

THE PONSONBY TIMES

Edition 02 - Term 2 2025

What's been happening at Ponsonby?

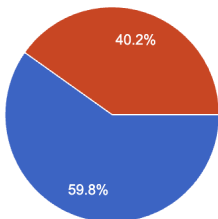
Production wrap-up interview with Mrs Cullen

By Sabine and Ramona (and with a little help from Meika)

Shout out to everyone in the production you all did amazing work! Mrs Cullen in her interview mentioned how proud of everyone she is. Thank you so much Ms Homes, Ms Fiddian and Ms Rees for all your hard work and for bringing us this amazing show. The production was funny, interesting, and taught an interesting lesson. Opening night was probably the best, energy-wise, says Mrs Cullen in her interview about the show. Her favourite scenes were Lemonade and Tok Support. It is so sad that production is over! You were all there when we needed you even if it meant depriving you of your weekends, says Mrs Cullen to all of the amazing choir, cast and dancers. As for you! Ponsonby we hope you enjoyed the production and all its splendor!

Poll #01 results

Would you rather never be able to go inside again, or never be able to go outside again?



59.8% be outside and never be able to go inside again
40.2% be inside and never be able to go outside again

A worrying poll result me thinks....

Emotional piece

To our Year 8s - we've got less than 2 terms left here, WOW!

By Meika

Wow! Year 8's I mean, wow! It seems like only yesterday we were walking into these gates for the first time and in a few months we'll be walking out for the last time. I want you to enjoy this while it lasts and no offence, but I think some of us have been spending our time here just a bit unwisely, so here are some things you can do to make these last few months unforgettable.

1. DON'T miss out on graduation (if you can help it)
2. Make a BIG last impression on your teachers, they will remember you based on your impression.
3. Try to look as good as you can for graduation

So, Year 8s, when you walk out of Ponsonby Intermediate's gates for the last time I want you to ask yourselves a question: 'have I spent my time wisely? Have I made a good impression on the school, the teachers?' Finally, I wonder, Year 8s... will we be remembered and here's a question for year 7s... have we done a good job?

Memories poem

By Meika

House flags, flying streaming smiles beaming, laughing talking whilst you're walking, shoe laces with colourful strings, bright house flags and other things. Water slushing, people rushing trying to catch a sight of the waterfall standing there in the morning light. Later, back inside the great big wooden hall are people sitting eating

and throwing dreams against the wall, boys laughing, girls talking about that one same guy! While the teachers listen in feeling a little bit sly (that was a poem about Hunua Falls camp last year). As the nominations are read to names I can't pronounce the winning house of the year is ready to announce "Rimu!" cries the teacher over the mic. Shock, sadness, disagree, how could this have happened? The students walk back to their classes feeling a little disheartened. These are all my memories. I'm happy as can be for these are all my memories wrapped up in what they used to be.

Cooking or selling?

By Jordan



UNO is a classic card game, and I can guarantee you've played it before with friends or family, but it has a massive flaw - how do you play it? Despite having actual rules, many people play UNO their own way, which is fine, however it is important to know how to actually play UNO. You should definitely read the actual rules but I want to set a few things straight:

- You cannot stack plus cards (except in UNO: No mercy) . I know a lot of people who avoid this rule, but according to the UNO rules, you're not allowed to.
- Reverse cards do not work on plus cards. There is no way to avoid picking up cards. Reverse cards only reverse the order of play from the dealer's left, to right.

So all in all, UNO is cooking! (if you play it correctly)

Ponsonby's Poems

A collection of the submissions by students and staff

Ode to pen

By Olive Room 12

Pen.
How boring.
You just sit.
Holding immense potential energy.
A lot, or not, maybe.
If I fling you.
Maybe a lot.
Or not.
Pen.

