



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa.

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 House Captains
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From the Principal

Welcome to week 5. I hope you had a relaxing and fun weekend. Some good opportunities to get outside and enjoy what New Zealand has to offer.

I paused to reflect over the weekend as I witnessed Europe teeter even more precariously toward a full scale conflict on a level unseen since the 1930's. As a father, a grandfather and an educator, I wonder what hardships and flow down effects of a global conflict will be visited upon our youngest members of society. There are no winners in wars, just millions of victims. I hope common sense prevails among the protagonists.

Last Friday we awarded the House Captains roles in assembly following the students of each house selecting their leaders. The House captains are:
Pohutukawa - Amy Meyer and Fletcher Bagley, Kōwhai - Dahra Lenihan and Jack Greenan, Kauri - Archie Page and Charlotte Haultain, Rimu - Ashton Oien and Olive Baxter.



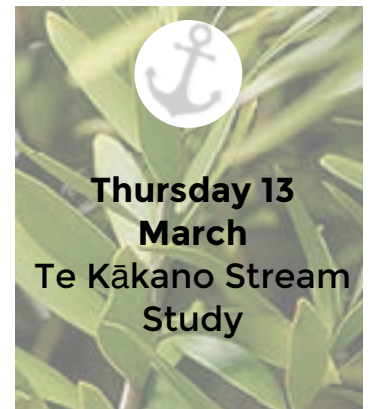
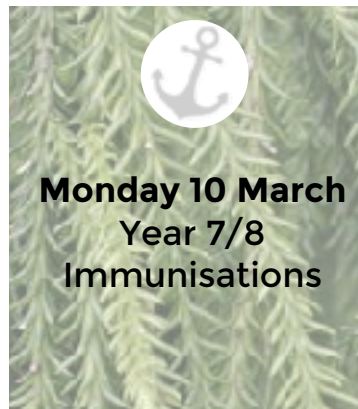
Our 2025 House Captains



This week we welcome Judy Ma into Room 12 working alongside Lucinda Ransley. Judy is completing a teacher refresh course after some time away from the sector. Judy will be with us for four weeks.



The scooter track is gaining popularity with many of our tamariki bringing scooters to school for fun at break times. We have had a couple of nasty prangs out there and the sick bay is often busy with grazes and scrapes. Of concern is the odd serious collision. Speed is usually the greatest



contributor to these and staff have been increasing supervision out there moderating the traffic. There have been some serious face plants, one resulting in a chipped tooth. It's not about wrapping the children in bubble wrap. My preference is to teach them to manage acceptable risk. It is imperative that children bringing scooters to school also have a helmet and closed in shoes (Crocs are fine) to minimise injuries.



This Wednesday we have our senior swimming carnival. This is exciting and the first one that's been held here for a good while. It's helping us to choose an inter school team for Eastern Waikato. If you have a child in Rooms 1 - 4 who is competing, please come and support them. Don't forget some sun protection. Most of the shade sail area will have children seated there.

Continuing with fun summer events for parents to come along to, Te Pihinga have a duathlon on Friday afternoon. Rooms 5, 6 and 8 will be swimming laps of the pool and running around the school in a fun event. Parents are welcome to come along and cheer on their children. The event starts at 2pm on Friday.



With winter sports looming we experience an influx of children either remaining at school or, for those that live locally, returning to school once they have been home. Just a reminder that if children are at school after 3.30pm, they need to be supervised and our school expectations around behaviour and conduct remain in place. Lisa Blake runs an excellent after school care programme if you need supervision for your children after school.

Have a good week everyone.

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

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.

Whakataetae
(far-kah-tie-tie)

race/competition



Coming up...

March

Monday 3 - Vision and hearing testing
Wednesday 5 - Swimming Carnival
Friday 7 - Te Pihinga Duathlon
Monday 10 - Immunisations Year 7/8
Thursday 13 - Te Kākano Stream Study
Friday 14 - Assembly
Friday 28 - Assembly

April

Friday 4 - Marae Trip
Friday 11 - Last Day of term. Assembly

Term 2

Monday 28 April - First day of Term 2

TE PIHINGA DUATHLON

TIME: 2pm
DATE: Friday 7 March
LOCATION: School Pool and field



Gordonton School Senior Swimming Carnival

All parents and caregivers are warmly invited to attend this enjoyable social event celebrating the senior students' swimming abilities.

Date: 5th March

Time: Block 2 and Block 3

Events:

10:55–12:25

Event A: Dolphin Dive/Flutter Board

Event B: 1 lap Freestyle, and/or Backstroke

1:30 – to the end of day

Event C: 2 lap Competitive Races (Freestyle, Backstroke, and Breaststroke)



Exact timings for the races cannot be given. You are welcome to bring a picnic blanket to sit on. Once all the events are over for the day, you may sign your child out through the office.

Scooter Safety



Always wear a helmet and wear knee and elbow pads.



Ask your trusted adult to help you cross any roads.

Avoid baggy clothes and flip-flops.

Go slowly past other people.

Only put your hands on the handles. Do not hang bags or water bottles off them.

Use smooth, flat paths away from roads and avoid steep hills.

Community Notices

News from your local Waikato District Councillors – February 2025

Change is a constant and councils are no different. Waikato District Council has welcomed a new CEO this month, confirmed major new roading contracts for the district starting on 1 July, and we expect to enter into consultation with you by the end of March on a new Long Term Plan as well as a proposal for a joint Waters CCO (council controlled organisation) with Hamilton City. See your Tamahere-Woodlands ward councillors’ monthly update for February here: www.crystalbeavis.com/updates

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