2025 Term 4

PŪTANGA O NGĀ TĀONGA

School Council Newspaper

Kia ora

Welcome to the last school newsletter for 2025.

I hope you are all excited and getting ready for Christmas, unless you're a Christmas Grinch! We have had an amazing and busy school year which has been lots of fun. Some of the events we had this year include: Omaui Camp for the year 5 and 6 students, Mitre 10 Tough Kids, The Ski Trip (even though the bus didn't show up the first time), 2025 School Disco, Market Day, Polyfest, Dot Art, School Swimming, and so much more.

One of the sad things we had to do was farewell Mrs Fallow.

We had a lot happen in 2025 but don't forget about some of the cool things from last year like: The School Colour Run, Ice Cream Day and C02 Race Cars! These are all memories we will never forget from our years at Donovan.

I also want to say a couple of things about the year 6 students who are leaving to go to High School. We have been on a very nerve-racking timeline to get all our Canva and Leavers Book pages finished! Almost every Year 6 wants to stay at Donovan but sadly they must go. We would like to thank all the teachers, staff, the PTA, Parent Helpers and most importantly Mr Hopwood who have made our time at Donovan super special.

I hope all the year 5 students have the best time in 2026 and make the most of all the responsibilities that only year 6 students are able to do!

By Avery Schiller 😊



Donovan Kī o Rahi team had an epic season!
They won all their games and took home the trophy for dedication and determination!

Merry Christmas from Room 7



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What's Been On This Term

We are... learning songs for the end of the year such as Christmas ones, Toro Mai, Die with a Smile :) - LEAVERS SONG FOR YEAR 6 but it is called Leave with a Smile (which is in school style) and Dreams by the Cranberries.





Tough Kids
A great fun time with water, bubbles, slip and slides plus more. All you needed to do was sign up and you're in for the adventure!

Swimming for Seniors and Middles
These syndicates had been working extremely hard for 3 weeks and now they are pros. At the end of the last session the reward for the Seniors was to push the teachers in the pool.





Dodge ball comps
The Seniors and Middles have been competitive and working hard for the 2025 dodge ball champs. The Senior Syndicate amazing dodge ball winners were room 20!! The awesome Middle dodge ball champs were Room 5 and Room 13 were the Junior Champions.





Omaui camp
Years 5 and 6 went on their awesome adventure to Omaui camp. Everyone loved this. It was a great experience but poor room 21! They were out there in the storm.

Putangitangi performance
The awesome Putangitangi members have been working hard all year on this one and only performance for Donovan Primary. Only the best of the best are in the Putangitangi group. They performed on Friday the 21 of November at assembly and they were great.



By Lila Dunbar

Room 13 recently had a special visitor, Calum from Iron Mind Resilience Training. The children have been doing daily fitness "boot camp" to get ready for his visit. Calum put Room 13 through their paces - they did relay races and circuit training. After that we asked some questions about what it's like to be a personal trainer and how we can stay fit and healthy.

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What It's Like to Be a School Leader

Being a School leader didn't exactly turn my life into some fancy Disney Channel plot. My badge didn't just solve my homework or make deadlines disappear. My life stayed pretty normal — still losing my pens, still running around trying to find out what time my touch game is at, still confused in maths like everyone else.

But something did change: people actually started looking at me like I knew what I was doing. Which was funny, because half the time I was just hoping no one noticed I'd forgotten my water bottle again. I realised younger kids were watching, so I tried really hard not to trip over in the hallway or say anything embarrassing. (Mixed success.)

Most of the "leadership" wasn't huge moments anyway. It was little things, like helping a shy kid find their friends, or cheering up someone who'd had a rough day, or sorting out arguments that started over a glue stick. Tiny stuff… but kind of important.

So yeah, my life didn't get fancier when I became School Leader. But I did learn a lot — mostly how to act like a responsible human even when I felt like a chaotic tornado inside. Turns out being a leader is basically just trying your best, being kind, and pretending you know what's going on until you actually do.

Nga Mihi,
Maggie Nally

Kia ora everyone.

It has been an amazing year and I am really grateful for the chance to represent our school. I enjoyed every moment, from helping at events to supporting younger students and working hard with our amazing council.

Being a School Leader has taught me resilience, teamwork and empathy and showed me how important it is to look out for each other. I would like to give a huge thank you to all our teachers and support staff. You are the reason our school is such a good place. Thank you for helping us learn, keeping us safe and always encouraging us to do our best. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you for making this year fun.

I will really miss being a part of Donovan but I'm excited for the next chapter.

Thank you again for letting me be your School Leader.

Ngā mihi
Towa Pfeifer



Room 17 walked with Room 18 to Clare House to recite poems, sing songs and spread some Christmas Cheer.

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Term 4 Dodgeball Champs

WINNERS OF THE 2025 SYNDICATE DODGEBALL CHAMPS

Top to Bottom:
Junior Winners - Room 13

Middle Winners - Room 5

Senior Winners - Room 20





Dodgeball Champs run by Miss Holland and the 2025 PALs.
Each Syndicate room played against each other to gain points. At the end of the rounds there was a final game for 1st place.

