



Duntroon School

The **BEST** we can be! • Ko te **PAI** e taea e tatou!
Term 4, Week 2, Friday 17 October 2025

E-mail: office@duntroon.school.nz

Account Number: 02-0900-0000540-000

Tēnā koutou whanau

Athletics

Thank you so much for the parent help and returning High School students who have helped us to run our own Athletics event this year. Results will be shared in the following weeks and North Otago qualifying athletes will be notified when this is collated. Certificates are handed out today.

Buses

We have our Year 6-8 students attending Camp next week (20th - 24th October). This is approx 30 students who would normally have been on the 3 buses.

Please note: expect shorter times than usual for pick up and drop off.

The bus drivers have been given lists of the students that will still be on the bus, however the extra challenge at the moment is the differing relief bus drivers who do not necessarily know your children. Please communicate with the school if your child will not be on the bus as you normally would as this will make a difference to running times.

In an effort to support clear communication with parents of the different bus runs, all bus families have been sent an email on Wednesday 15th October to Access their Skool Loop app and join their child's bus group. This will be the platform for all bus communication from the school e.g. buses running later or earlier, relief bus drivers etc.

October 23rd Strike Information

NZEI Te Riu Roa members are taking industrial action because the Government has failed to provide offers in negotiations that will ensure educators get the resources you need to support tamariki or the pay that will attract and keep quality professionals in our worksites.

We will be joined by nurses, senior doctors and dentists, PPTA members and Allied Health staff.

The bulk of our Staff are members of NZEI. The NZEI members will be attending gatherings on this day so there will not be enough staff at school to safely manage the students therefore the school will be closed. On Thursday 23rd October school will be closed unless before this time negotiations have progressed. We will keep you informed if this plan changes.

New teacher 2026

I am excited to inform you we have made the appointment of a new teacher for 2026. Her name is Tahlia George. Tahlia will be a great addition to the Staff. She will visit us at the end of the year to meet her class, the staff and the school community.

Classes and who will teach them will be shared in due time as we work through numbers and logistics.

Campers

We wish our Year 6-8 campers best of luck for their Queenstown Camp next week. Miss Borrie has planned a terrific week of activities for all the students who will be well supported by Mrs Frear and a great group of parents that have given up a week to ensure all students get to experience some pretty fun activities. Its also an opportunity to build capacity and confidence to stay in camp for a week and enjoy the company of their school friends. These camps are often the most enduring memories of school days. We look forward to the updates over the week. Best of luck.

Sarah and Staff

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO NOTICE GROUPS



TO JOIN YOUR SKOOL LOOP APP NOTICE GROUPS, SIMPLY FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW:

1. Go to the 'Settings' tile in the bottom right hand corner of the Home Screen
2. Go to 'Subscribe to groups'
3. Tap to select the groups you would like to receive notifications from
4. You're good to go - you will now receive all notices sent to the groups you have subscribed to

NEED MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?
Call Skool Loop on 0800 238 379

 SKOOL LOOP

This piece of information is from another schools newsletter and I believe pertinent to everyone with young children accessing online platforms. Kathryn Berkette presented at a teachers conference locally and her information is excellent. I encourage you to listen to any of her presentations or podcasts.

Should my child be playing Roblox?

This question and others like it have been mentioned by teachers and parents alike in the staffroom and around school lately.

One key factor that I would suggest is, if you do have children that are playing online games - **primary school aged children should 100% only be playing online games with other people they know in real life.** Games like Roblox have public versions and levels with chatrooms that any user in the game can chat inside of - these are a hunting ground for child predators. They also have private versions and levels that can be set up and only shared to real life friends so that they can play and chat together. Ensuring this is the case for your children is something I can not recommend strongly enough.

On the public/private settings - most social media, which the terms and conditions say are for 13+ but we know that many younger children do create accounts, can be set up as private or public as you will know from your own experience. What you may not know is that when TikTok first came out all accounts defaulted to 'public'. Nowadays that is the case for users 16 and over - **the loophole here is that an under 13 year old creating their own TikTok account may put in a false birthday that sets them up with an over 16 year old automatically public account.** Following TikTok's lead, most other social media platforms now have similar settings.

