Ponsonby Intermediate School Newsletter

Articulate, energised achievers, ready for the future

9 November 2026

Leadership Message

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

We had a lovely celebration of Diwali on Friday with our staff and students donned in traditional dress and a range of activities organised for our students to engage in. A huge thank you to Holly Francis, our culture leaders and wonderful parent helpers Moski, Prashila and Viji. This is a special time of year for many of our students and we have loved being part of this.

Ponsonby Intermediate School continues to be a hub of activity with zone day and Epro8 success last week, preparation for our Art Exhibition, our Library book sale and a focus on movement and mental health through a teacher vs students sports initiative throughout November. We are also beginning preparations for our end of year celebrations. Please make sure you take note of the Important Dates listed in this newsletter.

Two exciting whole school events are coming up with our athletics day and annual Positively Ponsonby Week. Athletics Day, Monday 16 November is an exciting day where all of our students showcase the skills they have been learning in PE classes. It's great having parent support in the stands if you are able to come along to Mount Smart Stadium. A full schedule of events is included in this week's newsletter. Positively Ponsonby Week is a fun week run by our Positively Ponsonby Representatives. There will be many fun activities on offer for all of our students at break times.

Aroha mai,
The Senior Leadership Team

Important Dates

TERM 4

12 November
Immunisation (Year 7)

16 November
Ponsonby Athletics Day
@ Mt Smart

19 November
Central Zone Athletics Day

23 - 27 November
Positively Ponsonby week

26 November
Module Conferences
3.30pm - 6pm

8 December
Year 7 Prizegiving
11:30am start

9 December
Year 8 Prizegiving
11:30am start

Year 8 Graduation
5.45pm - 8:30pm

10 December
Year 7 students finishing at 12pm

2027 Term 1
Thursday 28th January 8.30am

Important Term 4 Dates

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
Thursday 10th December Year 7's Final day of Term 12:00pm finish

2027
Thursday 28th January 2027 - *First day of Term 1, 8.30am*

Athletics Day

In Week 6 we have our whole school athletics Day. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend this event. More information below:

When: Monday 16th November
Where: Mt Smart Stadium

Students, please remember:

- **Full PE uniform**
- **Covered shoes**
- **Hat**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Warm clothing**
- **Full water bottle and a packed lunch – Bring a healthy one!**
- **Asthma inhaler if needed**
- **And their house spirit**

Students are allowed to wear spikes for 100m, 200m, 400m
We will be travelling to the event on buses at 9.00am and returning by 3.00pm.

There is a full timetable of the track and field events at the end of this Newsletter

Uniform Expectations

Below are some reminders regarding uniform and staying sun smart during Term 4.

- School sports t shirt and school shorts (no track pants) for all Kori, PE classes and excursions
- Sports shoes / covered shoes (no slides, Crocs etc)
- Hats (brim or bucket) on for all PE classes, Kori, REC and outdoor break times
- If you are not required to be in your uniform, please ensure you are sun smart.
- Sunscreen and water bottles are a MUST this term.

High School Transitions

A reminder to all of our Year 8 parents to prioritise enrolling your child for high school so they can be included in the transition process for their next school. We want to set all of our Year 8's up for success for their move to high school. Katie Fiddian and Cherie Bolesworth will meet with students to help prepare them for what to expect with any upcoming high school entrance testing. Not all schools require this but we will offer this for students who will undertake these tests. Any questions please contact katief@ponsint.school.nz or rachelm-s@ponsint.school.nz

Student Led Conferences

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).

Modular Conferences

Thursday 26th November - 3:30pm - 6:00pm

MODULE code: **45vjr**
Please include your child's room number.

https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/45vjr

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

Module Teachers:

Art: Sarah Valintine
Teaching Rooms 8, 9, 11, 21, 22

Performing Arts: Christine Cullen
Teaching Rooms: 1, 14, 16, 19, 23

Music: Claire Holmes
Teaching Rooms: 1, 14, 16, 19, 23

Health & P.E: Sam Jardine - unavailable
If you would like to discuss your child's learning in Health or PE, please contact samj@ponsint.school.nz

P.E & Health - Teaching Rooms - 1, 3, 15, 17, 19, 23, 28
P.E - Teaching Rooms - 11, 12, 16, 18, 21, 22

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

Design Technologies: Cobey Bennett unavailable
If you would like to discuss your child's learning in Design Technologies, please contact cobeyb@ponsint.school.nz

