



Devon Intermediate

Sailing towards an Attitude of Excellence



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Devon Intermediate School Newsletter

18th February 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It has been a busy and productive start to the year, and it was a particular highlight this week to announce our Cultural and House Leaders for the first half of the year during our school assembly. We are incredibly proud of these students for stepping into these roles and look forward to the leadership and school spirit they will bring to Devon Intermediate.

For our House Captains, we congratulate Mackenzie Corlett and Vyan Ramlal for Discovery, Mieke Beeslaar and Hunter Grey for Endeavour, Estelle Hanscombe-Whittaker and Lucan Johnson for Adventure, and Clay Toms for Resolution. We also celebrate our new Cultural Leaders: Merenia Mathews-Taipari and Te Oata Waiwai for Kapa Haka, supported by Deputy Bosston Wetini-Mahu, as well as Rone Nganga and Fine Nau for our Pasifika group.

Our recent Surf Life Saving Beach Education was a fantastic success, and we are very grateful to the whānau who supported us throughout the week. We do apologise for the frustration caused by the bus issues during the trips; we have spoken with the company, and they have passed on their sincere apologies as well.

I want to extend a huge thank you to the many whānau who have offered to help in our school Tuck Shop. Because of this support, we can now open once a week with a featured item, starting this week with strawberry or chocolate donuts for \$4 each. Please note that we are only taking pre-orders at the student office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings before school. We are also looking for more whānau to join our Parent Link group to help organise fun events like discos and quizzes that raise money for school initiatives; if you are interested in getting involved, please contact Marissa in the school office.

This Friday, our staff will be participating in our second Teacher Only Day focused on Structured Literacy with Liz Kane Literacy. Our first session was excellent, and we are very fortunate to have our own in-house expert, Rebecca Barrett, who is a new teacher at our school and also a facilitator for the program.

Behind the scenes, our School Board continues to work hard to ensure every student has a safe, well-funded, and inclusive environment to thrive in. The board is responsible for everything from setting our long-term strategic vision to overseeing the budget and supporting our staff. To ensure our board truly reflects our community, we are currently looking to co-opt a new member to increase our diversity and ensure we have Ngāti te Whiti representation at the table. If you are passionate about our school and want to contribute your perspective to our governance, please reach out to me for a kōrero about what the role involves.

Stay connected with our school community by joining our private Facebook group for current whānau; simply search for Devon Intermediate School and request access to see regular updates on daily school life. We also encourage you to download the School Loop app on your phone, as this is where we share our newsletters, details on upcoming events, and other essential information. Using both platforms ensures you're always up to date with everything happening across the school.

Looking ahead, school photos are scheduled for Monday, February 23rd, and you will receive a code from Photo Life to order these online. That same Monday after school, Miss Stella Taylor will be holding auditions in the hall for our 2026 AIMS Games Hip Hop crew. On Friday, February 27th, we will hold our Swimming Standards, and we welcome all whānau to come along and support the students as they all participate. Please note that due to a poor weather forecast, our Whānau Connect Evening has been moved from February 19th to our backup date of Thursday, March 5th. Finally, a friendly reminder to please contact the school office if your child is going to be absent. You can do this by phone, text or by messaging through the Skool Loop app.

Ngā mihi nui

Jenn Thorburn

Acting Principal/Tumuaki



Devon Intermediate School
Te Kura Takawaenga o Ngāmotu

DATES TO NOTE

20th February
Teacher Only
Day

23rd February
Photolife School
Photos

27th February
Swimming sports

4th March
Inter Intermediate
surfing Competition

5th March
New Whanau
Connect Evening

6th March
TEACHER ONLY DAY

9th March
Taranaki
Anniversary Day

Beach Education Day



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What Does the School Board Actually Do?

Ever wondered who makes the big decisions behind the scenes at Devon Intermediate? It's not just about budgets and buildings—it's about ensuring every student has the best possible environment to thrive!

Our School Board is made up of parent representatives, staff, and our Principal, all working together to steer the ship. Here is a quick breakdown of what we do:

- **Setting the Vision:** We define the long-term goals and strategic direction of the school.
- **Student Achievement:** We monitor progress and ensure resources are in place to help every student succeed.
- **Policy & Safety:** We create the guidelines that keep our school a safe, inclusive, and positive place.
- **Financial Stewardship:** We oversee the budget to ensure funding is spent where it matters most—on our kids and their environment.
- **Employer Responsibilities:** We support our amazing staff and oversee the leadership of the school.

Join Us: Co-opting for Representation

To ensure our Board truly reflects our school community and honors our local connections, we are currently looking to co-opt a new member.

We are specifically seeking to increase our diversity and ensure we have Ngāti te Whiti representation at the table. Your voice, perspective, and connection to the iwi are vital as we make decisions that affect the future of our rangatahi.

Does this sound like you? If you are passionate about our school and want to contribute to our governance, we would love to hear from you!

Please reach out to Jenn Thorburn (Acting Principal) to express your interest or to have a kōrero about what the role involves.



Keeping Our Tamariki Safe Online

At Devon Intermediate, the safety and well-being of our students is top priority—both inside and outside the classroom. Recently, we've been made aware of some concerns regarding cybersafety and social media use within our community.

Now is a great time to check in with your children about their digital world. To help, we've gathered some essential resources from Netsafe New Zealand to guide your conversations:

Understanding Privacy: Learn how to lock down settings on [Instagram](#) and [Snapchat](#).

Social Media Basics: A general guide to [Privacy Settings](#).

Managing Bullying: Helpful advice on [Youth Bullying](#).

Self-Help: What to do if [something upsets you online](#).

Need to talk? Support is always available:

0800 What's Up: 0800 942 8787 (Counselling for kids/teens)

Youthline: Text 234 or call 0800 37 66 33

Lifeline: Call 0800 54 33 54 or text HELP (4357)

Let's work together to keep our young people safe, kind, and confident online.



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