



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 EWCS Speeches
- 🔗 Colour Run
- 🔗 Congratulations
- 🔗 Cohort Entry
- 🔗 Sports Camp
- 🔗 Thank you
- 🔗 Board of Trustees

## From the Acting Principal

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It's hard to believe we're almost at the end of the term. Winter sport has wrapped up, AIMS is complete, Mr O'Donnell has returned today from his sick leave, and we have just two exciting weeks left before the holidays.



Miss Scragg was the first good sport to be slimed.



### EWCS Speech Competition

A huge congratulations to Olive Baxter and Jasper Ripley for placing second in the EWCS Speech Competition, and to Noah Greenan who placed first! This week Olive and Jasper will take a short break from Sports Camp to represent our kura at the Waikato Full Primary Schools Speech Competition for Year 7 and 8 students. We are incredibly proud of you all and wish you the very best.



### Colour Run Fun

Last week we reached our fundraising goal to slime three of our wonderful teachers at assembly! Room 10, our top earning class, voted for Mr Carter, Miss Scragg, and Mrs Wells to take the plunge. Our highest earning students, Saoirse, Banagher, and Sarah, had the honour of sliming their own teachers, which brought plenty of laughter and joy.

Room 5 also celebrated with juicies on Friday for having the highest number of registrations. Well done! A massive thank you to our teachers for being such great sports. If we can reach \$6000 by Thursday, we'll get to slime another teacher at lunchtime!



**Friday 15  
September  
Year 7/8  
Immunisations**



**Friday 19  
September  
Assembly**



**Friday 19  
September  
Colour Run**



**Monday 19  
September  
Last Day of Term**



The Colour Run will take place on the last day of term, Thursday 19 September. We'll hold assembly at 1.30pm, followed by the Colour Run. Further details about what to wear and how the event will run will be shared soon.

### Congratulations - Pippa Walker

We are incredibly proud of Pippa Walker, who has been selected to compete in the 2026 UCI BMX World Champs in Brisbane, Australia! Pippa will also be heading to the South Island Titles in Christchurch this January and the Oceanias in Brisbane in February. What an amazing achievement, Pippa, we can't wait to follow your journey!

### Cohort Entry 2026

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback on Cohort Entry. There was strong support for this move, and we are pleased to announce that from 2026 our kura will move to Cohort Entry.

This means 5-year-olds will begin school at two set times each term, rather than starting on their birthday. These dates are set by the Ministry of Education:

Term 1 – 9 February or 9 March

Term 2 – 20 April or 1 June

Term 3 – 20 July or 24 August

Term 4 – 12 October or 16 November

We believe this will provide smoother transitions for our tamariki and their whānau.



### Sports Camp

Our Year 7 and 8 students are joining Te Au o Tamatea - St Andrews Middle School for a full week of Sports Camp at Totara Springs. Accompanied by Mrs V and Mr

Carter, they'll be enjoying a week filled with sport, teamwork, and new friendships. We wish them an amazing time!

### Thank you

Our Board of Trustees held their final meeting for the term. As some members step down and elections approach, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude:

Jo Soanes (Presiding Member) - Thank you for leading the Board with warmth, approachability, and expertise, particularly in property.

## Kupu o te wiki

Learn a new word each week in Te Reo Māori.

Each week we will share a new word with its pronunciation as well as translation.

**Hūwareware**  
(whoo-wah-reh-wah-reh)

Slime



### Coming up...

#### Term 3

#### September

Monday 15 - Year 7/8 Immunisations

Friday 19 - Assembly

Friday 19 - Colour Run

Friday 19 - Last Day Term 3

#### October

Monday 6 - First day of Term 4

Friday 10 - Assembly (change from usual date due to Ag Day)

Friday 17 - Ag Day

Monday 20 - Group Day

Last Friday was Support Staff day but as most of our support staff don't work on Fridays, we celebrated today with a morning tea to thank all those who work with children with additional needs and those who support all our children. The children made cards and the teachers covered the support staff so they could enjoy their morning tea.



