



Devon Intermediate

Sailing towards an Attitude of Excellence



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Devon Intermediate School Newsletter

28th October 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As we move through Term 4, our eyes are already looking ahead to some fantastic developments for the 2027 school year.

We are thrilled to announce a new addition to our Tech rotation for 2027: Innovation Technology! This class will blend STEM learning with practical skills like textiles and traditional sewing, alongside other hands-on learning modules. Shaquille Titter (currently teaching in Room 9) will be leading this program. Our staff have been busy visiting schools across Taranaki to gather inspiration and see the exciting initiatives happening elsewhere as we shape our own new curriculum.

In 2027, Devon Intermediate will align its school timetable with Spotswood College's early finish day.

Start Time: 8:40 AM (Monday – Friday, unchanged)

Finish Time (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri): 3:00 PM

Finish Time (Wednesdays): 2:00 PM

Wednesday After-School Supervision (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM): For families whose children rely on buses or need to wait for siblings, our library will remain open every Wednesday from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM with staff supervision available.

Please note: Students are not to leave school grounds to wait outside or enter the grounds of neighbouring schools during this time.

If you require your child to stay at school for Wednesday supervision, please email Marissa in the office at office@devonint.school.nz.

Student Leaders Exploring a Kura Waharoa

Our Head Students recently visited schools across New Plymouth to check out their Waharoa (entrance gateways). Mackenzie (Head Girl) feels strongly about initiating the journey toward bringing a Waharoa to Devon Intermediate as a lasting legacy for our school community. Watch this space.

Transition Visits to Contributing Schools

Dian Brookes (Deputy Principal), Lionel Haldane (Deputy Principal), Dwayne Poingdestre (SENCO), and I have begun visiting our contributing primary schools, meeting with teachers to discuss students currently in Year 6 who will be joining our Devon whānau next year. We have been incredibly impressed by the wonderful young people coming our way. It is exciting to see the wide range of skills, talents, and energy our incoming Year 7 cohort will bring to our kura in 2027!

2027 Head Student Applications

Applications for 2027 Head Student roles are now available at the student office. Seeing so many of our current Year 7s step up to grab an application form this week has been fantastic.



Devon Intermediate School
Te Kura Takawaenga o Ngāmotu

DATES TO NOTE

30th October

Puanga

3rd November

WITT Barbers

3rd – 5th

November

Toa

Whakaihuwaka

Hockey

Tournament

11th & 12th

November

Orientation Day

12th

November

School

Production

19th November

Intermediate
School's Athletics
Championship

&

NPGHS/NPBHS

School Visits

We wish all applicants the best as they progress through the selection process. Remember that whether you win or lose, taking part in leadership opportunities is valuable experience, and many other leadership roles will be available throughout the coming year.

Life Education with Harold & Megan

Megan and Harold the Giraffe have been visiting us for Life Education sessions. The feedback from both students and staff has been overwhelming—everyone loves “Bestie” Harold! Be sure to ask your child what key takeaways they brought home from their sessions this week.

Year 8 Wahine Self Defence

Our Year 8 girls have been participating in Girls Self Defence. Empowering our young wahine with confidence, safety strategies, and personal boundary awareness is an important life skill—even as we hope they never have to use the physical techniques in real life!

Taranaki Year 7 & 8 Volleyball Tournament Results

Congratulations to all of our volleyball players who competed in the Taranaki Volleyball Intermediate Championships! Our teams played hard, showed awesome determination, and brought home fantastic results:

Devon Destroyers: Runners-Up (Year 8 Boys Grade)

Devon Set Squad Legends: 4th Place (Year 8 Girls Grade)

Devon Aura: 7th Place (Year 8 Girls Grade)

Sports Uniform & Gear Return: All Basketball and Netball uniforms need to be returned to the school office as soon as possible—there is still a large amount outstanding.

Coaches, please also return all team gear bags to the school office at your earliest convenience.

Standards Athletics Day Results

Last Friday, we held our annual Standards Athletics Day. It was fantastic to see the majority of our students getting out there, competing, and having a go! The House points race was extremely close:

1st Place: Adventure

2nd Place: Discovery

3rd Place: Endeavour

4th Place: Resolution

Individual Top Scorers:

Top Girl Overall: Ella Waterman (Room 12)

Top Boys Overall (Tied): Condrake Nuku (Room 9) & Hunter Isaacs-Buckland (Room 20)

While we celebrate these accomplishments, we were disappointed that over 80 students were absent on Athletics Day. School events like sports days rely on full participation—regardless of athletic ability, turning up and having a go is a fundamental part of our school culture.