Kathryn Berkett, is a neuroscientist that spoke at the NZSBA conference and gave loads of great advice in this space. One of her key tips is the difference between young people watching TV vs being on a small device like a phone or an iPad.

- When watching TV, children are sometimes still moving their body, they can still be quite aware of the other people in the room and what they are saying or doing.
- Compared to when using a handheld device they are much more stagnant and locked into that screen and more oblivious to the world around them.

The importance Kathryn Berkett pushes around this is a missing link of social skills. Young people's brains are constantly scanning their environments and picking up on how others around them are interacting. "Oh my mum said excuse me to that man as she walked past him in the supermarket, that must be the polite way to do that." "She said hello and smiled to that lady I have seen walking around our area, she must be a safe person". When locked into a handheld device, none of these important occurrences are being picked up by the child's brain and stored away for future real life scenarios and social interactions. ([Link to her podcast](#))



I've Got Questions Pio Terei & Kathryn Berkett

★ 5.0 (50) - PARENTING - UPDATED DAILY - 📻

The amazing Pio Terei talks to his 'fascinating mate' Kathryn Berkett. They talk all things 'neuroscience', with a lot of laughs, and hopefully a bit of useful information thrown in. Please enjoy!!

▶ Latest Episode

Technology is an amazing thing and with the emergence of AI we are in an incredible moment of change at present. The really important thing is that we are teaching our young people, who are digital natives and naturally pick up a device and know how to use it much quicker than their older generations, how to be **smart** and **safe** digital citizens. As with most learning, this is the combined responsibility of the school and the home!

TERM REMINDERS: OcTOBER

Oct 23rd—Teacher Strike (School Closed)
Oct 20th-24th—Year 6,7,8 Camp
Oct 27th—Labour Day (School Closed)
Oct 30th—BOT Meeting
Oct 31st—Teacher Only Day (School Closed)

NOVEMBER

3rd Nov—North Otago Athletics
7th Nov—Aspiring Futures Year 8's
11th Nov—Otago Athletics
20th Nov—Rural Schools Yr 8 Science Day
24/25th Nov—Year4/5 Camp—Dunedin
28th Nov—Year 8 Transition Day

KUROW CRICKET CLUB

IT'S
CRICKET
SEASON
AGAIN!



The 2025 cricket season is nearly here. We are now taking registrations for all junior players. To register please go to our Facebook page and click on the PlayHQ link. Or click on link below. Registrations close Friday 19th September

<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/register/45b235>

Any questions please contact Ben Nowell



NORTH OTAGO TENNIS

2025 Hot Shots Junior Tennis

Registrations now open

Term Four Season are open for all New
and current tennis players

No experience required!

Head over to

<https://clubspark.kiwi/NorthOtago>

all enquiries to

northotagotennis@gmail.com



OAMARU ROWING CLUB

INTRO TO ROWING YEAR 8+

Term 4 2025 - Term 1 2026



Hey Year 8s!

We've got a super cool Learn-to-Row program just for you, perfect for anyone heading to high school in 2026.

It's going to be awesome!

You'll learn all about rowing, on the water and on land. We'll explore the parts of a rowing boat, try out different rowing styles, and get fit with fun gym and Erg rowing machine sessions to boost our skills.

We'll visit cool spots like Oamaru Harbour and Waihao Box, and in Term 1, we'll even go watch some real racing at Lake

Ruataniwha in Twizel.

Our rowing coach and older rowers will be there to help us learn and have a blast. You'll also get to see how the high school rowers train, which is super inspiring!

Cost: \$100 - This covers travel for the fun trips we'll take.

When: Every Monday and Wednesday, 3:30pm-4:30pm (during term), at the Oamaru Rowing Club. Starts Monday 13th October

Plus, some awesome weekend trips!

Can't wait to row with you all!

For more details contact:

Coach Tracey Marshall 027 240 4476



GET READY TO TRAVERSE
THIS TERM WITH BOATING,
CAMPING, BIKING,
EMERGENCY SKILLS,
BADGEWORK...

