



31 January 2017

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome (back for year 8's) to Dunedin North Intermediate!

We have enjoyed our first day with your tamariki and hope that they come home full of beans also.

Meet the Teacher:

There will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher on Wednesday February 8, 5.30pm. This is a chance to hear about expectations, ask questions and learn a bit more about the DNI programme. In week 8 of term one we will hold individual interviews with parents and students. This gives us time to get to know your children and properly assess where they are at in terms of academic learning and self management. At this interview we will share a baseline report with you (where we believe your child is working in reading, writing and maths) and we'll also use this time to set goals for the rest of the year.

Partnership and Whanau Hui

Good education requires a positive home/school partnership. For this reason we value time to meet with families in a range of formats throughout the year. There will be a partnership hui on Wednesday 8th following the meet the teacher night, commencing at 6.15pm in the staffroom. Usually we have a potluck meal that everyone contributes to, but on this occasion we'll provide light refreshments.

We have a strong Pacific and Māori Culture group and we always welcome support around this.

At this time our Māori whanau may wish to break away and connect with each other. We would love some guidance from you around the upcoming marae stays and what you would like to see included in the experience, as well as setting up how and when you would like to meet as a group this year.

School Hours

School is open for students **from 8.20am in the mornings**. While there may well be staff here earlier than this we can not guarantee that your children will be supervised so we ask that you do not drop off children before 8.20am as the school will remain locked until this time.

School finishes at 2.55pm. With the exception of children that wait for the north line bus (Waitati, Warrington, Karitane, Waikouaiti), we expect that all students leave school grounds by 3pm.

School Uniform Rules

The Board of Trustees, as representatives of the community, expect DNI students to wear a uniform. There are multiple options for the formal uniform, and children are expected to wear one of these options in its entirety:

- Formal shorts (long pants in terms 2 and 3 only), polo, and DNI socks, black shoes as per the guide on the website.

or

- Kilt, polo and white or black knee length or ankle length (not sports sock that sit under the ankle) socks, black shoes shoes as per the guide on the website.

or

- Culottes, polo and white or black knee length or ankle length (not sports sock that sit under the ankle) socks, black shoes as per the guide on the website.

Students have a choice of DNI sweatshirt, DNI jersey, DNI Vest or DNI polarfleece to accompany the formal uniform.

Additionally:

- The full formal uniform is to be worn to and from school, and for assembly and other formal occasions as determined by the staff
- Students have the option of wearing the **full sports uniform** at school, sports top, sports shorts and sports shoes, but they must not mix and match their uniform pieces.
- Students leaving school to travel to an early DNI sports fixture (starting around 3.30pm) may wear full sports uniform
- Cosmetics and jewellery are not to be worn with the school uniform. However, small plain studs (one per ear) in the ear lobe or a pendant that can not be seen (tucked inside uniform) are acceptable. Facial piercings are not allowed at any level.
- The school management and staff reserve the right to ensure uniform standards are upheld, which include grooming, hair styles/hair colour and jewellery. Extreme hairstyles are not approved and the Principal has the final decision on what is appropriate and inappropriate to wear with the school uniform
- Permitted artificial hair colours are natural blonde, ginger, brown and black.
- A DNI jacket, or a **plain black** jacket is permitted in cooler weather
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Stationery

Stationery lists are available on the website and from the office. Students need stationery by the end of the week at the latest.

Mobile Phones

As mobile phones become more accessible schools are needing to consider management of mobile phone use. At DNI we accept that many children have phones and that they are a necessary communication method for parents after and before school.

From time to time students will be invited to use their phone during school time for a learning activity. Teachers will make this invitation very clear.

At all other times between 8.45am and 3pm, we expect that mobile phones are switched off and out of sight. Students are invited to check phones for messages from parents between 12.25 and 12.35pm (the designated seated lunch period).

If you need to contact your child urgently outside of these times please phone the school office.

Using phones at other times in the day will result in the phone being removed from the student and returned at 3pm. We take no responsibility for phones that are removed in this instance.

We also ask for your support in ensuring that appropriate methods of conflict resolution are maintained. We are finding that students telephone or text their parents during the day if a conflict arises between another student or a teacher. Children are often very upset at this point, and consequently parents feel very anxious about their child, and it is not uncommon for the office staff or principal to receive a phone call from a parent before a child has even reported an incident to a teacher. We need time to resolve issues at school and we ask that you direct your child to a teacher, rather than taking the issue up for them, if they communicate with you during the school day. If an issue remains unresolved by 3pm then by all means get in touch with your child's teacher.

