



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa. Nau mai, haere mai.

In this weeks newsletter:

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- 🌀 Attendance
- 🌀 Sun hats

From the Principal

Welcome to another school year. To those joining our community for the first time, welcome to our school. For those of you returning to Gordonton School, welcome back. The staff and I look forward to another year of learning, growth, progress and achievement.



Welcome back assembly

Over the holiday break, 3 offenders entered the school and removed one of our pool shade sails. These members of the illuminati left the second shade sail upon which the first one relies for support. The Board agreed to replace the sail ahead of the insurance company accepting our claim. It was installed yesterday. If you visit anywhere that has a droopy, olive green shade sail that wasn't there before, it's likely to be ours although I suspect it is now providing camouflage for a cannabis crop somewhere.



Also through the holidays, Blair supervised the contractor fully renovating our wastewater system. Hopefully this will stop the issues that we faced over the last couple of years with the system playing up. It was an expensive fix but a necessary one for our school.



Focus for Education

If you've found time or interest to keep up with the national conversation, played out mostly via the media, the major focuses for schools this year are the areas of progress and achievement in maths and literacy, including the implementation of reworked curricula in those learning areas, and attendance.



**Thursday 6
February**
Waitangi Day



**Thursday 13
February**
Tech/Arts starts



**Monday 17
February**
Immunisation
Information Session
for Year 7/8



Monday 3 March
Hearing and
Vision testing

Our teacher only days at the start of the year centred on professional development for our teachers so they can effectively deliver learning in these areas.

To better align with the Ministry's expectations, we will be making some small tweaks to how we deliver Maths. For the most part, it will be the same and we will make small changes over time to support our tamariki through the changes.

We will still be using PR1ME Maths and if you managed to catch the report on PR1ME Maths on the news the other night, you will know that it follows the Science of Learning, is evidenced based and a great tool for teaching Maths. It is also a tool that we have been using for a number of years now.



Attendance

Attendance at school is going to be tightly monitored by the Ministry of Education with all NZ schools reporting weekly to them on attendance. It makes perfect sense that children learn best when they are routinely at school. Absences also mean catching up on learning when they return. Here is a link to an [advice sheet](#) for parents from the MOE for your information.



I was pleased to receive our provisional ERO review documentation last week. It is provisional in so far as the School Board will convene, review and formally accept the report before I can publish it to the community. As I mentioned at the prizegiving last year, the report is very positive and complimentary to the school. I'm pleased with it.

Sunhats

Sun hats at school are mandatory when outside during Term 1 and Term 4. The sun is vicious at this time of year and we are recording high temperatures. When outside children must wear a wide brimmed hat to protect them from the UV light which damages their skin. Those that don't have hats at school will be guided into shade spots to play. As someone who has to regularly visit the skin doctor for treatment of historical sun damage, I am determined in making sure our tamariki are well protected. Kerry has school sun hats for sale in the office for \$ 20.00.

Kupu o te wiki

Learn a new word each week in Te Reo Māori.

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

Raumati
(Row-mah-tea)

Summer



Coming up...

February

Thursday 6 - Waitangi Day - Kura is closed

Thursday 13 - Tech/Arts starts for Year 7/8

Friday 14 - Assembly

Monday 17 - Immunisation Information Session for Year 7/8

Friday 28 - Assembly

March

Monday 3 - Vision and hearing testing

Monday 10 - Immunisations Year 7/8

Friday 14 - Assembly

Friday 28 - Assembly

April

Friday 11 - Last Day of term. Assembly



Waitangi Day

On Thursday the country takes a break to celebrate our unique National Day with a day off. Regardless of your lineage, allegiances or who or what you whakapapa to, it is our country's special day. I hope you celebrate it in the best way possible. School as a normal on Friday.

Here's to a great year at Gordonton school.

Have a good week everyone.

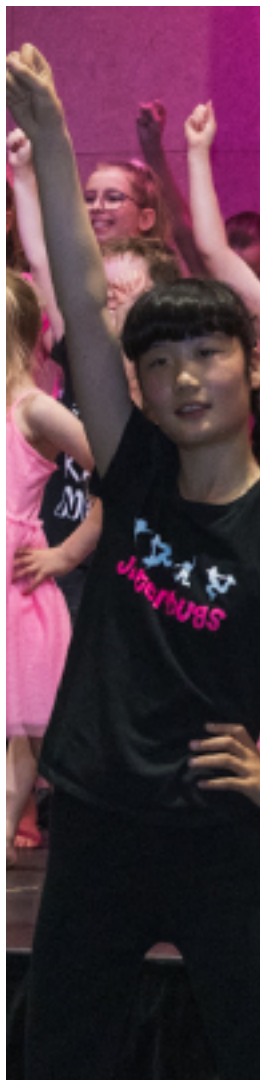
Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī (That's all for now)

Keith O'Donnell

Principal



Big brother bringing little brother in for his first day.



LIMITED SPACES LEFT FOR TERM 1 2025!

Jitterbugs
DANCE LESSONS

Monday (Rototuna Junior High School Dance Studio)

- 3.40 Jitterbugs Seniors (by selection only)
- 4.10 MiniJam (girls & boys aged 3 - 5½) **6 Spaces**
- 4.35 Senior Hip Hop (girls aged 9-16) **1 Space**
- 5.05 Jitterbugs Advanced (by selection only)

Tuesday (Common Ground Gym in Flagstaff)

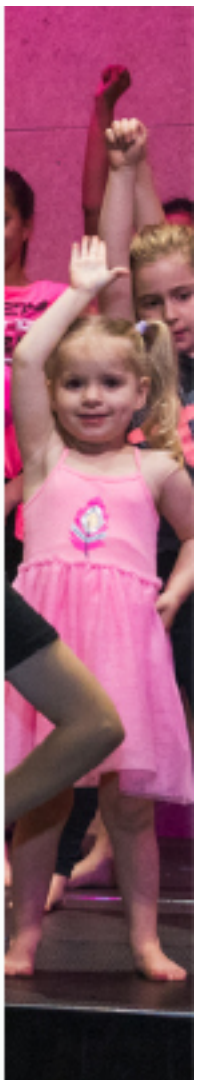
- 3.30 Jitterbugs Junior (girls aged 5½ - 7) **3 Spaces**
- 4.00 Jitterbugs Junior Plus (girls aged 7 - 8) **1 space**
- 4.30 Jitterbugs Intermediate (girls aged 8 - 16) **5 Spaces**

Wednesday (Common Ground Gym in Flagstaff)

- 3.30 Jitterbugs Mini's (girls aged 3 - 5½) **2 Spaces**
- 4.00 Jitterbugs Junior/Jitterjam (girls & Boys 5½ - 7) **1 Space**
- 4.30 Jitterbugs Intermediate (girls aged 8 - 16) **6 Spaces**

Classes start Monday 10th February 2025. Every term the kids learn two dances and get to go on stage and present these to friends and family at a show. Outfits/t-shirts are provided for the show. Cost: \$140 for one kid, or \$270 for two kids.

Email jolie at jitterbugsdancelessons@outlook.com or check out the jitterbugs dance lessons facebook page or website for more info



Community Notices

ICONZ

ICONZ for girls starts on February 4th, we will be starting with a fun outdoor games night.
ICONZ for boys starts the following week, February 11th.

The boys and girls programmes run fortnightly.

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

SUMMER SPORTS

Summer Sports Registration - [LINK](#) Deadline to register Noon 7th Feb.
Please consider offering to coach/manage a team as we are short of volunteers. Teams can't be entered without a coach!

All sports information is on our [Website](#) - Select Sports Hub in the menu.

