



TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)

First of all welcome back to term 2 2020. I hope your school holiday 'staycation' within your bubbles was relaxing and enjoyable within expectations. I don't think anyone would have ever imagined that we would be in this place and learning to manage the learning from home amidst an international health crisis. What is important to take from that is that this is a health crisis and not an education crisis. We are all learning to adapt to meet as best we can to the learning needs of our children. That will get better as we get better at it.

We are fortunate at Gordonton that we managed to get set-up for online learning ahead of the shut down as best we possibly could and also managed to get devices and some hard copy resources out to families. The Ministry of Education has been working hard to position all schools in New Zealand for the online learning process to swing into action. There are already predictions as to when schools might start to look at going back and a variety of scenarios being painted as to what that might look like. We will wait until the orders come down and best position our school in accordance with them.

Awhina - Helping others to be the best they can be

My thanks to our teachers for their professionalism and hard work navigating this unfamiliar terrain and communicating out to the students and their families the learning opportunities. Again they are fortunate to have had the first term to get to know the learners in their classes and pitch the work appropriately. Our dedicated learning assistants have been also exploring ways to engage into the learning conversations. This will also increase as we become more familiar with how this looks.

Also thanks to the Board of Trustees who have actively encouraged and supported the staff in getting the learning happening. Normal school operations are ongoing and we have already had a BoT meeting via google hangout which went well and updated the business side of the school.

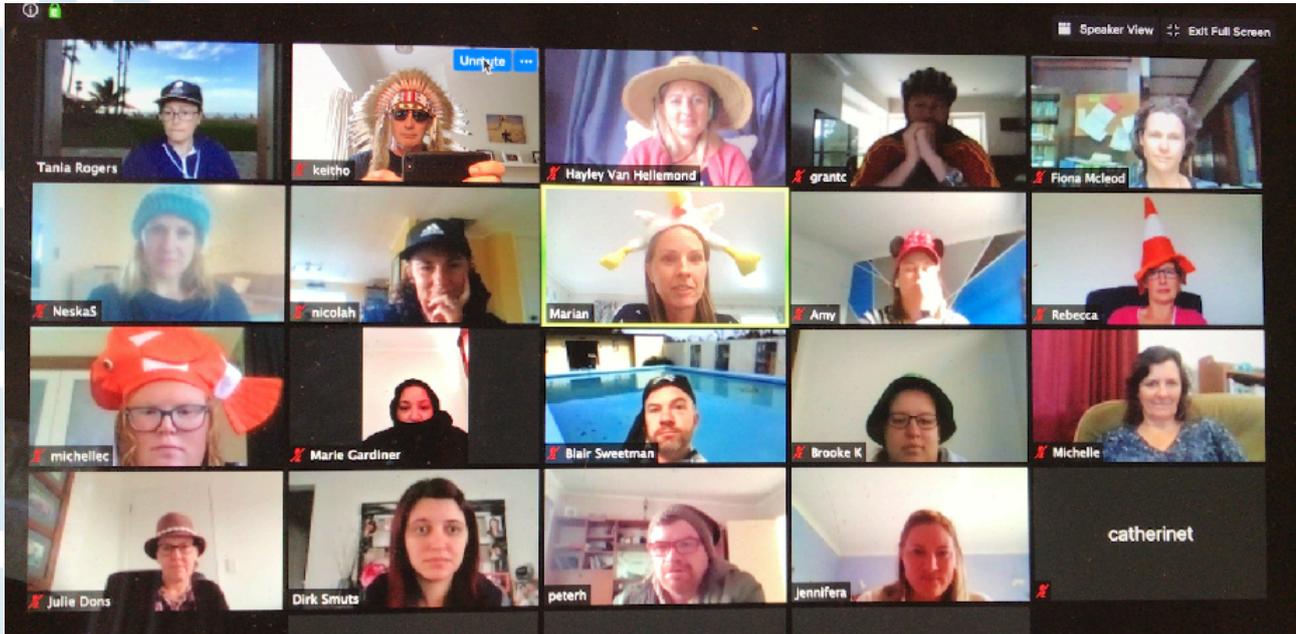
Ngakau Pono - Trust, Loyalty and Honesty

Finally thanks to our school parents. You have been inserted into the learning as facilitators, coaches, encouragers, behaviour managers, readers, mathematicians, problem solvers and artists. I acknowledge that every household in our community is facing its own unique set of challenges and circumstances. I take into account that some of you are working from home, managing households and managing the learning and it is a lot to ask. We trust in you to adopt a level of engagement that works for you and your household, especially with our very young learners who might need more support.

The teachers will be in contact with any families we haven't heard from by Friday. If there are issues affecting you please let us know in confidence and we will tailor the learning as much as we can to meet your needs. It's not easy and we acknowledge that. We are all in this together.

