



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

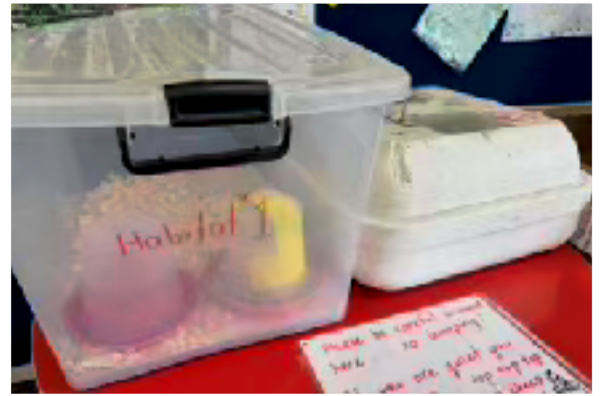
In this weeks newsletter:

- 🌀 Sport's camp
- 🌀 Teacher Only Day
- 🌀 Assembly
- 🌀 Cohort Entry

From the Acting Principal

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Can you believe we're in August already? How time flies.



Egg hatching week. Room 10 ready for the next phase.



Sports Camp

Last week, we had the pleasure of welcoming students from Te Au o Tamatea – St Andrews Middle School to Gordonton School. We're excited to be partnering with them to take a combined team to Totara Springs Sports Camp. With both schools keen to participate but short on numbers, teaming up has created a great opportunity for more students to take part.

We've planned a series of team-building and relationship-strengthening activities in the lead-up to camp, and our first day together was a fantastic success. We're looking forward to continuing to build connections and teamwork in the weeks ahead!



Teacher Only Day - Monday

A reminder that next Monday is a Teacher Only Day, and the school will be closed. Our teachers and teacher aides will be taking part in professional development focused on Maths. It's important that all staff involved in supporting learning, including release teachers and support staff, are part of this journey so we can continue to provide consistent, high-quality learning experiences across the school.



Assembly - Celebrating Our Learners

Our school assemblies are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate student success and give our tamariki a chance to share their learning with the wider school community. Standing up on stage can be a big deal, especially for our younger students, and we are always so proud of their



Friday 8 August
Assembly



Monday 11 August
Teacher Only Day
Kura closed



Wednesday 13
August
EWCS Tech
Challenge



Friday 22 August
Assembly

courage and confidence.

Assembly is also a time when we expect and encourage our students to demonstrate manaakitanga - kindness, care, and respect for themselves, others, and the environment. This looks like listening attentively, sitting quietly, and showing appreciation through appropriate clapping.

We're grateful to have parents join us for these occasions, and we kindly ask that you help model these expectations by being respectful during performances and saving conversations for after assembly. Your support helps create a positive and encouraging environment for all our learners.

Cohort Entry



As we continue to embed Structured Literacy and Maths in our classrooms, we're noticing that children benefit from starting school in small groups rather than individually on their 5th birthday. These groups are easier to transition, settle, and support, both

socially and academically.

As a result, we are considering moving to Cohort Entry from the beginning of 2026. This would mean that children would start school in groups at two points each term, typically Week 1 and Week 5. For example, a child turning 5 between Weeks 1–5 would start in Week 5, instead of on their actual birthday.

This approach would also allow time for school visits early in Term 1, rather than at the end of the previous year, helping to ease that important transition into school.

Further information and helpful links can be found in the information sheet attached to this newsletter. We welcome your thoughts as part of our community consultation process. This information will also be shared with local early childhood centres, including Rainbows and Great Beginnings, who will be encouraged to pass it on to their families.

If you know someone considering enrolling their child at Gordonton School in the near future, please feel free to share the information so they too have the opportunity to provide feedback.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kupu o te wiki

Learn a new word each week in Te Reo Māori.

Each week we will share a new word with it's pronunciation as well as translation.

Manaakitanga
(Mah-naah-key-tongue-ah)

Kindness and respect



Coming up...

