Newsletter Waru E tekau ma wha Hepetema 2026

Donovan Primary 14 September 2026 Issue 8

From the Principal's Desk

Kia Ora,
Welcome to Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori.

Across New Zealand this week you will see and hear Te Reo. I'm sure our learners could share their learning with you as the week progresses.

This is the week of Music Festival (Sing Out). It is 80 years of these performances in Invercargill which is a huge achievement.

Donovan is performing on Thursday evening.

We want to wish our 63 children, Miss Wheeler and Miss Fosbender all the best for a busy week and a great performance. What an experience to be on the stage at the Civic.

The end of the term has crept up very quickly, end of term is 25 September.

It will hopefully be a break at the right time to break the flu cycle at school. We have so many children sick and a small but constant stream of staff as well.

Peter Hopwood
Principal

Important Dates

September

Tuesday 22	School Photos Board Meeting
Friday 25	Last day of Term 3

October

Monday 12	Term 4 begins
Tuesday 20	BOT meeting
Friday 23	Teacher Only Day
Monday 26	Labour Day - Closed

November

Friday 13	Year 6 New Entrant Day
Tuesday 17	BOT meeting

December

Tuesday 8	BOT meeting
Wednesday 9	Merit Assemblies Junior - AM Mid/Sen - PM
Friday 11	Reports go home
Friday 11	Prizegiving
Monday 14	Last day of Term 4

Assemblies

September
18 Snr/Middle 1.30pm
Junior 2.15pm
25 Whole School

October
16 Snr/Middle 1.30pm
Junior 2.15pm

School Canteen

New look School Stream canteen notices and reminders!
Every Monday when the form is open for ordering we will post that it's now live.

Wednesday night there will be reminder post to get your child's order in by 12pm on Thursday.
See School Stream for the menu options. There is a lot of different options of food, drinks and treats for the children.

Please remember if paying by cash via the classroom basket to include your child's name AND room number on a note ATTACHED to the money.

This saves a lot of time for our canteen volunteers!



Pharmacy Minor Ailment Scheme

There is a lot of good reading in the below link regarding the recent Government funding treatment for some minor conditions through community pharmacies.

https://healthify.nz/medicines-a-z/p/pharmacy-minor-ailment-scheme

There are some medicines which are provided free or subsidised by presenting a form at chemists. See the above link for further information.

Healthify
He Puna Waiora

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.

Change of personal details?

Are there any changes in address, cellphone, caregivers etc?
Please fill out and submit the "Change of Details Form" under forms in School Stream.
It is extremely important that we are advised of new details in cases of emergencies with your children.

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

Donovan PRIMARY

Learning for tomorrow

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Headlice is present amongst children in your child's class. These insects are a nuisance and can be controlled or eradicated by families. Headlice crawl from head to head and may be passed on through shared objects such as hairbrushes and hats. It is recommended that you check all members of your household carefully. Anyone can host headlice. Cleanliness is not a factor in whether headlice are present or not.

What to look for

- Small light or dark brown insects without wings,
- Tiny whitish eggs (nits) like grains of salt attached to hair shaft
- There may be unusual itching on the head or neck
- Small red marks on the neck or behind the ears (headlice bites)

What to do

- Check all members of the household daily at the same time for at least three weeks
- Treat anyone who is hosting headlice. Effective treatment need not be chemical or expensive.
- Please advise the school if you find headlice and confirm that treatment has begun
- Be prepared to continue treatment for about three weeks depending on the method chosen. Three weeks is the length of the head louse breeding cycle; you need to break the cycle or infestation will continue.
- After each treatment, comb the hair with a fine toothed comb.
- Extra precautions may include washing all bed linen, pillow cases and towels in hot water and tumble drying for 20 minutes on high. Other items that have come in contact with heads should also be thoroughly cleaned.
- Soak hairbrushes and combs in hot water for at least ten minutes
- Vacuuming carpets and rugs may be helpful
- Repeat treatment 7 to 10 days after initial treatment.

Treating the hair is no guarantee that the problem has been eradicated. Success is more likely if treatment is thorough, checking is daily for at least three weeks and children are reminded to avoid head to head contact with others.

What not to do

- Do not use shampoo, conditioner or a hair drier on hair within 24 hours of using a chemical treatment. Each of these can make the treatment less effective or cause it to fail.
- Do not use ordinary insecticides, pet shampoo or flammable petroleum products.
- Do not use chemical products if the person applying the treatment is pregnant.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Peter Hopwood
Principal

Statement from Invercargill Primary Principals Association regarding Enrich

The Invercargill Primary Principals' Association is deeply appreciative of the exceptional and sustained support from the ILT for education in Invercargill. For the past 18 years, enrich@ILT has provided valuable learning experiences and opportunities for local primary school children. Its contribution to education for those children has been significant, and the dedication of everyone involved in developing and delivering the programme deserves to be fully recognised.

