LIBERTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 5
Friday 13 November 2026

Dear Parents and Whānau,

Last term we had a team from the Education Review Office (ERO) spend two days in our school. It was a very thorough but affirming visit. You can read our School Report which is now posted on the ERO website ERO Report. Thank you for upholding the school and board in prayer through the review process.

This week we enjoyed two excellent presentations at school. The first was LaunchPad presenting their Christmas Story play to us as they prepare to take it to schools across Dunedin. We love being part of their mission preparation in sharing the true meaning of Christmas.



The second presentation was the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra. It was a real treat to have the orchestra at school. Their educational presentation was excellent and appreciated by our students and teachers alike. RaDesha is pictured playing the tuba!

Yesterday we hosted the executive of the New Zealand Christian Schools Association. The executive is made up of five principals from across the country. It was great to welcome them to our school and show them what is happening in Christian education in Dunedin. They loved being at Liberton; hearing our story and seeing the development of our school. They were especially impressed by our amazing visual arts. They provided a delicious morning tea for our wonderful teaching and support team.

On Friday 27 November we will present the senior academic and leadership awards at our whānau assembly. Students in years 5-8 will be recognised for their achievement in external competitions. We will also present LCS Leadership awards to our year 8 students. This assembly will commence at 2pm.

There are several other important events over the final five weeks of term 4. Please note the details in this newsletter.

Mā te Atua e tatou e Manaaki | God bless you,

Fiona Sizemore

Principal



TERM 4 VALUE FOCUS DUTY

Love expressed through **Duty** – a willingness to do what is right, what you ought to do.

A brief overview of what we teach:

- God is faithful
- Duty is what we ought to do. We have a duty in what we ought to do before God.
- We have a duty in regard to what we ought to do before our earthly authorities (parents, leaders, governors …)
- We may even have a duty to be faithful to promises we have made – James 5:12
- Duty is not easy. It takes diligence and hard work.
- We will have success and failure. We will need the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. *Psalm 145:13*

FUTSAL TEAMS





Y1&2 Liberton Leopards and Y3&4 Liberton Panthers

PARENT FORUM: TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

1.30pm Friday 4 December, in the staffroom: An opportunity to join an open conversation about the changes, opportunities and challenges the transition to high school may bring for you as a parent and for your child. You are welcome to attend if you have a child going to high school soon, or if you have been through this transition as a parent, please come and share your experience and wisdom. Snacks provided!

YEAR 9 RETURNERS MORNING

2025 Year 8 graduates are invited to return for a half day on Wednesday 9 December. The morning session will include a meeting with Fiona and sharing their high school transition experiences with our (soon to be) 2026 graduates.

LCS AND HOPE CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICE

We are holding our Christmas Service on Thursday 10 December at Hope Church. Amana Christian School will be joining us. During the service our band and choir will lead Christmas carols and Room 2 will present the junior Nativity Play. Parents are very welcome to join us for the service at 11am.



THANK YOU AND LEAVERS ASSEMBLY



Our Thank You and Leavers assembly will be held on Friday 11 December commencing at 2.20pm. This assembly is an opportunity to thank our parents and volunteers who have helped in various ways over the year. We also present leaving certificates to students not returning for 2027 in Years 1-7.

GRADUATION ASSEMBLY AND COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA 1.30PM

Our graduation assembly will commence at 1.30pm on Monday 14 December. This is a whole community event. Our Year 8 graduates will present their farewell speeches and receive their graduation certificate. Our Room 2 students will present their Nativity Play. Afterwards there will be an afternoon tea in the hall for whānau and an ice block outside for students and younger siblings. Please join with us to celebrate our graduating students and enjoy fellowship together.



Photo: 2025 Nativity play

END OF YEAR REPORTS

Teachers are currently preparing the children's 2026 School Reports. These will be emailed directly to families on Monday 14 December.

TERM 4 2026 CALENDAR

Please follow the link to see additions or updates to the calendar between newsletters.

13 November	Teacher Only Day (school closed)
17 November	Otago Athletics Day
27 November	Senior Students Leadership and Awards Assembly
8 December	Year 5&6 Sinclair Wetlands trip
8 December	Board of Trustees meeting
9 December	Year 9 Returners morning
10 December	Christmas Service at Hope Church 11am
11 December	Thank You and Y1-6 Leavers Assembly
14 December	Graduation Assembly and afternoon tea 1:30pm
15 December	Last day of term

TERM 1 2027 CALENDAR

1 February	Optional orientation pop-in visit 11.30am-1pm
2 February	First day of term 1
8 February	Waitangi Day
9 February	DNI Technology classes commence Y7&8
10 February	Beach Education Y5-8
11 February	Beach Education Y5-8
17 March	Y7&8 Leadership conference
22 March	Otago Anniversary Day
26-30 March	Good Friday / Easter Monday/ Easter Tuesday
9 April	Last day of term 1



PRAYER POINTS:



Please pray for us! We are very grateful to all those who uphold the school in prayer.
Give thanks for: -

- God's continuing faithfulness and amazing grace over our school.
- A positive ERO report/a productive DCSA strategic planning meeting/the NZACS exec visit
- The opportunity we have to witness to God's love through the value of duty before our neighbours.

Please pray for: -

- Our year 8 students to enjoy their final weeks of primary education as they prepare for high school.
- Our teaching team as they teach, assess and prepare to report during the busy final term.
- Our school to glorify God in all ways and remain faithful to the vision set down by our founders.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY REVIEW TERM 4

These policies are displayed on the notice board at the office. If you would like to comment on or provide feedback on any aspect of these policies, please see Fiona or a Board of Trustees member.

- Policy Review Programme
- Internet Safety

These policies will be reviewed at the meeting to be held on Tuesday 16 June

ATTENDANCE REPORT Terms 1-3 2026



The Government has set a target for all schools to achieve 80% of students attending more than 90% of the time (every child missing fewer than 5 days per term) by 2030.

Reflecting on Term 3, we can see that seasonal flu and other illnesses had a major impact on attendance at our school. We also had significant staff sickness at times. It was a tough term for many of our families. However, punctuality was greatly improved!

2026 LCS attendance data:
Term 1: **80%** of our students attended school 90% or more of the term.
Term 2: **85%** of our students attended school 90% or more of the term.
Term 3: **61%** of our students attended school 90% or more of the term.

The Ministry of Education is monitoring absence and reasons for absence closely. Justified reasons for student absence include illness, medical appointments and family bereavement or very special occasions. Unjustified reasons for absence include holidays (local or overseas) taken during term time. Please use the Edge app, email or phone the office by 8:45am to notify school when your child is going to be absent. Please notify us for a period of planned absence or each day for sickness.

Lateness (arriving to class after 9am) is also recorded and the data gathered by the Ministry of Education. Children are very welcome to arrive at school from 8.30am to get in some play and social connection prior to being on the mat at 8.55am. The best start for everyday at school is being ready for learning **by 8.55am**.

Term 1: **6%** of our students were regularly late to class.
Term 2: **15%** of our students were regularly late to class.
Term 3: **6%** of our students were regularly late to class.
If your child/ren are regularly late to class, please endeavour to change this habit.

Lateness to class is often hard for the child as they have to walk in when others are settled and engaged in the morning routine.
Lateness is often hard for teachers as the class is disrupted by the late arrival and they often have to repeat information that has already been shared.

Our school Attendance Management Plan was reviewed at the last Board of Trustees meeting and can be found on our school website.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever.
I Chronicles 16:34