

20 August 2025

Important Dates

20 August

Attitude Show at 11am

Student Led Modular
Conferences 3:30 – 7pm

22 August

Teacher Only Day

Out-of-Zone Enrollments
close

APPA Literacy Day

25 August

Bandquest at Bruce Mason
Centre

ICAS Mathematics

26 August

Wellington Trip Departs

27 August

Paid Union Meeting
School finishes at 12:30pm

29 August

Daffodil Day

1 – 5 September

Blake VR in all Health
Lessons

3 September

Enrolment Ballot

4 September

School Social

8 – 12 September

Careers Week

12 September

Teacher Only Day

15 September

Central Zone Basketball

Principal's Message

With speeches and the Cross Country now completed, our Year 8 students have begun their Character Novel Study, while Year 7 students are diving into reading and writing short stories. In Mathematics, the current focus is on Geometry and Measurement.

Our Modular subjects are now at the halfway point. Students will begin their final two modules next term as we continue progressing through the programme.

Preparations for camp are well underway. If you have not yet paid for camp, we kindly ask that you prioritise this as soon as possible.

Next Friday is the official Cancer Society Daffodil Day. At Ponsonby, we will be celebrating Daffodil Week, with lunchtime activities every day and students generously donating coins for our collection.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Performance Evening. I'm sure you'll agree it was an inspiring showcase of talent. We were all so proud of our students making the most of their Ponsonby experience. Many of the bands that performed will go on to represent us at Bandquest.

Ngā mihi,

Nick Wilson

In this Week's Issue

- **Teacher Only Day**
- **Sports Update**
- **Board of Trustees Information**
- **Speech Results**
- **Camp fees and Fundraising**
- **Transitioning – Message for year 8 parents**
- **United Nations Day**
- **Board Elections**
- **School Dance/Social**
- **Teacher United Paid Union Meeting – 27th August**
- **School TV – Understanding Adolescence**

Teacher Only Days

The Ministry of Education granted schools two Teacher Only Days in 2025 to help with the development of the new curriculum changes. Ponsonby Intermediate will hold these Teacher Only Days on:

- **Friday 22 August**
- **Friday 12 September**

Supervision will be provided if needed.

Sports Update

Cross Country House Races

For the first time, we had our Cross Country run in house races! The house spirit was amazing and the students gave it a great go!

Congratulations to Puriri for winning the day and well done to all runners – It was our highest participation over the last few years.



Central Zone Cross Country Team

The school had a full entry into the Central Zone Cross Country held at Waiatarua Reserve in Remuera. We had been warned it would be like running through a swamp - and it sure was! Cross Country is a team sport, every place matters for all eight runners in each team. All the Ponsonby teams finished 4th or 5th, which is a pleasing result.

In the Year 7 Boys race Jacob Griffiths finished 3rd overall. Jade Brainard (4th) and Amelia Bell (9th) also qualified for the next event, Interzone Cross Country to be held at the Pukekohe Showgrounds on Friday.



The Ponsonby skiers and snowboarders continue to compete for the podium. The 3rd race event Auckland Snowsports Championship was held at Snowplanet recently, with 8 keen skiers and snowboarders competing. There is friendly competition between the fastest 3 girls Helena Jenks, Sally Youngman and Emily van Zoggel which made this race interesting, and only 2 seconds in it. Helena sped down the slope to be the fastest in this competition. These three Year 8's, along with Ruben Pienaar and Federico Kneebone, make up the Ponsonby Powder Hounds team to compete in the annual Schools Alpine Competition (SAC) in the South Island next month. Charlie Taylor, George Houldsworth, Sabine Christopherson and Hazel Burton Phillips make up the Ponsonby Polar Blasts. Mikey Fraser-House joined the ever hopeful Powder Hounds for the North Island Champs, while Freddie Earles helped the boys in the Snowplanet racing. Both the boys and girls skiers finished a well-earned 3rd for the Auckland Snowsports Championship, while snowboarders Kobe Walbran-Simon and Mason Bedford finished a strong 2nd! Snowplanet is a tight little course, and the team are looking forward to getting out on the mountain for a longer race course later this term. Only

a few short weeks until the North Island Intermediate Ski event (NIPS), 24-26th August at Mt Ruapehu and then onto SAC in September holidays.
Great results all round everyone!



Speech Results

This year's Ponsonby Speech finals were held on Friday 8 August. The standard was very high with a wide range of topics and it was an entertaining morning. Congratulations to all our finalists: Aleph Reade-Shareef, Darina Herzeg, Sophie Lethbridge, Charlie Taylor, Max McKimmon, Olive Judson, Zoe Bubb, Edie Crysell, Milo Holloway, Maisy Mitchell and Reyansh Misra. The judges, Ned Cundy (English Department) from Mt Albert Grammar and Bevan Verryt (Principal) from Campbells Bay Primary, had a challenging decision making process. The final results were - 1st: Olive Judson (The Power of Reading) 2nd: Reyansh Misra (My Complicated Relationship with Alarm Clocks) 3rd: Aleph Reade-Shareef (Noise Pollution under the Sea) with Milo Holloway receiving a Highly Commended for his speech on Things that Adults Say That Make No Sense.

Olive went on to represent Ponsonby at the Central Zone Speech Competition held on Thursday, 14 August at Ponsonby Intermediate and placed first.

