

Newsletter

Ponsonby
Intermediate School

Articulate, energised achievers, ready for the future

14th September 2026

Important Dates

14th – 18th September

Careers Week

15th September

Central Zone Basketball
Boys

17th September

Central Zone Basketball
Girls

22nd September

HPV2 Year 8
Immunisations

24th September

Big and Bright Social
6:30pm – 8:00pm

25th September

End of Term 3

TERM 4

Important Dates

12th October

Start of Term 4

Carey Park Camp #1
departure

Rooms 12, 17, 18, 21, 22

Year 8 Camp Prep Day

13th October

Year 8 Camps depart

14th October

Carey Park Camp #2
departure

Classes 19, 20, 23, 26, 30

Leadership Message

Kia ora whānau,

As we near the end of term we would like to say how incredibly proud we are of our Ponsonby students. It has been a busy term with so many teams and groups representing the school with pride and dedication. Our Year 7 students are fully immersed in the 'Ponsonby Experience' and our Year 8's are beginning to reflect on their time with us and how they can maximise their last term. We couldn't be prouder of these cohorts of students.

Last week, we drew our Out of Zone Ballot for 2027. Families have been notified of these results, with over 50 siblings and their families joining us again next year. Our work with our contributing primary schools, transitioning Year 6's to Ponsonby Intermediate School has started and will continue throughout Term 4. This is an important reminder for Year 8 parents and caregivers to ensure your child is enrolled at their next school so they can be included in the transition process to high school and to ensure the best possible start.

We know that with the upcoming holidays there will likely be more screen use for your children. School holidays are a chance to relax and recharge. Over this time, it's great to have conversations with your child about their screen time and device use. A few simple habits can help make this holiday time balanced. Some good tips for your children are to get outside every day, make time for reading, move your body, create before you consume and keep screens away at bedtime. School camp week is device free and we see the positive effects this time has on our students connecting with others, moving their bodies and being outdoors as much as possible.

Finally, there will be an email coming home next week from Form Teachers with more need-to-know dates for Term 4 and important notes related to your child's form class for the end of term.

Arohanui,

The Senior Leadership Team

In this Week's Issue

- Hackathon Results
- Samosa Wednesday's
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- Sports Update
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- Enrolling to High School (*repeat notice*)
- School TV: *Shaping Healthy Masculinity*

Hackathon Results 2026

Mr Andy Wilson and the Tech Experts were proud to present the Finalists and Prize Winners of the 2026 Hackathon at Assembly this past week. Students' digital entries were graded against the Success Criteria:

- ***Wow factor***
- ***Creativity***
- ***Complexity***
- ***Visually looks cool***
- ***Unique***

Finalists: ***Grayson Q Room 20*** - Geometry Dash Level Creation. ***Etta A Room 30*** - Minecraft. ***Colin E Room 21*** - Animation. ***Phoebe S Room 18*** - Subway Surfers Scratch Game. ***Lilia W Room 3*** - Digital Art.

High Commended: ***Ruben P Room 1*** - Minecraft. ***Artem K Room 23*** - Arduino Coding. ***Jey Y Room 23*** - Scratch Animation.

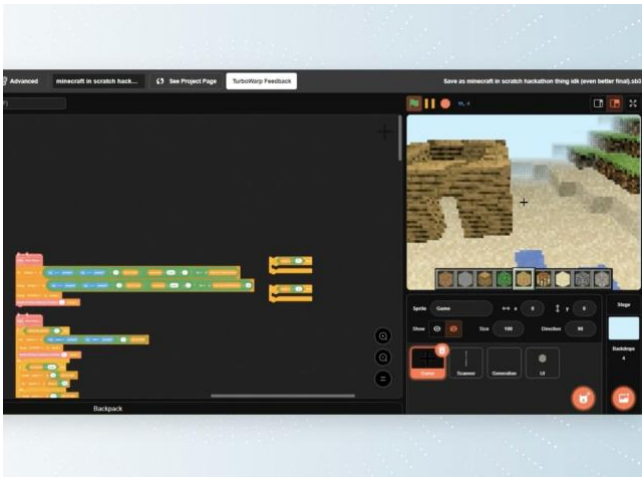
3rd Place: ***Shane C Room 15*** - Roblox Animation.