Frog

By Zara Kennedy Room 12

When I see a frog
And it hops away from me
It's like
What the heck, man

The News

A Cinquain By Darina Room 11

Look up...
The paper flies
To read and to inform
Us all about the things around
The news

PIGEONS IN THE SKY

Brooke Room 22

Pigeons fly so high,
flapping wings in the blue sky,
cooing as they go by

Questions

I looked up to the sky, on a cold moonlit night
are we truly alone

so many stars way up there

and so many more we can not see

why were they made, all of those galaxies

won't somebody, won't somebody answer me

we have men up in space and people walking
on the moon

will we get any further, anytime soon

will fantasies ever turn into reality

won't somebody, won't somebody answer me

won't somebody, won't somebody answer me

Solutions we seek to find

Knowledge to ease our mind

deep in outer space is there someone all alone
waiting, watching with questions of their own
like will they ever, ever be ready

when will they, when will they answer me

won't somebody, won't somebody answer me

won't somebody, won't somebody answer me

Mr Andy Wilson

NIGHT

By Reyansh Misra Room 23

The shadow of night

Suffocates the light of the

Orange setting sun.

The stars pulse their glow

Makes me want to ask questions

unique, shining things.

Birds nestle away

Nocturnal creatures are out

They own this place now.

I take in the view

Nature is truly wonderful

I slowly drift of to sleep.

Sofia Croft

Haiku by Room 11

As crisp snow settles,

Plants retreat into the ground

Winter has arrived

Boggle

By Harry Room 25

Firstly, Boggle Rules:

1. You can only use a letter once in a word

**2. The letters need to be next to each other
either up, down, left, right, or diagonal.**

There's an example to show how it works.



**3. This is to be done as a class, so please hand
in 1 sheet with all of your classes' words to Ms
Collins in Room 12 by the end of Week 7**

Here's the grid... get boggling!

R	C	M	P	B	I
K	O	O	L	Q	S
C	H	Z	A	U	D
K	N	R	T	N	O
J	M	E	N	G	L
S	A	D	H	F	S

Opinion piece: Are Blobfish really that ugly?

Brooke Room 22

You may think Blobfish look like this:



But you are very wrong, they actually look like this:

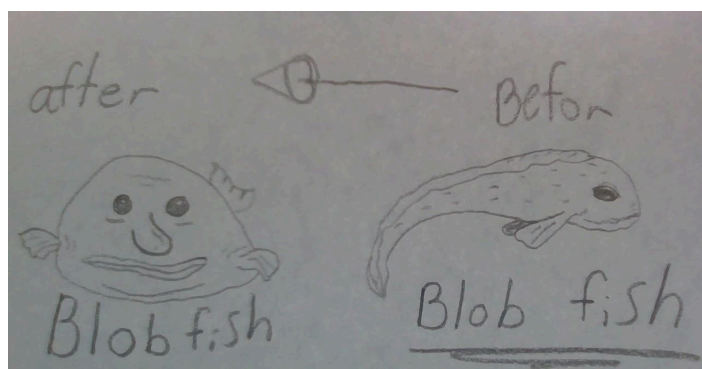


Blobfish look ugly out of the water because they are built to live deep in the ocean. It can get up to 120 meters deep down there and the water pressure is very high. Under the belly of the ocean, the pressure keeps their soft, jelly-like bodies in shape but when they are brought up to the surface, the ugly creature within the little blob reveals, the pressure drops dramatically. Without that pressure, their bodies collapse and look squishy, droopy monsters that people hate. People often think they look ugly. However, in their natural deep-sea home, Blobfish look much more normal and are well-suited to their underwater world. Even though people don't like them above water I think they are cute.

So this little creature that we frowned upon and laughed at, was just a misunderstood fish. How could you, you should be ashamed of yourself and made fun of.

FUN FACT: The Blobfish was voted ugliest animal in 2013 by the Ugly Animal Preservation Society.

Brooke's beautiful illustrations of said Blobfish



Don't mind the random blob-fish that is stuck in this document and can't be deleted



Horoscopes

Brought to you by *Cosmic Collins*

(disclaimer: Cosmic Collins is not liable for any bad things that happen, however, very happy to take credit for any good things)



December 22–January 19

Hard work will pay off, so stick with it even if things get tricky.

