidays and we look forward to seeing you all back for Term 2 on the 20th of April.

Ngā mihi nui,
John Topp / Tumuaki Tuarua





CALENDAR EVENTS



Event	Date	Location
Bluebird Pre-Season Netball Tournament	Sun 19 April	Paraparumu
Ignite Y12 Sports Leaders	Tues 21 April	
PE100 Assessment Day	Weds 22 April 9:50am-1:50pm	
Ra Haka (Kapa Haka students)	Thurs 23 April 9:00am-2:30pm	Te Rauparaha Arena
Anzac Day observed (School's closed)	Mon 27 April	
Ignite Y11 Follow up	Tues 28 April	
Porirua College Cross Country	Thurs 30 April	Whiti te Ra
Te Rākau - Whakapapa - Performing Arts workshop	Mon 4 May 9:00am-3:00pm	
Board Meeting	Thurs 30 April, 28 May, 25 June 5:30pm-7:30pm	Conference Room
Waikato University Presentation (for senior students)	Mon 4 May 1:00pm-2:00pm	Music Room 1
AUT session (for senior students)	Thurs 7 May 11:30am-12:00pm	Music Room 1
Year 9 Hearing Screening	Fri 8 May 9:00am-3:00pm	Nurses Office/K2K Area
Otago University Presentation (for senior students)	Mon 11 May 1:00pm-2:00pm	Music Room 1
Hui Ākonga Māori	Mon 11 May 3:20pm-4:30pm	
Victoria University Presentation (for senior students)	Mon 18 May 1:00pm-2:00pm	Music Room 1
Ignite Year 9 Choices	Tues 19 May	
Staff only day (school closed)	Fri 29 May	



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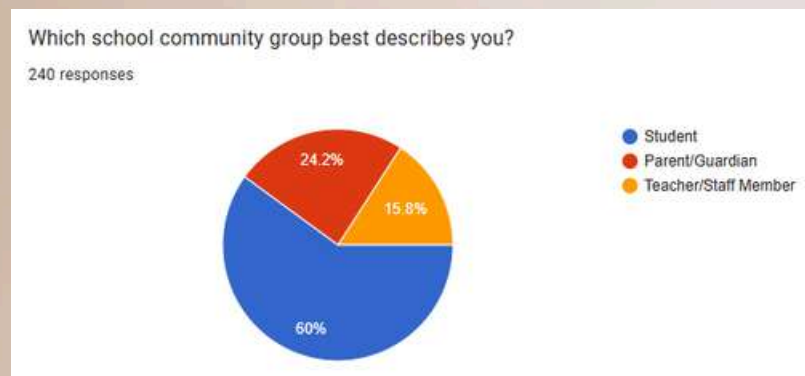


SCHOOL UNIFORM CONSULTATION

Thank you to everyone who was part of our school uniform consultation - suggesting ideas for the survey and filling the survey in. We had 240 responses from students, whānau/community and staff. 144 of our 610 students responded - 24%. We let students know that if they didn't respond we would assume they were happy with their uniform as it is. However, it is still important to us to make the uniform work for as many people as possible and we are making the key changes asked for in the survey.

We will allow time for these changes to come into place. From 2027 our uniform will be supplied by NZ Uniforms. They are located at 16 Parumoana Street, Porirua City Centre (next to Preston's Butchery). From that time the uniform expectations will be those below. For now our expectations remain the same. We will work with NZ uniforms to try to supply a wider range of shirts and possibly a longer skirt option, as requested.

Uniform Survey key results



No change to our school uniform - **21%**

Option A formal black dress pants (NOT jeans, cargo shorts/pants, sweat pants, leggings) - **24%**

Option B some minor changes - **52%** (mostly in support of short sleeved boys' shirts and long sleeved girls' ones)

No school uniform - **16%** (no whānau/community or teacher support)

Board agreed school uniform from review - now a school bylaw

Students **must** have a minimum of 1 x bottom item, 2 x top items and 1 x outer layer.

