



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

- 📌 Winter Sports
- 📌 Te Māhuri Camp

From the Principal

Welcome to the final week of Term 1. This has been a busy term with lots of learning and experiences. As we move into the winter terms school takes on a different feel and look.



Winter sports start in the first week back and after school practices become the soundscape from 3pm and before school too in many cases.

Gordonton consistently punches well above its weight in winter codes and we are lucky to be fielding 16 teams across 3 codes this season. For a school our size that is impressive. While many schools are turning to clubs to provide sports opportunities, we have maintained our unique identity and my thanks to Amanda and her enthusiastic sports committee, and to Kerry our sports coordinator for the hard work and organisation they have committed to getting our students into sport.

Also a big thanks to our parent volunteers who facilitate sports by turning up each week to coach and manage teams and also to the parents of the teams who forsake their Saturday sleep-ins for two terms.



Te Mahuri team are heading off to Epworth Camp this week. Mr Carter, Mr Hunt and Miss Scragg are taking their team on a 3 day experience. My immense thanks to them for the organisation that has gone into this. Not only have they organised an exciting programme, they have had to navigate a reformatted and reimagined EOTC framework. These changes have been driven by the absolute need to keep our children safe and well on school camp. Anytime we take children into the outdoors, but especially around water based activities, quantumly increases the need for robust and thorough risk management. Safety of the students, staff and volunteers is paramount.



Avengers U11 Futsal team



Monday 8 - 10
Te Māhuri Camp



Friday 12 April
Last Day of
Term 1



Monday 29 April
First Day Term 2



13 - 16 May
Book Fair



If you have been paying attention to the media narrative lately, you will see and hear the winds of educational change blowing out of Wellington. The current Government has announced that they have the key to unlock the learning potential for every child in New Zealand and have started to signal a change in direction for the delivery of teaching and learning. That in essence makes them no different than any other Government which has come before them and quite likely every Government that follows them - who also all held the key.

The truth of the matter is that learning at school occurs at the interface between teacher and student and it is the quality of that relationship that determines the nature, extent and quality of the learning. Governments love to tinker with education. If I asked you to name the last 7 Ministers of Education could you? How hard would you have to think about it. Now name your first 7 teachers. You could also name your favourite and why. Despite directives from the Government via the Ministry of Education which we are legally obliged to comply with, here at Gordonton we will always measure, direct, and plan our learning on 'What is best for our students'.



ANZAC Day

Although ANZAC Day falls during the school holidays our student leaders will be attending a dawn service to place a wreath at the cenotaph.

A little bit of history for you. The Gordonton Cenotaph was one of the first built in NZ to commemorate those from the local community who died in action and served in World War One.

Enjoy the last week of term and the two weeks school break.

Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī (That's all for now)
Keith O'Donnell
Principal

Whakatauki

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

**Ko te ahurei o te
tamaiti aroha o tātou
mahi**

Let the uniqueness of
the child guide our
work



Congratulations

The end of Term 1 is a significant time for Whaea Amiria as it is the end of her two years as a provisionally certificated teacher.

From Term 2, Whaea Amiria will be a fully registered teacher.

Congratulations to Whaea Amiria for making it through her first two years to get to full registration.

