

COMING UP



DUNSANDEL SCHOOL
ASSEMBLY
FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2026

The children from Room 6
are sharing.
Start Time - 220pm.
Venue - School Hall.
All welcome.

PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY PRIDE

For our school
Participate means
JOIN IN.

For our school
Respect means
**TREAT OTHERS
LIKE YOU WOULD
LIKE TO BE
TREATED.**

For our school
Initiative means
**THINK FOR
YOURSELF.**

For our school
Determination means
**TRY HARD
AND DON'T
GIVE UP.**

For our school
Empathy means
**THINK OF
OTHERS.**

For our school
Pride means
**PRIDE IN OURSELVES,
OUR LEARNING AND
OUR COMMUNITY.**



DUNSANDEL SCHOOL
NEWS AND NOTES

The Weekly
Family Newsletter

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Monday 23 March 2026

- Attendance at school

News and Notes from the Principal

Nau mai, haere mai.

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa,

We all want the best for the children that come to our school, and being at school is the first step toward success! We are all partners in supporting your child's well-being and future readiness, and regular school attendance is fundamental to this effort. Currently, the Ministry of Education has set a target for 80% of New Zealand students to achieve "regular attendance" (attending 90% of the time or missing no more than 5 days a term).

In Term 4 of last year, our school reached 76% of our children with regular attendance. **The Ministry of Education requires all schools to monitor and address every absence.** As you will be aware we have been required to develop an Attendance Management Plan which is on our website under the Parent Information banner. This plan helps us stay transparent about how we track attendance and the steps we are required to take to support families when absences increase.

Regular attendance is vital for your child's learning and progress. In line with the Ministry of Education's 2026 guidelines, the school will contact you (email or conversation) if your child falls behind the mandated Government guidelines regarding school attendance. These updates are designed to keep you informed and ensure we are working together to support your child's success. This is a mandatory government requirement that all New Zealand schools must follow.

We know that winter bugs and illnesses are unavoidable. However, we encourage you to keep other absences—like birthdays or mid-term holidays—to a minimum. It's surprising how quickly "just a day here and there" can become over a month of missed school per year. Thank you for helping us keep our children in the classroom!

Thank-you to everyone who came along and shared some time with our teachers last week at **Parent Teacher Interviews**. Our teachers enjoyed meeting with you.

I enjoyed being with our **Year 1-2 children and staff on their visit to Ashburton** last Thursday. It was a great way to complete our swimming programme for term 1.



Well done to all our athletes who competed at our **Duathlon** on Friday afternoon. There was lots of Determination on show. Thank-you to all parents and whānau for dropping off and picking up bikes and supporting this event. Special thanks to the families who had a spare bike for those who didn't have a bike. Thank you to the Blackburn Whānau for donating a bike to school for the following years to come.



This Wednesday **Miah** will be representing our school and the Ellesmere Zone at the Canterbury Primary School Swimming Sports. I know Miah will give her events her very best.

School Accounts – These have been sent home with your eldest child. If you have any questions, please speak with Felicity. Our bank details are at the bottom of this newsletter - You can pay your account via direct debit, eftpos or cash at the office. Please add your child's name as reference.

Assembly – We have our final Assembly for the term on Friday with the children from Room 6 sharing. 220pm start time. All welcome.

“Paws and Reflect” Online safety with the PRIDE Lion

“PAWS & REFLECT”
ONLINE SAFETY WITH THE PRIDE LION
ROARING TIPS FOR A SAFER DIGITAL WORLD

QUSTODIO PARENT APP

THE QUSTODIO PARENT APP IS A COMPREHENSIVE PARENTAL CONTROL AND DIGITAL WELLBEING APP DESIGNED TO HELP YOU MANAGE AND SUPERVISE YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE ACTIVITIES.

MANAGE SCREEN TIME: SET HEALTHY LIMITS TO ENSURE A BALANCED DAILY SCHEDULE.

MONITOR ACTIVITY: GET A CLEAR VIEW OF THE APPS AND WEBSITES YOUR CHILD VISITS.

YOU WILL RECEIVE FREE ACCESS TO THE QUSTODIO PARENT APP, OFFERING A SUITE OF FEATURES DESIGNED TO GIVE YOU PEACE OF MIND.

FIND OUT MORE AT OUR ONLINE SAFETY HUB



This week

Wednesday 25 March Canterbury Primary Schools Swimming Sports

Thursday 26 March Board Meeting #2

Friday 27 March Assembly R6 sharing

Coming Up

Thursday 2 April Last day of Term One

Have an awesome week.

