Newsletter Rua E rua tekau ma ono Poutū-te-rangi

Donovan Primary 26 March 2026 Issue 2

From the Principal's Desk

Kia Ora and Greetings

Welcome to our last newsletter for Term 1. Our last day for this term is Thursday 2 April. Term 2 starts with Y3-6 swimming on 21 April (2nd day of term), so get the swimming gear ready in the school holidays, if you are Y5/6 the bus leaves sharp after the 8.50am bell so don't be late. All the dates are in the newsletter or on School Stream.

An early notice, school will be closed Monday 25 May for the last in a series of Maths Curriculum Professional Development.

From next week road works are going to impact on how you get to school for at least a month. Check your School Stream for detailed information.

Southland Athletics was held last weekend and we had some great results. As soon as they are with us we will publish these but our Zone Athletics results are in this newsletter.

This will be the last newsletter while Mrs Erskine is in the office. Her last day will be Friday 24 April. Maureen is in her 22nd year as our key person in the office. Before Donovan was West Plains and Otatara School before that, which brings her service pretty close to 35 years. I'm not really sure a newsletter blurb really does any justice to how much we will miss her and how much gratitude and respect we owe her.

Maureen and I were employed in late 2004, being the first employees of the Donovan B.O.T. There was no physical school there yet, no teachers employed yet, we had a whole lot of nothing. Of all the people in the world you want on your team right from the start of a new school, it was Maureen.

Maureen's calm, systems and high level organization skills have been invaluable as much then as now. We survived and opened a new school in the best way we could, all because she instantly had loyalty and the determination to make this work and to make it the best school our community had ever seen. Maureen has never waivered or given up and there has been tough and overwhelming times along the journey. So how can a newsletter blurb sum up what she has done for our school, staff, children and community? It can't.

So farewell Maureen from your Donovan family with love and respect. You have earned yet another A+ for your work.

Ki te kahore he whakakitenga, Ka ngaro te iwi

Without foresight or vision, the people will be lost

And yes, we will feel a huge loss when you are not here.

Peter Hopwood
Principal

Important Dates

April
Thurs 2 –Last day term
Mon 20 Term 2 begins
Tues 21 –Thur 23 -Mid/Sen swimming
Mon 27-Anzac Day –closed
Tues 28- Thur 30-Mid/Sen swimming
May
Tues 5– Fri 8-Mid/Sen swimming
Mon 25 –**Teacher Only Day – closed**
Tues 26-Thur 28 -Jnr swimming
June
Mon 1 –King's Birthday– closed
Tues 2 –Thur 4 -Jnr swimming
Tues 9-Fri 12 -Jnr swimming
Tues 16 - BOT meeting
July
Fri 3 July—Last day term
Mon 20 July—Term 3 begins
Tues 21 –Board Meeting
Aug
Tues 18 –BOT Meeting
Sept
Tue 22—School Photos
Tues 22 –Board Meeting
Fri 25—Last Day Term
Oct
Mon 12 Oct—Term 4 begins
Tues 20 –BOT Meeting
Mon 26 Labour Day—closed
Nov
Tues 17 –BOT Meeting
Dec
Tues 8 -BOT Meeting
Last day to be advised.

Assemblies
March
March 27-Syndicate Mid/Sen 1.30pm, Jnr 2.15pm.

April

Congratulations to all the children who represented Donovan at the Kiwi Zone Athletics on Wednesday 11th March. Below is a list of the results.

7 Year Old Girls

Chloe Leader – 2nd 100m
Addy Little – 2nd 60m

7 Year Old Boys

Beauden Armour – 2nd 60m, 2nd 100m
Luke Goddard – 3rd 60m

8 Year Old Girls

Hannah Forbes – 1st = 60m, 1st 100m, 1st Long Jump

8 Year Old Boys

Liam Checketts – 1st Long Jump
Theo Garrett – 1st = 60m, 2nd 100m, 3rd Long Jump
Cooper Mahon-Lamb – 1st = 60m

9 Year Old Girls

Olivia Bean – 2nd Shot Put
Summer Bogle – 1st 800m
Elsie Buchanan – 1st 200m, 2nd 200m, 3rd 800m
Annabelle Claridge – 2nd 100m, 1st 200m, 1st Long Jump, 1st Shot Put, 2nd Discus

