



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Anchored in MANA - Manaakitanga - Awhina - Ngākau Pono - Ako

Tēnā koutou katoa,

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A staff game of Ki o Rahi for our Teacher Only Day

From the Principal

Tēnā Koutou Katoa, Hari tau hou,

Welcome and Happy New year to all in our school community. Already I can see families in the school for meet-the-teacher day which has become our first day tradition each year. A chance to familiarise yourselves with your child's teacher and begin a year long relationship of engaging on the learning goals and development of your child(ren). I welcome you all to Gordonton School for 2024.

New Staff



This year we welcome 2 new staff: Steph Moloney who will be leading Te Pihinga Team. Steph is a highly experienced teacher who comes to us from Hamilton West School; and Sian Scragg. Sian has taken on Room 4 for the duration of the year while Miss Thomson is away for the year on extended study leave.



Steph Maloney



Sian Scragg



**Thursday 2
February**
First Day of Term



**Tuesday 6
February**
Waitangi Day



**Thursday 8
February**
Tech/Arts starts
for Te Rākau



**Monday 12
February**
Immunisation
Info Session
Te Rākau

Teacher Only Days

We Started the year with two teacher only days to introduce staff to adjustments and changes in the delivery systems and practices here at school, and also give them a chance to meet and formulate plans and strategies in teams and whole staff. It was a productive 2 days with a chunk also being dedicated to our Cultural Competency response. I have signalled via an email, the survey around this for parents to complete. Staff and (year 3-8) students will be doing a similar survey. Please have this completed by 23 February.



Tractor on Site

We were very fortunate to have the use of a tractor donated for Mr Sweetman to use for some of the heavy work around the school. The Tractor is courtesy of Waikato Tractors who have generously donated its use. My sincere thanks to Martin Gray from Ag Attachments and Jared Drummond from Waikato Tractors for their facilitation and generosity.



Whitikahu Road - closure

The Waikato Regional Council has advised that Whitikahu Road will be closed to all traffic from 13 February until 1 March. At this stage that means that Whitikahu traffic will be diverted along Woodlands/Law Roads as the diversion. That creates a high increase in road users past the school all day. Particularly at the start and end of the day it will present an increased risk. We will put in place some measures to keep our tamariki safe. It will include increased staff presence at peak times and keeping everyone inside the school



Whakatauki

Whakatauki are sayings that can be motivational or metaphoric life lessons.

Ki te kore ngā pūtake e mākūngia, e kore te rākau e tipu.

If the roots of the tree are not watered, the tree will never grow.

fence at home time until they are collected in person or put on the bus. More on this as the time moves closer.

Spotlight

You would have received an email from me advising that we are moving away from Seesaw as our communication tool to share messages and student learning with you.



The new platform will be Spotlight which is an extension of our Student Management System. On this platform you will be able to see achievement data for your child in real time - rather than wait for a report, advise student absences, communicate with teachers and view work. You will get an email with all the instructions for joining when it goes live. Until then absences can be notified by phone or Skoolloop.

Before and after school care

As notified earlier in the week, Before school care will still be provided but in a slightly different format. I will be supervising the care from 7.30 - 8.15 each morning in Room 7. Bookings are essential so we can keep track of who is in the school. The cost is \$5 per family

per day and that covers the cost of bread and spreads. The care provision will be run alongside kickstart breakfast which is sponsored by Sanatarium and Fonterra.

After School care is held in the school hall and is operated by Lisa Blake. Bookings and inquiries can be made directly to Lisa at lisablake18@yahoo.co.nz.

Camps

Whanau with students in the senior areas of the school will be receiving notices about school camps that are coming up. We appreciate this is an expense that confronts families, especially those with multiple students in the school. The average cost of an overnight school camp is \$100 per day per student. This pricing is reflective of the consumer price index (CPI) which determines the price of everything we pay for and factors in transport, accommodation and meals as well as activities and experts to run them safely. We are making grant applications to try and offset this cost. Families can also contact Kerry in the office and arrange a time payment option for school expenses. Children benefit immensely from attending camp, especially early in the year where relationships and connections are made.

Sunhats

The sun is fierce. Sunhats are a requirement for everyone in term 1. We don't want burnt kids.



Swimming

The pool is open and swimming is a big part of the healthPE curriculum. It's not optional learning. Children need to bring their togs to school on swimming days and I have asked teachers to contact families to discuss non-swimming students. We also have the expert services of Mr Roger Drury, a highly experienced swim coach who will have sessions with the children in Term 1 and 4. NZ's drowning statistics are appalling. We have an opportunity to provide skills that save lives. Please encourage your children to embrace the opportunity of school swimming.

Lunches

We are offering Subway lunches on Friday for term 1.

These will need to be ordered online and paid for by 3pm on Wednesdays. If your child is absent on the Friday, you can choose to have it delivered to another sibling to bring home or you can pick it up between 1.30 and 3pm. Unfortunately we can't carry it over to the following week as we have with other orders as we are using an outside business for this service. Lunches can be ordered [here](#).

1 hour a day Reading Writing and Maths

I don't know about you, but I'm already getting tired of hearing about this. In my 22 years in education, schools have always done this and for Gordonton's part, will continue to. It will look like it's always looked. In my opinion, curriculum learning occurs at the interface between teacher and student and for that all parties need to be in the same place. Regular attendance is far more important than putting a meter on core curriculum delivery, but if you want a guide on what the Government/Ministry is positing, here is the [link](#) to the MOE page on the matter.

Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī (That's all for now)

Keith O'Donnell
Principal

Mā te wā

See you again.



Community Notices

ICONZ starts on February 13, we will be starting with a fun outdoor games night on Tuesday February 13th, this will be both boys ICONZ and girls ICONZ combined on this night.

There after the boys and girls programmes run fortnightly, with the girls on February 20th and the boys on February 27th.

ICONZ is a holistic educational programme run from Oaks Church in Garfield street Gordonton.

We cover a range of topics... spiritual, physical, adventure, service and interest topics and badges are earned. The annual fees are \$160, paid in 2 instalments.

The programme is for children in school years 4 to 8.

To register your child...

For ICONZ for girls contact Helen Morgan
0275510170 morgansontour@gmail.com

For ICONZ for boys contact Ross Freeman
027 7105419 Nztrekker8@gmail.com



TERM 1 - 2024 OVERVIEW

Wk	Monday/Mane	Tuesday/Turei	Wednesday/Wenerei	Thursday/Taite	Friday/Paraire	Saturday/Sunday Hatare/Rātapu
1	29 Auckland Anniversary	30	31	1 First Day Conferences	2 First Day	3/4
2	5	6 Waitangi Day	7	8 Tech/Arts start	9	10/11
3	12 Y7/8 Immunisation information Session	13	14 	15	16	17/18
4	19	20	21	22	23 Cultural Capabilities survey closes	24/25
5	26	27	28	29	1 March Te Pihinga Tryathlon	2/3
6	4	5	6	7	8	9/10
7	11 Y7/8 Immunisations	12 School Photos 	13	14	15	16/17
8	18	19	20	21	22	23/24
9	25	26	27 EWCS Swimming Festival of Cultures	28		
10	1 Easter Monday and April Fools Day	2 Easter Tuesday - School is CLOSED	3	4	5	6/7
11	Te Māhuri Camp			11	12	13/14