At the end of the Champs the Senior Syndicate winners played against the Senior Syndicate teachers.
Of course the teachers let Room 20 win...



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Term 4 Sports

Term 4 has been full of sports, from the class dodgeball competition to water polo at the pool.

Donovan has had 33 different teams involved in after school sports, thanks to all the coaches and volunteers who helped run them.

On Mondays our Donovan Futsal players kicked off the sporting week, on Tuesdays our basketball players took to the court. The Donovan Breakers year 5-6 boys were unbeaten winning the competition. Wednesdays saw cricket balls flying through the sky and on Thursdays our Donovan Touch and Ki o Rahi players dashed around their fields.



Room 2 at Omaui Camp enjoying the camp fire.

The week finished with a splash with our water polo teams taking to the water. Congratulations to the Donovan Sharks who won the Division B final. Some students also took up the chance to give Table Tennis a try on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

School swimming for Middles and Seniors was also on in this very sporty term. The students worked very hard towards their swimming goals and it ended with a splash for the Senior teachers who got pushed in the pool!

It hasn't all been about sports this term, our Donovan students have also been busy with cultural activities.

Ka mau te wehi to all our students in the Putangitangi group (competition Kaka Haka) for all your mahi leading up to the competition last week. Our School Choir has also been busy practising for the end of year performance, hopefully you will get a chance to see them in action.

By Ben Walker

Room 14 loved having the PTA shout them hot chips for returning their Christmas raffles quickly.



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My Time At Donovan Primary



Hi, I'm Lucy and I'm telling you about my time at Donovan. It begun on my first day of school when I came to school in a helicopter. Before my 5th birthday Mum entered a competition through More FM to win a helicopter ride to school, including school uniforms and stationery. A week before school started there was a knock on our door and it was Simon from More FM to tell me I had won the prize.

The week before he took us to H & J Smiths and I got a new outfit for school and some stationery. Mum and Dad took us to the helicopter. We jumped in and took off. We flew over our house and then landed on the back field at school. Everybody was out watching. It was such a great start to primary school.

One of my greatest achievements was Cross Country for Zones and Southlands. I came 1st three times in a row for school and 2 times for Zones. This year has been my only year at Southlands because I've been too young to go to Southlands every other year.

One of my favourite memories is camp! At camp Omaui my favourite memory was camp hats. I loved decorating my hat with all the fun things we did including the beach, camp activities and walks.

My favourite memory at In-School Camp was the big show we did because I got to be Stewart Island and a tourist.

I have loved my time at Donovan. I am really going to miss the school and teachers.

By Lucy Townson

Hi, my name is Jack and when I started school I thought, "this is going to be so hard". But when I got here everything changed. The teachers were amazing, the grounds were well taken care of and they still are.

I learnt so much from year 1 to year 6. My favourite activities were ice cream day and hot chocolate day.

At Donovan all the teachers are so supportive if you are stuck on a problem. That's why from year 1 to year 6 I learnt so much. I'm looking forward to bringing all my knowledge to High School next year. All the pupils are very supportive too with like anything.

At our school we do Retells. I know no one likes it but it helps your academic skills because in life you're going to have to speak in front of a crowd once or twice, so at the end of the day it is pretty good to have a go.

Through the years I have been at Donovan I have made some pretty good friends, some who are most likely going to be friends for life.

The teachers at Donovan teach you in ways that they think is suitable for you. In my reading I went from learning I, at, it, the, dad, mum to knowing millions of words. Trust me, reading helps with every subject.

It's my last year at Donovan. It's sad because I've had so many memories. So yeah, I hope you have fun at Donovan too.

Jack Hamilton

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Room 16
Omaui Camp 2025





Every Friday these Chess Masters turn up and run Chess Club under the guidance of Ms Keen.
Thank you for your dedication and knowledge boys!



Middle Syndicate Art Club run by Miss Klemick. They had so much fun together making masks.
Thanks to Marcelline for your inspiration and art filled ideas.

My Time At Donovan Primary

My adventure at Donovan Primary began in Year 2, when Miss Grant taught me. Throughout my 5 years at Donovan I have made great friends from day one, especially Jack.
My highlights have been school camps, the colour run - because I got in the newspaper, the big water fight, ski trips, ice cream days, senior bench ball and dodgeball competitions and when I helped my classroom - Room 21 win the bench ball competition.
My favourite addition to the school is the all weather turf.
My favourite part of my days at Donovan are the 12:30pm, 1:00pm and 3pm bells especially Fridays, because most of the time I would get a canteen order.
The last thing that I have enjoyed about Donovan is all the great, fun students and teachers,

By Hunter Swain

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Donovan Putangitangi Group 2025



Back Row:
Matua Parker Ormond (Tutor), Tangaroa Waddell, Evan Rhodes, Isaac Keil, Jonathan Robertson, King Ndayambaje, Rhylan McCleery, Theo Nally, Lucas Tretheway, Aiden Murphy, Jhon Rosso, Bennie Savage (Kaitataki Male)

Middle Row:
Olivia Murphy, Ruby Strudwicke, Sarah Jenkins, Isa Ferreira Michell, Olivia Bean, Hannah Forbes

Front Row:
Maggie Nally, Nevaeh Tagomoa-Kaa (Kaitataki Female), Lucy Townson, Summer Bogle, Marley Allison



ABOVE:
Donovan Primary Putangitangi group all dressed up for a performance.

