



# Aparima College Newsletter

ISSUE NINE: DECEMBER 2025



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## *He kupu mai i te teepu tumuaki* (a word from the Principal's desk)

Kia ora koutou,

As we come to the close of another year at Aparima College, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared. This year has been filled with achievements, challenges, and countless moments that remind us why our school community is so special.

Our students have excelled in so many areas:

- **Academic Achievement:** We are proud of the progress and results across all year levels, with early indicators suggesting strong performances in NCEA and junior assessments. Involvement in Chess Inter-School, SMAC Maths, Australian examinations, Canterbury Examinations, Dan Devin Writing, Young Enterprise Scheme, Reading Challenges and so much more.
- **Sporting Highlights:** Western Challenges, 7 aside Inter School, Adventure Racing, Cross Country, Athletics, Scholastic Surf Championships, Tournament Week, Basketball, Netball, Volleyball, Ki O Rahi, Golf to name but a few
- **Cultural and Arts Events:** The kapa haka group, Aparima's Got Talent, music performances, and art exhibitions showcased the creativity and talent within our school.
- **Community Engagement:** Our students have contributed to local projects and events, strengthening ties with whānau and the wider Riverton community.

This year, we introduced new initiatives to support learning and wellbeing, including the establishment of the Student Led Hauora (Well-being) group, the continuation of the Culture Club. These changes have helped create an environment where every student can thrive.

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff, Board, supportive parents, and whānau. Your commitment and care make Aparima College a place where students feel valued and inspired.

As we prepare for 2026, we are excited about continuing to build on this year's successes. Our focus will remain on providing high-quality education, fostering wellbeing, and strengthening our connection with the community.

On behalf of the team at Aparima College, I wish you all a safe and joyful holiday season. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.

**Aloma Williams**

Principal



# Junior ESOL

We planned a field trip to Invercargill as an assessment. We started to plan the trip in Term 3 and went on the field on the 6th of November and then completed activities following the field trip.

We went on the trip with Eve, Mrs. Jones, and the JESOL (Junior ESOL) group. We really appreciated Eve for driving us to town and supporting us throughout the day and for the staff from each company that helped us with everything. The day started with us going to New World for snacks, ILT Stadium for clip and climb, went to Jump and Fun for laser tag and the floor is lava, and lastly went to the escape room.

There were 8 students and 2 teachers. We first went to the stadium to do CLIP 'N CLIMB. All students were climbing, except Barsha and Mrs Jones, because it was daunting and almost all of us were scared. They were afraid – but they still tried their best. After a while, we left the stadium and headed to Laser Tag. The staff from the Laser Tag divided us into 2 teams as we wished and both teams had five people.

The reason why we planned this trip was to expand our knowledge on our communication skills and use the English language in authentic situations. This trip was to also help with our confidence and speaking to people outside the classroom. We planned this trip by calling people, booking the places, and fundraised the money for the trip. We achieved our goal of growing our confidence of speaking to people outside the classroom by individually expressing our gratitude to the staff.

Cassie: I enjoyed all the activities because it helped us with our critical thinking, our teamwork, and our speaking skills.

Disandi: The activity I enjoyed the most was laser tag, this is because we were able to have fun by tagging each other and communicating ideas with the teams we were put into. I learnt how to organize events and to think outside the box.