2nd Place: Elvis L Room 11 - Gameplay video editing

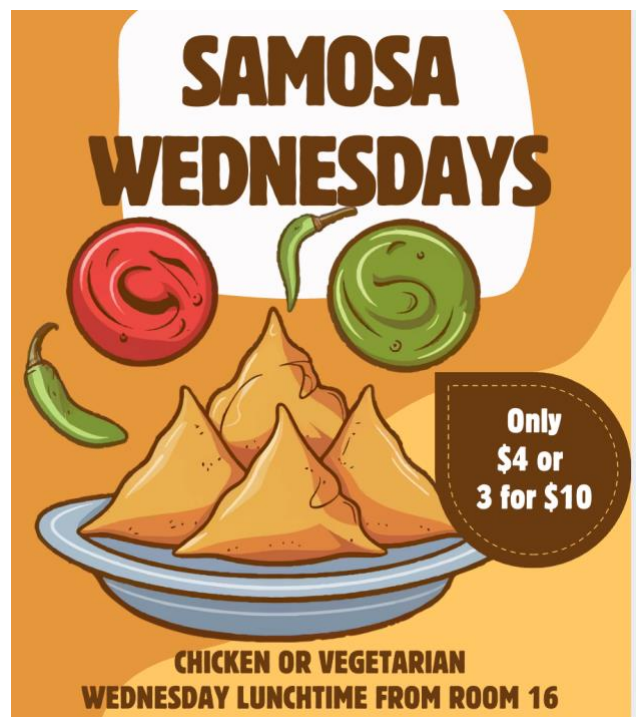


1st Place: Dhinesh M Room 25 - Minecraft in Scratch



Samosa Wednesdays

Grab a delicious Samosa on Wednesday for lunch to help support our Kids to Camp programme. A huge thank you to Tanya Reynolds for her work with this each week.



Term 4 Options Choices

Last week students began selecting their Options choices for Term 4. Please talk to your child about what they have selected or are wanting to try out.

Mandala Art : Mrs Hunter- Room 1 Learn how to create intricate patterns using shapes, lines and repetition. This is great if you love attention to detail and mindful colouring	Slinkachu 'Little People' - Mrs Cullen - Room ? Slinkachu is a British street artist whose artwork is a mixture of sculpture, installation, street art and photography! He places miniature figures and objects in different scenarios and is inspired by landscapes, food and experimenting with scale and proportion. In this option you will create your own Slinkachu inspired piece of artwork.
Dungeons & Dragons - Mrs Spencer - Room 21 Ever wanted to slay a dragon, outwit a cunning villain or lead a band of heroes on an epic quest? In this option you will dive into the world's greatest tabletop roleplaying game, where you get to create your own story or navigate your team through one of our pre-made adventures. Come along to create a character, solve puzzles and battle monsters with nothing but dice, imagination and teamwork. D&D beginners to experts welcome.	Christmas card making : Mrs Holmes: Music Room Create beautiful Christmas cards, your family and friends will be impressed!
Crochet Club: Miss Bruce - Room 8 Want to learn how to crochet? Or have a space to crochet with your friends if you already know how? Well come along to Crochet Club where we'll crochet together! Using a hook and a ball of yarn, you can make anything from clothing to squishy toys. See you there!	Jigsaw Junction : Miss Novis - Room 9 Jigsaw Junction is a fun place to relax, connect with others, and work together to solve jigsaw puzzles. Build patience, problem-solving skills, and friendships as you help turn hundreds of pieces into a finished masterpiece.
The Ponsonby Times Newspaper Team: Ms Collins - Room 22 PRESELECTED STUDENTS	PIRC: Miss Jeon & Mrs Norrie - Room 12 Ponsonby Intermediate Run Club is here! Ready to smash your personal best and leave your limits in the dust? Come run with Miss J, Ms Norrie and Malachi! Whether you are looking to conquer your first 3km run or want to lead the pack at the next school cross-country, this is the place for you. No matter your current fitness level, you will cheer each other on, track your progress, and watch your 3km time drop week after week. Lace up your sneakers and bring on the fun!
Doodle Art: Mrs Richardson- Room 16 Welcome to the Doodle Art —where overthinking is banned and scribbles rule. This is a space to draw freely, mess up boldly, and turn idle lines into tiny works of art. No pressure, no perfection—just pens, paper, and your imagination.	Stop Motion Animation: Ms Henis Let's watch some strange and amazing animations together! You'll have a chance to try out different stop motion animation techniques, play around and produce your own animations.
Just Play!: Mr T- Room 15 (THIS IS A GIRLS SPORTS OPTION) Come and play sports that make you use strategy and teamwork!! Nukem, Dodgeball, Turbo touch, Tchoukball, Lape and so much more!!! Join in to just play!!! (THIS IS A GIRLS SPORTS OPTION)	3D Design and Printing: Mr Andy Wilson - Room 19 Welcome to the future! We will be designing in 3D and printing on our school 3D printers. This option is open to both Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Lunar New Year - Mrs Francis - Room 24 Lunar New Year is early in Term 1, so let's start planning now! Join this option to create celebrations for the whole school and share your culture with others.	Quiztopia : Mrs Howie - Room 25 Enjoy testing your knowledge? And testing the knowledge of others? Come make and share quizzes and your knowledge with others
Touch Typing: Mrs Maitland Smith: HUB Want to type faster and more accurately? In Touch Typing, you'll learn the correct finger placement, improve your speed, and build confidence using a keyboard—all through fun activities and challenges. Get ready to boost your typing skills and impress everyone with your speed!	Filmmaking - Ms Busch- Room 28 Do you love film and television? Do you want to be involved in the process, but not in front of the camera? Come and learn about the world of film from behind the scenes. Then create and present your own film using cameras and video editing software.
Christmas bag tag/ tree decorations: Ms Edwards- Room 14 The Christmas themed edition! Do you enjoy creating things you can actually use? In this Option we will use fuzzy felt and a needle and thread to sew cute animal tags to hang off your bag. All materials will be provided, including step-by-step instructions (provided by the amazing Mrs Richardson) to help you successfully create a bag tag of your choice.	Ki-O-Rahi: Mrs Murray - Field by Sit Ups If team sports and running is your passion, then Ki-O-Rahi is the option to be in. An exciting, energetic sport, you'll learn some effective team strategies for playing this game, also some Te Reo for zone areas.
Cultural Games: Mr Wannamaker - Room 30 Enjoy sport or playing games? In this option we explore games from other cultures through active participation. Games like ultimate frisbee, tchoukball, lacrosse and American football. So if you learn through doing and are open to new and exciting sports, join in!	Creative writing - Miss Jameson - Room 2 Do you like making up stories, funny characters, or exciting adventures? In this creative writing option, you can write short stories, poems, comics, or even the beginning of a novel. Use your imagination, have fun with words, and share your ideas in your own unique way—there are no wrong answers, just creativity!
Dance with Thea - Hall	Sports Academy - Mr Bennie - Basketball Court Do you like exercise? Do you enjoy pushing yourself to the limits and challenging yourself? Give this option a go. We will be working on our strength and fitness through various forms of activity.

