

Devon Intermediate School

Newsletter

February 2019



Devon Intermediate School
Te Kura Takawaenga o Ngāmotu

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.

Kia ora Whanau

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2019. We send out one newsletter a month to keep you informed of the comings and goings at Devon Intermediate and we also use our Facebook page to keep everyone up to date with what is happening at our amazing school. The Facebook page is a closed page, so please contact Marissa at the school office if you would like to be added as a friend of the school.

It was fantastic to see so many parents and whanau at our Powhiri last week held to welcome our new students and staff. With 213 new Year 7 students, we made the choice to add more teachers to ensure we can keep class sizes at a reasonable level. We have welcomed Mr. Lionel Haldane, Mr. Derek Dingle, Miss Caitlin Amos and Miss Sylvia Howieson to our teaching staff this year and have included an Art class in to the Year 7 technology rotation, which is being ably taught by Mrs. Cassie Batten who is well-known to many of you.

Term one brings with it a flurry of events including our standards swimming sports which will be held on Friday 1st March as well as our Championships swimming sports which will be held on Friday 22nd February. We welcome everyone to come and watch these events which start about 1pm.

My thanks to all those parents who attended the Pathways and Planning meetings which were held prior to the start of school. I hope meetings were valuable to both you and your child and ensured that your child was comfortable about being at Devon and knew where they were going on their first day, as well as having some goals to aim for in the first part of the year.

Thursday 7th March will see us holding our first hui. Information will be given regarding both the MANA and Attitude for Excellence programmes and it will also give you an opportunity to catch up with your child's teachers to see how they have settled in to life at Devon Intermediate. The evening will start at 5pm in the hall with groups splitting off to find out about MANA and Attitude for Excellence, or for you simply to catch up with the teachers. You are more than welcome to bring your own picnic and enjoy our school pool (if the weather is suitable), if you wish and the evening will conclude at 7pm. You may wish to join us for the whole, or just part of the evening.

A reminder that we would prefer parents **not** to bring their students down the school driveway at the start and end of the school day purely for Health and Safety reasons. Close to 400 students trying to get up the driveway to leave school when cars are coming up or down, does cause us concern.

A reminder also that school concludes at 2.30pm every Tuesday for staff to be involved in Professional Development courses. We have scheduled a Teacher Only Day on Friday 8th March which is the Friday prior to Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. The staff will be focusing on improving their teaching of Reading throughout 2019 which follows on from our two years of intensive professional development related to Writing.

The school diary is one way we communicate between home and school and I would encourage you to ask your child to see it so you can keep up to date with their homework requirements, MANA ticket progress etc.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding school, feel free to get in touch with either your child's teacher or one of the senior leadership team

PARENT LINK MEETING

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. 2019 promises to be another exciting year for this group. Our first Parent Link meeting for Term One will take place on Monday 18th February at 5pm in the staff room. We hope to see you there for cheese and crackers!



Nga mihi

Jenny Gellen, Principal

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.

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 be in 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.

UNIFORM

Remember 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. 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 FEES 2019

Art	\$5.00 (Year 7's only)
Digital	\$10.00
Metal	\$22.50
Wood	\$22.50
Food	\$30.00
Diary	\$10.00
Life Education	\$5.00
School Donation	\$60.00 (\$90 for family)

Payments to be made to the school office (cash, cheque or EFTPOS). 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.**

NETBALL

With the netball season quickly approaching, we are looking forward to another great competition at Devon this year. We are lucky to have the services of our Community Liaison officer, Jan Manu, who has offered to support coaches, managers and umpires this year. If you are interested in coaching, managing or umpiring a Devon netball team, please contact the school office.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

We are lucky enough to have George's Moturoa on board this year with providing a bought lunch service.

Delivery for the lunches will be each Thursday before morning tea, with orders having to be in at the school office by Tuesday at 8.45am.

Each lunch contains a club salad sandwich (meat or vegetarian option), muffin, yogurt, a piece of fruit and popcorn. All this for just \$6.50.

Please come to the office to make your orders in the morning starting from Monday 11 February.

Thank you so much to Landon and his team for helping us out this year.



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The Devon community would like to acknowledge the sad passing of one of our ex-parents BJ Hetet. Matua BJ was a highly supportive parent who coached a number of our school sports teams and was also the creator of the beautiful designs which adorn our current sports uniforms – a taonga which Matua BJ gifted to Devon. Our thoughts and aroha are sent out to Matua BJ's whanau and friends.

SCHOOL HOURS

Just a reminder that school starts at 8.40am each day and ideally we would prefer students are here by 8.30am to allow themselves plenty of time to make their way to class. If for any reason your child is going to be late to school, please phone the school absence line on 758 5266 or text 021 082 99278 explain the reason why they are late or absent from school. Thank you.

