

Newsletter

Ponsonby
Intermediate School

Articulate, energised achievers, ready for the future

31st August 2026

Important Dates

31st August

Life Education – *all week*

1st September

Open Morning 9.15am

2nd September

Open Morning 9.15am

Modular Conferences

9th September

Out of Zone Enrolment
Ballot Drawn

15th September

Central Zone Basketball
Boys

17th September

Central Zone Basketball
Girls

22nd September

HPV 2 Year 8
Immunisations

25th September

End of Term 3

Leadership Message

Kia ora whānau,

We continue to be very busy here at Ponsonby Intermediate School. This week's newsletter is a testament to some of the great opportunities available to our students. Several of our sports are wrapping up their seasons where we have seen a range of students connecting in new teams, growing through their sport and working hard in a team environment. We'd like to take the time to thank all of the parents who coordinate practises and game days, our incredible coaches, managers and teachers who work hard to ensure our students are able to participate in many different sports teams.

Within school there have also been an array of activities for students to participate in. Our Hackathon is finishing up with students exercising their incredible digital skills and creativity. Mr Andy Wilson and our Tech Experts will be judging this work over the coming days. The school turned yellow and green last week to support Daffodil Day ending in a huge game of whole school flags where the **Green** and **Yellow** team dominated over a school uniform group. Thank you to Mrs Cullen and our councillors for getting behind this important organisation and Tongan Language Week was extra special this year with Mr T organising a great range of activities for all to be involved in.

Last Friday we closed our Out of Zone enrolments and will be drawing our ballot next week. This begins the important job of transitioning Year 6's up to intermediate school for 2027. This is an important reminder for Year 8 parents to enrol your child in their high school so we can best support their transition to high school. There is more information to support the process in this newsletter. This is an exciting time for our Year 8's as they begin making plans for their next step in learning and we want to best support them in what's to come.

Finally, we'd like to thank our parents for keeping sick children at home. We know that there has been a lot of sickness both in our staff and with our students and allowing enough recovery time keeps everyone healthy.

Arohanui,

The Senior Leadership Team

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- School TV: *Peer Pressure*

Speech Finals 2026

A huge congratulations to all of our students for preparing their three minute speeches in English. We had 30 semi-finalists and the Top 11 students from across Year 7 and 8 competed in the school finals on Thursday last week. Congratulations to our finalists: Maisy R28, Muhammad R20, Darina R11, Max G R12, Issy M R1, Vivi F R18, Elvis L R11, Sam H R23, Ramona D R11, Lola H R30 and Annabelle L R11.

The final results were 1st: Sam Harvey with his speech on ***Why Stick Figures aren't Just Silly Doodles***; 2nd: Issy Miller with her speech on ***The Dangers of Vaping and Smoking***; 3rd: Elvis Lam speaking about ***Success*** and Highly Commended: Muhammad Faza on ***Pufferfish***.



Bandquest Success for Ponsonby!

On Monday 24th August, three of our talented rock bands participated in Bandquest at Bruce Mason Centre. Chaos 7 represented Ponsonby first with “Rolling in the Deep” and “Valerie” and looked like they were having a blast on stage. Timofei from Room 16 took out **Rock-solid Bassist** of the competition for Chaos 7. Next up, Electric delivered a great set with “Message in a Bottle” and “New Years Day” and a big congratulations to Rocky from Room 14 for taking out **Rocking Drummer** of the night. Detention was the last of 16 bands to play the whole night with “Starlight” and “Sweet Disposition”

Tilda from Room 11 says “ It was incredible energy from the crowd in the mosh pit and amazing to see AND hear all of Ponsonby's supporters!” A huge congratulations to Electric for winning **Second place** overall. A great night, great music and awesome parent and teacher support. A huge thank you to Joe Lonie, Mrs Cullen and Mrs Holmes for all of the support and mentoring.



Camp Notice

Thank you to all of the parents who came out to our camp meeting on Tuesday night and to all of our wonderful parents who are volunteering their time for transport and help over camp week. On Wednesday all students will come home with a gear list so you can start getting organised. This will include all of the items needed to have a great time at camp and also the things **not** required. Camp is a great time to disconnect with the online world and connect with a range of new people across a range of fun challenges in some pretty amazing settings.

Daffodil Day

Ponsonby Intermediate students got into the spirit of the Cancer Society's annual event to raise funds and awareness for people affected by cancer. Students participated in Just Dance, bought iceblocks, chalked the courts, face painting and a whole school game of Flags. Students raised \$500, it was so wonderful to see our students display kindness and a sense of community.



Tongan Language Week

This year's Tongan Language Week celebration had a twist where every activity started with the letter T. It enabled participation for anyone and everyone. The highlight was definitely having the Tongan family business of Toko Tacos on



Wednesday for all to enjoy. The food was delicious and also very filling. It was such a

successful event and such a great vibe that it could happen again later in the term, so stay tuned. The final event on Friday was celebrated in true friendly island fashion, where everyone received a prize for participating in the Tongan Knowledge Challenge. Malo aupito to everyone who participated in the activities; we hope it allowed you to experience the feeling of *māfana* - warmth, joy, excitement and connection.