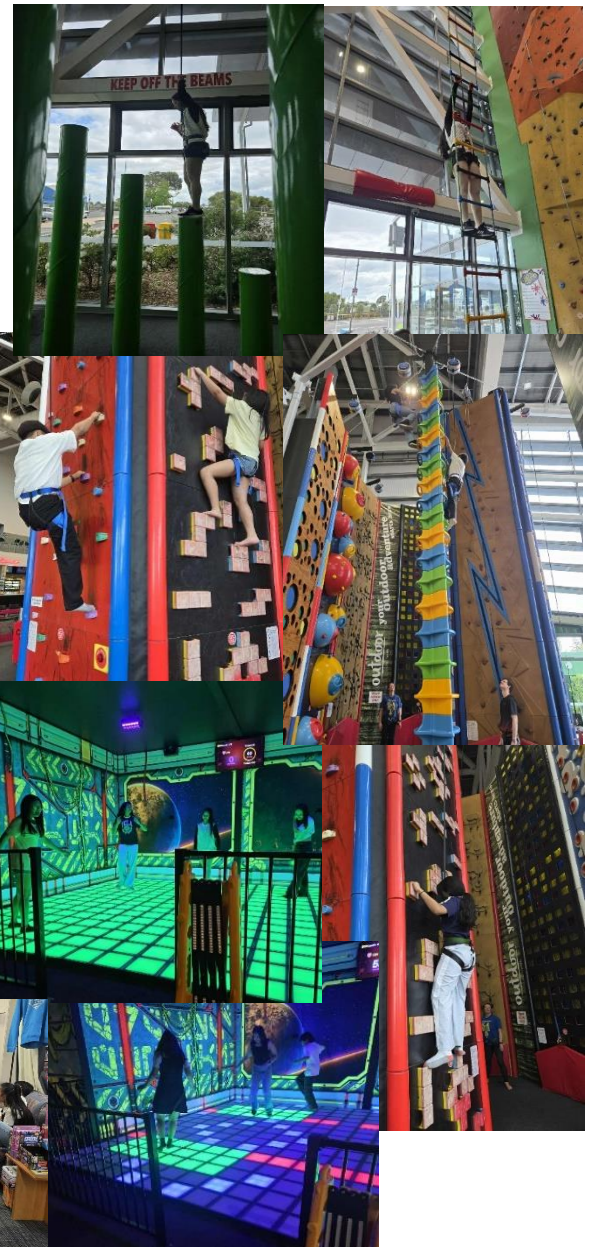
Chezka: Our field trip was fun, and what I enjoyed the most was playing laser tag. It was exciting and full of laughter, making the trip unforgettable.

Dristi: I thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities we did, but I exclusively enjoyed “Clip ‘n Climb.” Even though I was scared and a bit embarrassed at first, it turned out to be really challenging, fun, and enjoyable.

Bishal: I thoroughly enjoyed all of the amazing activities that we did on the trip, but the highlight for me was the “CLIP ‘N CLIMB” since it was the most challenging and enjoyable.

Suham: I enjoyed everything that we did on the trip. I got over my fear and tried climbing, I was scared at first but it turned out to be fun and challenging.

Barsha: I enjoyed the Laser Tag, Lava Floor and Escape Room. It was so fun to play laser tag with teacher and friends. My favourite was laser tag and Lava floor.





# Western Ki O Rahi Tournament



## Western Ki O Rahi Results!

What an incredible day we have had here at Aparima College hosting Western Ki O Rahi. We thoroughly enjoyed having Hauroko Valley, St Patricks, Otautau, Thornbury, Riverton and Takitimu attending and showing great mahi and sportsmanship. Thank you to all the coaches, managers, staff and parents that made this day possible. Special shout out to our student scorers and referees who did an amazing job today, thank you.

