

Important Dates

25 September

Last Day of Term 3

Out of Zone

Enrollments close
4pm

12 October

Start of Term 4

13-16 October

School Camps

23 October

Teacher Only Day
School Closed

26 October

Labour Day

28 October

Cross Country -
TBC

Principal's Message

Kia Ora Whanau,

We have had Tongan Language Week, Maori Language Week and this week has been focused on Mental Health Awareness. Thanks to Rachel Maitland-Smith and the Positively Ponsonby reps for organizing loads of activities – yesterday they gave out hundreds of hot chocolate drinks during lunchtime.

There have also been Dodgeball and Football competitions everyday as well as Volleyball and Touch trials. The Art exhibition in the Library has also been fantastic. Sarah Valintine has been collecting art work all year, and now has the difficult decision of choosing winning artists!

Next term starts off with one day at school and then camps. Please also note the Teacher Only Day scheduled on the Labour Day weekend.

Enjoy the holidays and stay safe out there,

Nick Wilson
Principal

Message from the Deputy Principal

This year has been tough for many students, particularly around building positive friendships with such a disruptive year. Term 4 is going to be about creating situations such as whole school events and activities where opportunities to build friendships can take place. It is important we foster these friendships and end the year on a positive note.

Another focus for Term 4 is around ensuring students feel confident to approach teachers if they are feeling unsafe around other students. My concern this year has been the use of the word 'snitch'; it is incredibly upsetting and disappointing, not just as a teacher, but as a parent to hear that students who are experiencing bullying type behaviour don't feel they can tell their teacher or caregiver. This word is not okay to use and certainly has no place in our school.

We have zero tolerance for this type of behaviour and with your help and communication we can ensure it has no place at Ponsonby Intermediate.

During the holidays, it would be greatly appreciated if you can have a conversation with your child around making sure that if things are not going well at school and they feel unsafe, the right thing to do is ask an adult for help.

I would also encourage a holiday with as little social media and device time as possible. We have dealt with a number of incidents involving social media that are happening outside of school and I think a break might just be what the students need.

Message from Our Guidance Coordinator

Kia ora,

Following on from our D.P.'s message, it has been a strange time these last few months. Even though some students and families loved lock downs, there has certainly been some uncertainty in the air which has upset the balance. The Ponsonby Experience is designed to support friendship and build relationships with teachers and other staff through activities and exploring new interests and finding strengths. We haven't had that this year. So our focus has to be on supporting this as we finish off the year.

Students have been online more than ever this year, so we encourage our kids to spend time with new friends and branch out doing outside activities. We also encourage our students to come forward and share with an adult they trust at school if they have any worries or concerns. We are always ready to listen and act accordingly to ensure students feel safe.

This week is our national Mental Health Awareness week, we have had a fabulous week talking about how we can support our well-being and our PP reps have been running some fun activities during lunchtimes. We had hot chocolates, mask designing, and a flags game on the field.

Attention Year 8 students: Enrolling into High School next year.

If you have not enrolled your child into High School, it is a good time to get sorted for next year.

Camps

We are all go for camp in Term 4, departing on Tuesday 13th October. If you are helping out on camp you will receive information in the second week of the holidays which will just be reminders around Health and Safety and meeting times for departure. Parents, you can use the holiday time to ensure you have everything your child needs that is on your gear list.

Thanks again to all the parents helping out on camps, we are all excited to give these students a positive and enjoyable camp experience!

Sports Update

Class Dodgeball Results

This term the Sports Leaders helped to set up and support the Class Dodgeball Competition for lunchtime sports. Classes have been up for the challenge each week throwing balls at speed, dodging them too and building great team camaraderie. A shout out to all the classes who participated and brought sportsmanship to the games. Semi-final games were very exciting played by Year 8s - Rooms 17, 9, 18, 25 and Year 7s - Rooms 11, 23, 20 and 22. Dodgeball Finals were played on Thursday with Rm 17 v Rm 25 and Rm 11 v 22. Well done to these classes for showing off their amazing dodgeball skills !! Winners of this year's Sports Leaders Dodgeball Competition were Year 8s Room 17 and Year 7s Room 11. Awards will be given out at Assembly next term. **Check out this week's PPTV for the action.**

Thanks to all the teachers involved and remember "Stay Sporty Ponsonby!!"

Great House Race Results

Congratulation to Kauri House for winning this years' Great House Race. It was great to see every single student participate to help their house in this incredible race. Photos to follow in next term's newsletter.

NIWA Science and Technology Fair

This year the school did not take part in the annual NIWA Science and Technology Fair, due to COVID 19 restrictions. However, a virtual fair went ahead. Jacob Johnson from Room 15 participated, he used his initiative and worked extremely hard. He was rewarded with a Third Place in his category, The Living World, with his project - "See the Light". We are extremely proud of Jacob, for his success and his tenacity. Well done.

Mrs Marsick and Miss Soppet.

Hackathon 2020 - The Tech Experts and Mr Andy Wilson are hosting the annual Hackathon competition in Term 4. This competition is open to all students. Students will need to create something digital, eg Scratch game, Photoshop, Minecraft etc within the two week competition timeframe. Entry costs \$2 and there will be prizes for the top 3 entries.

