

Important Dates

31 August

Central Zone
Speeches at
Ponsonby

4 September

Blake Foundation
visiting health
classes

5 September

BoT Meeting 6pm

6 September

Performance
Evening

19 September

Central Zone Girls
Volleyball

20 September

Art Exhibition
Open Evening

21 September

Central Zone Boys
Volleyball

22 September

Out of Zone
Enrolments close

Last day of term

9 October

Term 4 starts

10 – 13 October

Camp Week

Principal's Message

Kia Ora Whanau,

In the last newsletter, I mentioned the huge levels of student participation in - sports, the arts, rock bands, cultural groups, Lunchtime Sport and leadership positions. This is fantastic and just what our middle schoolers need. It is also deliberate, school led and organised.

Over the past fortnight the school field has dried out nicely, and we see children playing more. Genuine play - old school chasing games like *tiggy* (the students have a different name for it), picking teams, organising their own soccer, touch, forceback, netball games, board games in the Library, Handball on the courts and card games at picnic tables. It warms my heart to see "kids being kids". Ponsonby has always been a school that requires students to turn their phones off and hand them in at the start of the day, a stance we are proud of and perhaps adds to this self-led engagement we are seeing.

Last Friday's Daffodil Day was so well supported, we raised twice as much money as last year and the bluebird day, weather wise, created a beautiful vibe (Katie's playlist was quite good too!). We will keep creating an attractive Ponsonby Experience with an exciting curriculum and great events planned.

Ngā mihi,

Nick Wilson

In This Week's Issue...

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- Absences, Lateness and Appointments
- Online Student Conduct
- Performance Evening
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- Hackathon
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Daffodil Day





We are so proud of our Ponsonby Intermediate Students for their awesome support of this year's Daffodil Day. The school councillors organised a range of events this year with the support of a number of home bakers that arranged a bake sale. Highlights included the delicious home baking treats for sale, the Green VS Gold whole school flags game and the Chalk the Courts activity. Check out our next PPTV episode for further highlights. Collectively our students raised \$820 for the Cancer Society! Fantastic effort everyone.

Absences and Lateness (Reminder Notice)

If your child is absent or going to be late to school, **please call and leave a message on the school absence line (09) 376 0096 Extn 1, or complete an absence report from the School Website or School App.** If you know in advance your child will be away, please email the office and copy in your child's Form Teacher.

If your child is late, they must provide a note from a parent/caregiver providing an explanation. This needs to be written in their Student Planner.

For student safety if the school is not notified of your child's absence you will receive a text message.

Following Ministry of Education guidelines if the school is not advised of a student's absence they will be marked as truant.

Appointments

If your child has an appointment during the day please arrange to meet them in the office at a designated time and ensure you advise their Form Teacher by email. Students must be signed out by a parent or caregiver registered on their enrolment details.

Sports Update

CZ Cross Country

Our top 8 runners from each race represented Ponsonby at the CZ Cross Country. Unlike our school event, held mainly on the gentle pavements of Ponsonby, the CZ event was a slightly different beast. Flat, but incredibly boggy. Boggy to the point students were losing shoes to the mud. Nevertheless, our students bravely battled through the 3/3.5km course and achieved some great results.

Our Year 7 Boys team placed 3rd as a team, our Year 7 girls team placed 2nd, and we had 5 runners qualify for Inter-Zone. Emma Bell (5th, Year 7 girls), Laki Pillai (9th, Year 7 girls) , Thomas Vickery (6th, Year 7 boys), Dante Lam (9th, Year 7 boys) and Maisie Morrison (10th, Year 8 girls).

Well done to the below runners for competing on the day in trying conditions.

Year 7 girls	Year 7 boys	Year 8 girls	Year 8 boys
Emma Bell (5th) Laki Pillai (9th) Georgia Jarvis (13th) Sarah Bannan (17th) Sailor Day-Smith (18th) Jade Paykel (24th)	Thomas Vickery (6th) Dante Lam (9th) Fletcher Norrie (21st) Blake Cosgrove (29th) Otis Labrum (31st) Max Thomason (35th) Fionn Mordaunt (50th)	Maisie Morrison (10th) Zadie de Silva (14th) Miri Harkness (19th) Emily Clark (41st) Ruby Kells Burgess (43rd) Evie Wood (45th) Maisie Keelan (68th) Sage Launder-Upton (69th)	Nico Richardson (11th) Blake Strang (32nd) Niko Guttenbeil (34th) Lewis Horsley (41st) Isaac Ross (42nd) Billy Harcourt (43rd) London Ridge (46th)
2nd overall	3rd overall		

(There would have easily been over 70 runners per race).

CZ Girls Basketball

Eleven of our students represented Ponsonby at the CZ Girls Basketball day. It was a fast and furious day, with games being 15 minute running clock and no time-outs.

The team did incredibly well to win their pool, and didn't waste any time racing through to the final!