- The bottom item can be:
 - formal black dress pants (NOT jeans, cargo shorts/pants, sweat pants or leggings)
 - Porirua College shorts
 - Porirua College skirt
 - Plain, black lava lava or ie faitaga
- The top items can be either a Porirua College polo or dress shirt (short or long sleeved)
- The outer layer can be either a Porirua College jersey, sweatshirt or vest
- A PE t-shirt and PE shorts are compulsory items for Year 9 & 10 students
- Black and/or white shoes can be worn with black or white socks (no colours), or black roman sandals
- A Porirua College jacket or a plain black, warm and waterproof jacket must be worn during the colder months



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



On the 4th and 13th of March, the Porirua College Science Faculty took our Year 10 science students to Space Place observatory and Wellington Museum for a day out where they learnt more about navigation using the stars and took part in various workshops, and activities. The trip was a great way for us to explore Māori and Pasifika science and how our ancestors used science to explore the Pacific ocean to find new places to settle.



During Week 6, Porirua College's Junior debating team won a debate against Paraparaumu College. If you are a junior and are interested in debating, please let Reiana Tipiwai-Onosai or Miss Mackenzie know.



Kia ora koutou, this is an invitation to all senior science students to attend our afterschool science homework club. Sessions are held after school on Tuesdays week Y in KP4. This is a great chance to catch up with missed work, assessments, or get your science questions answered by your teachers. We hope to see you there for some snacks and support!

We are proud to share that two of our students, Aliyah Tumunako and Orlando Tui, recently completed a 21-day Mind, Body and Soul course with Outward Bound New Zealand from March 3–23. Based at Anakiwa in the stunning Marlborough Sounds, the course was packed with challenges designed to push students beyond their comfort zones. Throughout the three weeks, they took part in a variety of demanding physical and mental activities that encouraged resilience, teamwork, and self-belief.

A highlight of the experience was a two-night solo, where students spent time alone in the wilderness reflecting and building independence. They also completed an impressive five-night wilderness expedition, sleeping outdoors and working together to navigate and thrive in remote conditions. To finish the course, both students completed a half marathon—an incredible achievement that showcased their determination and personal growth.



Aliyah Tumunako & Orlando Tui

We congratulate Aliyah and Orlando on this outstanding accomplishment. They return with increased confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of what they are capable of achieving. Ka rawe!



In Week 8 the Level 2 Geography Class visited Ruapehu to investigate the changes in vegetation as you climb the mountain. Students were able to go on the Sky Waka to the top of the mountain as well as collect data at various sites to help their investigation. Due to the challenging weather conditions they also visited the Army museum at Waiouru and some students were able to discover information about their own family history.



CACTUS 2026

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

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

This year, for the first time, waka ama was introduced as part of the programme, adding an exciting new challenge for all participants. There were also six Porirua College students who completed the course for a second time, stepping into leadership roles as student mentors.

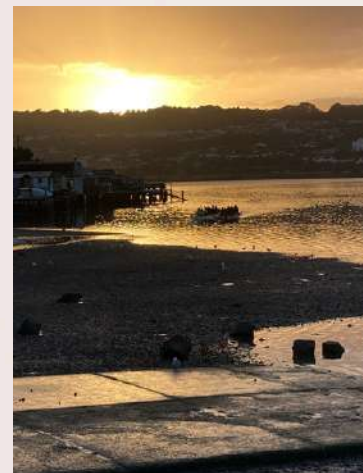
The programme ran for eight consecutive weeks, with students arriving at 5:30 am three days a week to complete physical training (including the newly introduced waka ama), army drill (marching), team-building activities, and to listen to guest speakers. Each student also chose and shared an inspirational quote as part of their journey.

Throughout the entire programme, the students showed outstanding commitment, resilience, and growth. They supported one another, pushed through challenges, and represented themselves and their school with pride. The programme finished with the longest day—a twelve-hour event filled with physical, mental, and group challenges.

Every student performed exceptionally, demonstrating the skills, determination, and teamwork they had developed over the eight weeks. They all did an amazing job, rising to the occasion and finishing the programme with a strong sense of achievement.

A huge thank you to our sponsors: Porirua Police Youth Team; New Zealand Police; Porirua Healthy Safer City Trust; Partners Porirua; Ian Crabtree Trust; New Zealand Army; Fire Emergency New Zealand; Te Rūnunga O Toa Rangatira; New World Porirua; Briscoe Group; Rebel Sport; Farmers; Smart Foods; NZ Egg group Limited; Vogels; James Crisp Brand Managers and Importers.