LEFT:
Room 19 all ready to sing for the people at Vickery Court on Thursday 4 December.

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WATERPOLO WINNERS!
B Grade final winners.
The Donovan Sharks won in over time against Makarewa Makos.
6-5
What an amazing season!

DONOVAN PRIMARY

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What it's Like to be a School Council Member

The first thing is the speech. It may be hard but you get through it like a piece of cake. You may get in and that's when the fun starts. You get to do stuff like Kaitiaki, running assemblies and helping with events.

First let's start with Kaitiaki. Your basically a duty teacher. Someone fell over? - I'll take them to the sick bay. Someones being mean? - "Hey stop that." Someone helping someone else - "YELLOW SLIP!!!!"

Okay, now moving on to assemblies. The first time feels just like your speech. I advise you to take off your hoodie as it gets really hot. You eventually get used to running assemblies and it's no longer scary. I love to do it, most people do!

Then you get discos - you start with the Juniors. There's quite a lot of people, parents and older siblings. Pro tip - don't wear super warm clothes! Again it gets super hot especially dancing. It may feel like it was super long but in the end it feels short. Make the most of the discos because it will be your last ones at Donovan and you wont realise until after.

Moving on to the events; there's so many events like helping with the Juniors Cross Country. You run around with them and do a test run and jump hay bales. It is tiring but fun.

IN THE END School Council is so fun and future School Council Members - you will have a great time.

By Chloe Woodrow

I'm Imogen and I'm one of the School Council members this year.

It feels amazing to have the opportunity to help out on fun days and dance on all the age group discos. I really enjoyed making the ambulance made out of coins to sponsor charity.

When I first heard that year 6s could be on the School Council I knew it would be something I would enjoy. I remember writing my speech like most of year 6 did. I said it on stage and I was very confident. Then Miss Fosbender told all of the Year 6 students that we had to meet her in class and we got told who was a School Council member. We were presented with new School Council badges on stage during an assembly.

We also run assemblies which has probably been my favourite part and we did Kaitiaki which was pretty cool too. I am so glad that I got to do so many things to help out at our school this year.

By Imogen Dunbar



Room 18 Halloween Fun and visiting Clare House to spread some Christmas Cheer.

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An Interview with Ms Boniface

today I have done an interview with Ms Boniface. She has been at Donovan for two terms now as our Associate Principal. I have learnt a lot about her and I know you will enjoy getting to know her too.

Favourite Travel Location: Mount Algidus
Favourite Sport: Dressage
Favourite hobby: Riding my Horse
Favourite Book: The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse
Favourite Food: Salads
Favourite colour: Navy blue and black
Favourite flower: Rose

What do you like to do in your own time?
Dance, Yoga, Pilates and Horse Stuff.

How have the first two terms been for you at Donovan?
Fantastic

What did you do before you worked at Donovan?
Principal at Balfour, Takitimu and a New Entrant teacher in West Gore.

What do you like best about Donovan Primary?
The people/the kids.

What is the best thing about your job?
Helping others.

When you were teaching, what was your favourite subject to teach?
Writing and Maths.

What's your favourite thing about being a part of the Donovan Staff?
It's loads of fun!

What has been your favourite memory at Donovan Primary so far?
Children and adults doing things they thought they couldn't do.

If you could add to the school, what would it be?
More funding for equipment etc!

By Alexie Blair



38 Year 5 and 6 kids went to Tough Kids with Miss Wheeler and Amelia.
It is an obstacle course involving climbing, crawling, slides, water and much more. This is provided by Sports Southland to encourage participation and confidence with friends.



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The 2025 School Council .
A fabulous bunch that have shown a maturity beyond their years.
Back Row From Left:
Yumo Shi, Benjamin Walker, Jack Hamilton, Imogen Dunbar, Lila Dunbar, Alexie Blair, Maggie Nally (School Leader), Avery Schiller.
Middle Row From Left:
Hunter Swain, Towa Pfeifer (School Leader)
Front Row From Left:
Chloe Woodrow, Lucy Townson.

Farewell from the 2025 School Council

Welp, there isn't much else for me to say. The other councilors have said it all. We have had a very eventful term and certainly a VERY eventful year.
All the councilors and the year 6 people will miss Donovan Primary. Going to high school will be a very large leap.
One small step for their education, one large leap for them. That's what the famous Neil Armstrong said. Or, something like that.
I'm going to Hargest with some of my awesome friends. We will have lots of fun at high school, but Donovan Primary will always have a place in our hearts. Or, our brains. Yeah. That's about it.
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, I forgot something.
*Puts on Santa suit...
HO HO HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!
Wait, let me retry that. AND TO ALL A GOOD REST OF YEAR!!!
No, that doesn't have the same ring to it.
Wait, am I typing my thoughts? AHHHHHHH!!!!!
I'M GOING TO GET FIRED FOR SURE!!!

By Yumo Shi