Sports Update

IZ Futsal Champions!

After a long break since winning the CZ Futsal competition, our Year 7 Boys futsal team laced up their boots yet again to compete in the IZ futsal tournament on Monday, 17th August. For those unaware, Inter-zone is essentially the best of each zone in Auckland, competing for the number 1 spot for their age group.

Even with a slightly depleted squad due to injuries, the boys came out absolutely firing and took out the competition in incredible fashion. After a few narrow pool-play games, the boys won the final 8-3 and can say they are the best Y7 Boys futsal team in the whole Auckland region. This is an incredible feat to witness, made even more phenomenal by the CZ and IZ football wins this group have also been core members of.

A massive thank you must go out to Thomas Mayson who coached the team through both their CZ and IZ Futsal victories, and to our other parents who assisted with transport and team management.

Another huge congratulations to our team, comprising of Henry M, Ben M, Archer T, Tima L, George T, Harry M, Renner S, Axel B and Divyansh B.



Water Polo: Tim Sonderer Memorial Tournament

The Tim Sonderer Memorial Tournament is an annual water polo event for NZ Intermediate Schools with games played at Diocesan, St Cuthbert's and West Wave pools. The tournament started Thursday 30th July and teams competed over four days. The Ponsonby Intermediate Sharks team had a really great tournament and were really proud of the team's efforts placing 4th overall out of 16 teams. Congratulations to Tilda, Anouk, Maddie, Chloe, Paddy, Jet, Amelia, Kieran and Tima for a great tournament. A big thank you to coaches Dylan and Julian for all of their mentoring.



Hockey

The North Harbour Hockey season has concluded for the Ponsonby Goal Diggers team who were competing in the Kwik Sticks Open Year 7,8 Grade A Competition. There was a wide range of skill levels within the mixed-grade teams which made for exciting and rewarding games testing their hockey skills and perseverance. The team played their final round game with a convincing win 6–1 against Horizon Albany, placing 7th overall. Players Grayson, Robbie, Grace, James, Rafaela, India, Annabelle, Darina, Vida and Cora really enjoyed their hockey training and games and showed great improvement over the season. Thanks to the efforts of coaches James Hole, Joe Sacco and manager Dorothy Hoeh.



Netball Season Wrap Up

It has been a busy, full-on season of netball for Ponsonby Intermediate teams competing in the Netball North Harbour Intermediate competition. Rain or shine, teams have committed to training and game nights. Wins, draws or losses, teams competed wholeheartedly on court to play their best, to learn more about the game and most importantly have had fun! Awesome effort Year 7s and 8s. A huge thank you and appreciation to coaches, managers, parents and ex-students who volunteered their time every week to support Ponsonby netball teams.

Final Results: **7/1** - Grade 4, 8th. **7/2** - Grade 5, 6th. **7/3** - Grade 9, 4th. **7/4** - Grade 10, 6th. **8/1** - Grade 3, 3rd. **8/2** - Grade 3, 2nd. **8/3** - Grade 8, 5th. **8/4** - Grade 11, 4th. **8/5** - Grade 11, 6th. **8/6** - Grade 12, 8th.



Central Zone Cross country

Last Wednesday, 32 Ponsonby students competed in an incredibly muddy Central-Zone cross country competition. While the race was a similar distance to our competitive school cross country, the course conditions were incredibly different! We do apologise for the state that the students' shoes were in at the completion of their races.

From the day, our Y7 Boys and Girls teams finished 3rd, and we had 5 runners finish in the top 10 in their respective races to qualify for Inter-zone cross country. Well done to Anouk D, Paddy M, Archer T, Tommy M and Amelia B for making it through to the next level of competition. All runners did an incredible job representing the school in very tough conditions!

Year 7 Girls 3rd	Year 7 Boys 3rd	Year 8 Girls	Year 8 Boys
Anouk Dainty Delilah Gaze Zoe Campbell Alice Hildner Kaea Parker Lola Hames Abby Cole Charlotte Ramsay	Archer Traill Tommy McLennan Quinn Woods William O'Sullivan Anderson Joe Henry Mason Oscar Reynolds Jack Shaw	Amelia Bell Lauren Sams Ruby McKubre Darina Herceg Ellie Rimell Sabine Christophersen Jade Brainard Sophia Bishop	Rocky Nichols Paddy Mullin-Butt Mason Bedford Eli Muirhead Jasper Templeman James Old Max Covic Osgar McGeorge

Enrolling into High School for Year 8's

As our Year 8 students prepare for their next big step, we want to ensure you feel supported through the high school enrolment process.

Over the coming weeks, local high schools will be hosting Open Days, information evenings, and entrance testing sessions. Exploring these events together is a fantastic way for your young person to get a feel for their future school, meet teachers, and learn about the unique pathways each school offers.

Key Next Steps:

- **Check High School Websites:** Open Day schedules, prospectus details, and zone maps can be found directly on your prospective high schools' websites.
- **Note Key Dates:** Keep an eye out for out-of-zone enrolment deadlines and upcoming entrance or placement test dates.
- **Prepare Documentation:** High schools will typically require proof of address, birth certificate/passport, and recent school reports.