9 Year Old Boys

Rhylan McCleery – 1st Shot Put
Theo Nally – 1st 100m, 2nd 800m, 2nd High Jump, 2nd Long Jump
Onkardeep Singh – 2nd 100m, 3rd 200m, 1st Long Jump
Lucas Tretheway – 3rd 800m

10 Year Old Girls

Bailee Buchan – 3rd 100m, 3rd 200m, 2nd 800m, 1st 1500m
Rosa Cowan – 1st 100m, 1st 200m, 3rd 1500m, 2nd High Jump, 2nd Long Jump
Sophie Leader – 3rd = Long Jump
Chloe Sutherland – 1st Shot Put

10 Year Old Boys

Hunter Ashworth – 2nd 200m, 3rd 800m, 3rd 1500m
Arlo Gilkison – 2nd 800m, 2nd 1500m, 2nd Discus, 3rd High Jump, 3rd Shot Put

Canteen Heatups.



Just a reminder that it costs 20c per heatup per student to have your child's lunch nice and hot for lunchtime.

The PTA have tried to make it as easy as possible by charging 20c per heatup or $4 per term or $10 per year per child.
You can send the money along to either the office or the canteen anytime or pay for it with the Friday Menu through School Stream.

The heatup service may become unavailable to families who make no effort to pay for this service. The canteen would like arrears to be settled as soon as possible please. A note will come home as a reminder. The easiest way is to pay for a year subs of $10 per child for the entire year and you don't have to hunt out 20c every time you wish to have a nice warm lunch for your child/ren.

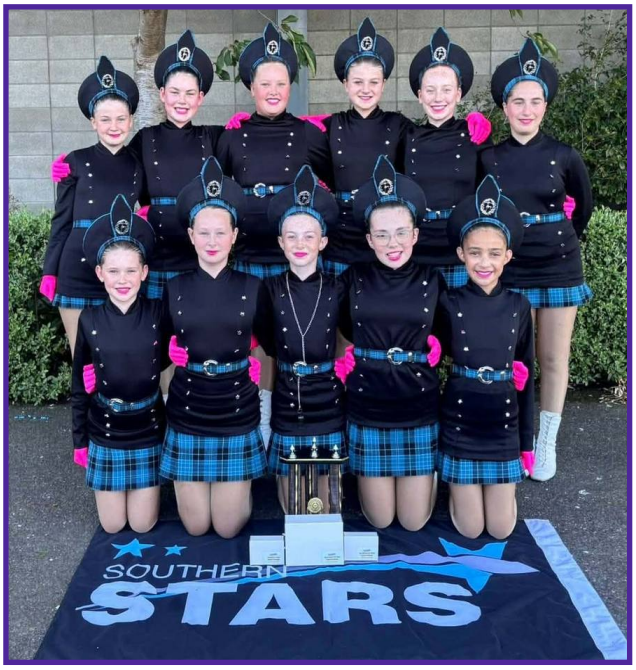


Congratulations to the children who received the R.E.AL certificates for Week 6, 20 March 2026.

Rm	Student
2	Sam Cook
5	Kahlani Giles
7	Noah Wilson
8	Bayron Tsang
9	Mia Churr
10	Sebastian McLellan-Reece
12	Ellie-Marie McIntyre
13	Amaleigha-Rose Bower
14	Toa Hufanga
15	Nico Lee-Tapu
16	Mya Lord
17	Georgia Simmonds
18	Serena Campbell-Bungard
19	Koa Harris
20	Shantel Basilisco
21	Leah Flannery

Accounts

Your child's account will be sent home soon. Donovan Primary do not charge any school fees. Junior and Middle students will have Reading Logs ($3.00) on their accounts. Also any unpaid sports fees will be added as well. We would appreciate payment before the end of term one.



Over the past weekend Monika Adamson and her marching team Southern Stars Under 13, competed at the New Zealand Marching National Championships in Wellington. Over 30 teams competed across four grades in a two day Championship, all aiming to be crowned the New Zealand champion in their respective grades. Southern Stars Under 13 was awarded Champion Display Team, 3rd champion technical team and 3rd overall New Zealand Champion Team. An achievement reflective of the hard work and dedication Monika has had to the sport of marching.

We wanted to share these incredible results with you to celebrate within your learning community.

