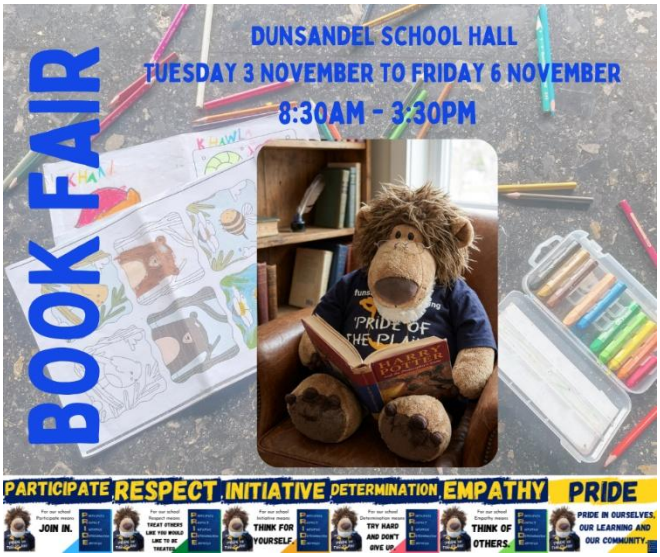
COMING UP


THE PRIDE LION AND ALL HIS YEAR 6 FRIENDS ARE HEADING TO AORAKI MOUNT COOK THIS WEEK.
FOLLOW OUR FB PAGE TO SEE WHAT THEY GET UP TO.
PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY PRIDE


BOOK FAIR
DUNSANDEL SCHOOL HALL
TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER TO FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER
8:30AM - 3:30PM
PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY PRIDE


JUNIOR ATHLETICS
This is a non-competitive event which has the children moving around stations which involve running, jumping or throwing. All welcome
2:00PM FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER
PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY PRIDE


ELLESMERE ZONE ATHLETICS
TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER
[AT] SOUTHBRIDGE SCHOOL
PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY PRIDE


WE WILL BE CLOSED ON....
THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER
TEACHER ONLY DAY
FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER
CANTERBURY SHOW DAY
PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY PRIDE


LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL FOR 2026
Monday 7 December End of Year reports home to Parents and Caregivers.
Tuesday 8 December End of Year of Assembly at Dunsandel School 600pm.
Postponement Date Wednesday 9 December.
Thursday 10 December Christmas Cracker for our Children.
Friday 11 December School closes at 1200pm. Buses will run at this time.
1200-300pm 'The Last....'(Yr6 Event).
PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY PRIDE

Dunsandel School News and Notes

The Weekly Family Newsletter





Tuesday 27 October 2026

- This week - Year 6 Camp
- Next week – Book Fair, Ellesmere Zone Athletics, Junior Athletics

News and Notes from the Principal

Nau mai, haere mai.
Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa,
This week our Year 6 group head away to **Aoraki Mount Cook** for their camp. I know they are looking forward to their time away. As I write this the weather forecast doesn't look that flash, but I know we will have great time away. You can follow the Year 6 camp through our Facebook page.
Teacher only Day - As a reminder, we have a **Teacher Only Day on Thursday 12 November** followed by **Canterbury Show Day on Friday 13 November. School will be closed on both these days.**





Athletics – Thank-you to those who able to come along last Tuesday and support Senior Athletics – we appreciate your support. We have a team of 37 children heading to Southbridge School on Tuesday 3 November to compete against our friends from Leeston and Southbridge in the Ellesmere Zone Athletics. It was a pleasure to name Hope and Toby as our co-captains for Athletics team on Friday at our Assembly.
Junior Athletics – This event for our Year 0-2 children will be held on the afternoon of Friday 6 November at school, our postponement day is Wednesday 11 November. All are welcome.
School Photos – School photos were due on Friday 23 October. We have pushed the due date to 9am Wednesday 29 October. Any late orders after this date will need to be sent directly to Kolourcare photography.
Assembly – Thank-you to those who came along to our Assembly on Friday. Our next Assembly will be Friday 20 November.
Book Fair – We have our Book Fair starting next week from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th November. This will be set up in the school hall. All books sold equate to points for the school from scholastic that we can use to buy library books – So it is a very worthwhile cause! If you have Christmas presents to sort, then you can pop down during the day and make secret purchases.
Eftpos will be available. Start time is 8.30am to 3.30pm, if you have any questions, please see Mrs Gilmour or Felicity in the office.
Ngā mihi nui