**Congratulations to the following place getters:**

**Year 5-6 Grade**

**1st place - Takitimu Legends**

**2nd place - Otautau Red**

**3rd equal - Thornbury and Riverton Raptors**

**Year 7-8 Grade**

**1st place - Otautau Blue**

**2nd place - Takitimu Warriors**

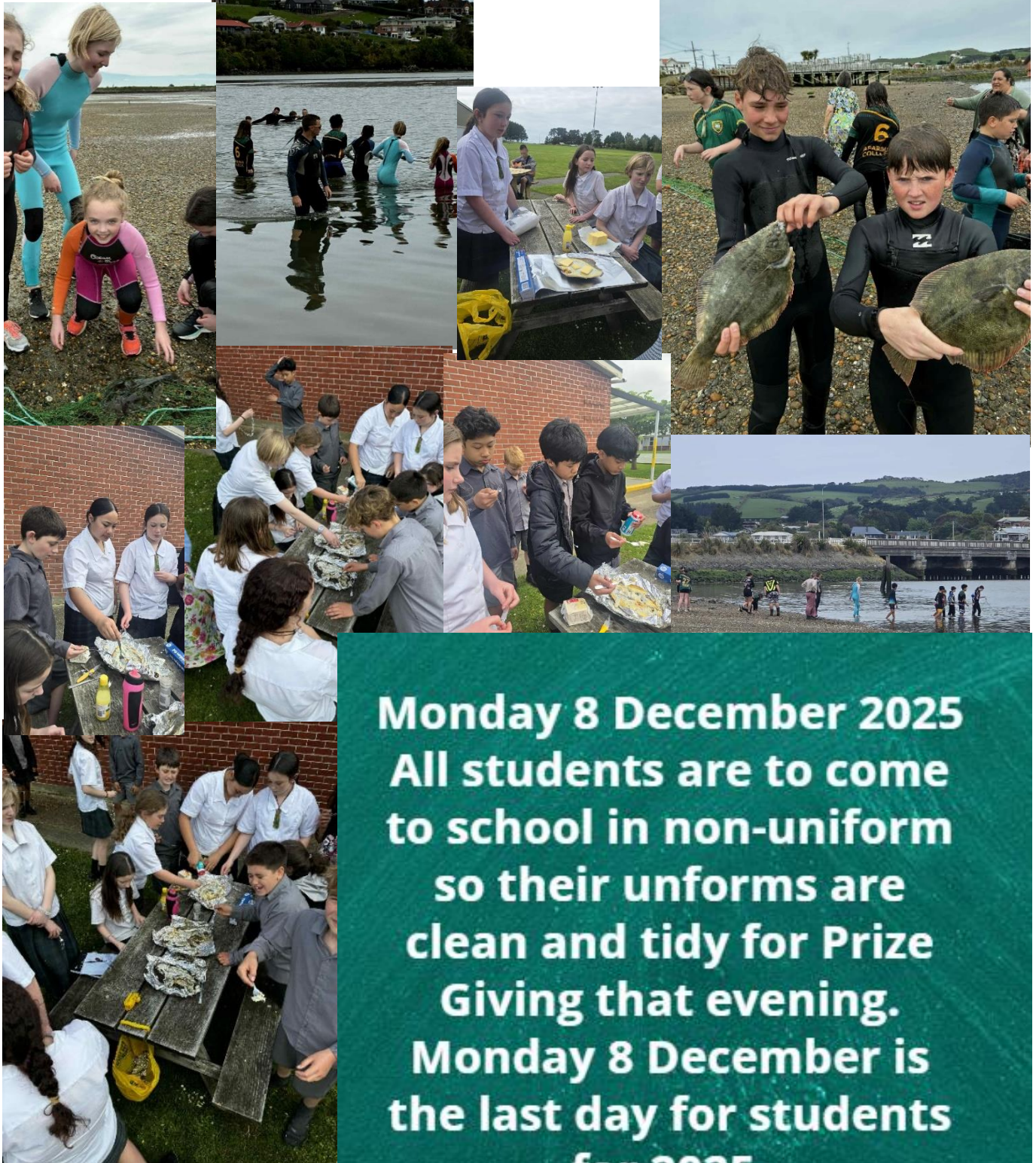
**3rd place - Hauroko Hurricanes**





# Floundering

7/8F used our amazing natural resources to have a go at floundering. Perfect conditions, but not many flounder were caught.



**Monday 8 December 2025**  
**All students are to come**  
**to school in non-uniform**  
**so their uniforms are**  
**clean and tidy for Prize**  
**Giving that evening.**  
**Monday 8 December is**  
**the last day for students**  
**for 2025.**



# Fuel for Schools - Support Aparima College

Money donated can help Aparima College gain rewards such as Music, Vegepod, Sports, Book or Technology packages.

Your support is much appreciated

Go into the below link for more information

<https://fernenergy.co.nz/community/fuel-for-schools/>

A promotional graphic for the 'Fuel for Schools' campaign. It features the 'fern' logo on the left and the 'FUEL FOR SCHOOLS' logo on the right. Below the logos, it states 'Over \$2 million Donated' and 'For every 100L of bulk fuel you have delivered our school receives 50 cents!'. The background is a photo of a group of children and an adult standing outdoors. At the bottom, it says 'Call 0800 99 99 89 to start supporting us today!'.

**fern** **FUEL FOR SCHOOLS**

**Over \$2 million Donated**

For every 100L of bulk fuel you have delivered  
our school receives 50 cents!

Call 0800 99 99 89 to start supporting us  
today!



Monday night 😊



## Aparima College Prize Giving

*This is being held on Monday 8 December 2025 at  
7:00pm in the school hall.*

*Everyone to please be seated by 6:50pm*

*All students, Year 7 – 13 are to attend and to be in  
full correct school uniform*

*All Parents/Caregivers and family members are  
welcome.*

# Year 9 Camp – Borland Lodge

The Year 9 students had the opportunity to head to Borland Lodge for their camp. Other than the sandflies, it was a lovely three days away from school in the outback of Fiordland National Park filled with laughter and joy.