If you are interested in joining CACTUS 2027 please let Mr Wood or Mr Topp know.





HĀKINAKINA



Term 1 is a very busy time for P.C Sport. We have many tournaments on for our Senior's and they love to compete in all of them. Well done to our students and a massive thank you to their coaches, parents/caregivers and helpers for creating opportunities for them.



Congratulations to our very own **Travis Schuster** who came third in long jump with his PB 5.69m at the Regional Athletics week!



Kahui Whetu o Porirua
A big team for our local qualifying athletics competition with the colleges in Porirua.



Senior 3x3 Basketball team, with team manager **Jeahvani Aiono Pamata-Feo** & Umpire **Faith Tusani** had a very successful day. Only lost 1 game by 1 point.

A big congratulations to our 2x senior boys volleyball teams who qualified at Regionals and competed at the Secondary Schools Nationals held in Palmerston North last week. What a huge success for both teams!



Senior A Boys Volleyball Team



P.C senior boys Kilikiti combined with Viard in a strong competition. This is no village Kilikiti. We have to bring our A game to this code.



Senior B Boys Volleyball Team



P.C Senior Girls Kilikiti Team is a very competitive team, they love to win. They're gonna come back stronger next year.



WELCOME

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Mabuhay! Kia ora e te whānau!

I'm Ray, your new Health & Physical Education teacher. I've been teaching for 11 years and love keeping active - frisbee, volleyball, and tennis are some of my favourites.

I was born and raised in the Philippines by my mighty mama and my ship-captain pop - raised to be strong on the outside but a total softie on the inside. I'm here in Aotearoa to experience the beautiful culture of manaakitanga and to grow my own mana, which is how I've proudly found my place here at Porirua College.

I'm especially thrilled to be part of Rangituhi House, where my childhood hero - the Incredible Hulk - is the main poster boy. Unlike the big green guy who prefers to be left alone, I absolutely welcome your mana waves and greetings when you see me! Looking forward to an awesome year together. Cheers!

Ngā mihi,
Ray Albarillo



Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Mālo ni, Ni sa bula vinaka, Noa'ia, Fakatalofa, Kam na mauri

Kia ora! My name is Bethany (she/her) and I am the new School Counsellor at Porirua College. He tangata Tiriti ahau; I whakapapa to Scotland, the North of England and Wales.

I join the K2K team with a background in counselling, youth work and youth mentoring. I am in my final year of study to become a registered psychotherapist.

My role here at Porirua College, along with the wider K2K tīma, is to support rangatahi with their hauora, mental health and wellbeing. I offer a confidential space where students can receive support, helping them to understand themselves and to navigate the world around them. If you have concerns about your young person's mental health, please chat to their Learning Coach who can refer them for a chat.

*Whāia te hauora hinengaro kia puāwai ai te hauora tangata - There is no health without mental health
E pala le ma'a ae le pala le tala - Stones decay however, words do not*

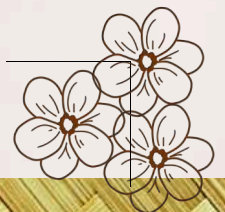
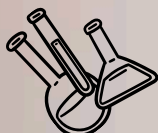


Tēnā koutou katoa. My name is Lucy Hughes, and I am the new Chemistry and Science teacher at the kura for 2026. I am also a learning coach in Tangare house.

I was born and raised in Taranaki, but my whānau is from the Philippines. Before coming to teaching, I was a scientist that worked on making new medicines. I am excited to share my passion for science and the world with the ākongā of Porirua College.

If you see me, please say hello and introduce yourself, I'm always keen to meet whānau and have a chat.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Lucy Hughes



LEARNER LICENSE COURSE

Here is the confirmed list of students who will be participating in the Learner License Course during the Term 1 School Holidays, please note that we can only have 25-30 participants per course, so if a student is not on this list, they will be on the Term 2 School Holiday list. We are still waiting on some of the students passports or birth certificates. We need to be sure that the name we have in KAMAR matches what is on the students' birth certificate/passport. If the names don't match, the student won't be able to sit their test on Friday.

As part of this programme, students will take part in a two-day workshop where they will study the NZ Road Code and complete practice tests to build their confidence. They will then sit their official Learner Licence test on-site at Partners Porirua on Friday 17th April.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE READ!