We came up against a tough, physical Kowhai team who we ended up going down to. The girls did incredibly well to place 2nd, a huge testament to the hard work a lot of them put into basketball in their own time or at Harbour Basketball Reps.

Well done to Mischa, Bijou, Hawk, Courtney, Torea, Jasmine, Miriama, Amy, Ava, Lucy and Miller. Special thanks to Brooke Jamieson and Onny Kaulima for coming to assist on the day.



CZ Boys Basketball

Our boys had their turn at CZ and made our school incredibly proud, just as the girls did. An incredible group of boys playing in several competitions together, they made light work of their pool play and raced through to the semi-finals.

Coming up against Kowhai, it was a tough, gritty game which ended in a draw. As it was a semi-final we played an extra 3 minutes, at the end of which Kowhai was ahead by 2 points and advanced to the finals.

It's never an easy position to be in, but the team kept their heads high and made light work of Balmoral to finish 3rd on the day. Incredible performances by Niko, Christian, George, Isaac, Tani, Sam, Cruz and Ryder. Shout out to Jock for running the score bench. Special thanks to Josh, the team's coach who accompanied us on the day and the parents who came and supported us. Especially José who had to make an ice run!



Student Online Conduct

Over the past few weeks there has been an increase in online behaviour that has raised concerns. We would like to remind parents and caregivers that social media websites cannot be accessed through the school internet nor can students access them on their phones during school time as they must be handed in at 8:30am.

We ask that parents and guardians monitor their child's behaviour online outside of school hours. The school has limited authority to shut down or control online content as we all know from our own experiences. If the online behaviour seriously impacts a child, we have an obligation to take some form of action when it is brought to our attention and when it is affecting the student's ability to feel safe at school.

If you are concerned about behaviour online or a chat group that your child has joined, the below steps may provide some guidance around what are some of the things you can do:

- Remove yourself from the chat group
- Block the person
- Take a screenshot of the message/comment as it can be used as evidence if the harassment or bullying continues
- Don't reply
- Tell a trusted adult
- Report to Netsafe if it is of a threatening or harmful nature
<https://report.netsafe.org.nz/hc/en-au/requests/new>

We will continue to educate students around sensible online behaviour. This week we have form time lessons focusing on how to be safe online as well as a whole school talk from an outside agency called Attitude where the topic was "Tackling Technology".

The below resource may also be helpful with helping your child navigate social media.

<https://ponsonbyintermediate.nz.schooltv.me/newsletter-external-resource/inter-yeti-talking-kids-about-safety-online>

<https://ponsonbyintermediate.nz.schooltv.me/content/blog/social-media-and-staying-safe-online-michael-carr-gregg>

Performance Evening

Students of Ponsonby Intermediate have been engaged in many performing opportunities over the past two terms including Talent Quest, Roadshow, Production, Kapa Haka, Pasifika Performance Group and Rock Bands. On the **6th September at 7pm in the school hall**, we will be showcasing the wonderful talent of over 100 performers. Come along and celebrate the hard work and performances of our students; there will be something for everyone.

International Students

Term 3 has been an exciting time to learn about other countries and cultures. Ponsonby Intermediate students have been wonderful hosts to two groups of Korean visitors and one group of Chinese visitors. The international students joined classes and shared their language and customs with our students. This also offered our students an opportunity to be ambassadors for New Zealand and to make connections around the world.



Bandquest

On Friday 25th, three of our school Rock Bands, 'Tuesday', 'Spicy Avocados' and 'Pitch Black' performed at the annual Bandquest heats at the Dorothy Winstone Centre. All three bands performed brilliantly with the result of **Tuesday's** singers winning best vocal award and **Pitch Black** winning 1st place. Pitch Black will now put a video entry into the National Final.



Hackathon 2023

Over the past 2 weeks, 55 individual Year 7 and Year 8 students are competing in the annual Hackathon event, hosted by Mr Andy Wilson and the Tech Experts. Contestants were required to create something digital, within the two week timeframe. In the past, students have created Minecraft worlds, python-coded games, computer animations, video edits and more. The top prize up for grabs is a Sphero Mini robot activity set. The competition closed Friday 25th August. The Tech Expert Hackathon judges are now deliberating over the amazing entries. Winners will be announced in the near future.

Art Exhibition Evening 2023

The Art Exhibition Evening will be taking place on the 20th of September. It is an exciting opportunity for students to showcase the work they have been doing over the past 3 terms.

Among the art work showcased there will be a wonderful diversity of Natural New Zealand, Urban and Toi Māori inspired mahi. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Camp Information 2023 (repeat notice)

Camp Fees

The fee for attending camp this year is \$350.00 per student. 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. You can pay in as many instalments as you like leading up to the due date of September 15th.

<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.

Student Safety and Behaviour Contract

On Monday, students were given our Student Safety and Behaviour Contract for camp. Please carefully read through this with your child, sign and return to your child's form teacher. The purpose of the contract is to set clear expectations around staying safe and behaving appropriately at camp. We appreciate your support with this.

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.

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

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