



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

## From the Principal

Tēnā mouton katoa,

What a wild weekend we have had weather-wise. Power outages and trees down! I hope everyone is well and coping. Here at school we had more than our usual wind wreckage lying about the place. Property Manager Blair, assisted by some willing senior students, quickly restored order and tidiness to the school grounds. Awesome kaitiakitanga (care of our environment) from those who pitched in.

Last week and particularly over the weekend, more Hamilton schools and learning centres were directly affected by covid-19 with cases among their student body and faculty. So far, (and I say this with fingers firmly crossed) we are not directly affected but I still believe it is only a matter of time.

We have some very robust plans and procedures in place should we get notified about a positive case in the school. One of the critical strategies involves identifying close contacts of the infected case and notifying those people as soon as possible. We also have to provide that information - including contact details to the Ministry of Health. It is they who will tell affected people when they can return to school.

The information will first reach you via email, with more specific information. There will be a general announcement on Skool Loop, Facebook and Seesaw saying we have a school case and asking you to keep an eye on emails - if at that point you have not received an email then you are unaffected.

Obviously the earlier we get the information about a positive case the sooner we can put our plan into action. Our goal is to not only maintain the health and safety of everyone who is on site but also to keep the school open as much as we can.



Mr Sweetman assessing the damage to one of our peach trees.



**Wednesday 16**  
School closes at  
1pm for  
Conferences



**Thursday 17**  
Conferences  
continue



**Thursday 17**  
Tech/Arts starts  
for Year 7/8



**7 - 11 March**  
Te Rākau Camp

**Pick ups - drop offs**

These seem to be going better and thanks to those who have been trying hard to comply with our requests. Please remember to wear masks at the gate and to not linger any longer than needed.

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

**Conferences**

When you come for your conference, please ensure you sign in using the COVID Tracer app and wear a mask while in the school grounds.

**Tech/Arts**

Last week we sent out a survey to parents in Te Rākau regarding our Tech/Arts programme at Peachgrove. We wanted to know if parents were happy for their children to attend Tech/Arts in the current climate. Thank you to those who completed the survey. We appreciate your input into this.

While a large number of our parents were happy for their children to attend, Peachgrove Intermediate has decided it is putting the programme on hold until further notice to ensure the safety of our tamariki as well as their staff and minimise the spread of COVID.

**Front Gate**

Some of you have asked about the reason for only one gate being open to enter and exit the kura.

As with many of the strategies put in place, this is a recommendation by the Ministry of Education. It has been implemented to monitor who enters the school grounds. Last year we had two gates open and some members of the community took that as an opportunity to walk through the gates and wander around the school looking for their children, lost property and other things. As you can imagine, we are doing all we can to keep the tamariki in our kura safe. Part of that strategy is our junior teachers taking their classes to the gate to meet their parents at the end of the day. Last year it became difficult to manage as some children were picked up at one gate and others at another. This caused some confusion and angst for

# Kīwaha

Kīwaha are sayings or idioms. Try and use this one at home. When your children clean their room you can use this kīwaha.

The pronunciation is underneath

**Ka ngangaro!**  
(Kah ngah-ngah-raw)

That's much better!



Great to see kids in the pool enjoying the sun

some of our little people and one gate helps to manage that.

There are some other things we could do to reduce congestion of traffic and people but these would also cause issues for parents and have safety consequences. As with everything to do with COVID, restrictions are put in place that we don't all agree with and like everyone else, we are just trying to follow the guidelines and do our best to keep our children safe while they are in school and transitioning to their parents' care. While, currently, our entire school community have to contend with less than ideal circumstances, we can't compromise COVID safety expectations or the physical safety of our tamariki. We all have a part to play, whether that be as teachers ensuring children exit the school safely or as whānau who look

out for the safety of other children while collecting their own.



**Correction**

At the beginning of each term we send out a term overview of the events that are taking place each term. Some of you may have noticed the Te Rākau camp was incorrect on the overview by a week. Apologies for any confusion this may have caused. If you have children attending this camp, please don't send them to kura next week with their camp gear. Their camp is in Week 6, Monday 7 March to Friday 11 March.

**Immunisation Forms**

Te Rākau children had an information session with the Public Health nurse this morning. They received information regarding their Year 7 and 8 immunisations for Bostrix and HPV. They will all bring home a consent form tonight which needs to be returned by Friday whether you want your child to be immunised at kura or not.

Your child will not receive any kind of immunisation without your permission.



**Relationships and Sexuality Education**

By now, everyone should have received a letter outlining what your child(ren) will be learning this term in relation to Relationships and Sexuality Education. If you have not yet received it, check your child's bag or seesaw or kōrero to their teacher.



**Payments**

If you are required to make a payment for fees, camp, pies, stationery or anything else, can you please do this online. We need to limit the number of people coming into the office to keep our kura safe from COVID. We will not be accepting cash or EFTPOS until further notice. You can make payments through internet banking. Bank details: GORDONTON SCHOOL BOT 123171 0285630 00 Please use your child's first name as the reference or an invoice number if you have one.



Making the most of the nice weather and learning outside. Great to see the children wearing hats.

*Mā te wā*

See you again.



# Community Notices

## Road Closure - Date change

Last week we let you know that the road would be closed on Friday 11 February. We were notified on Wednesday that the date for this has changed to Thursday 17th March. We have also been informed that the work will take place further down the road so you will still be able to access the kura from Gordonton Road.



Sausage rolls are \$2.00, pies are \$3.00 and Butter chicken wraps are \$4.00.

Orders for Pie Day Friday will be online and payments will need to be made online by **12pm Thursday** for orders to be filled.

**Due to COVID restrictions we will only be accepting online payments.**

Here is the link to order pies. [PIEDAY FRIDAY](#)