When we arrived, we were all dreading it. Begging the teachers to let us skip the 3-hour bush walk to Lake Monowai and back. But in the end, despite our shoes being DRENCHED in mud from every challenge along the way. It turned out to be an awesome hike with views words can't describe.

Later that night after some yummy nachos, the sun had set, and it was time for the bonfire. We had Liam playing the guitar for us while we roasted marshmallows over the flames and had an attempt at making damper, some failing miserably, others acing it. After that we played some games and headed to bed.

It's now day 2 and we had a busy day scheduled. After breakfast we split up into our groups and headed to either kayaking, abseiling, low ropes or archery. From 9am to 3pm we rotated through each of these activities with some challenges along the way. Roughly an hour later we drove to Lake Monowai for a quick dip.

Once we got back to camp, we played some games and had dinner. When the sun started to go down, we went outside for a round of spotlight, and it turned out to be the best game yet. We weren't just spotting each other. We were blessed to spot a morepork sitting in the trees and even better, an aurora dancing beautifully across the sky. Time flew by quickly and it was time for bed.

Day 3 has come and it's time to go home but a cheeky possum wanted to say good morning to the boys. The possum was sitting in the boy's bathroom giving everyone a good laugh to start the morning. We had breakfast and sadly it was time to clean up and go back to school. We had a slow trip home stopping at Lake Monowai Village, Clifton Suspension Bridge and Monkey Island, all having great views. We eventually returned to Aparima College with some unforgettable memories.

**By Kyla Tohiariki**





# Borland Lodge

A group of us Year 9s got the chance to go out to camp in the outback's of the Fiordland National Park at Borland Lodge. Our camp was packed with adventure, fun and memories we won't forget! When we arrived, we were welcomed with the flies (many, many flies). We first settled into our cabins. Then straight away we were faced with one of the biggest challenges of the camp. The walk. Slipping on mud and tripping over sticks along the way but we eventually made it! It took around 2 hours to arrive, but we were fine. With the sight of a beautiful lake before our very eyes it was all worth the while. When we got back to camp, we had showers and very nice nachos for dinner (Thanks Ms Williams). We also had the luxury of having a bon fire, making damper and toasted marshmallows. Liam also whipped out the good ole guitar and stayed to give James Hargest a wee show of pure talent. Then we finished off the day with a brutal game of Spotlight where Ruby managed to run into a rock.

On day 2 we woke up to the beautiful sunrays and birds chirping. Knowing we had a full jam packed day ahead the parents filled us up on good food and nice things for lunch! We were all separated into 3 groups where we did Kayaking, Group 1 found out that they were kayaking first at 8 in the morning! Not very impressed. Somehow Levi managed to lose his jandal and went on a big hunt to find it, scuba mask and all, Liam used his life skills and managed to lead 4 kayaks at once? Low ropes was another one of our activities, I must say when we saw what we were dealing with everyone thought it was disappointing but let me tell you NEVER judge a book by the cover, it was tough. Joining Low ropes, we did the other half of our session playing Ultimate Archery. And our last rotation was Abseiling, my personal favourite. Definitely made people a bit nervous, but we were all proud of ourselves for giving it a go!

After a big day, we managed to drag ourselves to the lake we had walked to the day prior! Ready to jump in this time. Joel and John racked up a little fun by swinging students into the lake. Mr Gibbs was to record the students instead he got Johns back - it's the thought that counts! When we got back and settled into camp with warm showers, some were more exciting than others. When Joel seemed to spot a Possum tucked away in the shower cubicle? But like always, the fun continued and we played some volleyball, and duck duck goose? And finished the camp off being able to see a beautiful aurora dance for us in the sky.

**By Lakisha Mennell**





# Year 10 – Glendu Bay, Wanaka

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 12 Year 10's set out for three fun filled days at Glendu Bay, Wanaka. Accompanying the Year 10's were Mr Jones, Mrs Charlton, Andy Wills, and Miss Careswell.

First stop was to pan for gold in Arrowtown. Some of our Year 10's were successful in collecting their own flakes of gold sparking gold fever amongst the students.

Once we settled into the camp grounds at Glendu Bay the students braved the cold water for a swim and took turns biscuiting, special thanks to Andy for bringing up his boat!

