

Principal's Message

In a normal year I'd be able to meet, greet, share my ideas and reflections with you at the Prizegiving and Graduation ceremonies. This year, I'll try and keep it brief in our last Friday newsletter for the year.

This week marks a year on from the devastating fire that severely damaged our school. The clean-up response continued right through the summer, however the excellent teamwork from our tradies, insurers and the Ministry of Education, meant the school was open on day one and back to full function by mid February.

Apart from the short seven day lockdown in March, Terms 1 and 2 went superbly. Both the Year 7 and the Year 8 cohort of students we have had this year have been fantastic. They are enthusiastic and diligent, the "Ponsonby Experience" was really able to pump. Building school culture quickly is very important for an intermediate school - events and activities such as: Weekly EOTC, Market Day, Swimming Sports, Talent Quest and Careers Week all have a huge and deliberate impact on creating the positive culture we love to have here. Lockdowns and running schools with massive restrictions makes maintaining the culture and vibe we are after, difficult. We had to navigate a fine line between "getting on with it" and adhering to health measures to avoid families being forced into self-isolation and missing even more school.

I am pleased in the knowledge that next year, no matter what the traffic light level is, schools are back at full capacity.

This term, running in this *secure and stable bubble, with home learning on alternate day* mode has brought us some interesting learning. We have collected both achievement and well-being data for our own internal inquiry process. The data is lower than we would expect in a normal year. However, not significantly lower, we are talking in the range of 4-7%.

Anecdotally we also have some interesting findings. Firstly, students seem very happy in their geographical bubbles. Perhaps having your own dedicated area makes students feel safe and happy?

The second learning is in conflict with the first. The students deeply miss the specialist timetable and the specialist teachers.

Thirdly, having maximum ventilation and working outdoors where possible is a great idea, we need to do more of this. Also, there wasn't the students' resistance to indoor mask wearing we were expecting, they were very compliant.

If you were to ask me what my highlight of the year was, my answer is simple. It is the school's delivery on Mental Health Education via - The Sir John Kirwan Foundation - Mitey programme and Chrissie Cullen's purpose written school production on Mental Health - *A Hero's Journey*.

Next year, I start my seventh year as principal here and am proud of the well-being lens that continues to strengthen this high performing school.

My end of year message to the Year 7 students is. Yes, it is a shame 107 days of lockdown affected your "Ponsonby Experience", however, we have good plans in place for next year. We know that school will be open. We have no new teachers starting, so all those super clever, super nice teachers you already know will be here, ready for you.

For our Year 8 students, my message is: Thanks for making the most of what you could, when you could. I know you only had one school social and one school camp. However, you are ready for high school, you will be fine. I want you to take away good memories of this place. Some of the friends you have made here, may be your friends for the rest of your life. Some of the teachers you have had here, will be teachers you will remember forever.

I'd like to acknowledge the epic team of teachers and staff we have here. We really are one big whanau. I know every single staff member will have faced different challenges this year, and together we got through.

Finally, parents and caregivers - well done on looking after these precious tamariki this year, I know it hasn't been easy. I wish you all the best for your summer break. Kia kaha.

Nga mihi,

Nick Wilson
Principal

Prizegiving

- **The majority of our traditional awards will still happen**
- **Year 8 Prizegiving - Monday 13 December from 9:30am, staggered bubbles**
- **Year 7 Prizegiving - Tuesday 14 December from 9:30am, staggered bubbles**
- **Parents of prize winners notified by Friday 10 December**
- **No Parents on site, video footage available the next day.**

Year 8 Graduation

- **Monday 13 December - 5:45pm - 7:45pm**
- **Each student will walk the stage and receive their certificate from their Form Teacher**
- **A group class photo will be taken and emailed to parents during the ceremony**
- **Shared dinner, leavers video and yearbooks will happen in class bubbles**
- **7:45pm parents pick up students from the field**

Parents and caregivers, please assist us with a safe *“click and collect”* style pick up process for students. Please enter the field from Clarence Street and wait in your car. We will have a staggered release of student bubbles and the students will find you on the field. As soon as your child is in the car we ask that you leave straight away so that it doesn't cause any traffic jams with the exit. You will then be guided to exit via Sheehan Street.

Remote Learning Chromebooks – Repeat Message

From Monday 6 December, students who borrowed school Chromebooks for remote learning will need to return both the Chromebook and the charger. These can be returned directly to their Form Class Teacher. Students who are still learning from home can request a hard pack from the Office when they return the Chromebook.

Ponsonby Learning Pathway

Our Vision

Articulate, energised achievers; ready for the future

New Zealand Curriculum

Ponsonby Community

At Ponsonby Intermediate we value:

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.

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.

Making Connections:

As a member 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.

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 for, and support each other, inside and outside the classroom.

Personalising Our Path

Habits of Mind • Quality Learning Circle • Te Reo • Gifted and Talented • SMART Target Learning Journals • Positively Ponsonby • Inquiry Model • Specialist Teaching Ponsonby Passports • Student Council • Art/Culture Weeks • Direct Vocab Information Landscape • R.E.E.P. • E.O.T.C. • ESOL • S.S.R. • Options • Camps B-Cool • Reporting to Parents • Professional Development • Appraisal Tools for Learning • Planning • Overviews • Curriculum Reviews • Mentoring Keys to Success • Critical Thinking • Kori • Habits of Mind • SMART Targets

Key Competencies

Mathematics

- Thinking
- Using language symbols and text
- Managing Self

Humanities

- Thinking
- Relating to others
- Managing Self

English

- Thinking
- Using language symbols and text
- Managing Self

The Arts

- Thinking
- Managing Self
- Relating to Others

Technology

- Thinking
- Relating to Others
- Managing Self
- Participating and Contributing