Term 3

August

Friday 8 - Assembly

Monday 11 - Teacher Only Day

Wednesday 13 - EWCS Tech Challenge

Friday 22 - Assembly

Wednesday 27 - Disco

Saturday 30 - AIMS Games

September

Friday 5 - Assembly

Monday 8 - 12 - Sports Camp

Monday 15 - Year 7/8 Immunisations

Friday 19 - Assembly

Friday 19 - Last Day Term 3

October

Monday 6 - First day of Term 4

Friday 10 - Assembly (change from usual date due to Ag Day)

Friday 17 - Ag Day

Hei konā mai (Bye for now)

Tania Rogers

Acting Principal



Thank you

A huge Thank You to the following businesses for their generous sponsorship of our Girls and Boys AIMS Games teams

Silver Sponsors

Roar coaching

Gold Sponsors

Palmers

Gordonton Superette

**Parent Point**

Children Are Like Popcorn: Why Comparison Is The Thief of Joy

Popcorn is prepared in the same pot, in the same heat, in the same oil and yet... the kernels do not pop at the same time. Don't compare your child to others. Their turn to pop is coming!

"Why, as human beings, are we so conditioned to measure and mark every sign of success, achievement and progress? If you can't measure it, it doesn't exist...How do we know if we're doing a good job as parents?"

Want to read more? Check out [staycoolmama's](https://www.staycoolmama.com) blog.

Healthy Eating Tip for a Better School Day

Each week we will have an essential tip for eating healthy to fuel your child's day and boost their energy levels efficiently.

Avoid sugary drinks

Avoid sugary drinks and opt for water or drinks that provide some nutritional benefits such as smoothies and protein shakes. Protein shakes are especially good for our neurodiverse children.



Nomination forms have been emailed to families & are also available from the office
admin@gordonton.school.nz

Get on board!

Nominate yourself or someone you know to be a school board member.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS



COHORT ENTRY from 2026

At Gordonton School, our children are always at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to nurturing their wellbeing and supporting strong foundations for learning. Through our structured Literacy and structured Maths approaches, we provide consistent, evidence-based teaching that meets the needs of every learner. We believe that moving to cohort entry will enhance this by offering a smoother, more supportive transition into school life, helping our tamariki feel settled, confident, and ready to thrive in their early years.

What is Cohort Entry?

Cohort entry means that new entrants start school in groups (or “cohorts”) at specific points during the year, rather than individually on their 5th birthday. Children can start school on set dates, following their 5th birthday if they are ready.

As children can't legally start school until they are 5 years old, it also means that children who have a birthday after a start date, will have to wait for the next start date to begin school. At the most, this is a 5 week wait. That gives plenty of time for school visits with other new people who will be starting at the same time.

Starting with other children means they have a group of children to start learning with rather than trying to fit in with other children who have already been at school.

Benefits of Cohort Entry:

- Smoother transitions for children starting school
- Opportunity to build strong relationships with peers from day one
- Easier planning and support for teachers
- A more settled and consistent classroom environment
- Supports positive emotional, social and academic development
- Supports structured Literacy and Maths approaches.

Cohort Entry Dates for 2026

Cohort dates are set by The Ministry of Education.
2026 start dates:

Term 1 – 9 February or 9 March.


Term 2 – 20 April or 1 June.


Term 3 – 20 July or 24 August.

Term 4 – 12 October or 16 November.

We Want Your Input!

We are currently consulting with our school community about this possible change and would love your feedback.

 Please share your thoughts by filling out this [feedback form](#) by Friday 15 August.

 For more information, contact Tania Rogers at taniar@gordonton.school.nz, phone the office or check out this link - [Starting School Together](#).





WEEKEND SPORTS ROUND UP

**Sports awards evening – we are looking to do this at the beginning of Nov.
Details to follow shortly. This will include Term 1 summer sports for the first time!**

NETBALL

Big congrats to Florence the year 3 **Braves** POD for working hard to create space and big energy all across the court
Congrats to Alarna (Whitikahu import!) on a great game at WD with loads of tips and a few intercepts for the yr7/8 **Gordonton Manawa**