After 18 years, it is both responsible and appropriate to consider how this funding can broaden to make the greatest possible benefit across the primary school community. The proposed direction for 2027 is positive, forward-looking, and centred firmly on the needs of Invercargill children.

This is an evolution in the delivery of the enrichment offered as a result of the ILT's commitment to education with the emphasis being on funding reaching further. There will be greater flexibility in decision making closer to individual schools and the students they serve.

While schools share many common aspirations, the particular needs of their students can differ considerably. A more flexible model will allow schools to identify where additional resources can have the greatest impact and to respond in ways that are appropriate and meaningful for their own learners.

This direction recognises that there is no single approach that will meet the needs of every child or every school. It creates the potential for more responsive, inclusive, and locally informed use of the funding, while retaining a clear focus on improving education opportunities and outcomes for primary age children throughout Invercargill.

The Invercargill Primary Principals' Association is currently developing a framework that will guide the allocation and use of the funding for 2027. Our aim is to establish an approach that is fair, transparent and workable, while providing schools with sufficient flexibility to address the particular needs and priorities of their students. The 2027 package provided for schools will include a tailored art experience at each school, a digital technology specialist facilitating ICT initiatives in all schools, and two specialist teachers based at the Elmwood building where schools will bus a range of students for curriculum enrichment opportunities.

We recognise that change can naturally generate questions, particularly when it involves a program that has served the community for such a considerable period of time. Those questions are understandable, and the achievements of enrich@ILT must remain an important part of the conversation as they bring things to a close.

However, the objective remains to support Invercargill's children to learn, participate and thrive. We are confident that this new direction offers an exciting opportunity to build upon their success and ensure ILT's investment continues to have a meaningful and wide-reaching impact.

R.E.A.L Awards: Every second week we present one child per class that are being R.E.A.L Learners (**R**esilient, **E**mpathetic, **A**daptable, **L**ifelong learners).
Congratulations to these children who were the recipients on Friday 11 September.



Room	Student
2	Alisson Sinisterra
5	Olivia Stronach
7	Harry Gerken
8	Ellie Gutsell
9	Beauden Armour
10	Kora Aitken
11	Baylee Hoffman
12	Reiko Tagamoa
13	Jett McMaster
14	Chelsea Tretheway
15	Phoenix Dawson
16	Kaydin Dunick
17	Marley Grantham
18	Will Horrell
19	Aadhi Anoop
20	Jeremy Kim
21	Brooklyn Edwards

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 3.

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

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 have been in place since 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.

Sing Out Choir Festival Tickets

Sing Out tickets are now available on the **Ticketek website** to see our Donovan Choir perform at the Civic Theatre.

Please make sure you select the Thursday 17th September Show.

This is the only night the Donovan Choir performs.

Tickets are $19 adult and $12 children

(Link to Ticketek below)

https://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=ILTSING26

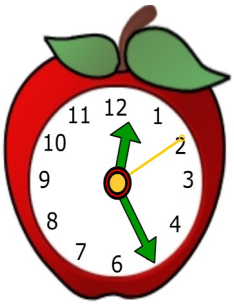


School Stream Changes and issues.....

Unfortunately there has been issues with this upgrade. School Stream are working tirelessly to fix the issues with this. As this is our main form of communication with parents it has caused inconvenience on both ends. If you have any queries regarding any messages you may have missed, or any queries relating to the above, please ring the office and talk to the Office Manager who may be able to assist—thank you!

School hours and out of school appointments

A reminder—children are NOT to be dropped off before 8.20am.
There is no supervision of care for children at this time.
If your child has an appointment during school hours and needs to be collected from the office early, please submit this through School Stream or ring the office to arrange.
Please do not take your children directly from the classroom without first informing the office.



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.

Front Carpark

Please refrain from using our front carpark as a drive through and drop off.

We have had some near misses of young children and cars.

There are drop off areas provided in the P2 area.

Thank you



School Photos 2026



We will be having our school photos taken by Kelk Photography on Tuesday 22nd September 8.50am.
We will be sending out all the ordering information once we receive it.

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 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)

- 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 dosage 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 –12.20pm, 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

OUR VISION: **The Donovan way celebrates uniqueness where learning is encouraged through personal growth and engagement to create resilient, empathetic and adaptable lifelong learners.**