We know that navigating high school enrolments can feel overwhelming at times. Please remember that our team is here to walk alongside you. If you need assistance with paperwork, have questions about the transition, or require any support, do not hesitate to reach out to us at school.

Together, let's make this transition smooth, exciting, and positive for your child!

Contact our SENCO/Counsellor or your Year 8 Form teacher if you have any questions about this process. rachelm-s@ponsint.school.nz

Life Education in Health Classes

Life Education will be at school for the next two weeks delivering a programme to Year 8 Health classes. Students will learn about harmful substances (vaping, alcohol, addiction) and explore possible physical, emotional and social consequences of these substances. The classes also discuss effects on the teenage brain, well-being and making informed decisions - a powerful message for our students to understand as they head off to High School. This topic aligns with the Curriculum Strand - Personal growth and development, and safety management.

Camp Fees (Repeat Notice)

The fee for attending camp this year is **\$370 for Year 7 and \$430 for 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 regards 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 (Repeat Notice)

Throughout the year, we are raising 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 for our bank account details, please use 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. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

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

SchoolTV: Responding to Peer Pressure

SPECIAL REPORT



Responding to Peer Pressure

A SchoolTV topic supporting modern-day parenting



Peer pressure is a natural part of growing up. As children and adolescents place greater importance on friendships and belonging, the influence of peers can shape their choices, behaviour and sense of identity. While this influence can be positive, it can also create pressure to conform or take risks, particularly during adolescence.

In today's digitally connected world, peer pressure extends beyond face-to-face interactions. Social media and online communication expose young people to constant comparison and unspoken expectations about how they should look, act and perform. Understanding how peer pressure works, both on and offline, helps families support young people to build confidence, make healthy decisions and stay connected to their own values.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report:

https://ponsonbyintermediate.nz.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-responding-peer-pressure-nz

2027 Enrolments for Epsom Girls Grammar School

Applications for enrolment at Epsom Girls Grammar School for 2027 are now open. Families wishing to enrol are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible.

Out-of-zone applications must be received by Wednesday 2 September 2026 to be included in the ballot for any available places.

Home Zone applicants, whose places have been confirmed, will be invited to choose option subjects and attend enrolment meetings at the school on 10 and 11 September.

For full enrolment information, including eligibility, key dates, and the online application form, please visit [our website](http://ourwebsite). If you have any questions, please contact the Enrolment Team at enrolments@eggs.school.nz

NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE
PRODUCTION OF

DIARY
of a
Wimpy Kid
THE MUSICAL

 FROM THE BOOK TO THE STAGE! 

National Youth Theatre is pleased to announce our upcoming production this November is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Musical* - based on the best selling books by Jeff Kinney!

Bring your class, syndicate (or even the whole school) along to see this spectacular musical extravaganza! NYT's School Matinee programme makes accessing this exciting and educational event very easy, and extremely affordable.

With a cast of 250 of New Zealand's leading young performers and outstanding costume and set design you won't want to miss this fantastic outing for your students.

3 SCHOOL PERFORMANCES
Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre
Aotea Centre

TICKETS ONLY \$9.95
STUDENTS
TEACHERS
PARENT HELPERS

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER
9.45am & 12.15pm
FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER
12.00pm

For more information or to make a booking, please email schoolbookings@nytnz

FEEDBACK FROM RECENT SHOWS

"CAN I JUST SAY, WOW! I WAS ABSOLUTELY BLOWN AWAY BY THE HIGH CALIBRE OF TALENT, COSTUMES, CHOREOGRAPHY AND OF COURSE - THE MUSIC! WHAT AN AWESOME PRODUCTION YOU MUST BE SO PROUD!"

"SIMPLY STUNNING! SHOW THESE YOUNG PERFORMERS WERE AMAZING THE DANCING, THE SINGING, THE SPECTACLE WAS JUST BEYOND WORDS! WHO YOU OUTDO YOURSELVES TONIGHT!"

"THE SHOW WAS INCREDIBLE AND OUR STUDENTS ARE STILL BUZZING FOR MOST OF THEM IT WAS THEIR FIRST LIVE PERFORMANCE! THEATRE EXPERIENCE. IT GENERATED A LOT OF EXCITEMENT!"

NYT.NZ



POINT CHEVALIER CROQUET CLUB INC
HALLYBURTON JOHNSTONE SPORTS COMPLEX
25 DIGNAN STREET, PT CHEVALIER 1022 PH 022 646 2129 Email: ptchevcroquet@gmail.com

FREE OPEN DAYS for school age players

Term 3 School Holidays

Monday 28/9 and 5/10

Thursday 1/10 and 8/10

Croquet is Cool - Come and have a go on our beautiful
lawns at 25 Dignan St from 1pm to 4pm

Open to all aged 10+

All you need is a sunhat and sports shoes

Cool drinks provided

Chat with our volunteers about how you can get
involved with croquet

To book a place call or text Julie on 021 232 9371

Or email: ptchevcroquet @gmail.com

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