Newsletter Whitu e rua Tkau Waru Here Turi Koka

Donovan Primary 18 August 2025 Issue 7

From the Principal's Desk

Kia Ora, Haere Mai and welcome to this newsletter.

This week we have been well entertained with some fabulous retells. We may have the results by the time this newsletter is published. Our children have put 110% of effort and enthusiasm.

If you have a Year 6 learner going to High School next year, enrolments close 18 August. There has been reminders on School Stream.

We are currently in election process for our next Board of Trustees. Please remember to vote. We have some pretty amazing people standing who will serve our community well. Term 4 is closer than one might think. Camps start as we get back and then swimming follows straight after. It will be a busy time for our middle and senior syndicate and even more so for our seniors.

Our teacher only day was Friday 15 August. Our day was learning about the new maths curriculum. Over the next 18 months the Government have provided 4 days of staff training. Our second teacher only day this year will be Friday 24 October. We will do reminders as we get closer.

Ma te wa.

Peter Hopwood
Principal

Important Dates

2025

AUGUST

Tue 19-BOT Meeting
Thur 28—Bookclub closes
SEPTEMBER
Tue 16 –BOT meeting
Wed 17 - School photos
Term Three ends 19 September

Term Four starts 6 October
OCTOBER
Wed 8 Oct - Rm16 Camp
Mon 13 Oct —Rm15 Camp
Wed 15 Oct Rm20 Camp
Sun 19 Oct –Rm2 Camp
Tue 21 Oct –Rm21 Camp
Fri 24 –Teacher Only day – school closed.
Mon 27 Oct –Labour Day School closed.
Tue 28-Thur 30 Mid/Snr Swimming
NOVEMBER
Tue 4-Thurs 6 Mid/Snr Swimming
Mon 10-Thurs 13 Mid/Snr Swimming
Tue 25—BOT meeting
DECEMBER
Wed 10 –Merit assemblies held at Donovan Primary Hall
Thur 11– Yr 6 Day Out and Graduation at Donovan Primary
Fri 12 - Prizegiving at Donovan Primary Hall
Term Four ends –Tue 16 Dec.

Public Holidays during term breaks.
Mon 27 Oct –Labour Day
End of Term—To be advised

Assemblies
Fri 22 Aug—Whole School 1.30pm.

Fri 29 Aug –Syndicate - Middle/Senior 1.30pm. Juniors 2.15pm

Fri 5 Sept—Whole School 1.30pm







RETELL RESULTS

Last week we finished another very successful week of Syndicate and Whole School Retell finals. The calibre of retells proved to be very high and made our judges job very difficult. Many thanks to parents and caregivers for supporting their children to prepare, practise and confidently present their retells. The Whole School results are as follows,

Junior Syndicate Poetry Winner: Cameron Adams
Junior Syndicate Retell Winner: Thomas Savell
Middle Syndicate Retell Winner: Lucas Tretheway
Senior Syndicate Retell Winner: Yumo Shi

Many thanks to all our Syndicate Final Judges: Aisha Williams, Milton Munro, Joy Brown and Alice Hildebrand. Special thanks to the Whole School Final Judges, Aaron Kerr and Tania Faulkner-McKenzie.

Once trophies have been engraved, they will be returned to the winners to look after until next year. Well done everyone.

Mrs Wilson



JUMP JAM

A huge congratulations to all our teams who performed in the Jump Jam Competition on Saturday 16 August. We had some great results and all the children had a blast.

Special thank you to the staff who have worked with our students to enable them to have this amazing experience.

Some important dates coming up so keep an eye on School Stream.

BOT Elections—Voting closes 4pm 10 September 2025

Polyfest 21 and 22 August

Bookclub closes 28 August

Mobile Dental Bus

The mobile dental bus is currently at school and will probably be here for most of the year. They will work their way through seeing all the children at Donovan Primary and preschool siblings. If you have any concerns or need to see them earlier you can contact them on 0272849937. If they don't answer, then please leave a message and they will call you back once they have no patients.

The New Zealand Ministry of Education is currently undertaking a refresh of the national curriculum to ensure it is relevant, fit for purpose and prepares young people for their future. Here are key things parents need to know about these changes:

This will be ongoing for many years-it will continue to evolve and teacher development will also take time as part of the change process. Teachers are working hard incorporating these changes, and as always the needs and interests of your child are at the heart of what they do and classrooms.

The Curriculum is being updated in stages, with new content for English
(years 0-6) and Mathematics and Statistics Years (0-8) currently available, Schools have until the beginning of 2027 to fully implement the refreshed national curriculum. The updated curriculum is intended to be more consistent.

For mathematics, the content expected to be taught at each year level has been revised and designed to be internationally comparable. Due to these higher benchmarks in the revised mathematics curriculum, it's possible that your child's initial progress and achievement levels might appear lower as the expectations for what they need to know at each age have increased.

You will continue to receive twice yearly reports on your child's progress in relation to these new learning objectives. Mid and end year reporting is interim until there is more understanding of the curriculum and assessment tools as the government is still looing to release new information and resources to schools.



Congratulations to the children who received the R.E.AL certificates for Week fourTerm 3.

Lucy Townson Rm 2 Absent
Harper Cook Rm 15
Ryekin Bower Rm 16
Isaac Keil Rm 20 Absent
Alexie Blair Rm 21

Lynsey Baucke Rm 5
Manix Shepard-Keene Rm 6 Absent
Hunter Emerson Rm 7
Indie Hamilton Rm 8
Bella Kean Rm 9

Harry Edgerton Rm 11
Ryker Sharp Rm 12
Addy Little Rm 13
Cody Wilson Rm 14
Layla Young Rm 17
Nate McCorkindale Rm 18
Oakleigh Hyde Rm 19

Please remember the canteen do not make up noodles. If you wish your child to have noodles please make them up and put them into a flask or suitable container that will keep them hot.

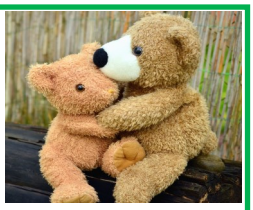
Also be careful of the plastic containers that food is coming in as some of the cheap containers melt in the pie-warmers.

Sistema containers seem to be the best with either the vent on top or click clack type fastenings. If the food is suitable, tinfoil works well.

Board of Trustees Elections:

We are holding our triannual Board of Trustee elections this year. All those on the electoral role should have received their voting paper and candidates profiles. Voting closes at 4pm 10 September. There is a ballot box on the counter in the office. Voting papers can also be posted in the envelope provided.

NEW STUDENTS



We welcome Raynger Sylvia, Aleyna Begya, Ahctive Richardson, Skylah Brown, Matthew Williams.

We hope that they all enjoy their association with Donovan Primary.

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



Donovan Orange
Hockey team– Year 2/3/4

A special thanks to Chris Bean for coaching

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.

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', 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

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 and cough lozengers)

- 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.

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 –12.30pm, 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.