

# COMING UP

## DUNSANDEL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

The children from Room 3  
are sharing.  
Start Time - 220pm.  
Venue - School Hall.  
All welcome.

**FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2026**



## ELLESMERE ZONE SWIMMING SPORTS 2026

**1130AM THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY**  
**SOUTHBRIDGE POOL**

*Swim with  
PRIDE*



# DUNSANDEL SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

The Weekly  
Family Newsletter



## PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY



### Monday 23 February 2026

- Ellesmere Zone Swimming this Thursday.
- Teacher Only Days 2026 Information.

### News and Notes from the Principal

Nau mai, haere mai.

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa,

We have **19 swimmers heading to Southbridge Pool on Thursday** to compete against the best swimmers from Leeston and Southbridge at the Ellesmere Zone swimming event. It was a pleasure to announce **Miah Teepa as our swimming captain for 2026** at our Assembly on Friday. I know she will lead her team by example and with all the PRIDE values. Congratulations Miah. **We wish all our swimmers the very best on Thursday.**

#### Teacher Only Days in 2026

There will be **three teacher only days this year**. The first two of these are **Friday 15 May** and **Friday 21 August** – we will be working with the teachers from Leeston, Southbridge and EC on the Maths curriculum. The final teacher only day is **Thursday 12 November**. Please mark these days on your calendar as school will be closed on these days.

**Music lessons** – Our itinerant music lessons start tomorrow – Ms Chambers will be taking piano lessons and Mrs Birnie will start ukulele lessons on Wednesday. If you would like your child to take piano or ukulele lessons, please let Mrs Pluck know.

#### Assembly

Thank-you to everyone who came along to our Assembly on Friday – we appreciate your support. **This Friday the children from Room 3 will be sharing.** Start time 220pm. All welcome.

#### This week

**Thursday** – Ellesmere Zone Swimming Sports starting at 1130am at Southbridge Pool.

**Friday** – Assembly. 220pm start time in the school hall.

#### Coming Up

**Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 March** – Life Education Truck at school.

**Friday 6 March** – Assembly 220pm Room 4 sharing

Enjoy the week ahead.

Ngā mihi nui

Dave Robinson; Principal/Tumuaki/Punong-guro

## PRIDE Awards

**Room One – Harrison** - Harrison, you are just a gem. I have been very impressed with the way you have settled into life at school. Your listening superpowers are magical and you always get all of your jobs done without any reminders. You are also a kind and caring friend to the other children in room 1. I know everyone will feel welcome and included when you're around. Not only that, but your learning is zooming along too. Way to go Harrison, you're a star!

**Room Two – Aackie** - Wow Aackie, what a great start to the year you have made! Mrs Ewing told me you were amazing - and she was right! I love how excited you are to learn and how you try your hardest with everything that you do. You are an amazing friend to everyone in Room 2 and you are a very, very clever and very, very kind girl. Keep it up Aackie - you are a diamond!

**Room Three – Eisel** - Eisel you have made a super start to 2026 in Room 3. You have nailed the new routines and you are a wee powerhouse of learning! I am so excited to work with you this year Eisel, because I can see you are super ready for any new learning that comes your way! Awesome attitude!

**Room Four – Neve** - This Pride award goes to you Neve for your outstanding display of the PRIDE values in these first few weeks of school. I have loved getting to know you and seeing your kindness, empathy, and your strong work ethic shine through in everything you do. You have entered the classroom with curiosity, excitement, and a readiness to learn each day. I was especially proud of you in swimming sports, moving through the water like a fish! It was very impressive. You shine bright Neve, keep being you:)

**Room Five – Noah** - Noah, you can be so proud of yourself for the fantastic start that you have made to the year. You live the PRIDE values. You are kind, caring and respectful towards everyone in our school and you're such a great friend to your classmates. You are also a conscientious learner. You listen carefully, try your hardest at everything that you do and encourage others to be their best as well. How lucky are we to have you in Room 5?!

You are an absolute star, Noah, and I am so excited to see what 2026 has in store for you!

**Room Six – Qyl** - This PRIDE Award goes to Qyl for bravely stepping out of your comfort zone at Swimming Sports. You gave everything a go, worked hard each day to improve your technique, and showed real determination. Qyl, you also showed great leadership by encouraging others during the backstroke races and helping them at the finish.

Well done, Qyl - you've stepped up as a Year 6 Leader and shown true PRIDE!



## PTA News

Hello all.

Firstly, let me introduce myself. My name is Shae Brown. Mum to Harrison in Room 5 and Thomas in Room 1. I am excited to have been elected as the PTA President for 2026.

We had a great turn out to our AGM last week with new faces joining us. Thank you to all who came.

We have a few changes in roles this year as follows:

**Vice President** - Liz Des Landes

**Secretary** – Sharne Teepa,

**Treasurer** - Georgina Chambers

**Catering Coordinators** - Tracey Stone and Lexi Groundwater.

**Linda Douglas** has kindly put her hand up to be our staff rep and **Selene Harvie** volunteering as calf fundraising coordinator.

Along with our committee I think we are going to have a great team.

A couple of important things that we also discussed were our annual quiz night with the decision to bring this earlier in the year to May (date TBC), and we have pre-approved some funds for extra

classroom resources and the first couple of terms of education outside the classroom plus our school wide music lessons which are enjoyed by kids from all year levels.