Next we had burgers for dinner perfectly cooked by Alex, Agon, and Mr Jones.

The students were amazing making the most of what the camp ground had to offer. The bouncy pillow was a highlight!

Day two saw rotations of groups into different activities, Diamond lake walk, Clip and climb, and kayaking. More swimming in the afternoon and wrestling on the blow up pontoon. Miah managed to throw off a few of the boys. After a dinner of nachos, the students played a few rounds of ultimate archery, volleyball and some more swimming.

After pudding we ventured out into the dark for a game of spotlight. Winners were Hunter and Leyna.

Day three and we were off to puzzling world. The maze stumped a few of our students. Then it was homeward bound. It was a great experience all up and our students were exceptional, working together, having fun and giving everything a go. We are so proud of them.



# Year 8 Camp – Te Anau

The Year 8 students headed off to Te Anau full of excitement, and that energy didn't wane once over the three days. From the moment they arrived, the enthusiasm, teamwork, and willingness to give everything a go set the tone for a fantastic camp.

After settling in and having lunch, the group kicked things off with ultimate archery to warm up their aim before paintball later in the week. Some class challenges followed, with 7/8W performing strongly as usual and showing their competitive edge. Students then explored the glow worm caves, and surprisingly managed a rare moment of quiet as they took in the unique environment.

A buffet dinner kept everyone well fuelled for one of the most popular activities: boating. Mr Fraser made it his personal mission to tip as many students off the biscuits as possible, with varying levels of success (or depending on who you ask, determination!).

The next day was packed with adventure, starting with more boating and kayaking before students headed to paintball, golf, and quadcycle sessions. Paintball was another highlight, although a few students and adults were definitely "licking their wounds" afterwards. What began as student-vs-student battles quickly turned into student-vs-adult warfare.

The quadcycles, hired for the first time this year, brought plenty of laughs, especially from our highly competitive parents who were more than happy to show the students how it's done. The evening offered time for swimming before an Amazing Race around Te Anau township. Once again, the adults' competitive streak was on full display!

Before we knew it, camp had come to an end. Students and adults alike were wishing for one more day, but as always, the best experiences feel like they end too soon.

A huge thank you to the staff and parents who made this camp such a success. Your support, enthusiasm, and time made everything run smoothly. Special thanks to **Scott Thoroughgood, Dave Halder, Glen Halder, Jaimee Elder, Courtney Horrell, Cassie Eade, Renea Fluerty, and Robbie Fraser**. Without dedicated adults who give up their time, camps like this simply wouldn't be possible.

What a memorable camp it was, full of challenge, laughter, and moments that our Year 8s will take with them into their next chapter.

Miss Wilson





# Year 8 Camp Cont.....



## THE U SHOP YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP



**OPEN HOURS | Term 4, 2025**

**6 October - 18 December**

**Monday - Friday**

**9.00am - 5.00pm**

**Last day of trading for 2025 is Thursday 18 December**

**Saturday**

**9.00am - 4.00pm**

**Shop reopens on Monday 5 January 2026**

Open Hours may be subject to change.  
Closed on Public Holidays.

Visit for more info: [www.shopinv.uniformgroup.co.nz](http://www.shopinv.uniformgroup.co.nz)



UNIFORM GROUP  
CREATING IDENTITY  
THE U SHOP operated by UNIFORM GROUP



# SIT Taster Day

Our Year 9 and 10 students enjoyed exploring vocational options day at Southern Institute of Technology recently.



## JOB VACANCY

**Aparima College are seeking a passionate Kapa Haka Tutor to support our rangatahi and Kaiako. The tutor would take responsibility for the ropū.  
Starting in February 2026**

The successful applicants will be expected to:

- Plan and organise tutoring of Kapa Haka
- Assist at events and prepare students for regional events
- Prepare a training timetable and schedule for contracted period

We are looking for someone who has experience and knowledge in kapa haka and tikanga at regional level.

