

# Pūtanga o ngā Tāonga

## Publications of the Treasures



**KIA ORA AND WELCOME TO THE TERM 4 NEWSLETTER. THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER OF 2024.**

In this issue different students look back at their highlights from Donovan over the last term, year and six years. You will get an update on the sports teams and an exclusive interview with Mr Hopwood! You will also find a few letters that have been written by students from the Senior Syndicate.

Writing these paragraphs is one of my last jobs as School Leader. I have enjoyed running assemblies and working with the School Council (and Hudson of course!) I hope he has enjoyed this job just as much as I have and I am sure that Mr Hopwood has some great kids in mind for school leaders next year.

**By Mia Kerr – School Leader**



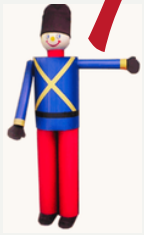
Room 19 had a dress up day. We have been enjoying Reading Nadia Lim's books about her pets on her farm.



### *20 years of Donovan*

This year mighty 2024, the 20 year anniversary of Donovan Primary School. That's right, can you believe that Donovan is celebrating 20 years! Some of you parents will know this but in the hall Mr Hopwood has spent hours and hours putting up old Donovan photos. To celebrate 20 years Mr Hopwood has decided to let all of the kids decorate their own rocks so their memories will stay at Donovan forever. He also asked Mr Baker to install a lilliput library, so if you take a book you can leave a book basically. On Saturday there was a massive party being hosted in the Donovan hall mostly all of the ex staff showed up even the opener of Donovan Primary came. My whole entire time at Donovan has been such a privilege. I'm really going to miss this school it kind of feels like I'm leaving part of my first 6 years of my life behind but I have had the BEST time at Donovan.

**By London McCleery**



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### MY TIME AT DONOVAN

I remember when I first started at Donovan, standing in front of the Donovan sign out the front, getting my photo taken and thinking I would have the best time of my life. And so I did. I went through a wide variety of classes with amazing teachers as I grew up.

One of my most vivid memories is my first assembly and getting my learning pack because I had just started. I also remember that when I turned 6 I was in Room 12 and I had gotten to keep Harry the class bear for the weekend. I was so excited I couldn't wait to get home and show my family. Also, when I got a REAL learner certificate I couldn't help but smile while on stage. I also really enjoyed doing lots of Maori learning in Year 4.

I really enjoyed being at Donovan and being a part of the 20 years celebrations.

I will miss being at Donovan a lot when I go to intermediate next year.

**By Jen Hyland**

### MY TIME AT DONOVAN

Hi I am Lotte Cowan and I have only been at Donovan Primary for two years. On the first day of school, I was so nervous I did not know anybody apart from some people from my old school that were also starting. But when I first sat down in Miss Wheelers class, it only took a few minutes before I had a number of new friends.

I was so lucky to spend my last two years of Primary school at Donovan.

A big thank you to all the teachers that helped me throughout my school year and teaching me new learning skills and a lot of sports.

Mr Hopwood, Office staff, Mrs Phair and Mrs Fallow and the PTA. Thank you and I hope to pop in and see you all next year.

My achievements from my two years at Donovan are School Council, Road Patrol, PALS and many other sports as well as Kapa haka.

I have enjoyed helping other students while on Kaitiaki, also loved being involved in assemblies. Hope to stay in touch with you all... School is FUN.

**By Lotte Cowan**

### MY TIME AT DONOVAN

My 6 years at Donovan has been awesome

All the teachers have been great – I can't pick a favourite.

I didn't know what year 6 was going to look like. I always wanted to be in the School Council but I didn't know how I was going to get in, but here I am all thanks to my teachers through the years.

I was so excited as a Junior in Year 2 knowing next year I'd be on a different playground but when I became older, I now play on the basketball court with the Fab 4.

Miniball has definitely been a highlight for me especially when we won the year 3/4 grade & this year being un-beaten.

One memory for me is still being friends with my very first best friend from Room 17 to this day and that will stick with me .

