

Important Dates

17th August

ICAS Spelling Bee and
Science

18th August

Core Conferences
3:30pm – 7:30pm

19th August

Central Zone Cross
Country

20th August

Open Morning

Mathex

21st August

School Speech Finals

24th August

ICAS Mathematics

Bandquest

25th August

Camp Parents Meeting
6:00pm

26th August

Core Conferences
3:30pm – 7:30pm

28th August

Teacher Only Day

Out of Zone Enrolments
Close

Leadership Message

Kia ora whānau,

What a fantastic time Culture Week and Roadshow was for our school community last week. The children participated in a wide range of different cultural experiences across 9 classes. Teachers chose areas of expertise and cultures that were dear to their heart to share with our students. Lots of great connections were made in classes and teachers were excited to teach across the whole school.

This week many of our students have been presenting their three-minute prepared speech in English class. Students love the writing of these as they are genuine passion pieces of writing. We are so proud of every student that gets up in front of their class to present. It is such good experience commanding the attention of a group of students through oral presentations in class and a good skill to build on as students move through their schooling. The top 10 – 12 students will be selected from semi-finals to present in front of the whole school in the finals next week. Congratulation to all of our students who have presented so far.

There are some extra special activities coming up to celebrate our student's talents. A number of students have been participating in the external ICAS exams over the last week and these continue next week. We have a number of students who have been working hard to prepare for both the Mathex and Bandquest competitions taking place in Week 5 and 6. Good luck to all of those students competing, we know you will do Ponsonby proud.

Lastly, we'd like to remind you to keep children who are sick at home. There has been a large number of students away and it is important that they have adequate time at home to recuperate before returning to school. If you receive a call from school to pick up your child, can you please action this as quickly as possible to allow the sick bay to triage other minor injuries.

Arohanui,
The Senior Leadership Team

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- School Calendar
- Two Minute Tech Time: *Gaming Without Parent Guilt*

Culture Week Wrap Up

Parade of Nations and Cultural Market

A highlight of Culture Week was our Parade of Nations, with an incredible 64 countries represented. Students proudly waved their flags and wore traditional clothing as they celebrated their cultural heritage with the school community. The parade was followed by a Cultural Market, organised and run by our Cultural Ambassadors. This gave students another opportunity to '*respond with wonderment and awe*' as they sampled delicious treats from around the world. A special thank you to all the parents and whānau who supported their children by helping to prepare food and organise traditional clothing. Your support helped make this celebration of culture such a memorable experience for our students.



Sri Lankan Cultural Group

The Sri Lankan students worked hard throughout Term 2 to prepare a wonderful cultural performance, which they proudly shared during Culture Week. Their dance celebrated the hard work of farmers in the fields and showcased traditional games and festivals that are an important part of Sri Lankan culture. A special thank you to parent Chamindri Vithanage, who generously shared her time and expertise to choreograph and teach the dance. We are very grateful for her support in helping our students celebrate and share their culture with our school community.



Japanese Lunchtime Activities

Last Wednesday, we celebrated Japanese culture with a fun and exciting lunchtime activity for our students. Students had the opportunity to experience a range of Japanese activities, including **origami**, **face painting**, a **Japanese quiz**, and a **skipping rope competition**. The activities were a great way for students to learn about Japanese culture. It was wonderful to see so many students getting involved, trying something new, and sharing their enthusiasm for Japanese culture.



We were also very grateful for the support of our **Japanese community parent helpers and Ponsonby staff**. Their time, energy, and encouragement helped make the activities a great success.

A big **thank you** to all the students, parents, staff, and helpers who made our Japanese lunchtime activities so special! JP

Roadshow Week and Showquest National Results

Congratulations to all of our students involved in the 2026 travelling Roadshow. A group of 83 students performed nine 45 minute shows to our local primary schools. The show was slick and the children at each school loved what they saw. The Ponsonby Intermediate students did our school community proud. It was special to be able to also perform the Roadshow to our own school on Thursday morning. Travelling with the show was a reduced cast of our Showquest piece. On Thursday afternoon the National final for Showquest was aired on YouTube with 11 schools from across New Zealand selected including our piece. Ponsonby didn't place at the Nationals but did pick up ***Excellence*** awards in ***Dance*** and ***Lighting***. Well done to our fantastic lighting designers Elvis Lam and Paddy Mullin-Butt.