Lucky number: 4



January 20–February 18

Your creative ideas are amazing, so don't be afraid to share them with others.

Lucky number: 13



February 19–March 20

Dreamy thoughts are lovely, but remember to come back down to Earth and finish what you start.

Lucky number: 10



Aries

March 21–April 19

Today is the perfect day to try something new and exciting, even if it feels a little scary at first.

Lucky number: 7



Taurus

April 20–May 20

You might feel a little lazy today, but a small goal will help you feel proud and happy.

Lucky number: 14



Gemini

May 21–June 21

Your curiosity is strong today, so ask questions and explore new ideas—you'll learn something cool!

Lucky number: 3



Cancer

June 22–July 22

A friend might need your kindness today, and your caring heart will really shine.

Lucky number: 22



Leo

July 23–August 22

Show your leadership by including others in something fun—you'll make everyone smile!

Lucky number: 9



Virgo

August 23–September 22

Staying organised will make your day smoother, and you'll feel super accomplished.

Lucky number: 5



Libra

September 23–October 23

You'll feel happiest when everyone gets along, so use your charm to keep the peace.

Lucky number: 11



Scorpio

October 24–November 21

You might feel extra determined today, so use that energy to finish something important.

Lucky number: 8



Sagittarius

November 22–December 21

Adventure calls, even in small ways—try a new book, game, or idea today!

Lucky number: 16



TIPS FOR MANAGING STRESS (with students' help)

By Brooke 22 and Milly 23

Between bad sleep schedules and overdue homework, school can get very stressful so here are a few tips to handle this emotion.

My personal favorite way to handle hard and sometimes stressful situations is to imagine myself listening to music. I've made a playlist specifically for these situations and practically trick my mind into believing I'm listening to music.

Some more easy, simple and relevant tips for you could be to breathe - 3 breaths in and out can help HEAPS - find a new hobby, get good sleep, exercise constantly and make a list on what you need to get done.

Some more things you can do to stop getting stressed is get active. It proved that any form of active movement benefits your health and stress levels, so if you feel overwhelmed try going for a run to get your mind off it.

Another thing is a healthy palate. A healthy meal can impact your energy levels and overall actions. If you're eating unhealthy foods like burgers every day this is 100% affecting your brain emotions and levels of stress, so eat healthy.

But of course this doesn't work for everyone so we'll be asking students and teachers across the school for their personal favourite ways to manage stress.



Book review: Divergent by Veronica Roth

by Sally Rm 23

Genre: Science Fiction, Dystopia

Summary (No Spoilers!):

Divergent is a YA science fiction novel about a girl named Beatrice in a city of thousands. This city is their whole world, for the citizens believe themselves to be the only populace of humanity left after a great war. Once the war had finished, the masses divided themselves into groups of what they believed had been humanity's great downfall. Beatrice has been raised in Abnegation, and starts to feel smothered. At the choosing ceremony, where all citizens who have turned sixteen that year choose where they will spend the rest of their lives, Beatrice makes a sudden decision to escape her dull life and join Dauntless. From there she has to survive the ruthless training all while hiding her true self.

What I Liked (very minimal spoilers):

I enjoyed all the stunts the Dauntless did, and there was just enough urgency to move the story along, but not too much to make it hard to keep up with. The serums were an inventive part of the story on Veronica's part. I would truly love to see what my main fears are :)

What I didn't like (some spoilers):

I didn't particularly like how little emotion some of the characters had, but for most of these characters this was probably intentional, namely PETER (eurgh). Peter did have one prominent emotion though. Malice. Again, eurgh. There was a bit too much mutilation and deaths in the first part of the book, but again, that was probably intentional. It did seem to be a way of bringing forward some sympathy for a couple of characters, which is a rather smart way of getting the reader invested in the wellbeing of the characters. This became a whole lot more prominent towards the end of the series, which I am still grumpy about, V >:[. I particularly disliked the part about Al in the first book.