DRobinson

Dave Robinson;
Principal/Tumuaki/Punong-guro

ELLESMERE ZONE ATHLETICS SPORTS PROGRAMME
Tuesday 3rd November 2026 - 9.30am Start
Southbridge School
(PP Thursday 5th November)

TRACK Boys a.m - Girls p.m
Relay Finals
4x 80m - Year 4
4x 80m - Year 5
4x 80m - Year 6
Distance Finals
800m - Year 4
800m - Year 5
800m - Year 6
Sprint Heats
50m - Year 4
60m - Year 5
60m - Year 6
Sprint Heats
80m - Year 4
80m - Year 5
80m - Year 6
Sprint Finals (after completion of all events)
50m - Year 4
60m - Year 5
60m - Year 6
Sprint Finals (after completion of all events)
80m - Year 4
80m - Year 5
80m - Year 6

FIELD Girls a.m - Boys p.m			
Approx. Time	**Year 4 Girls**	**Year 5 Girls**	**Year 6 Girls**
9:30 - 10:00 a.m	Discus	Long Jump	Shot Put
10:00 - 10:30 a.m	High Jump	Shot Put	Long Jump
10:30 - 11:00 a.m	Shot Put	High Jump	Discus
11:00 - 11:30 a.m	Long Jump	Discus	High Jump

Approx. Time	**Year 4 Boys**	**Year 5 Boys**	**Year 6 Boys**
11:30 - 12:00 p.m	Discus	High Jump	Shot Put
12:00 - 12:30 p.m	High Jump	Shot Put	Long Jump
12:30 - 1:00 p.m	Shot Put	Long Jump	Discus
1:00 - 1:30 p.m	Long Jump	Discus	High Jump

PRIDE Awards 23.10.26



Room 1 – Liam - Liam, you are such a fantastic member of Room 1. I have been so impressed with the way you always give learning your all. You show lots of determination and tackle all new things with a great big joyous smile. 😁 You are a champ at blending your sounds to read your books and we can count on you in maths to get all those tricky numbers right! Not only that, but you are amazing at caring for your friends and helping them out. Keep up the great work Liam, we are so lucky to have such a clever and kind boy like you in our classroom - you're a super star!

Room 3 – Max - Max, what an awesome term you are having. I am always impressed by your determination to complete all work, doing the best that you can every time. You can be proud of the progress you are making with your learning because hard work always pays off. Max, I enjoy listening to your ideas and opinions and I love that you are confident and enthusiastic when sharing your answers and knowledge about many topics. As well as this, you are a superstar all-round sportsman. Whether we are playing soccer, bench ball or hunted, you excel at these games and always play fair and stick to the rules. Max, we are lucky to have you in the Room Three team and I am proud to be your teacher.

Room 4 – Harper - This PRIDE award goes to you, Harper, for your determination, fabulous stories, and the quiet pride you show as you master new skills. I love how you push through even when learning gets tricky, showing true determination every step of the way. I have loved hearing your fantastic reading, and when it comes to writing, you are a total superstar. Once those ideas pop into your head, you're off, writing up a storm! You have also shown fantastic active participation and amazing effort during athletics this week, giving every event your absolute all. Your hard work, persistence, and positive attitude make our classroom a brighter place every single day. Keep being awesome!

Godric - This PRIDE award goes to you, Godric, for all of your determination, participation, and awesome sense of humour. I have loved seeing you come out of your shell more this year and become more confident. You make your friends laugh all the time and are valued deeply by them. I love seeing you try your hardest in every aspect of learning. I especially love seeing the pride on your face when you win the times tables or flash facts race between you and your buddies. I have loved seeing your progress in math, you are showing great understanding of new concepts and show great participation in lessons. Keep up the hard work Godric, you rock.

Mysha - This PRIDE award goes to you for your incredible determination, active participation in athletics, and the profound kindness and empathy you show every day. I love how respectfully you treat everyone around you, our entire class knows they can truly count on you. Being kind is at the very core of who you are, and you consistently make sure everyone feels included, valued, and welcome. The outstanding effort and enthusiasm you brought to athletics this week were amazing to watch as you gave every single event your absolute best. Your warmth, dedication, and positivity light up our room, making you shine as bright as the sun every single day. Keep being awesome.