Upcoming Athletics & Sports

Pukekura Park Tennis Championships (Wednesday, Oct 28): Best of luck to our players taking the court!

Toa Whakaihuwaka Hockey Tournament (Next Week): Our hockey team will be travelling to Palmerston North to represent Devon Intermediate at this tournament for the very first time. Safe travels and play well!

Hip Hop Unite World Championships (Tauranga)

This Thursday, our Hip Hop crew travels to Tauranga for the second time this year to perform as "Local Heroes" at the World Hip Hop Championships!

Our dancers will take part in a full, action-packed day at the Mercury Baypark Arena in Tauranga. The schedule begins with the official Pōwhiri and Opening Ceremony, after which our dancers and coaches will prepare for their performance. At 11:30 am, our team takes to the stage for their exciting Local Heroes performance! Following their dance, the students will attend a Hip Hop workshop led by Holly Andrews—a Brent Street Sydney graduate and World of Dance judge. Finally, our dancers get to sit back and watch some of the world's best international and mega-crews compete on the main stage. Good luck to all those involved!

Puanga Festival

Our Kapa Haka rōpū and Pasifika group are going to perform at the upcoming Puanga Festival—a wonderful opportunity to represent our kura and share our culture!

Date: Friday, 30 October 2026

Location: Waitara Memorial Hall

School Arrival: 7:00 am sharp (All performing students)

Uniform: Full and correct school uniform

Performance Times:

Kapa Haka: 9:00 am

Pasifika Group: 12:00 pm (approx lunchtime)

Cost: \$10.00 (covers transport costs)

Payment Reminder: If you have not yet paid the \$10 fee for your child, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

WITT Barbers Haircuts

On Tuesday, 3 November, the team from WIT Barbers will be back offering free haircuts for our boys.

If you would like your son to take advantage of a free haircut, please notify the school office or fill out the online consent form here: <https://forms.gle/AZFp9jH8qVkrn3VE7>

There is always so much happening around our school—what an exciting place for our rangatahi to learn and grow! Please make sure you keep sending your children to school every day, and don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need any support getting them here.

Ngā mihi nui

Jenn Thorburn

Tumuaki/Acting Principal

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Ages 5 - 13 yrs



Year 7&8 Taranaki Volleyball Tournament

On Wednesday, 14 October, Devon Intermediate proudly entered three teams into Taranaki's largest Year 7/8 Volleyball Tournament.

Our two Year 8 girls' teams gave every match their absolute all across six competitive rallies, securing some fantastic wins along the way. The Year 8 boys played exceptionally well, winning the majority of their games; their only two losses came down to the wire by just one or two points, earning them an impressive second place overall.

Throughout the day, all our tamariki demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship, healthy competitiveness, and great camaraderie. A huge thank you to our supportive parents and whānau—especially Nadia, Melanie, Sam, Kristina, and Michelle—for providing transport and keeping team spirits high! Thank you as well to Miss G and Jamie for organising the trip and supporting the students throughout the day. A great day was had by all.



**A BIG THANK YOU TO THE
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New Zealand Inline Hockey Nationals 2026

Huge congratulations to our Devon Intermediate girls!

Over the school holidays, Neve Murray, Ellie Walker, and Emily Dawson represented our school at the New Zealand Inline Hockey Nationals 2026, playing across both the U12 and Youth Women teams.

U12 Team: The mixed squad put on their best tournament performance yet, showing incredible teamwork, massive progress, and fantastic play on the rink.

Youth Women Team: Took out a super impressive 3rd place finish overall!

We are so proud of your hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship, girls. Awesome effort!



Taranaki Cross Country Championships

Hawera

Devon students who finished in the top 20:

Girls 11yrs - 3km

Leiah Eling - 2nd place

Boys 11yrs - 3km

Kaius Johnson - 6th place

Girls 13yrs - 3km

Kanami Edwards - 18th place

Boys 13yrs - 3km

Lucan Johnson - 8th place

Lachlan Paterson - 20th place



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