Home Economics: Kelly Richardson
Teaching Rooms: 3, 12, 20, 26, 28

Science: Sione Taupeaafe
Teaching Rooms: 3, 12, 20, 26, 28

Science: Andrea Sherrock
Teaching Rooms: 15, 17, 18, 25, 30

Exploring Technology: Andy Wilson
Teaching Rooms: 15, 17, 18, 25, 30

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

Sports Update

Boys' Touch

Last Friday our boys' touch team represented Ponsonby Intermediate at the CZ Touch tournament. The boys faced some tough competition in their pool play, coming up against Mt Roskill and St Paul's, both incredibly competent teams. Despite losing, Ponsonby scored numerous tries against all our opponents and only narrowly missed winning each game.
Even in defeat, this particular group of boys displayed some of the finest respect and fair play towards their opponents that I have had the good fortune to witness and remained positive and enthusiastic in the face of some tough games.
A massive thank you to Michael Berry for taking time out of his Friday to come and assist the team. It was invaluable having someone so experienced on the sideline giving the boys some quality tips and strategies.

Well done to Tommy M, Noah D, Eli M, Meldric C, Oscar B, William O, Hunter F, Ben M, James O, Jacob M

Inter-Zone Basketball

Our top Year 8 boys' team, the Thunder, represented the Central City District at the Auckland Intermediate Basketball Competition just a few days after returning from camp.

This competition pits the best team from each zone against each other to determine the top Intermediate aged basketball team in the whole of Auckland.
Needless to say, every single team present had earnt their spot, and our pool consisted of St Kent's and Clendon Park, a south Auckland school which had recently been crowned the top team at AIMS.
The boys played some incredible basketball against some very tough opponents, finishing 6th out of 9 teams on the day. This essentially places them as the 6th best team in Auckland for their age, an accomplishment they should be incredibly proud of.

Thank you to Coach Jack and Kimberley Hill for their assistance on the day, and congratulations to Presley M, Ben W, Harvey and Walter R, Thomas H, Dylan M, David de G and Max McK.

Central Zone Girls' Volleyball

The Central Zone Girls' Volleyball tournament was recently held at Eventfinda Stadium, North Shore with 16 schools entered. The Ponsonby girls had really looked forward to this tournament and were hyped up playing some exciting games to place 2nd in their pool group. Players put away some accurate digs, serves and tricky tips across the net to take them into the top 4 team playoffs, finishing 4th place overall. Shout outs to Ishana and Chloe for some great serves that scored many points, Ruby and Lexie for their excellent saves, Zara and Sophie for sets and tips over the net, Hazel and Dylan for some good spikes. Awesome teamwork!




avaro

Swim League

Ponsonby's Swimming Team swam confidently again this year, competing in the Auckland Swim League competition during Terms 2 and 3. With a lot more school teams entering, the competition was strong throughout the season. Combined team points between the schools were super close with Ponsonby's ranking being 4th overall. Team manager Sarah Bell was impressed with the swimmers' efforts, always giving 100% and showing up to each session with smiles on their faces ready to go. The team was a pleasure to support. **Year 8s** Amelia B, Dhanya A-N, Maya A-N, Ruby M, Ellie R, Elena W, Ava J, Ellena M, Steven L. **Year 7s** Zoe C, Nico W, Quinn W, Ivory D, Charlotte H, Vivi F, Alice H, Ben M. Parent support at every meet was fantastic, thanks!





Table Tennis

Ponsonby Intermediate Table Tennis Club has been successfully supported by Auckland Table Tennis Association (ATTA) again this year, running weekly coaching and game sessions in Terms 1-3. This sport has proved very popular with Ponsonby students.

Promotions are now underway for 'Find a free table near you' - ATTA's Tables in Communities project puts free table tennis tables in parks, schools, libraries and community centers across Auckland. There are now 119 tables at 87 venues. Find your nearest free table on the Seekapong app: *https://qrco.de/seekapong*

These summer holidays, grab a bat, bring the family and play!

The image (below) includes a QR code that takes families straight to the Seekapong app.



CZ Touch Girls

On 28 October, a team of eight girls proudly represented Ponsonby Intermediate at the Central Zone Touch Tournament. We were treated to a stunning day at Cox's Bay, where ten schools came together to compete.

The girls had some fantastic wins and approached every game with pride, positivity and great sportsmanship. As the tournament progressed, their teamwork continued to grow stronger, and the way they showed resilience, supported one another and celebrated each other's efforts was truly outstanding.

They represented our school incredibly well, and it was fantastic to see their confidence, determination and team spirit shine throughout the day. Well done, girls!



Library Information

We have a large number of outstanding library books that we would love returned by the end of the year. Please help your child search at home for any books they may have and have them returned as soon as possible. Thank you.

Thank you to our Working Bee helpers

A huge Thank You to our Working Bee helpers on Sunday morning 8th November.

Some pictures of the amazing progress they made in a very short time!





School TV - High School Transitions

We are aware that there are a number of high school entrance exams and meetings coming up, this can bring up a myriad of emotions for our kids. This week's School TV aims to give some practical tools to navigate this time.