Careers Week this week

This week we have a range of speakers coming in to talk to our students about their careers. We have speakers from a wide array of careers who will share with the students how they arrived in their chosen career. This is a great chance for parents and caregivers to share with their children how their careers took shape. The questions we encourage you to discuss with your children are:

- What were you passionate about at intermediate school?
- What subjects were important for your career?
- What is the most rewarding part of your job?
- How or has technology impacted your job in recent years?

Toko Tacos at Careers Week

We are pleased to welcome back Mr Ben Fonua as our guest speaker for Careers Week on Wednesday, 16th September. We are also very fortunate to have **Toko Tacos** supplying us with their delicious meals once again on **Wednesday, 16th September**. Please visit the website to place an order by tonight **Monday 14th September at midnight**. No orders will be accepted after this time.

[Toko Tacos order form](#)

School Disco: Thursday

The School Councillors are excited to bring you our Term 3 Social. A great way to end a busy and productive term. Tickets will be on sale from the Room 11 window before school and at interval from Wednesday 16th September \$5.00 a ticket. More information will be sent out next week about the social, but Year 7 parents please be aware that you must pick your students up from inside the hall at the end of the social.



Sports Update

Athletics

Whole school athletics training is starting in Term 4 with PE classes learning to develop and extend their Run, Jump, Throw skills. This will involve sprints, 100m runs, discus, shot put, long jump and high jump - great preparation for the school event coming up at Mt Smart Stadium on **Monday 16th November.**

Takapuna Athletics Club are excited to announce their annual “Have a Go” night on Wednesday 14th October, 5:15pm at Onewa Domain. Families are invited to come along and try athletics for free. Participants will also be able to measure how fast they can run using the Police speed gun! Rebel Sports \$25 vouchers are also on offer for the first 5 new members to join on the night. ‘Have a Go Ponsonby!’



Volleyball Skills Sessions

Students participating in these sessions since Week 7 of this term have experienced plenty of laughter, focus, and reward. We are very fortunate to have parents Lori Ormandy and Alexis Lam share their love for this amazing game with our students, as it remains a school-wide favourite. Sessions are held every Wednesday until the end of the term, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Please note that after-school supervision is not provided, and students must be picked up promptly at 7:00 pm. To participate, students need to complete both the Google Form and the permission form. Sign up, come along, and join in the fun! [.Volleyball Attendance Form](#)

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 regards to payment details. **These fees are now overdue.** Please prioritise paying this so we can plan accordingly.

<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.

Enrolling into High School for Year 8's (repeat notice)

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. Mid-Year Reports were emailed to parents on 28th July, so please check your emails for these.

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

SchoolTV: Shaping Healthy Masculinity



A Special Report: Shaping Healthy Masculinity

In today's fast-moving world, many boys are struggling to find direction. Even well-meaning online searches about fitness, confidence or relationships can lead them to content that promotes rigid or unhealthy ideas about masculinity. The critically acclaimed TV show '*Adolescence*' has brought fresh attention to this issue, highlighting how boys are often exposed to messages that glorify toughness and dominance, while dismissing empathy and emotional openness.

These outdated beliefs can limit emotional growth and impact how boys relate to others - with real consequences in schools, homes and communities. That's why it's more important than ever to guide boys with care, clarity and connection.

By offering healthier role models, safe spaces to talk, and encouraging respectful friendships - especially across genders - we can help boys develop the confidence, empathy and relationship skills they need to thrive.

This special report calls for a cultural shift and advocates for curiosity-driven dialogue that builds trust and critical thinking. The goal is to raise boys who are not just resistant to harmful influences, but actively capable of questioning and rejecting them.

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-shaping-healthy-masculinity-nz

NATIONAL
YOUTH
THEATRE

TAPAC
THE AUCKLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

ALLSTARS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME



SING, DANCE, ACT
PERFORM
ON STAGE

Grey Lynn School
October 6 - 9
Shows @ TAPAC
October 10
nyt.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