Ability to develop items for kapa haka competitions and the ability to work with young people to develop their skills in kapa haka. At this stage we envisage two hours practice time. (negotiable)

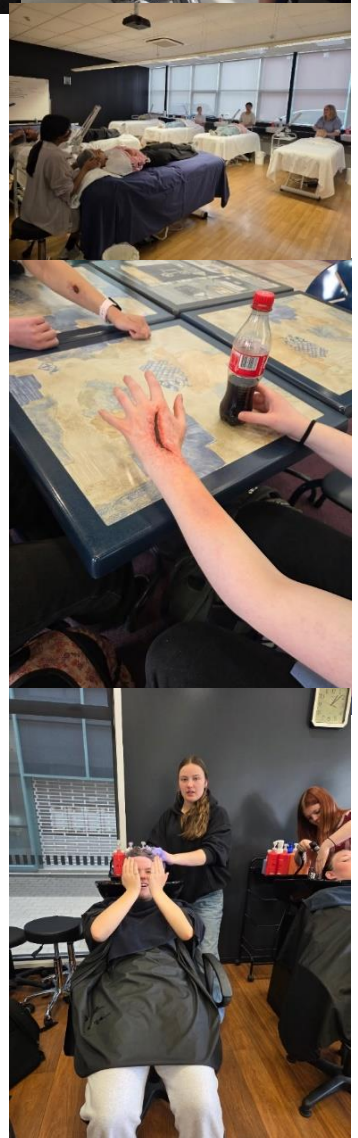
Please apply in writing, outlining your experience.

As you will be working in a school environment police vetting will be required at the shortlisting stage.

Applicants for this position should have New Zealand residency.

Please send to Aloma Williams the Principal on [principal@aparima.school.nz](mailto:principal@aparima.school.nz) by Wednesday 30 January 2026.

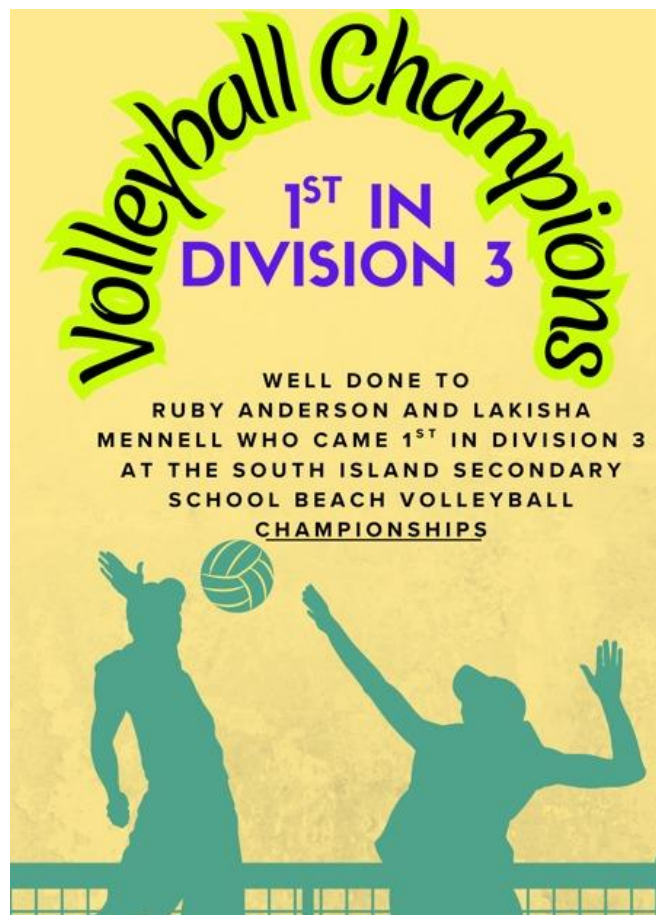
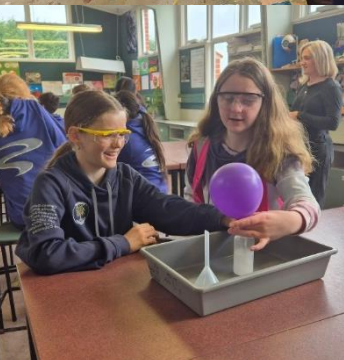
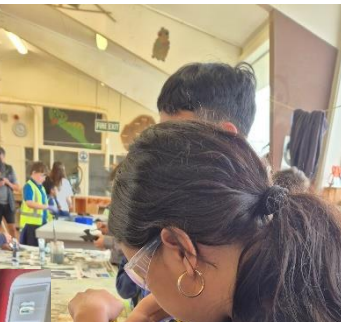
For more information email Aloma.