Camp Parents' Meeting: Tuesday 25th August

In Week 6 on Tuesday 25th August we have our **Camp Parents' Meeting starting at 6pm** in the school hall.

All parents are welcome to attend, especially if you are attending camp or helping out with transport. You will hear from our Senior Leadership team first and then we will split off into our camp groups to hear further detail about your child's camp.

This meeting is a great opportunity to meet other parents who are also attending camp. Parking will be available on the field, weather permitting.

Student Led Conferences: Term 3 – (repeat notice)

Student Led Conferences are run every term at Ponsonby Intermediate.

Core subjects (English and Mathematics) hold conferences twice a year in Term 1 and Term 3.

Modular conferences happen every term (as students are involved in two different modular subjects each term).

Conference Bookings

Core Conferences

Tuesday 18th August - 3:30pm - 7:30pm

CORE code: **nkxy5**

Please include your child's room number.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/nkxy5>

Wednesday 26th August - 3:30pm - 7:30pm

CORE code: **dxxuk**

Please include your child's room number.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/dxxuk>

Modular Conferences

Wednesday 2nd September - 3:30pm - 7:30pm

MODULE code: **t5c7y**

Please include your child's room number.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/t5c7y>

Below are the list of teachers and the classes they teach to make booking easier. Please find your child's room number and book in with those teachers.

Thanks,

Cobey Bennett

cobeyb@ponsint.school.nz

Core Teachers:

English:

Katie Fiddian: Teaching Rooms 11, 17

Lauren Collins: Teaching Rooms 3, 16, 22

Inger Moffat: Teaching Rooms 9, 25, 30

Penelope Dunn: Teaching Rooms 15, 19, 23

Kellie Spencer: Teaching Rooms 1, 21, 26

Stephanie Bruce: Teaching Rooms 8, 14, 28

Jane Jeon: Teaching Rooms 12, 18, 20

Maths:

Ian Wannamaker: Teaching Rooms, 12, 21, 22, 30

Carolyn Hunter: Teaching Rooms 1, 12, 17, 18

Katherine Busch: Teaching Rooms 15, 19, 23, 28

Lisa Stephenson: Teaching Rooms 3, 9, 16, 20

Ellen Legge: Teaching Rooms 8, 14, 26

Cherie Bolesworth: Teaching Room 11

Module Teachers:

Design Technologies: Cobey Bennett

Teaching Rooms 15, 17, 18, 25, 30

Art: Sarah Valintine

Teaching Rooms 15, 17, 18, 25, 30

Performing Arts: Christine Cullen

Teaching Rooms: 3, 12, 20, 26, 28

Music: Claire Holmes

Teaching Rooms: 3, 12, 20, 26, 28

Health & P.E: Sam Jardine

P.E & Health - Teaching Rooms - 1, 3, 15, 17, 19, 23, 28

P.E - Teaching Rooms - 11, 12, 16, 18, 21, 22, 28

Health & P.E: Michelle Murray

PE & Health - Teaching Rooms 8, 9, 14, 20, 25, 26, 30

Health - Teaching Rooms 11, 12, 16, 18, 21, 22

Home Economics: Kelly Richardson

Teaching Rooms: 1, 14, 16, 19, 23

Science: Sione Taupeaafa

Teaching Rooms: 1, 14, 16, 19, 23

Science: Andrea Sherrock

Teaching Rooms: 8, 9, 11, 21, 22

Exploring Technology: Andy Wilson

Teaching Rooms: 8, 9, 11, 21, 22

Social Sciences: Sarah Howie

Teaching Rooms: 1, 3, 9, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 25

Learning Languages: Holly Francis

Teaching Rooms: 8, 11, 14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 26, 28, 30

Teacher Only Day: Friday 28th August (repeat notice)

The Ministry of Education granted schools two Teacher Only Days in 2026 to help with the development of the new curriculum changes.

Our next Teacher Only Day will be **Friday 28th August**. Note this date has changed from Friday 4th September.