Manaakitanga - care and respect.

This morning we had a staff meeting via Zoom. It was a wellbeing meeting just to check up on everyone before the term kicked off in earnest. The theme was 'hats' It was great to catch up with the staff and hear their enthusiasm.



Ako- learning together

Room 9 students and their siblings have been doing a lockdown scavenger hunt during the holidays. Here are some pictures of students with their loot. If you're interested in doing it too, here is the list.

Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

COLLECT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN A BAG OR BASKET. CHECK THE BOXES AS YOU FIND EACH ONE.

- 5 LEAVES THAT LOOK DIFFERENT
- A STICK THAT IS LONGER THAN YOUR HAND
- A ROCK WITH SPOTS ON IT
- A FLOWER
- A FLAT ROCK
- 10 BLADES OF GRASS
- SOMETHING YOU LOVE TO PLAY WITH
- A PIECE OF TRASH YOU CAN RECYCLE
- SOMETHING THAT IS BROWN
- SOMETHING THAT IS HEAVY
- SOMETHING THAT IS VERY LIGHT
- SOMETHING THAT NEEDS SUN TO LIVE
- AN ITEM SMALLER THAN YOUR THUMB
- SOMETHING THAT STARTS WITH "M"
- SOMETHING THAT SMELLS GOOD

Ready for snack? Make sure everything gets put back where it belongs!

Indoor Scavenger Hunt

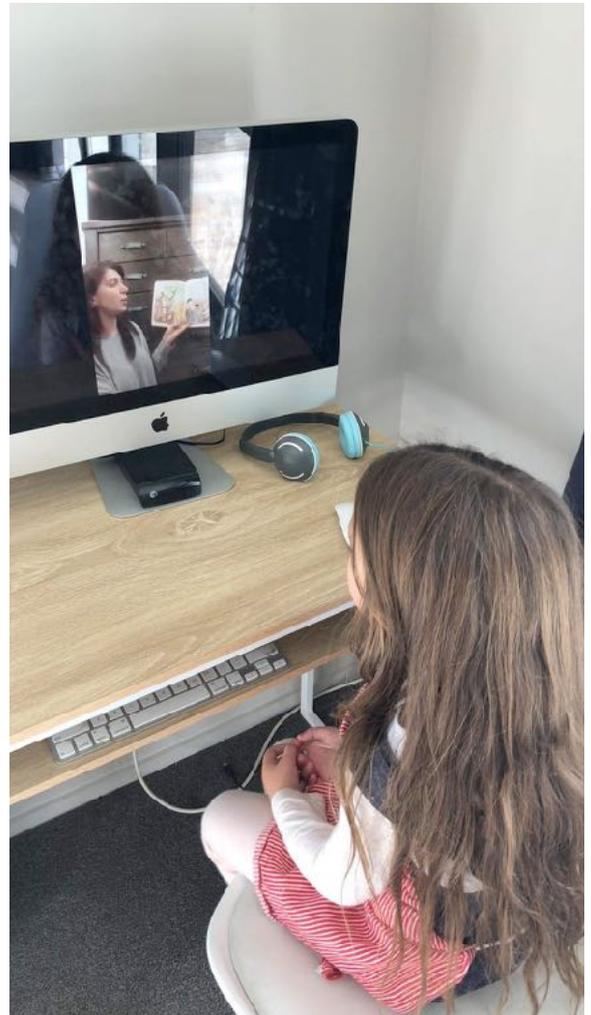
COLLECT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN A BAG OR BASKET. CHECK THE BOXES AS YOU FIND EACH ONE.

- A TOY WITH WHEELS
- A BOOK WITH THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR NAME IN THE TITLE
- A PAIR OF MATCHING SOCKS
- 4 THINGS THAT ARE GREEN
- SOMETHING VERY SOFT
- A TOY SMALLER THAN YOUR HAND
- SOMETHING ROUND
- A BOOK WITH NUMBERS IN IT
- 5 LEGOS THAT ARE ALL DIFFERENT
- A PHOTO OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE
- AN ITEM YOU CAN SEE YOURSELF IN
- AN ITEM THAT MAKES YOU FEEL COZY
- A TOY THAT HAS 3 DIFFERENT COLORS
- A MOVIE THAT HAS "S" IN THE TITLE
- YOUR SNUGGLEST STUFFED ANIMAL

Ready for snack? Make sure everything gets put back where it belongs!

Finally some pictures of our Tamariki enjoying the new normal for school.





Well that's about it for this week. If you have any pictures of your children learning that you would be comfortable having included in future newsletters please send them to me keitho@gordonton.school.nz. I would love to try include them in future editions.

Keep safe everybody.

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

Keith O'Donnell, Principal



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