ICAS Timetable

The new dates and times have been set for the ICAS exams that will take place at the beginning of Term 4. Please note these are completed online so if the students have their own devices it would be greatly appreciated if they can bring them along. We will have devices available for those students that need them.

The Spelling Bee ICAS requires the students to have headphones/earbuds as some part of the exam is dictated. Please ensure the students bring them along on that day also.

Exam	Date	Year 7 starting time	Year 8 starting time
Digital Technologies	Tuesday 20th October	8:45am	11:00am
Science	Thursday 22nd October	8:45am	11:00am
English	Thursday 29th October	8:45am	11:00am
Spelling Bee	Friday 30th October	8:45am	11:00am
Mathematics	Monday 2nd November	8:45am	11:00am

Rocket Challenge

Our Ponsonby Rocket Challenge team has been hard at work throughout Term 3. They have learnt about Newton's Laws of motion, tested different pressures and water levels, and spent their Option lessons designing and building their prototypes! Check out some of their designs below:



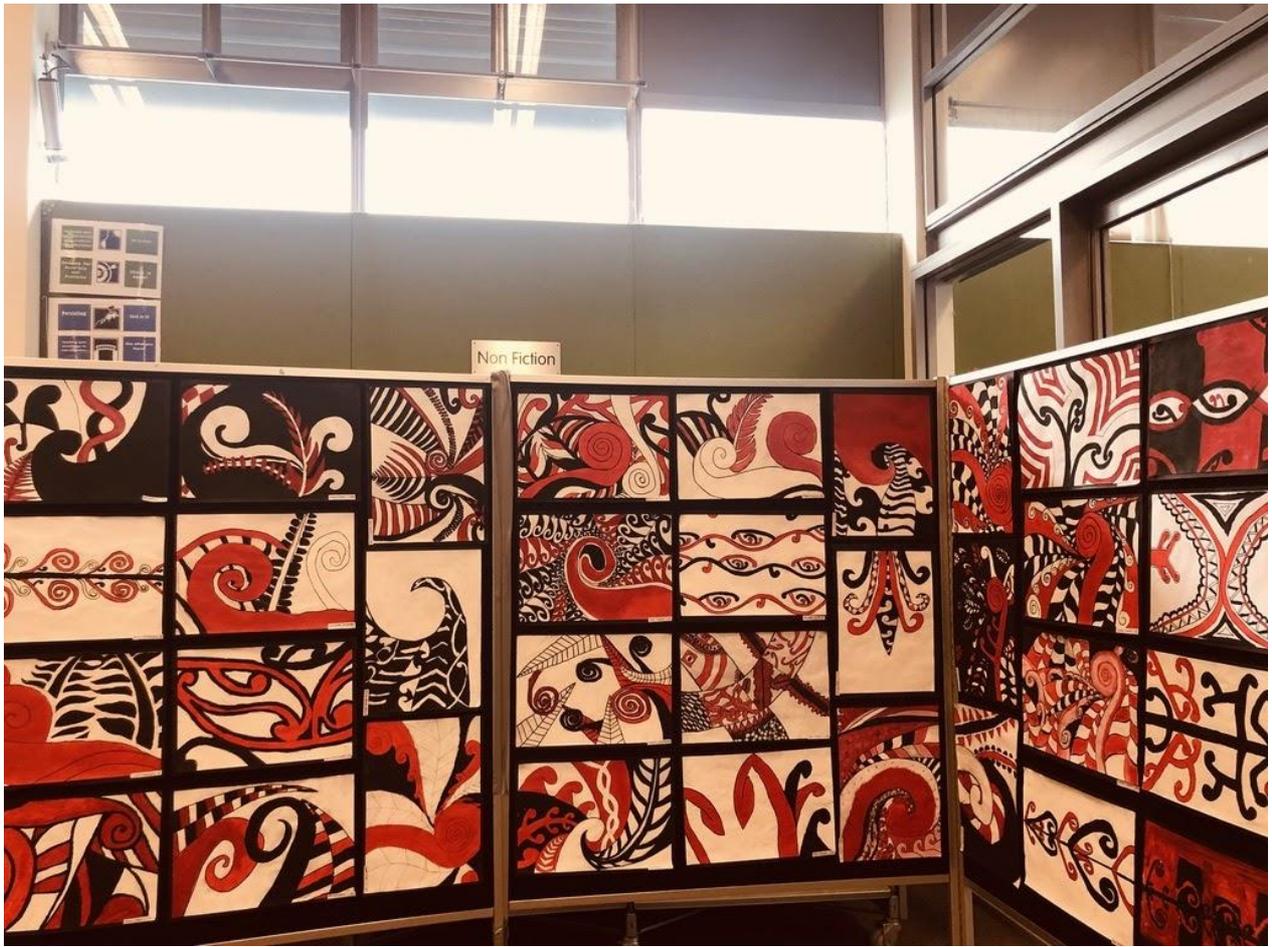


Art Exhibition

Congratulations to all our talented artists who contributed to the Art Exhibition! It was a vibrant event and the whole community worked together to make it a success. A prize giving will be held in Term 4 to recognise all our finalists and award winners.









Joy Lewis P23
Jordan Huh R3





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