Room 5 – Jasper - Jasper, this PRIDE award goes to you for the determination that you displayed at our recent Athletics Day. You gave every event your very best effort and you are heading to the Ellesmere Zones for every event, which is incredible. I am also so proud of you for all the kindness and empathy that you display towards everyone in Room 5. You always look out for your classmates, you're quick to help out wherever you can and it's so lovely to see you always checking in with your friends when they're upset to see if you can help out in any way. Jasper, the positive vibes that you bring to Room 5 each day truly make our classroom a brighter and more vibrant place to be. How lucky are we to have you in Room 5?!

Cruz - Cruz, you can be so proud of yourself for the hard work and determination that you have been displaying in your learning in recent months. It is awesome to see you approaching new learning with a positive attitude and I am so proud of everything that you've achieved this year. You can also be super proud of yourself for the determination that you displayed on Athletics Day!

Cruz, It is a pleasure to have you in Room 5. We love your sense of humour, your quick wit and your love of fun! You are so clever and you are capable of achieving anything that you put your mind to - keep trying your best and you'll be amazed at what you can do!

Room 6 – Raph - Raph, this PRIDE Award recognises your amazing hard work and fantastic determination in Room 6! You focus brilliantly on every activity and should be super proud of the incredible progress you've made in your learning this year. It has been awesome to watch your confidence grow as you share your bright ideas with your classmates, even when speaking up feels a little nerve-wracking—that takes real bravery! I love your throw-yourself-into-it attitude, whether you're learning to sail at Lake Rua, representing our school in soccer at the Winter Tournament, or giving 100% every week at Kapa Haka. Room 6 is so lucky to have you. Keep shining and being awesome, Raph!

PTA News and Notes

Happy Halloween! We hope to see lots of you out and about with your kids this Friday afternoon for some Halloween fun. A huge thank you to everyone who has opened their gates and offered their homes as trick-or-treat stops for our local children. We really appreciate your support! A map with more information will be available later in the week.



Pea Straw: We have just 3 bales of pea straw left! Get in touch if you'd like to grab one before they're all gone.

Calf Fundraising- A note from Selene
Calf collections aiming for the week beginning Nov 16th if they are ready then. (Which I'm sure most will be) I'll be in touch with everyone the week before though.

PTA Meeting: Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd November at 7:15pm at the Dunsandel Café and Bar. Everyone is welcome, so come along if you'd like to get involved or find out what we're up to.

Short and sweet from me this week but as always, you can contact us at ptadunsandel@gmail.com or call/text Shae on 027 335 5020.

Shae
PTA President

Thanks
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

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School Secretary
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Board Presiding Member
Mick O'Connor

PTA President
Shae Brown

School Account Number
Board of Trustees 02-0860-0049250-00

DUNSANDEL PTA HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT!

Happy Halloween!

A reminder that our Halloween Trick or Treat night is happening this Friday!

The map is attached, with the participating addresses listed at the bottom. Please note that the little houses shown on the map are not the exact locations, so make sure you check the addresses carefully.

Look out for a **red balloon at the front gate** to help identify each participating property.
We ask that all children are respectful when entering properties, follow the homeowners' instructions, and remember to say please and thank you.
Have a spooktacular Halloween, everyone!



DUNSANDEL SCHOOL BOARD NEWS AND NOTES
OCTOBER 2026

PARTICIPATE
RESPECT
INITIATIVE
DETERMINATION
EMPATHY

PRESIDING MEMBER COMMENT

The Dunsandel School Board met on Friday 23 October to discuss the following:

- Agreed on the School Strategic Plan for 2027/28 - see next page.
- Discussed the first draft budget for 2027, a big thank you to Sonia & Dave for the work that went into preparing this budget.
- Discussed the staffing changes for 2027, we are very excited to have Lydia Wilson rejoining the school.
- Reviewed the policy regarding curriculum & Student Achievement, the Board is happy with what the school has in place to achieve optimal outcomes.
- The Board is looking at options regarding having some form of shelter over the sports courts to allow children to be outside during wet days, we will keep you updated on any progress.

