6th April 2023.

Good afternoon, everyone,

Almost unbelievably we have reached the end of our first term of 2023.

We were lucky to be able to move forward quickly from the turmoil of the start of term that was affected by weather events. We got into our routines and students have worked magnificently this term. There has been a focused and positive vibe across the whole school and lots of happy students pleased to be back with their friends and teachers.

2023 has a strong focus on curriculum development and refresh throughout the country and staff have been participating in groups and workshops in addition to our usual staff meetings after school. These have shaped our Parkside Curriculum refresh which is thematically based and now rolling out across school. Students have been enjoying new learning that comes with the curriculum, showing interest and motivation when undertaking tasks.

Students have also enjoyed a range of EOTC (education outside the classroom) activities. Room three had a trip to the city to attend an award ceremony and Wellington Street hub (formerly Base) organized a cultural day with a visiting kapa haka group from a local mainstream school and a bagpipe player. The day was a big success for everyone.

Our older students participated with great success in Special Olympics and were the champions of the day. Some wonderful athletic performances were seen and amazing participation and spirit.

PHS held a ceremony for appointing their new Student Senior Leaders. The Leaders have all taken their role very seriously, organizing events at PHS and supporting their peers.

Our new Ngakoroa classes are fully operational, and I attended the opening where I had the opportunity to meet with our Prime Minister. Our classes at Ngakoroa were of great interest to him and he was impressed by the building we have managed to negotiate with the Ministry. Nothing else would be worthy of our students of course.

Amy Dinnie from Ngakoroa is heading off to have her baby and Sanet Bleeker will be taking over soon after the term break. We would like to thank Amy for all her hard work and look forward to seeing her again.

Talking of buildings, our Wellington Street Hub is now almost at completion and the final walk round will take place in the second week of the term break. We will be moving in, all being well, near the beginning of Term 2. We will of course be hosting an official opening which we will provide details about at a later date.

Valley School has managed a very calm and settled term and it is clear to see the children are enjoying their time there with some great learning taking place. View Road has also had a positive term and makes use of their new and extended outdoor play area to great effect. Tarryn Thompson will be leaving us for a while as she goes on maternity leave and spends time with her new baby. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her and the new baby later in the year. In Tarryn’s place we welcome Priya Subasinghe who has already begun working with us and is getting to know the class.

Hill School have also made great use of their new outdoor space, and this is now covered to allow more curriculum and play opportunities in all weathers. They also utilize the mainstream school areas and have a great outdoor trail to follow. Tamaoho also share a play area with the mainstream and have become experts at balancing on the exercise and balance poles.

Puke East have enjoyed assemblies with their mainstream counterparts and are working well with their new teacher Lizzie.

A very busy and successful term comes to an end, and we look forward to Term 2 with excitement and anticipation for all events to come. Every term I think it, and then, every term I think it more – Parkside is a wonderful school with the most amazing students and hardworking, talented, and skilled staff spread across the whole school. It is a great place to be, and we look forward as a whole school community to making Parkside Specialist School even better as we move through the year.

Thank you to our students for being so fun and keen to learn. Thank you to all staff for your hard work throughout the term. Thank you also to our BOT for their ongoing support and guidance. Most of all, thank you parents, carers and whanau, for your support and positive contributions that shape how we move forward and show we are on the right track. Have a wonderful Easter break everyone!

Nga Mihi Nui,

Carol

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**He aha te mea nui o te ao**  
What is the most important thing in the world?  
**He tangata, he tangata, he tangata**  
It is the people, it is the people, it is the people