Meeting times:

Keas ages 5 - 7 at 430 - 530pm Wednesday

Cubs ages 7 - 11 at 600-730pm Tuesday

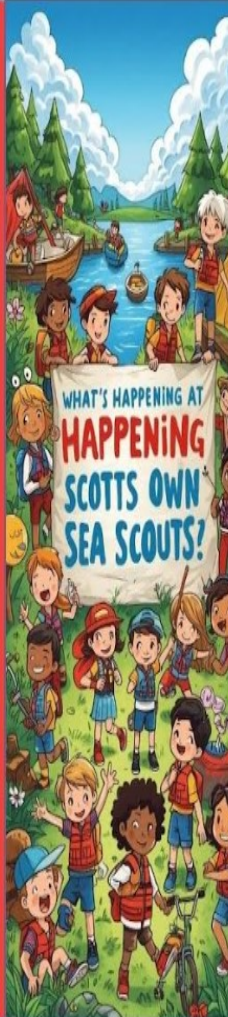
Scouts ages 11-14 at 630 - 830pm Monday

Venturers ages 14-17 at 630 - 830pm Monday



Waterfront Road, Ōamaru

or, find us on [Facebook](#)



Fun fitness class!

What do they say?

"No need to feel embarrassed, everyone can do it!" "Every session is different, so if you don't like this one, you'll love the next one! 😊" "Caters to your strengths & weaknesses so it never feels like you can't do it!"

Join our **10 week Circuit Challenge** - school terms

Mon/Wed/Fri 9-10am

Creche available / casuals welcome / affordable



DUNTROON PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS 10-12 PM | BEHIND DUNTROON SCHOOL

COME AND JOIN US!

AN INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR RURAL PARENTS TO HANG OUT WHILE THEIR CHILDREN PLAY.

BRING YOUR LITTLE ONE'S MORNING TEA, THE JUG IS ALWAYS BOILED FOR THE ADULTS.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP- DUNTROON PLAYGROUP FOR MORE INFO



Gold coin entry
Bring a share plate for
supper
Parent supervision

Halloween DISCO

Duntroon
Playgroup

FRIDAY
31ST OCTOBER

Kindly
sponsored by
Buckland
Automotive



DUNTROON HALL

JUNIOR (KINDY -YR 4): 4.30 TO 6

SENIOR (YR 5 -YR 8): 6 TO 7.30

* all welcome at either time slot, music and games will vary depending on age group.

Spooky dress / games / prizes



Night 'n Day



WAITAKI

RAINBOW RUN²⁰²⁵

SAT, NOV 8 • 11AM START • ŌAMARU RACECOURSE
TICKETS \$10 PER PERSON OR \$30 FAMILY

WAITAKI COMMUNITY
**RECREATION
CENTRE**

WWW.SPORTOTAGO.CO.NZ



FUSTAL

TERM 4

SCHOOL YEARS 1-8



EXTENDED TERM 4!!
13TH OCT - 1ST DEC

Contact your School NOW!!!

MORE INFO:

waitakifootball@gmail.com

GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY ONE CALL-OUT AT A TIME.

DUNTROON VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE ARE RECRUITING NOW!



If you want to help out
in your community and
be part of a friendly
bunch of volunteers
look no further than the
Duntroon Volunteer
Fire Brigade!

**Duntroon Volunteer
Fire Brigade needs
you!**



**JOIN OUR TEAM OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE
STEPPING UP FOR THE DUNTROON COMMUNITY**



For more info contact...

Jamie Deans—027486845

Richard Wills—0224312881

Lou Tait—0272946084

FlippaBall

at Waitaki Aquatic Centre

Who: Years 5-6 and Years 7-8

When: Term 4 2025

FOR INFORMATION :

Please contact your school or Kerry and Alissa at the
Waitaki Aquatic Centre

Kerry Holland (kholland@waitaki.govt.nz)

Alissa Anderson (aanderson@waitaki.govt.nz)



What is Flippaball?



- Intro to Water Polo
- Each team tries to get the ball into the opposite goal
 - Can only use 1 hand to catch or throw
 - Must stand still or swim when holding the ball, no walking



Waitaki

WAITAKI AQUATIC CENTRE

Flippaball



- Played in shallow water
- Short Games ~20 min
- No contact sport
- Great teambuilding activity