Supervision will be provided if needed, email office@ponsint.school.nz

Camp Fees

The fee for attending camp this year is **\$370 for Year 7 and \$430 Year 8**. This amount can be paid online using the link below or at the front office.

If you pay online, please follow the instructions with regard to payment details. You can pay in as many instalments as you like leading up to the **due date of September 12th**.

<https://www.ponsonbyintermediate.school.nz/online-payment/>

If you have any questions regarding camp, your first point of contact is your child's form teachers.

Kids to Camp Sponsorship

Throughout the year, we raise money to sponsor students to attend camp in Term 4.

If you are a parent/caregiver who would like to sponsor a student feel free to follow the link below with the reference 'Kids to Camp'. You can contribute as little or as much as you like. It all helps to ensure students do not miss out on camp due to financial hardship. A huge thank you to those families who have contributed, your contribution is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.ponsonbyintermediate.school.nz/online-payment/>

Sports Update

Central Zone Squash Success

The Ponsonby squash squad was well-prepared for the Central Zone Tournament, held on August 4 at the Mt Eden-Balmoral Squash and Tennis Club. Students began their squash journey in Term 2 through the Thursday 'Options' programme at Herne Bay Squash and Racket Club. Following a selection process, two boys' teams and one girls' team were formed and prepared for the tournament.

Led by experienced Year 8 student Ishana, a member of last year's winning team, the girls' team successfully defended their Central Zone title. The second boys' team, made up mainly of Year 7 students, gained valuable tournament experience for next year.

Meanwhile, the first boys' team had Oscar (11) from last year's team, who remained undefeated throughout the tournament, winning all seven matches to claim the **Central Zone title**.



Adding to the excitement, four squad members then dashed to Grey Lynn School to perform with the Roadshow Team!

Congratulations to all our squash players on an outstanding tournament and some fantastic results!

Cross Country

There was an impressive turnout of runners for Ponsonby Intermediate's Cross Country event on Thursday 30th July. Students participated in their House Fun Races covering a distance of 1500m (1 lap). Competitive Races for Year 7 and 8 groups ran 3000m (2 laps) with the top 10 runners recognised for their awesome efforts and speedy times - see results below.

Top 8 runners are entered for the Central Zone Cross Country team with the event coming up on Wednesday 19th August at Waatarua Reserve, Remuera.

	Year 7		Year 8	
Placing	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
1st	Anouk Dainty (12:32)	Archer Traill (10:42)	Amelia Bell (12:13)	Jacob Griffiths (11:09)
2nd	Delilah Gaze	Renner Speed	Lauren Sams	Rocky Veber-Nichols
3rd	Zoe Campbell	Tommy McLennan	Ruby McKubre	Paddy Mullin-Butt
4th	Amalia Wood	Quinn Woods	Darina Herceg	Mason Bedford
5th	Alice Hildner	William O'Sullivan	Ellie Rimell	Eli Muirhead
6th	Kaea Parker	Anderson Joe	Sabine Christophersen	Jasper Templeman
7th	Lola Hames	Henry Mayson	Jade Brainard	James Old
8th	Abby Cole	Oscar Reynolds	Sophia Bishop	Max Covic
9th	Charlotte Ramsay	Jack Shaw	Maelee Sotome	Saxon Jones
10th	Millie Lewis	Flynt Jaden Sambale	Amelia Vercoe	Osgar McGeorge

Netball

Ponsonby Intermediate Netball teams Year 8/1 and Year 7/1 competed at the Central Zone Girls Netball tournament a few weeks ago on Friday 31st July. Both teams played competitively to show off their defensive and attacking positional skills with many of the games resulting in close scores. Wins or losses, teams backed each other positively all day and most importantly had fun! Thanks to coaches and parents for their fantastic support keeping players energised.

Year 7 players Ivory and Riley shared their team's shout outs - Miya and Lucy for some incredible intercepts and plays in midcourt; Ivory and Kaea for spectacular goals and incredible work in attack; Anouk and Kaya for great speed and skill in midcourt; Deliah for stepping into GA with some amazing shots and finally, shout out to Riley and Saskia for unstoppable intercepts and wonderful work in defence.