HOCKEY

Great game from the **Quicksticks** Saturday morning against a strong Whatawhata side. POD to April for her excellent defence and commitment to chasing down the ball all game
Excellent improvement and game structure from the **Tricksticks**. These girls are improving every week. PoD Cheska. Coaches choice Darcy
Nice win from the **Stormers**. Thanks to Mrs Rogers and Miss Scragg for their support this week. Special mention for our amazing ref Ruby tonight. PoD was Sam & Coaches choice Nika

FOOTBALL

A frosty start for the **Jets** this week but that didn't slow these two down putting in 100% effort. POD Hunter & Vann
A frosty game this morning for the **Fantails**. POD Harlow & Fabulous Fantail Pippa
A frosty start for the **Rockets**. Tough competition but the boys played well together as a team. POD Aiden
An exciting, very close game for the **Missiles**. The boys all brought so much energy and determination to the field. POD Quinn & Leo
Mavericks had a great game, it was another challenge for the boys. POD to Van and Gurfateh. Player of the month Kane
Another great game for the **Blue Jays**, and another win. They keep improving and really enjoy themselves. POD to Sian who did some beautiful high kicks
The **Gunners** had a great game, working together to get the job done. POD Caden & Landen and Slade was awarded the oppositions POD

Well done to all of our players!







Gordonton School

Anchored in MANA

2025 School Board Parent Elections

Gordonton School

School profile number: 1728

Nominations are open for the election of *five* (5) parent representatives to the school board.

Your nomination form is enclosed

You can use this form to nominate yourself or someone else in your community. We have nomination forms available in Te Reo Māori and some other languages. Please contact the returning officer, Kerry Boxell, if these are required.

Nominating yourself or someone else

If you are on the voting roll and eligible to vote, you can nominate yourself. Please remember to sign **both** parts of the form

If you are nominating someone else, complete the nomination form and make sure it includes all the required contact details and signatures.

You can post, hand deliver or email your nomination form/s to the returning officer (see details below). Nominations close at **noon on Wed 6th August 2025**

NOTE: Information on who is not eligible to be a board member is enclosed.

Candidate statement

If you are a candidate, you are invited to submit an optional statement (up to 400 words) and photo. Make sure your statement is received by **noon on Wed 6th August 2025** so that it can be sent to voters with the voting papers.

The returning officer may remove or edit any part of the candidate's statement if it exceeds 400 words or is offensive or defamatory.

Electoral roll

The electoral roll is held at the school office and can be viewed during normal school hours.

Eligibility

Anyone can stand for election to the board, except for some exclusions. Please check information on who is not eligible. If you are not on the voting roll you must be nominated by a person who is.

Scrutineers

A candidate may nominate a person to sit with the returning officer during the vote count to make sure it is done correctly. Please advise the returning officer in writing of your scrutineer's name and contact details before election day. Candidates **cannot** be scrutineers.

Voting and results

If there are more nominations than vacancies for parent representatives, a voting election will be held. Eligible voters will be issued voting papers and candidate statements, on or before Wed 13th Aug 2025

The poll closes at **4pm on Wed 10th September 2025**. The highest polling candidates will be elected to the board, and results will be notified to the school community and other affected parties.

Post, hand deliver, or email completed nomination form/s to: *The Returning Officer, 50 Woodlands Road Gordonton 3281 or admin@gordonton.school.nz*

Manaakitanga | Awhina | Ngākau Pono | Ako

www.gordonton.school.nz | 50 Woodlands Road, RD 1, Hamilton | Phone: 07 824 3602



WHY JOIN THE GORDONTON SCHOOL PTA?

WE RAISE MONEY!!!

We organise fundraisers to help bring in extra funds for Gordonton School and our tamariki.

Each year we are able to provide Gordonton School funding to utilise in a way which benefits all students.

THE SCHOOL BENEFITS CHILDREN BENEFIT MAKE CONNECTIONS

ITS A GREAT WAY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE
AND GET TO KNOW THE SCHOOL

WHATS THE COMMITMENT?

We meet one evening a month each term in the staffroom at school. This is where we share ideas and put plans in place for the upcoming events. More people, more ideas, more awesome events means more opportunity to help support Gordonton School.

SERVICING YOUR LOCAL AREA

**Kirn
Parmar**

Sales Consultant

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