**By Macy Hogg**





Santa

Hollywood

28 November 2024

Donovan children

Donovan Primary  
Invercargill

Dear children

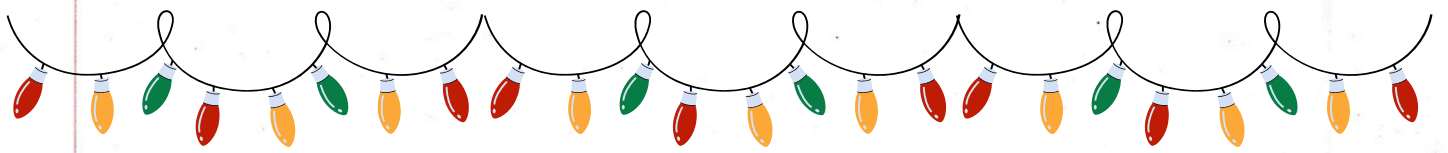
My name is Santa. Most of you think I live in the North pole but I actually live in Hollywood with movie stars and I've been in some of the Christmas movies.

Ronaldo, Messi, Mbappe, Ronaldo jr, Neymar and Neymar jr has helped me make the gifts for all you kids around the world. If you want to visit me I live at 31 Harvey Street.

My hobbies are playing football, eating cookies, I also am a motorbike tester and a position tester. I play football with Ronaldo, Ronaldo jr, Messi, Neymar, Neymar jr and Mbappe to keep them and me fit.

If you're wondering how my reindeer fly it's because I am magic and I cast a spell on them. I already know what your gonna say, how did I get magic? I'll tell you but you have to keep it a secret, don't tell anyone, ok! So,

one day I went for a walk and found a genie that gave me three wishes. 1 I want to be Santa 2 I want magic 3 I want a magic sleigh and reindeer. That's how I got magic!



When I go to get food I have to put on another pair of clothes, so people don't find out that I'm Santa. If they find out they will go crazy. Anyway I hope you all have a great Christmas. From the real Santa.



## Art Club



Here are some snapshots of our Donovan Senior and Middle students who crafted amazing clay necklaces, inspired by their own unique ideas. What a super team!



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### SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

Kia Ora! My name is Kylah and I am a School Counciller of Donovan Primary 2024. There has been a lot going on this year! So let's have a quick recap of what's been going on this year!

**TERM 1:** Term 1 was not very busy in the first week of the term as everyone was adapting to their new classes. Then Donovan had their Athletics day and we had some amazing people that went to Zones and some even made it to Southlands! Donovan Pupils also voted on who would be the School Council of 2024. Some people had to give a speech and 10 people were chosen. Those people were Lacey Ridder, Jen Hyland, Macy Hogg, London McCleery, Georgia Buchan, Riley Edwards, Kayla Mclean, Lotte Cowan, Astar Zwertbroek and Kylah Wilson (Me) and our two school leaders, Hudson Garret and Mia Kerr.

**TERM 2:** Term 2 was also a quiet term, but Donovan did their Cross Country which was held at Donovan Park and some of the course was at Waikiwi Rugby Ground. Swimming for Seniors and Middles started in Term 2 also.

**TERM 3:** Term 3 was a busy month for year 6s as they were starting to do year 6 stuff. The Senior classes also did a CO2 Car Racing with the seniors put into groups and doing their own unique and fun cars!

**TERM 4:** Term 4 is the Term Donovan is in now and it has been busy! Year 6s are doing a lot more work and have visited their high schools that they are off to next year! We also had some people from the high schools come visit and ask about the children coming to their school. Term 4 is when the Seniors did their amazing camp concert that the Seniors worked very hard on! On Thursday, the first day of camp Donovan was very lucky to visit University of Otago College Of Education and learn about things and make things at the College. Some kids were also lucky enough to go to Tough Kids at Rugby Park!

That was a recap of some things that have happened this year! I have had a great time being on the School Council and it has been an honour being one of the School Councillers and hope and wish the best for the 2025 School Council!

By Kylah Wilson

Room 12  
have been  
learning  
about  
Holidays  
Around the  
World



# *Pūtanga o ngā Tāonga*

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### *Term 4 Happenings*

Everyone was very excited about Ice Cream Day. This event was run by the PTA and had some help from the School Council.

The seniors were lucky enough to get invited to a concert at Centre Stage played by Girls High / Boys High. It was the play of Aladdin.

