



Duntroon School

The **BEST** we can be! • Ko te **PAI** e taea e tatou!
Term 1, Week 1, Thursday 05th February 2026

E-mail: office@duntroon.school.nz

Account Number: 02-0900-0000540-000

Kia ora whānau

We have had a terrific start to the school year, hearing all the chatter in the corridor and watching the students visiting all the classrooms to see who is in them and what is new to look at. Class teachers have been establishing routines and positive expectations, the playground has been full of games, laughter and meeting up with friends after the holidays. We even celebrated Miss Tilbury's birthday yesterday. Room 1 treated her accordingly. We all snuck over to the pool when she was there to sing to her, Mason read a great poem out, Alaina and Annabelle made cupcakes for her and room one, and she wore the obligatory birthday sash and badge for the day.

Thank you for the fabulous turn out of your children, arriving equipped with stationary, their togs and tidy school uniform.



Home & School - Danseys Pass Trail Ride 21st March

Last night the dedicated Home & School team met to prepare for the Trail ride. It is very impressive as to the capacity of the people who manage many roles on the day and co-ordinate a great deal for the successful event.

I know they need every bit of help possible from our parent community so please contact a member of the group and they can talk you through where you can assist.

Start with the Grant Tremewan (0272333472) or Emily Hamilton (0276353154)

Last year before I started in the role I popped out to see the event and meet families and got the job of greeting people at the gate. It was a really fun day and a great insight as to the kit that rolls through that gate!! Just by doing that small task I got the opportunity to informally meet a lot of Duntroon School families. This is also what you can gain when you get involved. All funds raised go directly back to benefit your kids here at school. Already last year in my short time with Duntroon we were well supported. A significant financial subsidy went to keep the cost of Camp and school trips to a minimum and allowed equity for all to participate.

Our teachers will be cooking up a storm on the barbeque, so there will be familiar faces there and they will love to see everyone from our school community.

Mrs Simpson's farewell afternoon tea - 25th February

As promised, Mrs Simpson will be formally farewelled by the school at an afternoon tea here on the verandah on the 25th February.

The Board warmly invites any one who wishes to attend. This is in acknowledgment of the very many years of teaching service Jane has given to Duntroon School.

We will have afternoon tea and share some words of farewell. Can you please bring a small plate to contribute to the occasion.

Teacher Only day

Our North Otago Teachers Conference is on **Friday 20th March**, therefore our school will be closed for instruction.

ERO (Education Review Office)

Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week we have a visitor from ERO, whose name is Julie Greenwood. She will spend time with the Board, Staff and children to learn about Duntroon School. What are its strengths, its Strategic Plan and aspirations for the school. She will look at our systems and practices and have conversations with key people.

House Captains

I have started the year with a House Captain meeting where they all have great thoughts for what they can contribute in their role, I am impressed as to their energy and aspirations. Great to have them as role models in our school. This year we have detailed historical information about each person who the House is named after. Mrs Phillips-Vira spent a great deal of time bringing together this information for each house group through her passion for local history. Each House Captain will prepare resources to use to teach their House group about their name sakes.

CAMPBELL House - Willow & Alaina

BRYDONE House - Kane & Murdoch

REID House - Annabelle & Sadie

Buses

Bus monitors have been selected and discussed their role with Sheryl, Micky and Kevin. They have been chosen to support the bus driver with behaviour and supporting people to use the Duntroon values.

They are (from left)

Livingstone - Willow & Sadie

Earthquakes - Chelsey & Boh

Eastern - Eden & Kane

The drivers wanted to remind parents and students to take care when they pull in for pick ups - stand back and wait until the bus has stopped. Ensure there is room for the bus to stop by considering where you park.

HOUSE CAPTAINS 2026



Reminder from last year: Sometimes people request their children go home on the bus to someone else's place or on another bus. This is something that **will not be an option** any more for a number of Health & Safety and contractual reasons if they are wanting to get dropped off at a different house on their same bus run - that is OK. Please let the school know so we can let the bus driver know.

BUS MONITORS 2026



We are still getting late in the day messages as to changes about who is on the bus and not. It is quite a challenge for the teachers and office staff responsible to ensure the students go in the right direction after school and mixed messages do not help.

Our preference is that you message the Office by lunchtime on the day you need to make a change (unless an emergency type situation)

Year 8 parents

Your child will bring home a letter and consent form from our Health Nurse regarding immunisation options. Fiona Stratford is our Health Nurse. Her contact details are on the front of the forms, so any questions, she is more than happy to help you with. The forms are required to be back to us at school by **12th February** with 17th February being the Immunisation day at school.

Happy Waitangi weekend everyone.
Sarah & staff

Have you downloaded our Skool Loop app yet?

Never miss important school information again!

- ✓ Events
- ✓ Notices
- ✓ Instant school messages
- ✓ Absentee
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission Slips

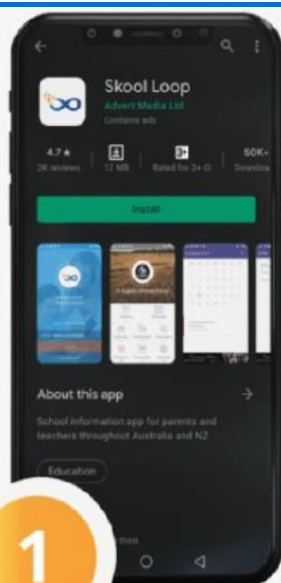


Simple free download:
In Google play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed

Downloading the Skool Loop app - a step by step guide

Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school -

- Open the Skool Loop App - you will land on a welcome page.
- Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
- Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side.
- Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
- Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
- Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.



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Dates to remember

February

Fri 6th—Waitangi Day—School Closed
Mon 9th– Wed 11th—ERO Visit
Fri 13th—Meet the Teacher (afternoon)
Tues 24th—Paid Union Meetings (afternoon)

March

Mon 2nd—Upper Waitaki Swimming Sports
Tues 3rd-Fri 6th—Tech Week
Wed 11th—N.O. Swimming Sports

March cont...

Fri 20th—Teacher Only Day—School Closed
Sat 21st—DANSEYS PASS TRAIL RIDE
Thurs 26th- Fri 27th—Year 8 Camp, Iona

APRIL

Thurs 2nd—Last day of term 1
Fri 3rd—Easter, Good Friday



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PAPAKAIO 8 HOUR MTB CHALLENGE

14TH MARCH 2026

WILLOW PARK, SH 83, OAMARU



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MARCH 14TH 2026 / WILLOW PARK

BATTLE OF THE BIKERS

RIDE OUR EVENT AND COMPETE AGAINST OTHER SCHOOLS TO TAKE OUT THE TITLE





How to score big
and rep your
primary school

IT'S TIME TO RIDE, SCORE, AND MAKE YOUR SCHOOL THE ULTIMATE BIKING CHAMPION!

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN STACK THOSE POINTS AND CLAIM VICTORY:

Sign Up = Score Up: Just by registering, you score 1 point for your school. Easiest points ever, right?

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Lap Masters: Every lap your school smashes out earns 1 point. So, keep those wheels spinning!

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Bonus Squad: For every 10 riders signed up, your school bags 5 bonus points. Round up your crew and lock in those points!

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**ASK YOUR PARENTS TO REGISTER ONLINE
FROM JAN 1ST 2026**

www.papakaio8hour.nz