Facebook (and other social media)

Facebook requires everyone to be at least **13 years old** before they can create an account. Creating an account with false information is a violation of their terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13. While we have little control over how students use technology outside of school, we wholeheartedly support this age limit as we find that many conflicts arise, or are continued via social media. We strongly advise that parents ensure they have good oversight of social media, that includes full access to all accounts, and that children can be in a technology free space from at least an hour before bedtime.

Homework

Homework is one of those topics that polarise people! There are always as many families requesting homework as there are vehemently opposed to it.

For this reason we are flexible with homework. We do expect children to get involved in a range of extra-school learning activities including sports, music, computing clubs etc. We also expect children to read regularly.

Teachers will outline their own expectations around homework at the Meet the Teacher night. If these expectations do not work for your family you are welcome to negotiate an alternative with the teacher (please make an appointment to do this).

Camp (Marae Stay)

We can confirm that a one night (two day) camp will take place for all students during Week 4 (dates for each class are detailed below).

This is an opportunity for students to get to know each other and their teachers better, challenge themselves and most importantly, have a good deal of fun! The cost of the camp is being confirmed but will be no more than \$50, and this should be paid prior to February 17. Alternatively, please contact the office staff if you would like to spread payments out over Term 1.

A little parent help would be appreciated - please contact your child's teacher asap if you can help. Teacher emails are generic first name and last name initial @dni.school.nz (for example heidih@dni.school.nz)

Classes will leave school in the morning and return by 3pm the following day. More information will follow soon.

Leaving Monday Feb 20 February	Room 16 (Addie Dale) and Room 8 (Sheree Landrebe-Potter)
Leaving Tuesday 21 February	Room 4 (Matt Broad) and Room 3 (Anna Marie Stewart)
Leaving Wednesday 22 February	Room 1 (Kate Mullan) and Room 14 (Andrew Straight)
Leaving Thursday 23 February	Room 10 (Mike Neill) and Room 13 (Andrea Thorburn)
Leaving Monday 27 February	Room 11 (Scott Klenner)

Music

We need all registrations for music lessons by **Friday February 10 please.**

A link is provided here, or you could check the website for a link to the available options, or come and see the office staff. <http://tinyurl.com/dnimusic2017>

Sports

We need all registrations for Term one sports teams by **Friday February 3 please.**

A link is provided here, or you could check the website for a link to the available options, or come and see the office staff. <http://tinyurl.com/summersportst12017>

School Photos

Kelk will be here tomorrow (Wednesday) morning, from 8.45am for individual and class photos. Please ensure children are here on time.

School Excursions

As part of the extracurricular experience at DNI students may be selected to perform the 'student helper' role in the front office. At times this may involve them leaving the school grounds on short errands to places close to the school such as the supermarket or post office.

There is also sometimes a need to send children in groups of two-three to other places in the immediate vicinity to assist with their learning.

In both situations the boundaries include the Gardens Mall and Bank Street areas along to Pet Planet. Students will have a very specific task to perform and will be set a time limit. **No child will be sent on their own outside of the school grounds.**

In addition we also like to take classes on outings within the Dunedin area. To make planning for these outings much easier, we request that you fill in blanket permission form (see below) to cover your child low risk outings in the local Dunedin area. We will always inform you of trips in advance and we seek specific written permission for high risk activities or overnight stays.

Please fill in details on the form below to indicate that you give your child permission to take part in classroom excursions or tasks. For any further information or if you would prefer that your child did not take part in such activities, please contact your child's teacher.

Health and Participation

We had a particularly difficult year with illness in 2016. It is really important that children are kept at home when they are unwell to limit the spread of illness. Equally, we expect that all students present at school are able to participate in the school programme (swimming, PE etc). If your child is unwell, or not well enough fully to participate in the school day, then the best place for them is bed, with a hottie :)

We thank you for your support with this.

BLANKET PERMISSION FORM

Child's name _____ **Room** _____

Yes, I give my child permission to undertake school-related tasks in small groups within the Gardens shopping area.

Yes, I give my child permission to attend low risk outings, within in the local Dunedin area (not overnight stays). I understand that I will be notified of these events via classroom notices and school newsletters.

Parent / Caregiver signature: _____

Teachers, please return this form to the office for filing