Next we had the Yr 5/6 school camp on Thursday the 21st til Friday 22nd. Unfortunately we were unable to go biking but the teachers and parent helpers made up for it and planned some activities for us. In the evening we had the camp concert. Each class had their own item (Southland history related). I hope you enjoyed the show if you went.

**Juniors/** The Juniors have been learning about Sun Safety, celebrations from all around the world, and of course, Christmas fun.

**Middles/** The middles have been enjoying learning about Endangered Animals and are getting stuck into some Christmas activities, too.

**Seniors/** All the senior classes have been working hard on the history of Southland. We found lots of facts giving us some ideas for our camp concert.

50 senior pupils got to take part in the 2024 Mitre Ten tough kids on Wednesday the 27th of November. It was at Rugby Park. Schools from all over Southland joined in the fun, wet obstacle course.

### **Dodgeball competition**

In Term 4 Miss Holland put together a dodgeball competition for the seniors and middles. The seniors played first. It was in the hall. To start you had to lie with your chin on your hands. If you won you would get 3 points and if you lost you got 1 point. In the end it was Rm 1 vs Rm 20. It was a close game but in the end Rm 1 were the dodgeball champions for the seniors. This time the middles are competing. I wonder who's going to win?!

### **YEAR 6**

The Year sixes are working hard preparing for the end of the year. They've been working on their leavers pages on Canva. Each year six gets their own book to keep. They are all looking forward to the Big Day Out next week. Thanks to the PTA for sponsoring this each year!

**By Lacey Ridder**



Ice Cream day being enjoyed by the students of Room 16





Santa  
South Africa

28 November 2024

Donovan Children  
Donovan Primary  
Invercargill

Dear children

My name is Santa. Most of you

think I live in the North Pole

but I live in South Africa. There  
are lots of animals like giraffes, elephants,  
cheetaras, zebras ect. I like to help people in  
need by giving them food and toys.

Ruby Tui, Portia Woodman, Aaron Smith, and

Jimmy Cowan help me make the toys.  
We spend most of our time making toys  
and traveling the world. We only have  
limited time to deliver all the toys.

The sleigh can only fit two people.  
So Jimmy Cowan is a retired  
rugby player and he was fast so  
he can help me on the sleigh.

When I have spare time I  
like to play rugby. I like to play  
rugby with Jimmy to because  
he knows how to play tackle.

If I had another job it  
would be a rugby coach for  
the All Blacks or Black Ferns.

There are some things I don't like  
about Christmas. It is limited time to  
deliver back to all the gifts and traveling  
to South Africa.

Who feeds the reindeer when it's  
not Christmas? Well, I have a special  
helper 'her name is Portia. Woodman.  
Portia like's to help look after the  
reindeer.

I'm excited to deliver all your presents  
if you're good. If you're bad I won't be in  
your house.

I hope you have a good Christmas  
from Santa.

A visit from some pet lambs in  
Room 7







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## AN INTERVIEW WITH MR HOPWOOD

Kia ora, my name is Astar Zwertbroek and I chose to interview Mr Hopwood because he is interesting. He should be proud of himself and the school for being open for 20 years. He is a fantastic role model for the whole school.

**Favourite Colour:** Royal Blue

**Favourite Food:** Seafood – Blue Cod

**Favourite Hobby:** Gardening and home decor

**Favourite Flower:** Gardenia

**Favourite Drink:** Coffee

**What do you like to do in your own time?** BBQ, Road trips and gardening.

**Where is your most favourite place in the school?** The Library

**What did you do before you came to Donovan?** Deputy Principal at Collingwood Intermediate.

**What do you like best about Donovan Primary?** The people.

**What do you like best about your job?** Meeting people.

**If you were to change anything in the school, what would it be?** Add a gymnasium and an indoor pool.

**What is your favourite time of the year at school?** The first day of the year.

**What has been a highlight for 2024 for you?** Celebrating 20 years of Donovan.

**What has been your favourite memory from your 20 years at Donovan?** The day we opened and School Camp at Omaui.

**What is a plan for Donovan next year?** Start renewing Junior blocks and a pump track.

Native  
Aotearoa  
Birds  
By  
Room 6





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## SCHOOL COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

### Ice cream day

This term the school council have had lots of important jobs around the school, like ice-cream day run by the PTA. This year the school went through 55L of ice-cream and 350 cones, its crazy. We also made sure we had lots of ice-blocks (40) for the gluten and dairy free kids as we couldn't let them miss out.

