



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

From the Principal

Tēnā Koutou Katoa,

Over the weekend our school was touched by the tentacles of COVID. We had escaped to that point while others were affected but on Saturday and Sunday we started dealing with class closure and isolation strategies. Room 10 is learning from home this week and my thoughts go out to all those families whose lives have been affected.

We have seen this virus move swiftly through schools and I don't believe our school will be any different. Now is a time for kindness and empathy. Our community is infinitely capable of supporting each other in times of trial.

First and foremost - The school will NOT identify individuals who have tested positive or who are unwell. That is your personal health information and can not be shared. If you choose to tell people yourself, that is your right but our processes are secure around that. I also discourage speculation about the situation without a factual basis. That is unhelpful and can also be unpleasant for those affected.

Notifications will come home from School by way of formal letters. These have been supplied as pro forma letters by the Ministry of Education and will only come to you from me or Tania.

The letters ask you to get a test immediately and on day 5. This is purely to assess the health of your child who has been identified as a close contact. Children can then return to normal life once you have received a negative day 5 test and 7 days has passed since contact with the positive case.

The Board of trustees meet tomorrow night in a remote meeting. Our covid response will be dominating the landscape but also being discussed are the school financial position, upcoming camps and trips, the school charter and budgets.



Room 8 doing Te Reo outside with Mrs Pene



7 - 11 March
Te Rākau Camp



15 March
School Photos



17 March
St Patricks Day -
Wear green



18 March
Little Heart Day
Fundraiser - Gold
coin donation to the
Heart Kids NZ

Shona will have some feedback for you from the meeting next Newsletter.

Thanks to all for their car park etiquette. Things are running much more smoothly out there at the start and end of the day and we ask that it continues.

That is about it from me. Have a great week.

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



Conferences

Thank you for your attendance at conferences last week. We appreciate that parents followed the mask rule and wore masks when in kura grounds. Wearing of masks is sometimes the difference between being a close contact or a casual contact.

Thank you for your input into your child's learning. These meetings are valuable for our kaiako/teachers to learn about your child.



Front Gate

The morning drop off can sometimes be an anxious time especially for some of our little people but we have had some wonderful senior children showing awhina and helping the little people and sometimes big people to their classes in the morning. They are very quick to see when someone might need some help and truly demonstrate our kura values. Thanks to our senior students, we have less people having anxious moments at the gate.



Immunisation Forms

Just a reminder to return immunisation forms for Year 7 and 8 students. These forms need to come back even if you don't want your child to be immunised or if they have already been immunised somewhere else. The Public Health nurse will follow up on any unreturned forms.

Kīwaha

There are many kīwaha to say how awesome or amazing something is, here is another one.

The pronunciation is underneath.

Ka mutu pea!
(Kah moo-two pe-ah)

Awesome!



Hybrid Learning

As various students or classes require isolation we want to ensure learning can still happen. This means that for some children they might be working at home while their classmates are at kura or the teacher is teaching from home while they are at kura.

Most of our Year 5 - 8 children will have access to online learning via their usual learning platforms - Google Classroom and Seppo. The rest of the kura will have hard packs in the first instance and Google Classroom to supplement the hard packs. Seesaw will be used as a form of communication to parents for whole class announcements.

Teachers will let you know how the learning can be accessed for each class.

Mā te wā

See you again.



Community Notices

Lucky Book Club

Orders for the latest catalogue are due by the 24th February. You can order online or using the Scholastic Loop App.



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Did you know you are required to complete 3 or 6 monthly **recorded** inspections of your farm employees cottage for both your Insurance company and the new Dairy Company Compliance payment. You don't want that difficult discussion about maintaining property standards, but being accountable will actually save you time and money. Also an unbiased third party with documented inspections will become essential. **For each new signup before 1 June 2022 I will donate \$25 to the school so give me a call.**



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.

