



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 Swimming
- 🔗 Before School Care
- 🔗 Cultural Competencies Survey
- 🔗 Road Closur

## From the Principal

Welcome to Week 3. I hope you all had a great weekend and made the most of the weather that was on offer. The children at before school care were regaling me with stories from their weekends. It seemed most were in or around

water which is the go-to for many families, be it the beach, lakes or just the pool at home, for those who have them. It really highlights the importance of being a competent swimmer in our country and, as I mentioned to the children at last Friday's assembly, we are very lucky to have a pool here at Gordonton School. Mr Sweetman takes very good care of the pool and it always looks lovely.



These students are all new to Gordonton School



**Swimming** is an integral part of the summer health and PE curriculum so I encourage all children to bring their togs to swim when the opportunity is here. The pool normally stays open until around Easter but the weather calls the shots on that. Once the number of students not swimming rises, the class teacher will stop the swim programme in that class.



### Before School care

I'm really enjoying supervising before school care. I get to have great conversations with the children in an environment other than 'formal' school. Mondays are especially rewarding as the children want to share their weekend news with me. Before school care runs from 7.30 - 8.15 am. Click the link to register [Before School Care](#).



**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

From 8.15 - 8.45am daily we also run 'Kickstart Breakfast' which is sponsored by Fonterra and Sanitarium. This is free and provides breakfast for those children who haven't had breakfast or who need something in their tummies each morning to help them with their learning. Kickstart Breakfast is run by the Senior Students and is held between Room's 1 and 2. There are no names recorded - only numbers of children (for Audit) and it consists of Weet-bix and Milk and perhaps a Milo.



#### Cultural Competency Survey

Just a reminder to complete the Cultural Competency Survey that was sent out a short time ago. The Survey closes on 23 February. Responses are slowly coming in but we would appreciate a broad sample of responses which we use to tailor our development programme. Your opinion is appreciated.



#### Road Closure

Woodlands Road - Whitikahu Diversion Starting!!  
If you have driven to the school over the last few days you will have noticed the row of orange 'Hit Sticks' on the centre line of Woodlands Road on both the Northern and Southern approaches to the school. These are to reduce the speed of cars while the road is being used for diverted traffic from Whitikahu Road. During the peak times at pick up and drop off the speed limit is also being reduced to 30 km/h. This will be between 13 Feb and 3 March and I urge extra care around the carpark as Woodlands Road will be much busier through that time (the northern line of hit sticks is being shifted today or tomorrow to let people still use the car parks in front of the field).

#### Closing thought

I occasionally hear children talking about being "bored" during their leisure time. A lot of children (my own grandchildren included) who feel it is the responsibility of others to entertain them. There is nothing wrong with learning to manage your own boredom. I remember learning to never tell my father I was bored, as it would have been instantly solved with an unpleasant chore or task being given to me. I read this quote from author Glennon Doyle which is a

## Whakatauki

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

**Kāore te kūmara e  
kōrero mō tōna ake  
reka**

The Kūmara does not  
speak of its own  
sweetness.  
Be humble.



good summation of the dangers of 'stealing' boredom :

'I find myself worrying most that when we hand our children phones we steal their boredom from them. As a result we are raising a generation of writers who will never start writing, artists who will never start doodling, chefs who will never make a mess in the kitchen, athletes who will never kick a ball against a wall, musicians who will never pick up their aunt's guitar and start strumming.'

Have a great week everyone.

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

Keith O'Donnell  
Principal





# Community Notices



Our 'Today's calf, Tomorrow's cow' workshop is **BACK FOR ONE TIME ONLY** this year in North Waikato, with fresh perspectives, updated research and a live farmer's panel.

Feel prepared and ready for the calf rearing season as SealesWinslow and AgriVantage take you through best practice to maximise calves' potential right from day one. With updated scientific research, new presenters (Nutrition Consultant to AgriVantage Natalie Chrystal and Technical Nutrition & Quality Manager for SealesWinslow Paul Drew), and a farmer panel to share different practices and real life experiences, it's a calf rearing workshop you've never attended before.

**'I've already been to a calf rearing workshop/expo, why should I attend this one?'**

We've found that farmers love learning from each other so this year we introduced the farmer's panel, where we can hear the different practices and experiences from each other. New presenters will bring fresh perspectives and updated scientific research to back up the best practice methods.

**'What topics will be covered?'**

- How to rear heifers well.
- Shed set up - Ventilation, Bedding, Biosecurity.
- Navel care.
- Calf pick up.
- Colostrum.
- Feeding calves for lifetime performance.
- Weaning.

**GORDONTON HALL**  
1024 Gordonton Road  
Gordonton  
Waikato 3281

**TUES  
27  
FEB**

**EVENT TIMING:**

- 9.30am** Arrival and Morning tea
- 10.00am** Start
- 2.00pm** Finish

**PROUD PARTNERS OF DAIRY TOMORROW**



**WE WILL BE WORLD LEADING  
IN ANIMAL CARE**



**WE WILL BUILD GREAT  
WORKPLACES FOR NEW ZEALAND'S  
MOST TALENTED WORKFORCE**

Register by scanning the QR code below



Or visit [www.dwn.co.nz/events](http://www.dwn.co.nz/events)

**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

THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