# Year 6 Orientation Day

We had Year 6 and 8 students visiting us this week from our contributing primary schools. They are having so much fun and we are looking forward to the students joining us in 2026 😊 Thank you Thornbury, Riverton and Otautau Primary Schools for sharing your students with us today.



# Important Information

- Please like our facebook page as this is where we will post most of the information on what is happening here at Aparima College. Facebook - [www.facebook.com/aparimacollegenz](http://www.facebook.com/aparimacollegenz)
- Check out the Aparima College Website: [www.aparima.school.nz](http://www.aparima.school.nz)
- Skool Loop App – used for booking parent teacher interviews.
- KAMAR portal - <https://aparima.school.kiwi/> for student absence, daily notices and results etc. Passwords will be emailed home to new families within the first couple of weeks. (once you have logged in you will be asked to change the password)
- Stationery list for all students – please go to: <https://www.myschool.co.nz/aparima>
- *School Uniform* – most items can be purchased most of the uniform from The U Shop, 162 Dee Street, Invercargill (or online) <https://shopinv.uniformgroup.co.nz/>
- *The Aparima College black shell jacket* (this one can be worn in class) can be purchased from UniformsNZ - click on the on the following link [aparimacollege.uniformnz.com/](http://aparimacollege.uniformnz.com/)
- *School Ties* - are purchased from the School office for \$25
- *PE Top for Year 7 – 10 students*. The first one is free and will be given to your child in the first few days of school. If you need a replacement one, they are available to purchase from the office for a cost of \$40. Please name all your child's clothing so if found it can be returned.
- School lunches - We are part of the Health School Lunches Programme and all students are provided with lunch every day. We do not have a canteen. A form will be given to your child regarding this.
- School Buses - Queries about school bus transport should be directed to Mr Jones, Assistant Principal email [rjones@aparima.school.nz](mailto:rjones@aparima.school.nz) . Details of bus routes, pick up and drop off times can be sourced from the company GoBus, phone: 03 218 2419.
- Bring Your Own Device - We require Year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students to have access to a device at all times for the multitude of tasks that are being completed digitally but will require them to bring their own device with them. We have a number of possible ways of helping families for whom this may present issues and we would ask that if this is the case for you, please let us know as soon as possible so we can assist you. This assistance can be in different forms, so please get in touch and discuss your specific needs with us. For those families whose students already have devices, they are required to bring it to school every day.
- Students are to be in their classroom by 8.40am each morning and school finishes at 3:00pm.



**get back to school ready!**

**OfficeMax has teamed up with your school.**

Your child's class list will be loaded on to **myschool.co.nz**

**Help your school**  
Earn School Rewards with every order. It's our way of giving back to the community, and it helps your school get the extra things they really need.  
See myschool.co.nz/school-rewards for terms and conditions.

**Choose how you pay**  
You can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card. Or you can pay in 4 interest free payments over 6 weeks with Zip.  
The Zip pay 4 is available to approved applicants only and subject to credit checks. Zip is not available in some regions. See myschool.co.nz/zip for more information.

free delivery 0800 724 440 [myschool.co.nz](http://myschool.co.nz) **OfficeMax MySchool**



*Information on Aparima College Uniform Items  
and where to purchase them.*



**This is where you will purchase most uniform items**



Located at: 162 Dee Street, Invercargill

The Ushop will be  
closed between  
18 December 25  
through to  
5 January 2026



**The school jacket is now available from the UShop**

**Important message: The Aparima College Black Soft Shell Jacket will be the only jacket that can be worn by students as of the start of 2028**

Update as of the 28 November 2025 regarding the School Jacket: From the start of December 25 it will be encouraged that all new students that wish to wear a jacket at school should look at purchasing the Aparima College Soft Shell Jacket which can be purchased from the UShop in Invercargill

<https://shopinv.uniformgroup.co.nz/>

As of the start of Term 1 in 2028 all students who wish to wear a jacket will be required to wear the Aparima College School Soft Shell Jacket, and all other jackets will not be allowed to be worn at school. Until the start of 2028 students can either wear a plain black jacket (can be worn outdoors only) or an Aparima College black shell jacket (this one can be worn in class).

The UShop will have samples only available in store to try on, and they will take orders and send orders away to be made up once a month. The first order will be sent on 9/1/26 and will be available to collect on 30/1/26.

Most of the uniform items are available from The U Shop. Ask for the Aparima College uniform list.