### Kaitiaki

At morning tea and lunch the council walk around the school and look out for any bad behaviour, kids that get hurt and just lend a hand. If anyone is hurt they could take them to the sick bay or just comfort them until they feel better, we also hand out yellow slips to the kids that are being good and helpful, then they go into a draw. If you get pulled out at assembly you get a prize.

### Dodgeball competitions

The Senior Syndicate have just finished a dodgeball tournament where 5 classes played against each other, the final had Room 1 vs Room 20. Room 1 took the win with big smiles when they congratulated Room 20 on a good game. Middle syndicate was up next and Room 5 took out the win.

### Fish

Did you notice the blue fish painted around the school, well those blue fish are painted near our schools stormwater drains to remind you not to put chemicals or anything else in the drains because it goes from the estuary into the ocean and harms the creatures that live in it and around it. Some of the people came from the Sunrise Rotary Club and Environment Southland etc.

### Assemblies

The School Council take turns to run assemblies every fortnight. We go in buddies so no one misses out. We also do the speaking parts so the School Leaders can have a break.

By Kayla McLean

### Endangered Native Birds by Room 8







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Merry Christmas from Room 17

## SPORTS NEWS

This term we have had so many sports happening at Donovan! It's great to see so many children getting involved in sport.



**Touch** – There are 15 Donovan touch teams, some of the touch games were cancelled from the mucky weather.

**Miniball** – There are 10 Donovan miniball teams and all are very good at it, some of the year 6s from the Breakers and the Saints got to do a Christmas mini ball tournament.

**Futsal** – There are 9 teams of futsal at Donovan that are scoring some amazing goals.



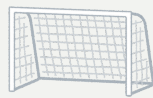
**Waterpolo** – There are 3 Donovan teams who have been swimming like fish and showing good sportsmanship.

**Kī O Rahi** – There is only 1 Kī O Rahi team for Donovan and it is made up of Year 5 and 6s. It's a great sport to play and we are enjoying having a sausage at the end of the game.



**Cricket** – There are 2 cricket teams per syndicate at Donovan, they are smashing their way through a great season.

By Riley Edwards



Donovan's new Tiger Turf

## Endangered Native Birds by Room 8





Santa  
Hawii

3 December 2024

To Donovan children  
Donovan primary  
Drury Lane  
Invercargill

Dear santa

Hi I am santa most of you probably think I live in the North pole but that is not true! I actually live in Hawii. There are lots of coconuts and surfers. Hawii is a hot place and you can go swimming when ever you want too.

Lilly Murphy and Coby Bryant help me make all of the toys for all of you kids around the world. We make hundreds of different toys. So you can all get presents on Christmas.

My reindeer go in a paddock during the months but you won't find them because they are disguised as sheep and my sleigh is disguised as hay so you also can't find it.

My hobbies are to go swimming, ride sheep and to go surfing on the waves. My favourite thing is to eat cookies and milk from your house espeselly chocolate chip ones.





I would like to go through the door instead of the chimney so I don't get stuck in millions, even though I do anyway.

I love to go biking and swimming. My favourite place to go swimming is the beach in Hawaii and my favourite place to bike is up huge hills. The coolest thing with biking up big hills is that you get to ride down them.

