



22 October 2026

Kia ora Parents and Friends

The Board of Ponsonby Intermediate School is proud to announce the appointment of Jonnie Black as our new Principal. Jonnie will officially commence his role at the end of January 2027. Jonnie is currently the Principal of Matipo School, on the Te Atatu Peninsula. Prior to that he was Deputy Principal at Papatoetoe Intermediate.

We were drawn to Jonnie for numerous reasons: he is an excellent communicator and a people person. He is warm and has a real care for people. His simple test for all decisions is "is it in the best interests of the students?" We are looking forward to our school benefiting from his experience of success, strategic thinking and people development abilities. The Board believes that Jonnie will embrace our school and its culture, and drive it forward.

The Board would like to acknowledge the changing of the guard as we remember the passing of our beloved Principal Nick Wilson in May. We look forward to Jonnie's arrival and we are excited for the future of Ponsonby Intermediate.

We are grateful for the feedback we received from our students, staff and families on what qualities you wanted in a Principal. The Board would like to thank Roween Higgie from the Education Group for her outstanding assistance throughout this process.

Kind regards

Hamish Hopkinson
Presiding Member
Ponsonby Intermediate School Board

A message from our new Principal

Kia ora koutou e te whānau o Ponsonby Intermediate. Ko Jonnie Black tōku ingoa, he uri ahau nō Ngāti Whātua me Te Roroa.

I am really excited to be joining you as your new Principal and look forward to getting to know the students, staff and whānau who make Ponsonby such a special place. My partner Ashley is also a teacher, and we have three children, Anaru, Leila and Malia-Raine, along with our dog Indie. Whānau is a big part of my life, and I'm looking forward to introducing mine to you all.

For the past six years, I have been the Tumuaki of Matipo School in Te Atatū Peninsula. Before that, I was part of the senior leadership team at Papatoetoe Intermediate, so joining Ponsonby is also a return to an age group I really love working with. There is so much opportunity at this



age for young people to discover their strengths, try something new and start finding their own way. I enjoy getting to know people, being out and about around the school and having a good laugh. My staff often say they can hear me before they see me! I also have high expectations and care deeply about making sure every student feels known, supported and encouraged to do their best.

As I introduce myself, I also want to acknowledge Nick Wilson, his whānau and everyone in the Ponsonby community who is missing him. I know that for many of you, Nick was much more than your Principal. He was a friend, a colleague and someone you cared about deeply. I recognise that looking ahead to next year may bring a mix of feelings, and I want to be mindful of that as I join you. I look forward to hearing your stories about Nick and learning about the things he helped make special at Ponsonby. Getting to know you, listening and taking the time to build trust will be important to me.

To the students, I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas, finding out what you love about your school and getting involved alongside you. It is a privilege to be joining your community, and I'm excited to meet you and your whānau in 2027.