

Term Two | Issue  
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# PASS Newsletter

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## Warm Pacific Greetings

Kia Ora tātou katoa,

Tēnei te mihi maioha ki a koutou katoa. Ko te tūmanako e mau ana tonu te ringa aroha o te Atua ki runga i o tātou whānau whānui.

What a term it has been. Our students have produced a good quantity of work in their classrooms, with much of it being of very good quality where merits and excellences have been awarded. As we hit the middle of winter, a few people have struggled with their health, but our attendance rate across the school continues to be in the 80% to 90% range. Ka pai whānau.

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***“Oua lau e  
kafo kae lau  
e lava – Stay  
positive and  
count your  
blessings”***

*This proverb  
reminds us to  
be thankful  
for what we  
have and  
keep moving  
forward.*

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## PASS Academics

During week 7, the students sat their practise exams for the core subject areas of English, Science and Mathematics. The students responded well to the strict exam conditions and will practice once again in term 3 before the external examinations in November. It is important to note that pre-exam study is critical if students want the best results. It will be important for all students to put aside at least 4-8 hours per week outside of school hours towards homework and study. Those who commit to extra work and study will reap the rewards at the end of the academic year.

## PASS Curriculum

The management team with input from staff, students and parents have been undergoing a curriculum review with the aim to improve our practice and student results. We are excited to tell you that staff continue to evaluate their practice through learning conversations with each other and the students about what works and what is not working.

The following summary of comments depicts what students and staff feel are key areas for improvement:

- *Students need more time to understand lessons and complete tasks*
- *Some students need to stop distracting themselves and their peers from learning*
- *Some classes need to be more interesting, relevant and fun*
- *Some students need to show respect to teachers and their peers in class*
- *As a family, we need to follow the values of LOVE, COMPASSION, RESPECT, FAITH and SERVICE at all times to show respect to one another*
- *Education is important and can be fun and meaningful for our futures*
- *Students need to take their studies and education more seriously*
- *Taking care of the little things helps us to achieve even bigger things*

The school staff and management are working towards improving in the above areas wherever possible. We look forward to updating you further throughout term 3.

## PASS Cultural Experiences

The term was filled with some amazing cultural experiences such as our very own PASS Music Fest where our Y12 Music class presented their practised items of song and instrumental performances to an audience of 80 friends and family. The students performed like true musicians and made us all proud. The Le Moana Dance Company lead by Tupe Lualua returned this year to perform another amazing dance/drama held at the Mangere Arts Centre for our students and wider community. The internationally renowned Royal Family hip hop crew led by South Auckland's very own Parris Goebel performed two outstanding dance sets here at PASS before they head off to the world hip-hop dance championship in Las Vegas. It was a truly exciting and inspirational experience for our students.

## PASS Sport

Our winter sports continue to develop and there have been some valuable lessons learnt by us all. A major lesson that was discussed in depth with the students before and during the season, was commitment. The Oxford Dictionary explains that the meaning of commitment is "the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etc." Many of our students do not yet understand commitment and are misguided with what they think it takes to demonstrate playing quality sport. Losing games is not comfortable, but we endeavour to teach our students that our losses will help to build our resilience and character.

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*"O le upega  
tautau, 'ae  
fagota"*

*"If at first you  
don't  
succeed, try  
and try  
again"*

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## Important Dates

DATE	DETAILS
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Term 3 Begins</b>
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Matariki Dance Performance</b>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Parenting Evening at PASS</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Malofie Samoa Cook Island Language Week</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	<b>School Photo's</b>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Hui Tauutuutu (Parent, Student, Teacher Interviews)</b>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>Teacher Only Day</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Tongan Language Week Practise Exams</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>L1 MCAT Exams</b>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>Kainga Celebration Night</b>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>Term 3 Ends</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Term 4 Begins</b>