Favourite Quote or Moment:

“Those who blamed aggression formed Amity.”

The Amity exchange smiles. They are dressed comfortably, in red or yellow. Every time I see them, they seem kind, loving, and free. But joining them has never been an option for me.

“Those who blamed ignorance become the Erudite.”

Ruling out Erudite was the only part of my choice that was easy.

“Those who blamed duplicity created Candor.”

I have never liked Candor.

“Those who blamed selfishness made Abnegation.”

I blame selfishness; I do.

“And those who blamed cowardice were the Dauntless.”

But I am not selfless enough.’

-pg. 42-43, Divergent; Veronica Roth.

Who Would Enjoy This Book?

I reckon if you enjoyed The Hunger Games, or like science fiction or action, you would like Divergent.

Rating out of 5

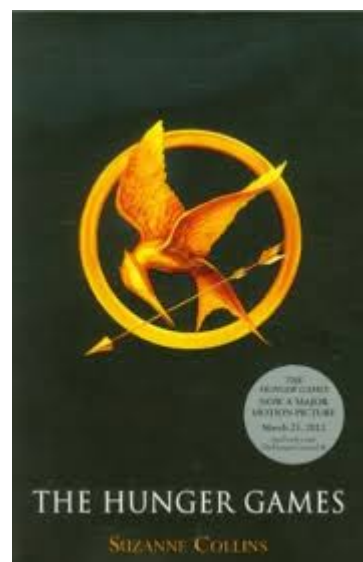
Storyline: 3

Characters: 4

Writing Style: 3

Overall Enjoyment: 4

Re-read value: 3



Book review: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

By Olive Room 30

Genre:

Dystopian science fiction

Summary (No Spoilers!):

This book follows the story of a girl named Katniss Everdeen, who is living in a corrupt world called Panem. It's divided into 12 districts, and every year, one boy and one girl aged 12-18 from each district gets selected to fight to the death in an arena. At the 74th annual Hunger Games, Katniss gets selected, along with a boy named Peeta. In the book, we get to survive inside the arena from Katniss' point of view.

What I Liked:

Like all other books, I much preferred the book than the movie because you can see inside the characters head. I liked the action scenes, and of course, Lucy Gray and Katniss just made the whole ring better. Definitely my favourite characters. The whole story was structured very

well, just enough action, romance, suspense, and sad scenes, it wasn't just action on action 100 percent of the time. It was very well written and I think it should be a required book for everybody to read.

What I didn't Like:

⚠ SEVERE SPOILERS WARNING ⚠

Gale and President Snow. First up, Gale is a stupid pick-me. He's also really annoying in general, and is getting angry at Katniss, because she likes Peeta instead of him. So he bloody kisses her to try to get her to be with him. Also, he BLEW. UP. PRIM. I don't understand people who defend him. President Snow? What's there to like about him? He hung his best friend, and tried to kill his girlfriend. The only reason he hates Katniss is because she reminds him of his ex-girlfriend from sixty-four years ago. He's a stupid misogynistic guy with serious attachment issues.

Favourite Quote or Moment:

Well it honestly wouldn't be a book without this iconic line from Katniss;
“I VOLUNTEER AS TRIBUTE!!”

Who Would Enjoy This Book?

People who like suspense and drama, though I usually don't like science fiction type of books, I found The Hunger Games to be the best book I've ever read, so really anyone could read it and enjoy it.

Ratings (Out of 5)

Storyline: 5

Characters: 3

Writing Style: 4

Overall Enjoyment: 5

Re-read value: 4

History you should know about

By Jordan Room 12



Mostly everyone in our glorious country, New Zealand, knows that we are a British colony, our flag even has the Union Jack on it. But it wasn't always that way. The British did not discover New Zealand, nor did they even name us 'New Zealand'



New Zealand was actually discovered by this handsome man, Abel Tasman.