NEW students in Year 7 – 10 are given a free school PE Top within the first few days at school but if you need a replacement PE top this can be purchased from the college office for \$40.

School Ties can only be purchased from the school office - cost: \$25.00 this can be paid by cash or pay online payment. Unfortunately, we do not have eftpos. For the bank account number either phone Mrs Carran on 032348900 or email [accounts@aparima.school.nz](mailto:accounts@aparima.school.nz)

We don't have a second-hand uniform shop, but we advise that you advertise for items required on the Riverton Haven by the Sea Facebook page or check at the local Op Shop. Please name your child's clothing



# Office Hours & Opening Information 2025/2026



## Office Hours, End of 2025

- Tuesday 9 December 2025 – the office will be open from 9:00am to 11:00am only (closed for the rest of the day)
- Wednesday 10 December - open 9:00am – 3:00pm and Thursday 11 December 2025 - open from 9:00am – 1:00pm

**Office closed from Friday 12 December 2025**

## Office Hours Start of 2026

- Wednesday 28 January the office will be open from 9:00am – 3:00pm.
- Thursday 29 January (Teacher Only Day) the office will be open from 9:00am – 3:00pm
- Friday 30 January onwards the office will be open 9:00am – 4:00pm

## Student Information for the start of 2026

- **Monday 2 February** – Year 11 – 13 Course Confirmation (students will be sent an email if they are required to come in on this day)
- **Tuesday 3 February – ALL STUDENTS Year 7 – 13 TO ATTEND** (buses start on this day)

*Students must bring their stationery with them on the first day of school and the stationery lists with the required items are available through - **OfficeMax** - <https://www.myschool.co.nz/>*

*Note: all students must be in their form class each day by 8:40am and school finishes at 3:00pm.*





# UP AND COMING EVENTS

8 December 2025  
9 December 2025  
10 December 2025  
11 December 2025  
12 December 2026

## Prize Giving

School Office will only be open from 9:00am till 11:00am (closed rest of day)  
School Office will only be open from 9:00am till 3:00pm  
School Office will only be open from 9:00am till 1:00pm  
SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED



## 2026

28 January 2026  
29 January 2026  
30 January 2026  
2 February 2026

School Office Open 9:00am till 3:00pm  
Teacher Only Day the Office will be open from 9:00am till 3:00pm  
Normal Office hours 9:00am till 4:00pm  
Year 11-13 Course Confirmation (students will be sent an email if they are required to come in on this day)  
ALL STUDENTS Year 7-13 to attend (buses start on this day)  
Waitangi Day

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Winton Football Club Inc

We are planning to run a three-week series of 5 aside games for girls only in February 2026. We can take individual player entries, or a team can be entered of girls in a similar age group. It is likely to be on a Thursday afternoon. This is to support Southland Football's endeavour to develop their female only competitions. Any queries can be sent to [Saside.wintonfootball@gmail.com](mailto:Saside.wintonfootball@gmail.com)

**EPIC HOLIDAY WORKSHOP**  
IS YOUR CHILD OR TEEN INTERESTED IN TECHNOLOGY?  
JANUARY 2026  
For beginner & advanced coders  
Ages 9&10, 11&12, 13&14, 15 to adult  
Fun, Free & Educational!  
Sign up at [codingnz.com/holidays](https://codingnz.com/holidays)

**ConnectHER**  
**Paint and Sip**  
Aparima Restaurant and Bar  
Riverton  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of December  
7-9pm  
Looking to connect with other women in the community?  
New to the area?  
Come along for a relaxed evening of creativity and connection.  
What's Included:  
-Free textured painting session  
-Platters  
Spaces are limited  
To secure your place:  
Contact Victoria  
027 390 6155

**SDC SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**  
Get #ActiveAS with our #FunAS Holiday Programme  
\$6 PER CHILD  
5-12 YEARS  
Free play  
10AM 3PM  
LOCATIONS  
Te Anau - Tuesday 13th January  
Lumsden - Wednesday 14th January  
Riverton - Tuesday 20th January  
Otautau - Thursday 22nd January  
Winton - Monday 26th January  
Wyndham - Tuesday 27th January  
Riversdale - Friday 30th January  
Stewart Island - Monday 2nd February  
To register, visit our event page on our website [www.activesouthland.co.nz](https://www.activesouthland.co.nz)  
Registrations close 5pm, 11th January