Michael Grayson - Thank you for your two terms of service, your process expertise, and your valuable role as a connector between the school and the Gordonton District Committee.  
Hayley Van Hellemond - Thank you for more than two terms as our Staff Representative, ensuring decisions are made with an educational lens and always in the best interests of our students and staff.  
We are grateful for your dedication and commitment to our school.

Finally, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our staff, Board, students and parents who have supported me throughout this term while Keith has been on leave. A very special mention to Kerry, whose incredible support has been invaluable. I truly couldn't have done it without her.

Ngā mihi nui for your continued support as we head into the final stretch of the term.

Hei konā mai (Bye for now)

Tania Rogers

Acting Principal

Kia ora koutou,

Last Tuesday the Gordonton School Board held its final meeting of the current board term. Over the past three years, highlights have included growth in our school roll and retention of Year 7 and 8 students, a positive ERO report, property upgrades such as the pool toilets, music clinic, and blackout blinds, a stronger focus on reviewing school policy documents, and the continued development of our relationship with Ngāti Wairere.

We also farewelled members not standing in the upcoming elections, with special thanks to Michael Grayson for his service and legal expertise over two terms, and to Hayley Van Hellemond for three terms as teacher representative, particularly in curriculum, EOTC, and Year 7 & 8 initiatives such as William Pike Challenge, Sports Camp, and AIMS Games.

On a personal note, serving on the board has given me a greater appreciation of the many parts required to run a school and the balance between governance and management. While funding challenges are always present, Gordonton School is in a strong position, with the recent co-option of Rhiannon Kelsey as Associate Treasurer. My thanks also to Keith for his leadership, Tania for stepping into the Acting Principal role in Term 3, and to all board members for their commitment over the past three years.

Finally, a reminder to cast your vote in the upcoming school board elections, and all the best to the incoming board.

Ngāa mihi nui,

Jo Soanes

Presiding Member, Gordonton School Board



Thank you to Kaipara Kūmaras who gave Te Pihinga team different varieties of kūmara for their learning about processes. They have been learning about what happens to kūmara from garden to table.



From the garden to the pack house to the distribution centre, supermarket and table. They also explored different ways to eat them. They have enjoyed learning about the process and making the models to show their understanding.

This is a great example of integrating the curriculum for rich learning.

Ka rawe! Great!





### AIMS Games ROUND UP

#### Girls Artistic Gymnastics- Open WAG Step 5

Preeya Berryman achieved 17<sup>th</sup> in Beam, 16<sup>th</sup> U-bar, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Beam and 10<sup>th</sup> overall. Well done, Preeya!

#### Girls Rhythmic GNZ -Open 5-7

Amy Meyer achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> in Hoop, 1<sup>st</sup> in Freehand and 2<sup>nd</sup> equal overall. Great work, Amy!

#### Boys and Girls Futsal

Our teams were excited to head over to Tauranga for 5 days of Futsal. The Girls finished in the top 16 and the boys a respectable 47<sup>th</sup>. Some tough competition in both divisions but they fought hard and came away with some amazing experiences.

A massive thank you to the coaches, managers & 'house mums' of these teams; Veronica, Emma, Juliet, Jenna, Anthony, Jeremy & Sandy. Also, to Mrs V for working behind the scenes to ensure all of our EOTC standards were met and, finally, a big thank you to all of the teams sponsors and everyone who supported the teams fundraising efforts



# Gordonton School

## Ag Day 2025

*Agricultural craft displays  
and more*



**10am - 2pm**

**Friday 17th October  
2025**



*Lets carry on with one  
of New Zealand's  
favourite school  
traditions!*



### Calves, Lambs, Goats

*Come join us for a fun day with calves lambs  
and goats.*

*View all the different craft displayes*

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