Ngā mihi nui



Dave Robinson; Principal/Tumuaki/Punong-guro

PTA News

Hello

How crazy is it that there are only 2 weeks left of term one?

Last week felt so busy with everything happening. My kids were very quick to tell me something was on everyday including the trip to Ashburton pools for the kids in year 1 and 2, which was supported by the PTA.

Nothing new to report for the PTA this week. I will be busy organising the flyer for the quiz night to get all the details out in the school newsletter next week before the end of term. We are looking forward to seeing lots of entries this year and the creative team names!

If you want to get in touch with the PTA Either email ptadunsandel@gmail.com or Phone/ txt me 0273355020

Until next week

Shae

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.

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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

Office Email

admin@dunsandel.school.nz

Principal

Dave Robinson

principal@dunsandel.school.nz

Deputy Principal

Tracey Harrold

tracey@dunsandel.school.nz

School Secretary

Felicity Pluck

felicity@dunsandel.school.nz

Board Presiding Member

Mick O'Connor

PTA President

Shae Brown

School Account Number

Board of Trustees 02-0860-0049250-00

Community News and Notes

Netball

If you are in years 1-6 and keen to play some netball this winter, registrations are still open with Dunsandel RFC Netball Club - please register so we know you are interested. Year 5/6 team needs to be finalised by early April and we've got only 4 registered so far - so need a few more! Please register

at <https://www.sporty.co.nz/dunsandelrfc/Registration-1> if you're keen, and if you need more info, please message our Facebook page, or email us at drfcnetball@gmail.com. If you're wondering what netball looks like at the different ages, for year 5/6 it's their first time playing on a Saturday morning, so likely a training during the

week and then game Saturday morning at Lincoln or Rolleston. For the year 1-4s, their program doesn't start until a bit after the older kids and is just after school once a week for about 10 weeks or so, no Saturdays - structured around learning the skills they need to play rather than competition. Any questions, please get in touch! - Katharine Sheppard, secretary - Dunsandel RFC Netball Club

Dunsandel Volunteer Fire Brigade

Our Dunsandel Fire Brigade is proud to be fundraising for Blood Cancer New Zealand. A group of 10 members from the Brigade are taking on the challenge of climbing the Sky Tower as part of the annual Fire Fighter Sky Tower Challenge on Saturday 21 May. They'll be wearing their full kit, which weighs 25kgs, climbing 52 flights of stairs which equvalates to 1055 steps. This team needs your support. They will be hosting a fabulous, fun night of bingo and burgers.

If you are looking for a great night out and want to try something different, our Fire Brigade have organised 3 BINGO nights which includes your dinner and fabulous prizes.

Cost: \$25 for a burger, chips and bingo cards or \$60 for all 3 nights (Dinner sorted for three Friday nights!)

The Super Rugby will be LIVE on the TV. Raffles will be available to purchase with some awesome prizes.

Doors open at 6pm and the BINGO fun begins at 6:30pm

Muster your mates together and get ready for a night out filled with lots of laughs, great food and all for a fantastic cause.



If you would like to
please contact
make contact via
Brigade facebook

Everyone is



purchase your tickets,
Holly on 027 840 9185 or
the Dunsandel Fire
page.

welcome.



Dunsandel School

PRIDE of the Plains

Telephone (03) 3254-079
Web www.dunsandel.school.nz
Email principal@dunsandel.school.nz



Irvines Road
Dunsandel, RD 2
Leeston 7682

Monday 23rd March 2026

ANZAC Memorial Service.

Dear Parents

On Saturday 25th April (the first weekend back after the holidays) the Dunsandel Community hold a memorial service to honour all men and women who have served our country past and present. The service starts at 8.30 A.M. and is held at the epitaph on the Dunsandel Leeston Road and usually lasts for 30 minutes.

This year we invite all children to represent our school by leading the singing of the National Anthem. - Two year 6 children will lay a wreath on the school's behalf. To plan this service, we would like an idea of how many of our children plan to attend. If your child is coming, they will need to be in **clean, correct school uniform and be assembled by 8.25 A.M.**

Please complete and return the form below by

THURSDAY 2nd April. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Tracey Harrold

Parent return

My child/children _____ will be attending the ANZAC memorial service at the Dunsandel Epitaph on Saturday 25th April 2026.

Signed _____