



WE'RE ON LINE!

We are so proud of our new website. And it's so smart it's encouraged a high school to ask our website developers to get their website up and running.

In fact, our website – www.stpeterscatholic.school.nz - has been created by our new Deputy Principal, Denise Wards, who has great skills in information and communication technology (ICT), has done a great deal of professional development in learning, and is also a specialist in child literacy.

The website was set up for us by web-developers *spike@school*, with a really lovely Home page featuring children's photos. There's also a range of menu bars, and a special feature using "learning caves" for children to explore and show parents what they have been learning. Children can also access homework links to assist with homework. In the near future children will be able to access homework directly, as well as special projects. Teachers are currently being given training so they can keep up-to-date with this wonderful new learning aid for children.

Web-page developers *spike@school* have told us that it was solely because of the really smart design-work on our website by Denise that, for the first time, a high school has decided to use their services, and for them that's a real feather in their cap.

Obviously for Denise, that's a whole bonnet of feathers.

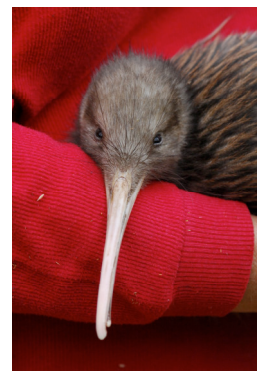
BEAKER THE KIWI

We have a wonderful opportunity to Sponsor a Kiwi. We are currently working through the proposal with the Maungatautari Ecological Trust, The Department of Conservation and local Iwi. Beaker, the kiwi has a genetic fault on the tip of her beak. She was originally from Tongariro Forest where her egg was collected and she was hatched and raised at Rainbow Springs. Now she is in a special enclosure on the Southern side of the Maungatautari Ecological Island Reserve.

It is hoped that our year five and six students of St Peter's Catholic School will Sponsor a Kiwi at the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust native bush and wildlife reserve, and that this be an on-going project which will show the bird's overall progress during the coming years.

Concept: The students (aged nine to 10 years), together with teachers will create a large and expandable log book which will be divided into several sections, such as:

- Individual bird (name/sex/age etc)
- Habits of individual and/or pair
- Foods at different times of year
- Breeding success
- Historic data on the species generally
- Feathers collected and labeled from the moult each year



Inevitably, other topics will occur as the project and the log grows, and these can be added as required.

Once a term the children will visit the kiwi enclosure to see where the bird lives, how the plants in the enclosure have changed with the seasons, possibly to collect moulted feathers from the bird, and also possibly to see and photograph the bird. As part of the visit they would be spoken to by experts arranged through MEIT and DoC. These experts may also visit the children from time to time in their classrooms.

During the term the children will be involved in projects such as gathering information on kiwi from elsewhere around the country, perhaps including writing letters to other breeding stations seeking relevant posters, and creating an annual display in the school library of posters and the children's own research and art work on the birds.

TUI RIDGE CAMP 2007

On Sunday, 25th March all the Year 7 & 8s set out for Tui Ridge Lodge near Rotorua. When we got to Tui Ridge we went and checked out our dorms. There was a boy's dorm and a girl's dorm. Three times a day we had dorm inspections. We got points for how tidy the dorm was. At the end of camp the boys had the most points. We won a desert lunch.

We had delicious meals at camp even though it was a vegetarian camp.

On Monday and Tuesday we had rotations. The activities rotated were archery, rock climbing, orienteering and the high ropes course. We also played games like Gold Rush and Top Team. In Gold Rush we went out in our groups to find gold. We each had one life. If we had gold, people could steal the gold off us. We also had to give them our life. Sheriffs were parents and if they saw you stealing or that you had two lives they took your gold and your lives off you. If you didn't have a life you got one off a preacher which was a parent. If you got your gold into the safe zone you gave it to your banker and you got some points. The Blue and Gold Chilli Salts group won Gold Rush.

In Top Team you went around in your groups and did activities. For each activity you got points for how well you did. The group with most points won and that was the Meatlovers Group.

We also had a camp out in the bush. You could either sleep in a tent or make a bivouac. We made our own dinner and went on a Burma trail. We left Tui Ridge on Wednesday the 28th. We couldn't have done this without the help of all the parents and teachers that came.

Tui Ridge Camp was awesome fun and everyone will remember it forever. Great activities, great fun, great food, great teamwork, great parents and great chocolate fish.