Date & Time: Wednesday 15th April - Friday 17th April from 11:00am-2:00pm

Where: Partners Porirua HQ, 3 Cobham Court (next to the old Westpac bank)

Phone: 04 237 1097

Email: admin@partnersporirua.org.nz

Cost: \$50 (we have received the \$50 payment for your child to participate in this course)

REMEMBER!

- Each student is required to bring their own lunch each day
- Send a picture of your child's ID to sburgess@pen.net.nz ASAP to avoid any delays for your child to sit their Learner License Test
- Students MUST bring their original ID (birth certificate or passport) to course each day

Shmuel Gonzales	Praise Lamsam	Aliyah Tumanako
Lily Gaulofa	Missouri Maifala	Jahzelle Schuster
Kalani Turepu	David Joseph-Maruaao	Sialataua Puaaniu
Raymond Peita	Cairo Hamm	Beniamina Vaea
Teboua Tekake	Fogalei Laukava	Nada Ziwani
Lahzaye Rangitakatu	Tyrell Tinei	Husvarna Mckinnon
Queen Logovae-Williams	Fernandez Patia	Te-Moananui-a-kiwa Smith
Seiola Patelesio	Travis Schuster	Lincoln Leilua-Leota
Rina Leota	Ani Mason	Stellamaris Toma
Angel Toma		



SCHOOL NOTICES

Enjoy the school holidays and the Easter break, we look forward to seeing you all in Term 2 starting 20th April

SCHOOL HOURS

Day	Start	Finish
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri	9:00am	3:05pm
Weds	9:00am	1:50pm
Lunch	11:20pm	12:00pm



All students must wear full school uniform everyday



SCABIES

Scabies is a very itchy skin rash (especially at night) caused by a reaction to a tiny mite that burrows under your skin.



Scabies spreads easily between people through close skin-to-skin contact and won't go away without treatment.

Scabies is usually treated with a cream called permethrin which kills the scabies mite. Get this from your pharmacy or on prescription from your doctor. You need enough cream to treat everyone in your household, even if they don't have any symptoms.

For more information see: healthify.nz/health-a-z/s/scabies/

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

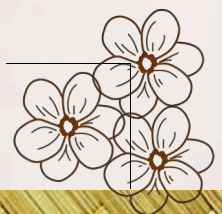
Maths Support at Porirua College - Need more info?

Head of Faculty Mathematics: Jen Crisp [jcrisp@pen.net.nz]

Asst Head of Faculty & Numeracy Coordinator: Bex Lawton [rlawton@pen.net.nz]



Feel free to reach out to your child's maths teacher at any point, you can find contact details on the school website www.poriruacollege.school.nz



COMMUNITY NOTICES

New variable 30km/h speed limit signage outside school gates

Over the next three months, Porirua City Council is installing new variable 30km/h speed limit signage outside school gates. The variable speed will apply approximately 150 metres either side of each school gate.

In 2024, the Government introduced the new new Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2024. This rule requires us to implement variable speed limits of 30km/h during 'school travel periods' outside all schools. 'Variable' means the speed limit varies during the day. During school travel periods, the speed limit will be 30km/h – outside these times, the usual speed limit will apply.

Council has worked with schools and their communities to identify roads outside school gates and to set school travel times. We will be using static variable signs that list the times when the 30km/h speed limit applies.

School travel periods vary from school to school based on their needs; the table below lists the schools within Cannons Creek and times at which the 30km/hr speed limit will apply, both in the morning and in the afternoons.

If you have any questions, please contact the Transport team at the Council.

School name	Morning	Afternoon
Brandon Intermediate	8:15am-9:30am	1:30pm-3:30pm
Cannons Creek School	8:15am-9:30am	2:30pm-3:30pm
Glenview School	8:15am-9:30am	2:30pm-3:30pm
Holy Family School	8:15am-9:30am	2:30pm-3:30pm
Maraeroa School	8:15am-9:30am	1:30pm-3:30pm
Porirua College	8:15am-9:30am	1:30pm-3:30pm
Russell Kura	8:15am-9:30am	2:30pm-3:30pm
Windley School	8:15am-9:30am	2:30pm-3:30pm

