



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 Student Council
- 🔗 House Captains

From the Principal

Welcome to week 4. Last week was exciting as we worked through applications from Year 8 children aspiring to be student councillors. This is an annual process and much anticipated by the students. Over the last 5 years, we have developed the process to reflect what it would be like for these young people if they were applying

for a job in the adult world. In structured lessons, they were taken through compiling a CV, approaching and engaging referees, developing a cover letter, going through a shortlisting and interview process, and finally navigating success or disappointment with the outcome. All, in my view, essential experiences for young people. My thanks to Hayley van Hellemond for her work in preparing these young people well.

It is then, with great pleasure I can announce the Student Council for 2024



Our 2024 Student Council



Head Students: Will Page, Aleah Gavin

Deputy Head Students: Kim Gardiner, Hayden Bird

Councillors: Angus Purdie; Ruby Baxter; Emilia Higham; Casey Foster.

This Friday Mrs Rogers will present the council with their badges and formally present them to the student body and faculty. I'm out of the school that day.



**Friday 23
February**
Cultural
Competencies
survey closes



**Friday 23
February**
House colours
Dress up day



Friday 1 March
Te Pihinga
Tryathlon



Monday 11 March
Year 7/8
Immunisations

Also this Friday we will be choosing the house leaders for Kowhai, Pohutukawa, Rimu and Kauri. They are preparing short presentations to make in front of the other students in their house who will then vote on the candidates.



Friday is House colours day so we encourage all students to come along in the colour of their house and make the day a celebration.

Board of Trustees

On Tuesday the Board of Trustees will have their first meeting of the year in the boardroom. Among items on the agenda is appointment of the presiding member, delegations to the Principal, along with all the usual compliance stuff. We will also be looking to pass the draft strategic plan that sets the priorities for the next two years. Lots of things inform this process including the parent consultation information, teacher feedback, and student achievement data. Board meetings are public meetings and anyone from the community can attend. 6.30, Tuesday 20 February at the school.

Policy Reviews

This term we also have the regular round of school policies for the community to review and offer feedback on.

These are the policies for this term:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Board Responsibility
- Parent Involvement
- Communicating with Parents
- Community Conduct Expectations
- School Character / Special Character
- Documentation and Self-Review Policy
- School Planning and Reporting
- Reporting to Parents on Student Progress and Achievement

Go to www.schooldocs.co.nz and follow the directions for submitting review comments. These will be reviewed by the Board once feedback is collected.

Whakatauki

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

**Tūwhitia te hopo,
mairangitia te angitū**

Feel the fear and do it
anyway.

Step out of your
Comfort zone.



Cultural Competency
Survey

Only three days left to
complete this if you are
going to. Follow the link.

Survey closes on Friday.



Cellphones at School

You will have heard a bit
in the media about the
cellphone ban in schools
brought in by the new

Government. It's not much of an issue here at Gordonton. There is absolutely no need for students to have cellphones in class. If they do need to bring one it is to be handed in to the office before class starts and collected after class ends. No exceptions. Any urgent messages for children can be passed through the office. I can imagine how challenging this rule is to enforce in secondary schools! I wish them well with that.

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

Keith O'Donnell

Principal



Spotlight - Our new communication tool

Last week you will have received an email to download the @school app from eTap. This will be the app we use for communication and later on reporting to parents.



You can use this app for absences, to check your account to see if you have any money owing and see what your children are doing in class through the blog. As we get more proficient at using it, we will add more features.

We have had some issues with parents being able to see some but not all their children. This is due to names not being exactly the same at enrolment e.g. a parent might have used their first and last name for the first child and their full name, including middle, for their second. The system sees them as 2 different people. We are trying to fix these manually so it might take a little while.

If you have any issues with seeing all or any of your children, or you can't access anything, please contact Tania by email at taniar@gordonton.school.nz or pop into the office.

Splash Polo

Our Splash Polo team played their first game for the year on Sunday at Hillcrest Normal School. They played 3 games and played very well. For some students, this was their first time playing.



Thank you to Kerry Boxell and Emma Crawford who coach and manage the team.



Mā te wā

See you again.



Community Notices



KID'S SPEAK OUT!
 No Confidence – Got raw energy – Hates School speeches – Bullied?
CLASSES After School: Kids find their voice, confidence & real-life skills
LEADER Certificate: Gain leadership skills/Certificate - Years 8 + and Y11+
LEADER Holiday Course: 1-4 days; Kids have raved + Certificate; Age 10+
RING: Roz 027 248 2888 www.speak4success.co.nz



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

Before School Care

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



Our Year 7 and 8 students had their second week at Peachgrove Intermediate last week where they did Digitech and Music.

