



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

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- 🔗 Festival of Cultures
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## From the Principal

Welcome to Week 5

On Friday we had a House Colour Day to support those who were running for the role of House

Captain. A number of senior students were brave enough to stand up in front of their peers to encourage them to vote for them as House Captain. Well done to all those who spoke and congratulations to the winning House Captains

Kōwhai - Ivy McNabb and Ziah Foster-Davies

Rimu - Preeya Berryman and Chris Steenekamp

Pōhutukawa - Isla Ransley and Keira Gee

Kauri - Shekainah Flor and Nathan Grayson



2024 House Captains



### Car park

The higher volume of traffic using Woodlands Road is noticeable but not as heavy as I expected. Even so, there is still a need for extreme care when navigating the car park. We don't have sufficient car parks to accommodate all of the cars picking up at the end of the day. I ask that over the next two weeks while the diversion is in place that you spend as little time parked there as possible and unless you have a pressing matter to attend to in the school, you move through promptly. It is our normal practice to encourage catch-ups and dialogue at pick up time but right now, maintaining an efficient and safe car park flow is of greater priority.



**Friday 1 March**  
Te Pihinga  
Tryathlon



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



**Tuesday 12 March**  
School Photos



**Tuesday 19 March**  
EWCS Swimming



### Strategic Plan

Work is ongoing on developing the school strategic and implementation plan. We will continue this over the next 2 weeks to complete it. The strategic plan is the Board's plan for delivery of learning and oversight of student achievement. It informs the annual implementation goals which drive and measure the learning and operational goals.

### Board of Trustees 1st meeting.

The Board held its first meeting of the year last Tuesday. Katy Baxter was re-elected as presiding member. Various delegations were confirmed around sub committee roles and also the Principal's delegations were reconfirmed. Section 130 of the Education and Training Act 2020 sets out the Principals delegation:

130 Principal is chief executive of board in relation to school's control and management

(1) A school's principal is the board's chief executive in relation to the school's control and management.

(2) Except to the extent that any enactment, or the general law of New Zealand, provides otherwise, the principal—

(a) must comply with the board's general policy directions; and

(b) subject to paragraph (a), has complete discretion to manage the school's day-to-day administration as they think fit.

The Board also delegates certain areas of responsibility to sub committees to enable streamlining of process and prevent full Board meetings being bogged down with compliance and management. Board sub-committees and delegations are as follows:

Property/Health & Safety/Wellbeing: J Soanes, J Gavin, K O'Donnell, H Van Hellemond

Finance: K O'Donnell, O Greenan

Concerns/Complaints: K Baxter, M Grayson, H Van Hellemond

Discipline: Whole Board

Human Resources: K Baxter, C Henry, K O'Donnell, H Van Hellemond

Mana Whenua: C Henry, M Grayson

## Whakatauki

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

**Ahakoia he iti kete, he iti nā te aroha.**

**It's the thought that counts**



### Festival of Cultures

This term we are celebrating the different cultures in our school. We have a wide range of cultures and on Wednesday afternoons children will be meeting in cultural groups to share and learn about the cultures in our school. This will be preparation for preparing for our Festival of Cultures in Week 9. If you are able to share your expertise in your culture and are free on Wednesday afternoons, we would love for you to come along and help. Please let your child's teacher know and they can direct you to the person taking care of that culture.





### Classroom release time

I have had it communicated to me that there are some misunderstandings about how and under what conditions, teachers are released from rooms in the school.

Over the last year you may recall that teachers entered into collective negotiations with the MOE (Government) over pay and conditions. After the usual wrangling and discussions a new collective agreement was hammered out. Part of that was an increase in classroom release time for teachers to take care of matters that are difficult to complete when teaching, but in many regards require children to be in the school, particularly one on one testing and assessment, focussed, explicit teaching to individuals or small groups, project based groups, management or extra curricular, in school activities with students. It also allows teachers to travel to other schools when they are open to observe and learn from collegial practice or attend professional development.

Over this year the number of days release increases from 3 to 5 days per full time teacher/per term. This is a school's legal responsibility to provide. You will also know that with the Government's election promise of delivering 1 hour per day each of Reading, Writing and Maths - it theoretically leaves 2 hours in the school day to cover the remaining curriculum areas appropriately and robustly. Including: the Arts (music, dance, drama, visual art); health and physical education; learning languages (with a priority on Te Reo Maori); science; social sciences and technology. A very full school day even before taking into account the values learning, behaviour management, distractions and diversions that naturally happen on the daily.

Last year at prize giving, I touched on the strategy we have to address the teacher release effectively while still making full use of the learning time that students are in front of the teacher. On days when teachers are released we will coordinate that so all the teachers in the learning team are released on the same day, and we have engaged the services of Roger Drury, Talia Kavanagh, and Michelle Pene to teach a rotation of Music (and swimming in the summer), Health and PE and Te Reo me tikanga Maori. This has the dual effect of putting passionate, expert teachers in front of

students for those particular learning strands, and taking some of the onus off teachers to teach those things during normal class time, although learned skills will be utilised and practised. I think the strategy will work well and so far feedback from teachers and students has been positive. As always, if you have a question or concern about anything to do with the teaching practices or operational decisions, don't hesitate to call or make an appointment to come and see me.

### Drama Club

Last week Mr Hunt was busy at lunchtimes promoting Performing Arts opportunities for the children. Monday saw many budding drummers, guitarists, keyboard players and singers showcasing themselves for selection in the school band. Some great talent on show there! On Wednesday he held the first Drama Club workshop in the hall. A great turn out and many aspiring thespians walking the boards. One thing common to both days was the amount of fun, smiles and laughter from the kids. We are very fortunate to have Pete on the staff and able to provide these opportunities. Thanks Mr Hunt.



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

Keith O'Donnell  
Principal

*Mā te wā*

See you again.



# Community Notices

## GORDONTON SCHOOL BUSH

Hi, We are the forest kids, we would like to make the bush safe for your kids to play in but we can only achieve this goal with help from you!

We need to build a fence and path before we can start with the rest of our plans to make the bush area a fun place to hang out and learn.

So if you have material like fence posts, treated 100 by 25mm timber and bamboo that you would like to donate email [emmac@gordonton.school.nz](mailto:emmac@gordonton.school.nz)

### Before School Care

If you require care for your children before 8.15, please enrol them here. \$5 per family. Before School Care



Subway Lunch  
To order Subway lunch on Fridays, order [here](#). Orders need to be made and paid for by 3pm Wednesday

### After School Care

If you require after school care, please contact Lisa Blake [lisablake18@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:lisablake18@yahoo.co.nz) 0272270808



Next PTA Meeting is on Monday 4 March at 7pm in the Staff Room



## WHY JOIN THE GORDONTON SCHOOL PTA?

### WE RAISE MONEY!!!

We organise fundraisers to help bring in extra funds for Gordonton School and our tamariki.

Each year we are able to provide Gordonton School funding and last year we purchased a new pool cover. We are currently fundraising for a toilet block beside the pool.

## THE SCHOOL BENEFITS CHILDREN BENEFIT MAKE CONNECTIONS

ITS A GREAT WAY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE  
AND GET TO KNOW THE SCHOOL

### WHATS THE COMMITMENT?

We meet one evening a month each term in the staffroom at school. This is where we share ideas and put plans in place for the upcoming events. More people, more ideas, more awesome events means more opportunity to help support Gordonton School.