Year 8 players Amelia and Maisy expressed shout outs to their team -

Amelia for amazing midcourt play; Maya for some skilful long shots; Maisy for some fantastic pass into the circle; Maya T for superb working of the circle; Alex for some splendid rebounds; Dhanya for excellent control of defence; Ishana for terrific zone defence; Zitong for great intercepts through court and Bella for scoring some amazing goals.

Special mention to Ava, Ruby, Issy and Florence for their confident umpiring abilities. It's great to see players learning to umpire and understand the game better.



Hackathon

Our annual Hackathon competition kicked off on Friday 7th August. 77 students signed up to the Google Classroom to show interest in participating. Students have a 2 week period to create something digital. Previous successful entries have included Minecraft, animation, coding, digital art, and more. The Tech Experts and Mr Andy Wilson will be looking for 5 success criteria: Wow factor, Creativity, Complexity, Visually looks cool, Unique. Room 19 is available during lunchtimes for students to continue on their projects during the competition.

Library Books

A stocktake of the library was recently completed and we have a lot of outstanding books. Can you please help your child look for any books they may have and have them returned to the library as soon as possible.

Message from the Board Chair

A big thank you to all the parents and caregivers for their feedback on the Principal role survey. We had a good amount of feedback. The feedback has already been used to help inform various documents that make up the job pack for the Principal role. It will also help the Board in informing some of our direction going forward. Staff and students also contributed their thoughts. Thanks for taking the time.

The Principal role is being advertised from today for about a month. Interviews are scheduled for mid-October. We hope to be announcing the appointment of a new Principal by the end of October and for the new Principal to commence the role in January 2027.

Kind Regards
Hamish Hopkinson

Tongan Language Dining Opportunity



TOKOS TACOS
M E X I C A N F U S I O N



Tongan Language Week will be celebrated in **Week 5, from 15–22 August**. As part of our celebrations, we are excited to offer students and staff the opportunity to enjoy food from a fantastic Tongan family-owned business, **Toko Tacos**.

Toko Tacos has recently won several awards and, more importantly, serves some seriously delicious food!

You can check out their menu at [Toko Tacos Menu](#)

How to Order

1. At the bottom of the menu is an order form.
2. Complete the form as a means of communication.
3. Select your food of choice and quantity.
4. Add the necessary details below in the **Allergy section**.
 - **Child's name**
 - **Room number**
 - **Ponsonby Intermediate**
 - **Delivery time: 12:30 pm, Wednesday 19 August**
5. Pay by Bank transfer.

Providing these details will ensure your child's meal is delivered to the correct classroom. **Orders must be completed by Tuesday, 9 am, 18 August.**

Two Minute Tech Time: Gaming Without Parent Guilt

Is your child gaming more than feels healthy? How much is too much, and what boundaries can you set so it's balanced and you don't feel like you're dropping the ball?

Follow the link to Rob Cope's - [Gaming without the Parent Guilt](#)

Ponsonby Intermediate Calendar - Term 3, 2026

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4	10 August	11 August	12 August	13 August	14 August
	CZ Boys/Girls Rugby League English ICAS	Wednesdays timetable Positively Ponsonby rep training	Tuesday Timetable AIMS tour groups Open Evening @ 6pm Performance Evening 7pm (postponed)		
5	17 August	18 August	19 August	20 August	21 August
	Science and Spelling Bee ICAS	Core Conferences	CZ Cross Country	Open Morning Mathex	School Speeches in Assembly
6	24 August	25 August	26 August	27 August	28 August
	CZ Boys/Girls Rugby League SAVE DAY Mathematics ICAS Bandquest	Camp Parents Meeting at 6pm	Attitude Show – P.3 - Puberty Core Conferences		Teacher Only Day Out of Zone Enrolments Close
7	31 August	1 September	2 September	3 September	4 September
	Life Education starts (Y8s)	Open Morning	Modular Conferences		
8	7 September	8 September	9 September	10 September	11 September
		BoT Meeting 6pm	Enrolment Ballot		Life Education Ends (Y8s)
9	14 September	15 September	16 September	17 September	18 September
		CZ Boys Basketball		CZ Girls Basketball	
10	21 September	22 September	23 September	24 September	25 September
		HPV 2 Year 8's immunisations			End of Term



Speech & Drama

Term 3 Classes

The Details:

- Ages: 5+ Mornings and Afternoons
 - Ponsonby Intermediate Saturdays
 - Small groups, Pairs and 1-1s
 - Exam options Trinity and Speech NZ
 - Students attending Saturday classes at Ponsonby Intermediate can be from any school
 - Tutor Fiona Mogridge, professionally trained performer and educator (LTCL, ATCL speech and drama teaching)
- www.dramahub.co.nz**

Performing arts
Communication skills
Poetry, prose and drama
Script work
Improvisation
Exam options

Speech and Drama Lessons which build essential communication and connection, public speaking with confidence, drama and performance skills.