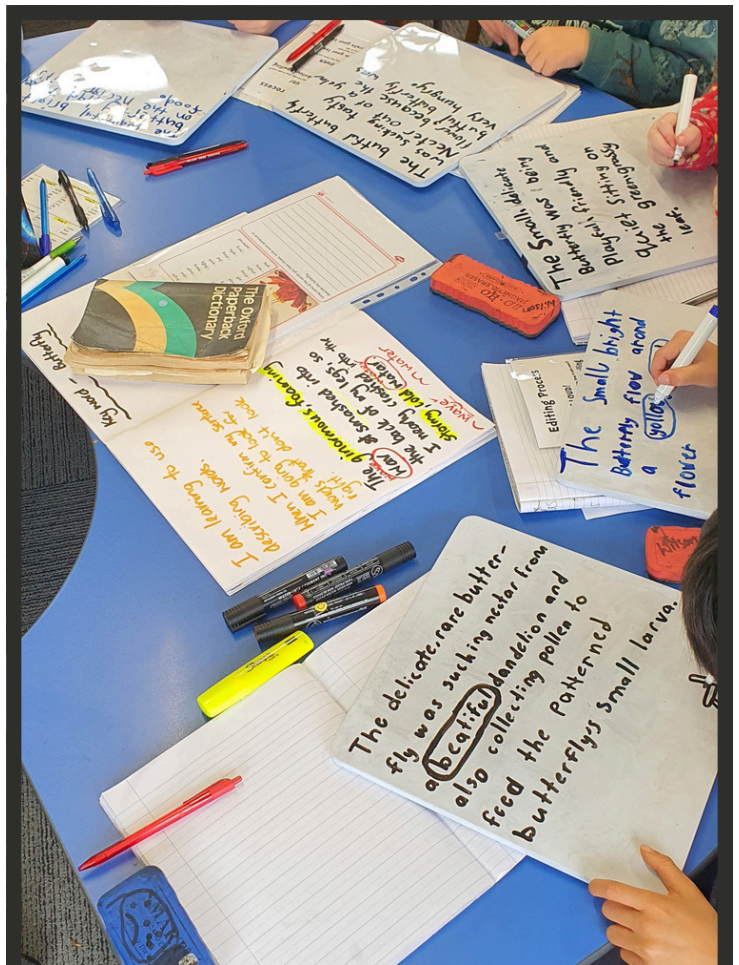
I love kids because they are cool, nice, funny and playful. You kids probably love me to because I give you gifts on Christmas.

I hope you all have a good Christmas and enjoy your presents.

From Santa



A lovely send off for Mrs Phair who has been Donovan's Librarian for 20 years.



Fantastic descriptive writing by Room 9





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### *WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING IN THE SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024*

WOW! What a year it has been. The School Council has been helping plan fun things for everyone.

Things like ice cream day that we dished and help get the right classes. Also having the PTA supply the ice cream. Some of my personal favourite things that we have done is... having Environment Southland and City Council telling and showing us why and how they spray paint the blue fish on gutters to show that the community needed to not put certain stuff down your drains.

Let's not forget the School Disco! I think we lived up to the saying 'Dance the Night away!!' We kept the energy going all night for both discos. We got pizza for tea which disappeared in seconds. A real highlight was when we fundraised for the Blair Vining Charity Hospital. We got an awesome surprise. We all jumped in a minivan and Mr Ryan and Miss Fosbender took us to the Hospital so we could see the Donovan Bricks and donate all our money. It was so cool because we got to meet the people that work there and Melissa Vining! We thought it looked like Shortland Street.

The Colour Fun Run was a blast. It was a massive fundraiser for Donovan. The kids were so excited to get the prizes and get all colourful. The School Council stayed out there for every single syndicate in the pouring rain! First we ran the Senior one and then helped with the Middle and Junior. We also got to hand out the hot chocolate to the classes.

This year the School Council got to run assemblies every fortnight for Syndicate Assemblies. Also picking the Tidy Kiwi Award the winner of every whole school assembly. The winning class gets to have the kiwi teddy in their class for 2 weeks and get a lollipop each.

As you can tell the school council do alot for the school even getting to be like mini teachers around the school. It's called Kaitiaki and we have blue vests and gold cards that we give to kids that are showing all of the School Values. Athletics happens every year for Donovan and it is held here in our backfield. There's high jump, long jump, sprints, discus and shot put. I have really enjoyed getting to be on the School Council for 2024. It's sad that it's coming to an end but I loved being a School Council member.

**By Georgia Buchan**



A few pics from  
the Senior  
Syndicate In  
School Camp





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Merry Christmas from the 2024 School Council



## Term 4 Sign Off

This term has been quite eventful. From the excitement of our In School Camp and all the fun Christmas activities at the start of term four to the big preparations for the end of the school year.

Coming up for the end of the school year we have the Merit Assemblies, Year Six Leavers Day and Graduation and Prize Giving.

My time as a School Leader is coming to an end. I have enjoyed my time as a School Leader.

One of my ultimate highlights has been having new responsibilities within the school.

I would like to take this time to thank the teachers, management, support staff and everyone else for making everything possible this year.

On behalf of all the students of Donovan Primary we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday.

**By Hudson Garrett – School Leader**