Congratulations also needs to go to EVERY student at Ponsonby Intermediate; every one of you wrote and presented a three minute speech. Well done - you are all articulate, energised achievers for the future!

Mrs Dunn



Chess Team

On Wednesday 6 August, Ponsonby Intermediate Chess team competed in the Auckland Central Interschools competition at Michael's Ave Community Centre. Everyone played their best against some very difficult opponents. Well done to Alex Zheng, Vivaan Kukreti, Rory Dawson, Reyansh Misra, Anton Gene Garcia, Hamish Reynolds, Kingston ZP, Jaydon Yu, Hua Tong, Eden Hui, Max Payne, Jacob Griffiths!



Camp Fees

The fee for attending camp this year is **\$350 for year 7** and **\$420 year 8**. 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 12th**.

<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.

Kids to Camp Sponsorship

Throughout the year, we are raising money to sponsor students to attend camp in Term 4. If you are a parent/caregiver who would like to sponsor a student feel free to follow the link below with the reference 'Kids to Camp'. You can contribute as little or as much as you like. It all helps to ensure students do not miss out on camp due to financial hardship. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Samosa Fundraising for Camps

We are doing a number of initiatives to help fundraise for camps. In Term 1 we had our Ice Block Fridays. This term we will be selling samosas to help fund our camps.

Student will just need to show up every Wednesday with their cash. They can order as many as they like. You can now prepay on line using online banking:

1. Name of student
2. Room number
3. Specify the purpose of the payment (samosa order)

Your help and support with this fundraising initiative is much appreciated!

Message for Parents of Year 8 – Repeat Notice

Message for Parents of Year 8 - Students to participate in global study in understanding Transition from Year 8 - to Year 9

Among many other schools globally our Year 8's have been invited to participate in a study which will look at their experiences of this crucial transition period. We are working with the Education faculty at Waikato University to engage in this survey. If you **do not want your child to participate, please fill the form below and return it**. Copies are available at the front office. This is a 20 minute survey which will be conducted next term. If you wish to know more see the letter or reach out to Rachel Maitland-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BJAJ83O5N9BQcBULocFOevOQCGjecN0C/edit>

United Nations Day

In Term 4, we will be celebrating United Nations Day with a variety of exciting events that help us to focus on the UN values of 'Peace, Dignity and Equality on a Healthy Planet'. If you, or

anyone you know, has worked for the UN, we would love to have your input. Please contact hollyf@ponsint.school.nz if you would like to be involved.

Board of Trustees – Board Election

Ponsonby Intermediate School Board Elections- VOTING REMINDER

There is still time for you to vote in our School Board election.

We need **three parent representatives** to join the Ponsonby Intermediate School Board for a three year term and **two parent representatives** for an 18 month term.

Election Pilot has been appointed as the Returning Officer for this election. Voting instructions have already been sent by the team at Election Pilot. Please note that you will have received **two different emails for this year's election:**

- One for - Ponsonby Intermediate Parent Board Election **(3 Year Term)**
- and a second email for - Ponsonby Intermediate Parent Board Election **(18 month Term)**

The clock is ticking as voting closes at **4pm on Wednesday 10th September.**

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact the Returning Officer directly on 0800 VOTENZ (0800 868 369) or election@electionpilot.nz

School Dance/Social

On Thursday 4 September we will have a school Dance/Social from 6:30pm – 8pm. Tickets will be on sale next week for \$5. Students must be dropped off and picked up from the school hall by an adult/caregiver.

Teacher United Paid Union Meetings – repeat notice

These hui are paid union meetings for all primary and area school teachers who are members of NZEI Te Riu Roa. They will discuss and vote on next steps in public service pay negotiation, collective agreement negotiations and the campaign to increase school staffing. NZEI Te Riu Roa members have an entitlement to attend as these are official paid union meetings. These hui are scheduled in contact time to facilitate participation of all members.

Most of the teachers at Ponsonby Intermediate are NZEI Te Riu Roa members. **The school will be closed for instruction from 12:30pm on Wednesday 27 August.** If your child needs supervision for that afternoon please contact us at office@ponsint.school.nz



School TV

In this edition of SchoolTV - Understanding Adolescence

Adolescence is the transitional stage of development that is usually associated with the teenage years. In 2018, the Australian Curriculum Assessment Authority, redefined adolescence as affecting young people aged between 10-24 years. During this time, they experience rapid physical, cognitive and psychosocial growth which affects how teenagers feel, think, make decisions and interact with the world around them.

During adolescence, a child's brain can be considered as being “under-construction”. The rate at which this progresses will vary depending on the individual and also their gender. As a result, some parents may view adolescence as stressful or difficult. However, it does not need to be. Setting boundaries, implementing consistent monitoring and maintaining a strong and loving connection will help families adjust during this time.

It is also an important time to keep the communication lines open through clear and age appropriate conversations. Speak openly about changes that they are experiencing and be conscious of their mental health as many of the conditions people confront in adulthood, can begin to manifest in adolescence.

In this edition of SchoolTV, adult carers can learn how to guide and best support their young person as they transition through adolescence.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school counsellor for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to the **Understanding Adolescence** edition of SchoolTV

<https://ponsonbyintermediate.nz.schooltv.me/newsletter/understanding-adolescence>



GF & vegetarian options

ORDER school lunches ONLINE...

delivered to school

mykindo.co.nz

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

