

Newsletter

Ponsonby
Intermediate School

Articulate, energised achievers, ready for the future

23rd September 2026

Important Dates

TERM 3

24th September
Big and Bright Social
6:30pm – 8:00pm

25th September
End of Term 3 – 3.05pm

TERM 4

Important Dates

12th October
Start of Term 4

Carey Park Camp #1
departure

Year 8 Camp Prep Day

13th October
Year 8 Camps depart

14th October
Carey Park Camp #2
departure

21st October
Central Zone Boys
Volleyball

22nd October
Central Zone Girls
Volleyball

26th October
Labour Day
(Public Holiday)

Leadership Message

Kia ora whanau,

What a fantastic term we've had. As always, our students have had a wide range of activities to participate in and opportunities on offer. There have been some incredible results in our Central Zone competitions and as some of our season sports have drawn to a close, we couldn't be prouder of the team work, spirit and hard work all of our teams have displayed.

Over the holidays, it is a great time for our Year 8 students to reflect on a busy and productive two years and the friendships made. With one term left, Year 8's should consider how they want to maximise their last term at Ponsonby Intermediate School. As many of our students split off to a range of high school's we always encourage the students to work hard on their friendships, many they may hold on to for years to come.

For our Year 7's, this is a time to start thinking about what impact they want to make in their last term as Year 7's, in preparation for being the leaders of the school next year. More leadership opportunities will arise and we will be on the lookout for our first School Councillor group, who as role models help to shape the next cohort of students coming through Ponsonby.

To reiterate last newsletters message, we encourage our students to take a balanced approach to screen time over the holidays. The nights are lighter, the days are warmer and there is so much more opportunity to get outside. See the tools and strategies on *Managing Screen Time* in this week's SchoolTV information.

Camp is going to be a fantastic way to kick off Term 4 and we are grateful to all of our lead teachers that are working hard to make this a memorable experience for our students.

Have a safe and happy holiday and we can't wait to get stuck into our final term of 2026 after a recharge.

Arohanui,

The Senior Leadership Team

In this Week's Issue

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- School TV: *Managing Screen Time*
- Imaginaire Speech and Drama classes at Ponsonby Thursdays

Important Term 4 and End of Year Fridge Dates

A full calendar of events will be sent out early next term but some important dates for the diary are below:

Monday 26th October	Labour Day Public Holiday – School Closed
Monday 16th November	School Athletics Day at Mount Smart Stadium
Thursday 26th November	Final Module Conferences
Tuesday 8th December	Year 7 Prizegiving @ 11:30am
Wednesday 9th December	Year 8 Prizegiving @ 11:30am Year 8 Graduation @ 5:45pm – Final day for Year 8's
Thursday 10th December	Year 7's Final day of Term 12:00pm finish

Camp Expectations and Departures

Camp is an important part of students' Intermediate experience. Students at Ponsonby are able to attend 5 nights of camp over their two year experience. This is an opportunity for students to participate in activities that are unique and push them outside their comfort zone. Meeting new students within the camp activity groups is also an opportunity to make new connections and build new friendships.

A big thank you to parents and students for helping to support our sponsorship for camps. It's been a huge effort and a special thank you to Tanya Reynolds for organising our Samosa Wednesday, it has been a great success.

Camps are a big undertaking for our staff and schools in general and they have done an incredible job to ensure everything is ready to go! Also, a final thank you to our amazing parents

and caregivers helping out on camp and with transport. Camps can't go ahead without this support. We appreciate you taking time to attend and assist our teachers for the week.

