



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 Whanau

March already, and despite having a disrupted February, I am very pleased with the way our new students have settled in to Devon life. We will be having pathways and planning meetings later this month where staff will meet with you and your child to discuss their progress and set goals for the next term. These will be held on Monday 26th March 3.30-5.30, Tuesday 27th 2.30-6.30, Wednesday 4th April 3.30-5.30, Thursday 5th 3.30-5.30. Information and information as to how to book some time with your child's teacher will be sent out closer to the time.

My thanks to everyone for your understanding and support when we had to close the school last month during the water crisis. Thankfully we are now back to business as usual.

I have several members of the community approach me regarding the behaviour of a small number of our students when they are coming to and from school. This especially relates to dangerous riding of their bikes in the Seaview and Cook Street areas as well as some of the language they are using. Can you please remind your child that their behaviour reflects on not only the school but you as parents, and we do not want to see any of our students hurt by playing 'chicken' with cars when they are on their way to and from school.

The NZEI teachers' union will be holding a stop work meeting on Wednesday March 21st. There are two meetings on that day but Devon Intermediate staff will be attending the afternoon meeting, therefore we will need to shut the school at 2 pm on that day and release the students. We have a small number of staff available to supervise children if needed, but could you please inform your child's teacher if your child is staying at school so we can ensure adequate supervision.

Our congratulations to Amanda Gouldsbury from Room 12 who won the Year 7 Girls surfing title last week. Congratulations also to Alastair Abdulin who made the semi-finals of the Year 8 boys' competition.

It was fantastic to see our parents at our Championship swimming competition on Friday. The students looked amazing in their house colours and we wish our team the best of luck as they compete in the inter-intermediate swimming champs this week at Highlands Intermediate.

A reminder to parents that the school grounds are not open till 8 am on school days. It is concerning that we have students being dropped at school at 7.30 or earlier as there is no supervision available for them.

We have been extremely fortunate to have a partnership now with 'By Arrangement' flowers. Please mention Devon Intermediate when you go to order your flowers and we will get a % of the sale...please tell all your friends and work colleagues as well.

Congratulations to the following students who have been named House Leaders for the first half of this year:

Resolution:	Isis Kennard	Thomas Fisher
Endeavour:	Bella Hopkinson	Max Sherman
Adventure:	Lauren Abrams	Ethan Clough
Tokomaru:	Ellie Barnes	Jake Sherman
Discovery:	Maddi Taylor	Isaiah Rupapera-Forbes

Jenny Gellen, Principal

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. 2018 promises to be another exciting year for this group. Our first Parent Link meeting for Term One will take place on Wednesday 14 March at 3.30pm in the staff room. We hope to see you there for coffee and cake!

ABSENCES

There is a well-recognised link between attendance at school and student achievement. Every day that students are not at school, is a lost opportunity to learn.

Ministry of Education guidelines describe a justified absence as being illness, attending a tangi or funeral or representation at a provincial or national level in a sporting or cultural event. All other absences are considered to be unjustified, even if the absence is explained.

If you child is late to school they must report to the office for a late slip. Please ensure that they have a written note giving a reason for their lateness or please phone or text the school office. Phone 758 5266 or 021 082 99278.

DEVON INTERMEDIATE FACEBOOK GROUP

Devon Intermediate has a school Facebook group. To become a member of the closed group, please request membership through Facebook. This is often an outlet for our school notices and community notices.

SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP SWIMMING SPORTS

Congratulations to all students who competed in last week's Championship Swimming Sports. It was a wonderful spectator event and great to see a number of parents supporting their children. A very strong school and team spirit was evident with most students dressing up in their House colours and participating in the chant competitions.

	Year 7 Girls	Year 7 Boys	Year 8 Girls	Year 8 Boys
25m Freestyle	Amanda Gouldsbury	Wesley Richards	Valentina Kokich	Joseph Cocker
25m Backstroke	Amanda Gouldsbury	Francois Niemann	Valentina Kokich	Joseph Cocker
25m Breakstroke	Amanda Gouldsbury	Francois Niemann	Valentina Kokich	Joseph Cocker
50 m Freestyle	Amanda Gouldsbury	Wesley Richards	Lauren Abrams	Joseph Cocker
House Relay – Year 7	Resolution			
House Relay – Year 8	Discovery			

READING FOR PIZZA!

The HELL Reading Challenge is a well-established programme, now in its fifth year, which has been hugely successful in getting kids reading and enjoying the pleasures of stories — with the bonus of free pizza rewards.

We are very excited at Devon Intermediate to introduce the HELL Reading Challenge!

Teachers, Librarians and Schools all over New Zealand have been telling us how the HELL Reading Challenge has hooked so many reluctant readers into books. At Devon we are thrilled about that and in 2018 we want all our students to discover the thrill of a great book!

The HELL Reading Challenge is free, and it is so easy! Pizza Wheel stamps will be kept in the Library. Students receive a stamp on their pizza wheel for each book they read from the Library. Once seven books have been read they can redeem their pizza wheel for a free 333 kids' pizza at HELL. How it works is upon returning their book to the Library (it must be a Devon Library book), students must briefly discuss the book they have read with their Librarian Mrs Snyder (in liaison with their Teacher). Once proof has been shown that a student has read and understood the book, Mrs Snyder will stamp the HELLS Pizza wheel! Woo Hoo!

DATES TO NOTE

Thursday 8 March	Taranaki Swimming @ Highlands
Monday 12 March	Taranaki Anniversary Day
Wednesday 14 March	Parent Link Meeting, 3.30pm
Thursday 15 March	Immunisations
Monday 26 March	Pathways & Planning Meetings
Tuesday 27 March	EPRO8 @ Highlands, 5pm
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Wednesday 28 March	Weetbix Tryathlon @ Ngamotu
Wednesday 28 March	EPRO8 @ Highlands, 5pm
Friday 30 March	Good Friday
Monday 2 April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 3 April	Easter Tuesday
Friday 6 April	Taranaki Duathlon at Manukorihi
Monday 9 April	Summer Sports Exchange
Monday 9 April	BOT Meeting, 5.30pm
Tuesday 10 April	Kids Lit Quiz
Thursday 12 April	MANA Reward Day
Friday 13 April	Last day of term