

DEVON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1: 3 February 2017

Text 021 08299 278 or Ph 758 5266 for Absences

Te Kura Takawaenga o Ngamōtu

**Kia ora, Buenos días, Bula vinaka, Namaste, Kia orana, Konnichiwa, Guten tag, Ni hao, Privyet,
Greetings to parents, caregivers and friends of Devon Intermediate**

Kia Ora Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to the 2017 school year, we look forward to working with you and your child during this year. I hope everyone had a wonderful festive season, despite the weather and no doubt now the students are back at school, we will get the long hot summers days we have been waiting for.

I would like to introduce and welcome our new staff members. Mrs Debra Young is our new Deputy Principal, Miss Mary Mattock is a Year 7 teacher in Room 11, Miss Danielle Hill is a Year 8 teacher in Room 14 and Mrs Shelley Orme-Turner is our new Special Needs Co-ordinator in Room 22.

Newsletters will be distributed once a month from this year. We encourage all families to join our Facebook group for weekly school updates or alternately our website. We are also aiming to send all families the newsletter electronically rather than a paper copy. Could you please ensure we have your correct email address so we can send the newsletter to you. Paper copies will still be sent home with students if we don't have your email address.

This year the staff will be working on professional development related to writing and I need to advise all families that we will be having a teacher only day on Monday May 1st. I know this would normally be the first day of term 2 but this is the only day we can have Dr Alison Davis to work with all staff due to her commitments elsewhere in New Zealand and Australia.

We would like to invite you to join us for the Meet the Teacher evening, next Thursday 9th at 5.30pm. Parents and students are to meet in the child's classroom to meet the teacher to get an overview of the class programme. This would be followed by a bring your own picnic, there will be games and the swimming pool will be open so we can all mix and mingle and get to know one another in an informal setting until about 7 pm.

This year we really need to see if we can raise enough money to purchase a new school van. If any of you have some ideas of how we can raise approximately \$55,000 dollars I would love to hear from you.

It was fantastic to see so many whanau at the powhiri for the Year 7's on Wednesday, thank you so much for your support and I look forward to meeting you all over the course of the year.

Nga mihi

Jenny Gellen
Principal

UNIFORM

A reminder that you should ensure all school uniform items are clearly marked with the student's name. We suggest that the sun hats are marked using a Twink pen. Please support us and your child by ensuring he/she is in the correct footwear. As part of the summer school uniform, all students are required to have a school navy, wide-brimmed or bucket hat. These hats are available from the school office for just \$10 each new, or second-hand \$5 each. Hair is expected to be neat and tidy – **no way out styles or colours will be permitted.**

SCHOOL DIARIES

All students have been issued with a Devon Intermediate Home and School Diary. The cost is \$10 which is payable to the school office. This diary is an important communication tool between home and school and we encourage parents/caregivers to write notes in it. It is also a key organisational tool in which students will record their homework and other reminders.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Weetbix and milk is available in the Food Technology Room every day from 8.15am to 8.40am. All welcome.

SCHOOL DRIVEWAY

Just a gentle reminder, that students are to be dropped off and collected from Devon Street West or St Aubyn Street please. The school driveway is for use by staff only and is a very busy area with students making their way in and out of school. We had a couple of near misses last year and the last thing we want is for an accident to occur. Thank you for your support in this matter.

SCHOOL FEES 2017

All Tech \$75 (only \$60 if paid before 31 March)
Diary \$ 10
Life Education \$ 5
School Donation \$60 (\$90 for family)

Payments to be made to the school office (cash cheque or EFTPOS). It would be helpful if you could have correct change when paying at the office. Alternately payments can be made by Direct Credit to Bank Account No. 153949 0276621 80 or by Automatic Payment. Please ensure that your payment description includes **students name and what payment is for**. Automatic Payments set up before the 31st March are also eligible for the \$15 discount on Technology fees.

A CALL OUT TO COACHES AND MANAGERS

We are urgently seeking coaches and managers for the netball, hockey and basketball season. If you are able to support our students at Devon Intermediate by taking one of these roles, please contact the office and leave your details, including the position you are interested in.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Clear communication between home and school is vital to enable us to do the very best we can for your children. I encourage you to make early contact with your child's teacher and to attend our "Meet the Teacher" evening if at all possible. If you wish to see the teacher, please ring them at school or call in to make an appointment.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website is a valuable communication method. As well as the school newsletter, it also contains other important information about school and class events and activities. Class teachers will be regularly updating their class pages. We consider our website to be an important component of home and school communication and encourage you to visit it regularly.

PARENT LINK

Our Parent Link group has a key role within our school. Over the past few years they have done a fantastic job with fundraising and provide a valuable link between home and school. 2017 promises to be another exciting year for this group. Our Parent Link meetings for Term One will take place on Thursday 16 February at 5.30pm in the staff room, followed by a further meeting on Thursday 16 March at 5.30pm. We hope to see you there for coffee and cake!

SWIMMING PROGRAMME

Swimming is a compulsory component of the Physical Education curriculum and the focus of our Term 1 programme. It is important that students are prepared for swimming each day by having the appropriate swimwear. They need to bring named togs and towel. Goggles and/or rash shirts are optional. For safety reasons, students will not be permitted to enter the pool in shorts, tee shirts or other clothing. If there is a medical reason your child is unable to swim for the day, the appropriate section needs to be completed in the school diary.

CARRIE'S DRAMA GROUP

Carrie Allen was a student here at Devon who sadly passed away. It is her memorial seat beside the school playground. One of her passions was performing and so a drama group was set up for young people in her memory.

I have been involved with CDG from the beginning and it a fabulous group of young people who have great fun every week and put on amazing productions every Christmas (Joseph, Toad of Toad Hall, The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe and most recently A Christmas Carol) as well as other smaller productions or films throughout the year.

CDG meets every Thursday in the Devon Intermediate hall from 4.00 until 5.30. The cost is only \$35 per term and it starts next Thursday the 9th of February (just before the Family BBQ and Meet the Teacher Fun Night).

If you would like an enrolment form come and get one from me (Mrs Allan) in the Food Technology Room or just come along next Thursday.

Can't wait to see you there!

Suzy, Jamie and Ailsa

Together we can make a difference

Jenny Gellen
Principal

DATES TO NOTE

Monday 6 February	Waitangi Day observation holiday
Tuesday 7 February	BOT Meeting, 5.30pm
Thursday 9 February	Meet the Teacher Evening, 5.30pm
Friday 17 February	Devon Standards Swimming
Friday 24 February	Devon Swimming Champs
Wednesday 1 March	MANA Reward Day
Thursday 2 March	Taranaki Surfing
Monday 6 March	BOT Meeting, 5.30pm
Wednesday 8 March	Taranaki Swimming @ Highlands
Monday 13 March	Taranaki Anniversary Day
Wednesday 22 March	School Photos with Photolife
Tuesday 28 March	Immunisations
Wednesday 29 March	Weetbix Tryathlon @ Ngamotu
Monday 3 April	BOT Meeting, 5.30pm
Wednesday 30 March	Weetbix Tryathlon
Friday 1 April	Taranaki Duathlon at Manukorihi
Tuesday 5 April	Summer Sports Exchange
Thurs 6 – Fri 7 April	EPRO8 Challenge @ Devon
Wednesday 12 April	MANA Reward Day
Thursday 13 April	Last day of term