



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

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## From the Principal

Welcome to week 6.



Te Pihinga Tryathlon



### Kaiawhina

This week we have some responsible students from Te Rakau, donning Red 'Hi Viz' and being out and about during morning tea and lunch times helping students. This is a new Kaiawhina (Student supporters) role where they support, mediate and care for our children. They can put on plasters, or offer comfort if a student has a minor scrape. They can redirect them to the duty teacher for something more serious.

This week they will be shadowing the duty teachers, picking up tips on how to interact with children from a care perspective. Next week they will be rostered out in pairs at each break. This is an exciting opportunity for our Te Rakau students.



Pictured: Kaiawhina Aleah Gavin applies a plaster to an 'injured' Dhara Lenihan, observed by Kaiawhina Will Page, Matthew Hollings and Kim Gardiner.



**Monday 4 March**  
PTA Meeting 7pm  
in the staffroom



**Monday 11 March**  
Year 7/8  
Immunisations



**Tuesday 12 March**  
School Photos



**Tuesday 19 March**  
EWCS Swimming



**CORN CORN CORN CORN CORN**

James and Erin Gavin have very kindly donated a trailer load of fresh sweet corn for us to sell at school. The Student Council will manage the sale which is on the front lawn of the school at 3pm. The price; \$1.00 per cob with all proceeds going to offset the cost of the Senior camps this year. There are some bags available for large orders but bring your own New World bag or something to take your corn away. Cash or EftPos.

We very much appreciate this generosity from James and Erin.



**Paid Union Meeting - 20 March.**

We were quite surprised when it was announced there was another union meeting for teachers scheduled for the 20th March. Just to be clear - Gordonton will remain open on that day! Our teachers have the opportunity to go to the meeting in either the morning or afternoon so we will spread that as evenly as possible and the rest of us will look after the children. There will be a slight interruption to learning, but no interruption to school.

**iPads - \$20.00 each**

We have about 15 iPads that are past their serviceable school life. They are 3rd gen iPads and about 6 years old. They are in good condition and come with a rubber cover that makes them almost bomb-proof. Sadly they no longer take the updates required to incorporate them in the school network. They can still access the internet and generic type apps still mostly work. They don't come with charging cables but these can be purchased cheaply from any tech supplier. 1st in first served - see Kerry in the office.



**Te Pihinga Triathlon**

Well done Te Pihinga team for the successful triathlon held last Friday. The day was brilliant and a good turn out of families to cheer on the future ironmen and women as they navigated a swim, cycle and run to finish. See photos. Thank you to Steph and her team of teachers for the excellent organisation and running of this event.

# Kīwaha

Kīwaha are sayings or idioms. Try and use this one at home.

The pronunciation is underneath.

**Te Reo goes here**

**English goes here**



## Te Pihinga Tryathlon





First Aid Training.

Our staff are undertaking a First Aid refresher training tomorrow after school. This is a critical operational skill for our teachers and support staff. We never know what kind of medical situations we will face and being prepared and trained is an audited and vital component.

Power cut

Last week we had an unplanned power cut in the school during the school day. This one lasted for just over an hour. We had little information from WEL networks to have an idea of when it would be restored. When the power goes out here, everything stops including water - sewerage and the everyday items. A school can't operate without water for a myriad of health reasons. If power isn't restored or isn't likely to be, then I, together with the Board and Ministry of Education make the decision to close the school. This is not a decision we take lightly as we are well aware of the inconvenience and imposition to families, however Health and safety of the children and staff is the paramount factor. How long is too long before I make that call? There are no benchmarks as it is on a case by case basis and has to be managed expertly. As you know - once you tell a child they can't have a drink of water or use the toilet that is all they want to do!! Let's hope it doesn't ever get to that.

That's about it for this week. I'm off to see Pink in concert on Friday night! My wife Sarah is a huge fan so that means I'm also a huge fan! It's at Eden park. Let's hope the weather holds.

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

Keith O'Donnell

Principal



Last week Mrs Rogers took a group of students to visit the Komakorau Stream to look at how the Waikato District Council monitor the health of the stream. Thank you to Whaea Carol who saw it as an opportunity for us to be involved. This only happens once every three years so we were very lucky to be able to attend.

The children learnt about how they catch the fish, put them to sleep so they can measure them and then release. Not all fish get released back into the stream but most of them do. Fish that are pests have longer sleep than the ones that are native. They learnt about the difference between long and short fin eels and got to hold some before they slipped out of their



Left: Kaden getting the eel ready to measure it. Bottom: Finding small fish to measure. Bottom left: Measuring the eel.



*Mā te wā*

See you again.



# Community Notices

## Gordonton School T-Shirts

All Gordonton school tshirts are now reversible. One side the blue tshirt used for events (Hardcourt Day, EWCS sports etc) and the other side is your child's house tshirt. They will be single layered. Older tshirts can still be worn but will no longer be sold. Please note, this is an optional purchase

Deadline for the order is 9am Fri 15th March (approx 8 week turnaround). Payment due by 30th April (weekly payment plan is welcome). Please note that unisex sizes are adult sizes - \$70; Youth sizes are \$58

[LINK](#)