All transitions are important, but the transition into high school is unique. Successful transitions rely on a combination of social, emotional and practical factors. Being well prepared is key to supporting a smoother journey, which should be viewed as a process over time rather than a single event.

Starting high school can feel exciting and challenging all at once. It's not unusual for this stage to amplify any pre-existing mental health concerns your teen may have. Parents and carers may need to remain attentive to changes in mood or behaviour as their young person adjusts to their new school environment.

Many students experience a heightened sense of uncertainty during this period, which can contribute to increased anxiety about what lies ahead. Parents and carers play an important role in offering reassurance, setting realistic expectations and maintaining open communication.

This Special Report provides practical strategies to help support students and their families as they navigate the demands and opportunities of beginning high school.

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-transition-high-school

Athletics Day Timetable

Track Events			
9:45am	**BOYS/GIRLS**	**1500m**	Boys – Year 7
		1500m	Boys – Year 8
		1500m	Girls – Year 7
		1500m	Girls – Year 8
10:00 – 11:45am	**GIRLS**	**100m**	Heats
		200m	Heats
		400m	Straight Final (Top 3 times)
12:00 – 1:45pm	**BOYS**	**100m**	Heats
		200m	Heats
		400m	Straight Final (Top 3 times)

Field Events								
EVENT	**BOYS**				**GIRLS**			
	10:00	**10:25**	**10:50**	**11:15**	**12:15**	**12:40**	**1:05**	**1:30**
High Jump	Kauri	Rimu	Puriri	Totara	Kauri	Rimu	Puriri	Totara
Long Jump	Totara	Kauri	Rimu	Puriri	Totara	Kauri	Rimu	Puriri
Discus	Puriri	Totara	Kauri	Rimu	Puriri	Totara	Kauri	Rimu
Shot Put	Rimu	Puriri	Totara	Kauri	Rimu	Puriri	Totara	Kauri

Finals		
1:40pm	**BOYS and GIRLS**	**100m**
1:50pm	**BOYS and GIRLS**	**200m**
2:05pm	**YEAR 7 and YEAR 8**	**Class Relay**

Term 4 Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	9 November	10 November	11 November	12 November	13 November
5				Year 7 Immunisations (catch ups, 2nd round)	
	16 November	17 November	18 November	19 November	20 November
6	Ponsonby Athletics Day @ Mt Smart stadium			CZ Athletics Out of Zone New Student Morning 9am - 10:30am	
	23 November	24 November	25 November	26 November	27 November
7	Positively Ponsonby Week	BoT Meeting 6pm		Modular Conferences 3:30pm - 6pm	
	30 November	1 December	2 December	3 December	4 December
8					
	7 December	8 December	9 December	10 December	11 December
9	House Reward 1 – 3pm	11:30am Year 7 Prizegiving	11:30am Year 8 Prizegiving Year 8 finish @ 12:30pm Graduation 5:45pm	Year 7 finish @ 12pm	

Christmas Tree Fundraiser



This year Ponsonby Intermediate are working with Zach's Christmas Trees as a fundraiser.

Families pick their tree size, choose pick-up or home delivery, and every tree ordered through our page raises money for Ponsonby Intermediate.

Tree prices (pick-up):
Small (3.5-4.5ft): $72
Medium (5-6ft): $90
Large (6-7.5ft): $117

Home delivery is an extra $30 and January tree removal is an extra *$30*($50 for both).

Ponsonby Intermediate earns commission tree sales, based on the number of trees ordered through our page.

1 to 20 trees: 15%
21 to 40 trees: 19%
41 or more trees: 22%

https://www.zachsxmastrees.co.nz/products/ponsonby-intermediate-fundraiser

Northcote & Birkenhead Yacht Club — Birkenhead Wharf, Hinemoa Street - nbyc.org.nz

Learn to Sail

Summer sailing lessons for kids aged 9 and up — no experience needed!



STARTS Sunday 22 November* - Sunday mornings, 9am to 12 noon - $395 per sailor - 8+ sessions - no membership needed

We provide

- Club Optimist dinghies
- Lifejackets and buoyancy aids
- Yachting NZ qualified coaches
- Safety boats on the water
- Yachting NZ Learn to Sail log book

You need

- To be 9 or older
- To swim 50 m in a lifejacket
- Wetsuit or quick-dry layers
- Sun hat, sunscreen, water shoes
- Towel and warm change of clothes

Enrol online now — nbyc.org.nz/enrol-learn-to-sail — Takes 5 minutes. Questions? enrolments@nbyc.org.nz.

Parents can learn too — ask about adult Learn to Sail.

*Subject to the Birkenhead boat ramp being open. We'll confirm the start date with everyone who enrols.