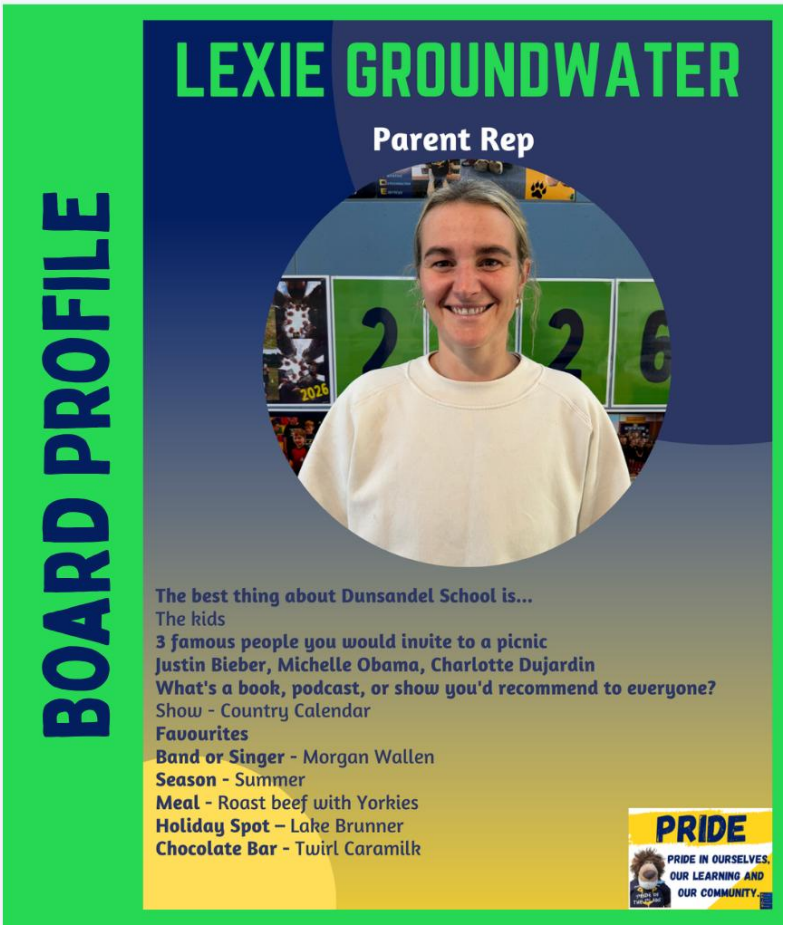
The school term is flying, wonderful day last Tuesday at the senior school athletics with plenty more exciting events to happen this term. Thank you to all of the school staff who make these events so enjoyable, was great to see so many parents' support.

Any questions or concerns please feel free to get in touch.

Many thanks,
Mick O'Connor
Dunsandel School Board Presiding Member.







DUNSANDEL SCHOOL 2027-2028

VISION

PRIDE IN OURSELVES, OUR LEARNING AND OUR COMMUNITY.

VALUES



STRATEGIC GOALS

Nurturing a Resilient and Thriving Community

To enhance well-being and belonging for all students, staff, and whānau by fostering a supportive and collaborative environment.

Innovating Teaching and Learning

To advance our teaching and learning strategies by integrating new technologies and addressing curriculum changes to ensure all students are engaged and prepared for the future.

Accelerate student progress and achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics across all year levels, using robust progress and assessment data to target instruction.

Strengthening Community and Cultural Connections

To deepen partnerships with our school community, grounded in our school values, to enhance understanding, support, and a sense of shared responsibility.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Assess and review well-being and Hauora programmes for students and staff to build a culture of positive mental and emotional health
- Build staff capacity through targeted professional learning to address challenges like teacher burnout and increased bureaucratic demands.
- Develop and implement strategies to support the diverse readiness levels of incoming students.

- Review, revise, and continue to develop the Dunsandel School Curriculum, including addressing the Curriculum Refresh.
- Integrate digital tools, including AI, in a purposeful way to improve engagement and innovation, while also implementing a plan to address threats related to screen time and digital well-being.
- Provide students with a wide range of opportunities in arts, sports, and cultural experiences to enrich their learning and well-being.

- Establish clear targets using assessment data to identify and support students performing below curriculum expectations.
- Develop targeted interventions to cater to diverse learners.
- Continue to engage with whānau and parents to share regular, meaningful feedback on student progress and support learning at home.

- Continue effective engagement with the Ngā Mātāpuna o te Waihora Collective partnership.
- Create regular opportunities to connect with the wider school community to strengthen existing relationships and build new connections.

SUCCESS

A school-wide positive culture is evident through student and staff feedback, and there is a high level of engagement in well-being initiatives.

All teaching and learning is targeted and responsive to student, staff, and school needs and there is evidence of effective use of technology in the classroom.

The school has strong, collaborative relationships with the community. All groups feel a sense of connectedness to the school and its values.