Camp Departure and Return Information

Motu Moana (Year 8)	
Classes attending	9, 14, 15, 25
Tuesday Departure	11am
Leaving from where at school	School hall/Basketball Court
Friday Return	1:30pm

Camp Bentzon (Year 8)	
Classes attending	8, 16, 28
Tuesday Departure	9:00am
Leaving from where at school	Hall
Friday Return	3:00 - 4:00pm

Chosen Valley (Year 8)	
Classes attending	1, 3, 11
Tuesday Departure	10:30am
Leaving from where at school	School Hall
Friday Return	1:45pm

Carey Park Camp (Year 7)		
Dates	#1 Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th	#2 Wednesday 14th - Friday 16th
Classes attending	12, 17, 18, 21, 22	19, 20, 23, 26, 30
Monday Departure	9.00am	11am (meeting in the hall at 1015am)
Leaving from where at school	Hall	Hall
Wednesday Return	1.00pm	2:40pm (leaving camp at 2pm)

Te wiki o te reo Maori

The theme for this year's Te Reo Māori Week was 'Te Reo Towns'. Each form class adopted a town and spent time learning about the trailblazers, environment and stories connected to their area. Our school windows were transformed into beautiful displays, giving students the opportunity to take a *tiki tour* around Aotearoa without ever leaving school. Room 25 even took their learning a step further by raising money to adopt a penguin in Te Oha a Maru. Kapa haka performed waiata and haka in Music Assembly, lunch-time activities ran throughout Week 10, and fry bread is being sold on Friday to finish the term on a high note.



TE WIKI O TE REO MAORI 14-20 September 2020	MONDAY Ki-o-Rahi Field	TUESDAY Bloeket Room 24	WEDNESDAY Crafts Library	THURSDAY Te Ao Kori Top Courts	FRIDAY Fry Bread \$3 Room 24
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Careers Week Celebration

A huge thank you to all of our Careers speakers who engaged our students in some awesome presentations about their passions, careers and professional pathways. We had a range of careers represented. There was acting, advertising, art consultancy, emerging technology fields and hospitality and travel showcased. A highlight was our very own Miss Bruce talking to the children about her Masters in Animal Management and Welfare and time working with animals that then led her in to teaching. This was a great testament to following your passions and finding other ones along the way.

Epro8 Programme and Internal Competition

Over the year a group of students have been working hard after school in our EPRO 8 club under the guidance of parents Jeff Nusz and Clara Dunning. Last week these students participated in an internal competition, tackling engineering and science problems, to determine who would go on to the Auckland Epro8 competition. A huge thank you to Adam Hands from Gladstone Primary who lent our groups his expertise on the day. Jeff and Clara were also there in support of the teams.



Cultural Dance Groups

Culture Week at the start of the term was a great springboard into some cultural dance groups, with a performance by the Sri Lankan students in Music Assembly. Since then, the Filipino Club has been busy working on Tinikling, while the Bollywood group is busy preparing a performance for Diwali. We have also had a new K-pop dance group established after Mixki P in Room 25 suggested the idea and helped to get it started.

Special thanks to Chamindri Vithanage for teaching the Sri Lankan group, Antonia and Tim from Kinetic Studio for the K-pop lessons, and Ella Kumar for teaching a dance for Diwali.

If you are interested in helping with any of the groups, or have an idea for celebrating other cultures, please email hollyf@ponsint.school.nz



Sports Update

Central Zone Basketball Boys

Our boys central zone basketball team had an incredibly successful outing last Tuesday at Eventfinda Stadium. They battled through a tough few rounds of pool play, in which they lost to ANI, still managing to finish second in their pool and make it through to the play-off stages.

They proceeded to win their quarter-final and semi-final before finding themselves matched up with ANI again, the only team who had defeated them all day, in the final.

The boys played incredibly well and managed to beat ANI in this second encounter 14 - 11 to win the whole day and be crowned Central Zone Champions for 2026. The team will be off to IZ's in Week 2 of Term 4 to throw down against the best of the Auckland Intermediate basketball teams.



A massive thank you to Jack for coaching the team not just on the day, but for training them all throughout our Monday evening North Shore competition and season. Thank you to the parents who assisted with transport on the day, and a massive congratulations to the team. Ben W, Presley M, Max M, Thomas H, David D, Dylan M, Harvey R and Walter R for playing so phenomenally well.