About your tutor

Fiona is an enthusiastic and experienced educator. She has a professional background in the performing arts in TV, film and theatre. She teaches at a number of schools around Auckland and is thrilled to be at Ponsonby Intermediate.

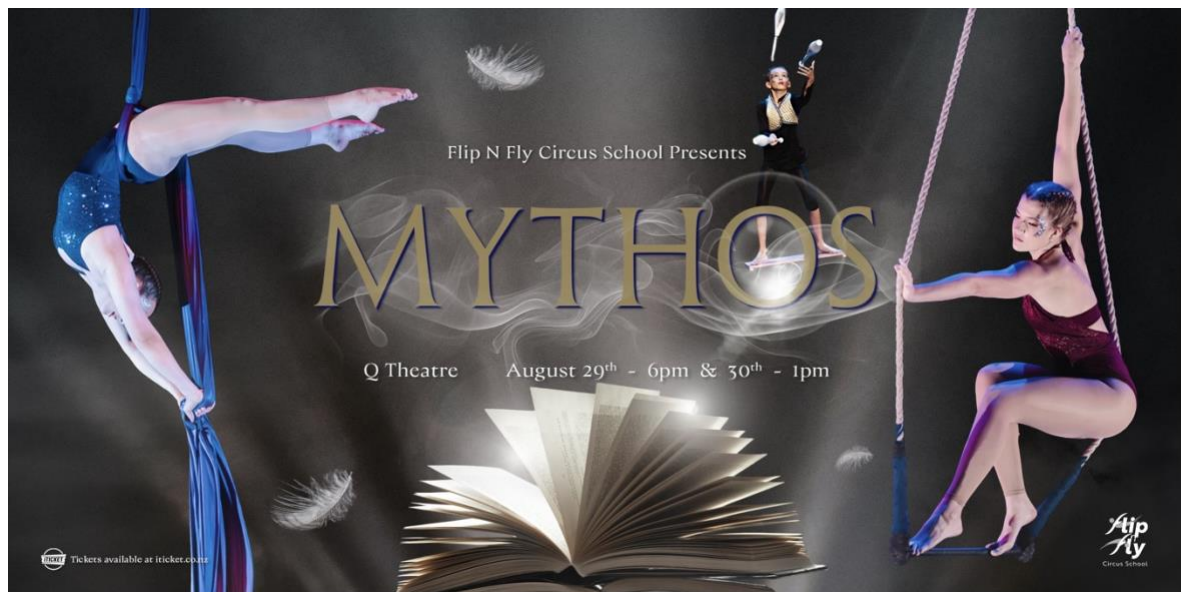


Ready to get started?

Get in touch or enrol your child today

✦ info@dramahub.co.nz ✦ 021 583 049





Waitematā Local Board Auckland Council

Freemans Bay Community Centre

Freemans Bay Markets

Freemans Bay Community Centre, 52 Hepburn Street

10am - 2pm
Saturday 29 August

Makers Market of artists and boutique handmade products

Garage Sale of locals selling second hand items

visit our website: freemansbaycommunity.org.nz

Growth Through Learning

We are open to change, treating each challenge as an opportunity to learn. As life long learners we strive to be the best we can be.

As members of a class, a school and a community, we are part of a whole. We come together from many different cultures to learn from each other.

Making Connections

Expressing Ourselves

We explore and share our thoughts, talents, feelings and beliefs because these make us who we are. We get the most out of life when we are true to ourselves.

Showing Respect for Other People

Because we have confidence in who we are, we are able to appreciate and let others be themselves. We care and support each other inside and outside the classroom.

Our Values are GEMS