



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 Dates
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From the Principal

Welcome to Week 2. Time wise, It's always a bit of a ropey start to the school year. With Auckland Anniversary followed closely by Waitangi Day, it seems like a long time before we get a full week in and the year starts in earnest. The School year is determined by the Ministry of Education who mandates the number of days we are to be open. All the dates are fixed with the exception of the start and end dates. Obviously the later we open, the later we close in December but the reality is that it only varies by a few days between schools. The Board of Trustees authorises the opening periods for the school year. If you want to know more here is a [link](#) to the Ministry of Education page that explores it more.



Some of our newest and youngest learners



Cultural Competence Survey

Just a reminder if you haven't already, to complete the short cultural competence survey that was sent out last week. This is important information for us to pitch our cultural response. We have many different cultures represented in our school and we would love to be able to respond to all of them appropriately to give students a sense of cultural safety and belonging to the Gordonton School community.



Dress code

Despite not being a uniform school we still have a dress code for our students. It was amended last year with input from the Board and Teachers. The vast majority of the time our students



**Tuesday 6
February
Waitangi Day**



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



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



**Wednesday 14
February
Valentines Day**

easily meet the dress criteria but on occasions where they don't, a gentle conversation or a reminder home will solve things. Here are the guidelines from the policy as a reminder:



Dress Code Guidelines

1. All students are expected to wear clothing that is age and weather appropriate, safe (including being sun-smart) and functional for all school activities. Clothing should not restrict a student's movement or impede their ability to participate in physical education activities (students may bring a change of clothes for physical education).
2. Clothing must contain no objectionable or offensive messages or pictures.
3. Tops must cover:
The student's shoulders for sun safety (no less than four fingers width and neckline not more than four fingers below the collar bone);
The student's midriff and undergarments.
4. Shorts and trousers should be properly held up with a belt if necessary, to ensure a student's underwear is not visible.
5. Skirts and shorts should not be shorter than mid-thigh.
6. Shorts, trousers and skirts must not have any rips or holes that expose or risk exposure of the student's underwear while participating in ordinary school activities.
7. Students may not wear hats, hoodies or sunglasses in the classroom.
8. All students are required to wear a wide brimmed sun hat outside during terms 1 & 4 for breaks, lunch and outdoor lessons (refer to our Sun Smart policy).



Spotlight

Spotlight is the name of our new communication system that we are hoping to go live with very soon. We plan to open up parts of Spotlight to parents and

Whakatauki

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

He oranga ngākau, he pikinga waiora

Positive feelings in your heart bring positive health.



will add more as we become more proficient at using it. To start with, there will be a few hiccups but our aim is to have one app that parents, students and teachers can use for everything. That includes absences, newsletters, live updates on achievement information, and more. In the next week or so you will receive an email from eTap with instructions on how to sign up for this free service.

It looks like we are in for some fine weather this week. If you are going away for Waitangi day, please be safe and we will see you again later in the week.

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

Keith O'Donnell
Principal



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