Central Zone Girls Basketball

Our girls Central Zone Basketball team also had great success last Thursday. They were an incredibly positive team, displaying impeccable sportsmanship, fair play and positive encouragement to their team mates throughout the whole tournament.

They sailed through their early pool games with emphatic wins over every team in their pool, finishing 1st over-all. The girls then proceeded to face a very physical Kowhai in the semi-final and a very well-drilled Dio in the 3rd/4th play-off match to finish 4th over-all out of 16 teams.

Despite not being the result the girls wanted, their positive cheer never left them and they would have to be one of the most positive and energetic teams I have ever had the pleasure to take on a Central Zone sports day. Thank you to Anthony and Mark for helping with the team on the day and well done to Hazel and Lexie M, Kai K, Zara M, Edie C, Maya T, Frankie T and Amelia V.



Central Zone Sports Term 4

Central Zone Intermediate Sports/Tournament Dates 2026		
Term 4	Week	Date
Volleyball Year 7,8 Boys	2	Wednesday 21 October
Volleyball Year 7,8 Girls	2	Thursday 22 Oct
Touch Year 7,8 Girls	3	Wednesday 28 Oct
Touch Year 7,8 Boys & Mixed	3	Friday 30 Oct
Badminton	4	Wednesday 4 Nov
Athletics	6	Thursday 19 Nov
Ki-O-Rahi	7	Wed. 2nd December (tbc)

Volleyball and Badminton trials have been taking place during the latter weeks of this term in preparation for the tournaments coming up in Term 4.

Students must check the daily notices for TRIAL days/times (held at school) and will be notified in advance if there are any changes to the timetable.

Lost Property

We have a lot of Lost Property that has piled up over the second half of the term. Again we have lots of unnamed jumpers. Please make sure you or your child visit the lost property if you are missing anything. At the end of Week 2 we will be donating any unclaimed Lost Property.



SchoolTV: Managing Screen Time

With the holidays upon us we know there may likely be increased screen time. As a school, we promote a balanced approach to screen time, but we know it is also hard with the busyness of holiday commitments. Please see below the School TV resources to help you manage healthy screen time habits over this break.

Many parents have reported excessive screen time as the number one health concern affecting kids, especially now in the hyperconnected world we live in. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that there should be no screen time at all for children under two, less than an hour a day for children aged from two to five, and less than two hours for five to 17 year olds. However, these guidelines have been disputed by experts and often ignored by families. Parents must play an important role in modelling a positive approach to using screens, and assisting children to navigate the content they access.

<https://ponsonbyintermediate.nz.schooltv.me/newsletter/managing-screen-time>



Speech & Drama at Ponsonby Intermediate – Term 4

Give your child the opportunity to build **confidence**, **creativity**, and **communication skills** through our fun, engaging and dynamic Speech & Drama programme at Ponsonby Intermediate.

At Imaginaire, we love inspiring the next generation of young performers while also supporting students to overcome shyness and express themselves with confidence.

Each lesson includes:



Public Speaking skills



Drama and Acting skills



Improvisation and Impromptu Speaking



Communication, Conversation, Listening, and Teamwork skills.

Class details:



Small group sessions (max 4 students)



30-minute lessons on Thursdays (during school hours or after school)



No-obligation Trial lesson available



Limited spaces available

Secure your child's place today:

Please contact Nicole at nicole@imaginaire.co.nz for more information.

Or complete our enrolment form here: <https://www.imaginaire.co.nz/speech-and-drama/enrolmentform/>



COME AND GIVE
BASEBALL
A GO!!!



BOYS & GIRLS OF ALL AGES WELCOME

Sept 19th • 2-4pm

Oct 3rd • 10-12pm

Oct 11th • 2-4pm

Oct 18th • 10-12pm

@ War Memorial Park, 15 May Road

INFO@CCBASEBALL.CO.NZ

WWW.CCBASEBALL.CO.NZ

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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