Our next meeting is to be held at Dunsandel Bar and Café on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm - All welcome.

Lastly, I would like to thank Katharine Sheppard for her amazing efforts over the last several years leading the PTA. You definitely have left some big shoes to fill.

Until next week

Shae

Dunsandel PTA President

## Mana Ake Introduction



Kia Ora, I'm Jordyn. I work for Mana Ake, based in the Selwyn area. I currently live in town, but I grew up in Springston, so the Selwyn area still very much feels like home and I'm very excited to be working in your wonderful community. A bit about me, I love being out in nature, listening to music, and I love talking to people and making new connections. I enjoy being creative, whether that's building lego/miniatures, painting, upcycling furniture, or decorating my home in quirky artwork. My favourite piece of art in my home is a large funky looking Giraffe named Greg. I am new to the Mana Ake role, but not to support work. Each professional role I've had has been in service to others. My most recent roles have been in High Needs Paediatric Care and

facilitating Psychoeducation Groups for Suicide Bereavement. I'm passionate about supporting others, working alongside individuals and empowering them to be their best selves. I am a solo parent to my incredible 11 year old daughter, so I bring both professional and life experience to the Mana Ake role. (Mana Ake is an early intervention programme for primary schools which promotes wellbeing and supports positive mental health for students in Year 1-8. Jordyn Rooks is the new liaison Kaimahi for Dunsandel School. Jordyn will be available to provide support, information, advice and guidance to parents and whanau. For further information take a look at their website.

<https://manaake.health.nz/>

### Calendar

[Click here](#) for our School Calendar on Google. School Calendar can be accessed on our School App.

### Buying Uniform

Go to the **Mainland Uniforms** website - personalised page for our school: -

<https://www.mainlanduniforms.nz/241-dunsandel-school>

This link is also on the home page of our school website.



*We are a 100% smoke free school in accordance with the Smokefree Environments Act. This means the whole school is smoke and vape free - indoors and on the school grounds.*

### Dunsandel School

Irvines Road, RD2

Dunsandel 7682

Phone 03 3254079

[www.dunsandel.school.nz](http://www.dunsandel.school.nz)

#### Office Email

[admin@dunsandel.school.nz](mailto:admin@dunsandel.school.nz)

#### Principal

Dave Robinson

[principal@dunsandel.school.nz](mailto:principal@dunsandel.school.nz)

#### Deputy Principal

Tracey Harrold

[tracey@dunsandel.school.nz](mailto:tracey@dunsandel.school.nz)

#### School Secretary

Felicity Pluck

[felicity@dunsandel.school.nz](mailto:felicity@dunsandel.school.nz)

#### Board Presiding Member

Mick O'Connor

#### PTA President

Katharine Sheppard

#### School Account Number

02-0860-0049250-00

## Community Newsletter

### Netball

Dunsandel RFC Netball Club registration is open for the 2026 season!

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/dunsandelrfc/Registration-1> is the link to register - registration is open from now until 1st March so get in quick! We will be having a registration day/run around at the Dunsandel courts on Thursday 5th March, 3:30pm for years 1-6 (these years are non-competitive), and 5pm-6pm for year 7 through seniors (trial). The season doesn't start for another couple months but it will be here before we know it! If anyone needs any further info, please get in touch at [drfcnetball@gmail.com](mailto:drfcnetball@gmail.com) - getting registrations in ASAP would be amazing, then we know what we're working with!

Katharine Sheppard

Secretary, Dunsandel RFC Netball Club

### JAB Registration Day BBQ

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Dunsandel Domain  
11am - 1pm

Come down to the Dunsandel Domain on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 11am to 1pm. Registration at 11am in the Club Rooms, followed by a game of touch and drills at 11.30am.

The BBQ will be on at 12pm for all to enjoy a sizzling sausage.

**Boys and Girls** of all ages, register with your home club and we will organise a team for you to play in.

- Second hand Footy Boot sale.
- **Cash Only**
- If you have boots to sell, register with Liz email [e.j.eyre@live.com](mailto:e.j.eyre@live.com)
- Please include the sizing and price you are wanting to sell for.

For more information, please contact Mark Hutchings Junior Club Captain on 027 612 9581 or email [hutchinsfl@outlook.com](mailto:hutchinsfl@outlook.com)

## Dunsandel Market Day

*Your neighbourhood market with heart*

28th Feb 2026  
10am - 4pm

Trinity Church Dunsandel  
44 Hororata Dunsandel Road  
corner of Highfield Road

*Explore a beautiful market setting filled with artisan soaps, handmade jewellery, preloved fashion, fresh baking, plants, produce & more.*

*Grab a bite to eat and enjoy the music.  
From our hands, to your home, for our community.*

Ellesmere Promotions Trust  
present the 15th

# Leeston FETE

21 March 2026  
10am - 3pm  
High Street,  
Leeston

Free Entry  
Free Entertainment

190+ vendors - craft & food

Vendor Registration  
[bit.ly/Vendor\\_Rego](http://bit.ly/Vendor_Rego)

MAINLAND FOUNDATION | ept | HEB | Hirepool | ept | Ellesmere