Nga mihi,

Mel Canning, Jess King, Lisa McMurtrie and Angela Potter
Southern Stars Under 13 officials

Absences

School Stream App—go to Forms then Absentee Form and complete absence and submit or text your absences on 0273 727070—child's first and last name, class and also reason for absence. You can also go to the url on your computer - https://donovanprimaryschool.myschoolstream.net

REMINDERS—

- Sports fees are to be paid to school as soon as possible.
- Cellphones to be handed into the office
- All medicines are to be handed into the office for safe keeping and an Administer Medical Form completed
- Office to be notified of lateness or early pickup as students must be checked in or out through the office.
- Keep the office up to date with any changes to personal information already held.

NEW STUDENTS

A warm welcome to our new families to the Donovan Community.
The children below started with us since our last newsletter. We hope that they and their families enjoy their association with Donovan Primary.

Raven Phillips and Ammarah Rafiqah



We have communicated many times about the major priority of the Government around attendance and being at school on time. This year NZ schools are implementing new procedures, these are to be in place by Term 1 2026. The Government target is for 80% of students to attend regularly, that is to attend school more than 90% of the time.

Good Attendance (Good chance of success)—is less than 5 days absence in a school term.
Worrying Attendance (Less chance of success) is up to 10 days absence in a school term.
Concerning Attendance (Hard to make progress) is up to 15 days absence in a school term.
Serious Concern (Very hard to make progress) is 15 days or more of absence in a school term.
We will communicate with you if your child is at any of the above stages and we will endeavour to work with you to achieve good attendance.
Lateness is electronically recorded and monitored. Of all absence problems, this is by far our biggest concern. Having learners at school, in class by 8.50am is what we need to achieve., A reminder—children are NOT to be dropped off before 8.20am. There is no supervision of care until 8.20am.

Community Notices.

Please read the Community Notices that is sent with this newsletter. It has lots of information that may be of interest to the students as well as the parents/caregivers.

Medication

Just a reminder that if you are requiring your child to have any medication administered during school hours, there are a few things we need. (This includes inhalers)

- All medication must be handed into the office for safe keeping
- If it is a prescription medication, we do require it to be in a container showing the name and doseage on the script label.
- A medical consent form needs to be signed by the caregiver.

We do have a fridge in the medical room if medication needs to be kept cool. If your child has to take medication home each day, perhaps talk with the chemist and they may split the medicine into two containers, one for school and one for home. If medication does need to be taken home after school each day, it is the responsibility of the child to remember to come and collect it.

Helpful Tips for Minimizing Notifications on School Stream.

We understand that everyone is busy and reading the endless notifications we send out on School Stream can be time consuming. So if it would help, you can thin down the notifications you receive to ones that are relevant. Please read the link below.

Please keep the 'Whole School', 'Newsletters', 'Canteen', 'PTA', 'Community Notices', 'Covid' and relevant syndicate levels as essentials. (Sports folders and any others you select can be hidden). Do not panic, you can retrieve the folder again if your child decides to play sport, or change syndicate or has camp etc. I will post everything to the 'Whole School' folder if relevant for the whole school, but reminders etc will go to the respective folder. If you have not kept that folder, you will not see any notifications posted to it. Sports draws will go straight to the respective sports folder.

If you have not set up your account and try to start this process, School Stream will ask you to set this up first. Just follow the steps and once completed you will be able to hide folders. Have a look at the link and see if this would help.

https://support.schoolstream.com.au/en/articles/2115370-manage-notifications-and-hide-folders

School Directory	
Office phone	03 2159664
Office email	office@donovanprimary.ac.nz
Office cell for texting absences only	0273 727070 (Text only)
School Stream Web version	https://donovanprimaryschool.myschoolstream.net
School Bank account	Donovan Primary B O T 03 1742 0052461 00
PTA Bank account	03 1742 0052744 00
Donovan Primary Website	www.donovanprimary.ac.nz
Principal's email	principal@donovanprimary.ac.nz
School Hours	8.50am –12.20pm, 1.00pm-3.00pm
Entry/Departure times	No entry before 8.20am, collected by 3.15pm
Policies and Procedures	**https://donovanprimary.schooldocs.co.nz/** Username: donovanprimary Password: drurylane

Community Notices: Keep an eye on the separate Community Notices for upcoming community events.