Abel Tasman was a famous Dutch explorer, who went all around the world discovering land for the Dutch Empire. In an attempt to expand the Dutch East Indies Company, he sailed south, and made a massive discovery. 'Staten Landt' he named it, but the Dutch didn't like it, so they changed it to 'Nieuw Zeeland' named after the Dutch province of



Zeeland.

Tasman and his crew first landed alongside the northwest coast of the south island (Tasman District), and later began sailing east. It was

there, where he encountered the Māori. A small group paddled out in a waka and attacked the Dutch. Four sailors were killed in the attack. After that small battle, Tasman decided it was time to go home.

James Cook (below Tasman) was a famous British Royal Navy officer, who was known for mapping out much of Canada's east coast, and his involvement against the French in the Siege of Quebec.

When he was on an expedition in Tahiti, he caught word of Tasman's discovery, and sailed south towards it. He exchanged gifts and shared peace with the Māori, and set up colonies throughout the lands.

So, if someone tells you if New Zealand is British, tell them they're right. But always remember that Abel Tasman found it first.

Half an opinion piece: Cats are BETTER than dogs

By Harry, Room 25

If you like dogs please don't protest this, just keep liking dogs. I am not criticising dogs.

Why cats are 1000% better than dogs. Example/evidence: They are a LOT less maintenance than dogs, Most of them are stupid (in a good and funny way), they have different breeds (so do dogs but cats are BETTER!) playful and energetic; Abyssinian, loving and affectionate; Ragdoll. They are a LOT more independent than dogs and... MORE CLEAN THAN THOSE LITTLE GRUB LIKE DOGS (I got a little carried away). In the end THEY ARE BETTER.



Jurassic Rebirth movie review

By Reyansh Misra 23

“We don’t run the Earth—we just like to think we do. Our real skill has always been moving things, and ourselves, into places we never belonged. But when the planet gets fed up with us, make no mistake—it’ll shake us off like a mild summer flu.”

It’s been three decades since *Jurassic Park* first roared onto screens, and now *Jurassic World: Rebirth* takes us full circle. Directed by Gareth Edwards, this seventh installment in the legendary franchise is both a tribute to the original and a bold step forward.

The story kicks off with a group of top-tier dinosaur scientists heading to a long-abandoned lab hidden deep on a remote island—yes, the original Jurassic Park site. Their mission? To retrieve long-lost dinosaur DNA that could hold the key to a groundbreaking medical breakthrough. But as they dig deeper into the ruins, they stumble upon secrets that were never meant to be uncovered.

The film moves with strong pacing, blending high-stakes action with character-driven moments. Edwards keeps the tension tight while giving enough space for emotional beats to land. At just over two hours, the film keeps things engaging, though the climax feels a bit too crowded with plotlines converging all at once. That said, it wraps up on a satisfying note.

Visually, *Rebirth* is a feast. The dinosaurs are rendered with jaw-dropping realism, thanks to a hefty visual effects budget. The leap in CGI quality since the 1993 classic is astonishing, and the film knows it—giving us scene after scene of visual spectacle.



Scarlett Johansson leads the cast with a grounded, believable performance. She brings depth and presence to the role without overplaying it. The supporting cast is solid, even if no one else really steals the spotlight beyond the big set pieces.

Jurassic World: Rebirth doesn't overhaul the formula, but it mixes familiar elements with enough new twists to keep things fresh. For longtime fans of the series, it's a satisfying return to form—one that respects its roots while charging ahead into new territory.

A note from our Editor in Chief, Ms Collins

The newspaper team hopes that you are enjoying our school paper.

It has been wonderful hearing all of the feedback and people wanting more issues, more often!

We're just warming up, so watch this space!

Some advice you didn't ask for: if you've got some feedback about anything in our paper or if we've made a mistake with spelling or grammar, please be careful with how you word it and who you say it to as the team works hard to create content for you. Come and see Ms Collins directly instead please.

***He aroha whakatō, he
aroha puta mai***

***'If kindness is sown then
kindness you shall receive'***