



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

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## From the Principal

Welcome to week 9. A short week this week with Easter weekend nearly upon us. It is unusual for Easter to fall outside of the school holidays break and we touched on the reasons for this last week. Remember Easter Tuesday is a mandatory, nation-wide closure day for schools.



Sausage sizzle at Mitre 10



Thank you

Thank you to the parents who supported us with a sausage sizzle at Mitre 10 on Sunday to raise money for camp. Every little bit helps and it's even better when it comes from outside our community.



Festival of Cultures

This Wednesday evening is our much-anticipated Festival of Cultures. The students and staff have been working very hard to prepare for this and that will ramp up a bit more this week as they practise items and presentations. Check out the start times and other info later in the newsletter.



Sports

Our sports committee has been very busy organising children into teams for the looming winter season. Organising teams is always fraught with challenges. Getting the right numbers, getting the coaches and managers organised and equipped, being aware of sibling and code clashes, especially where a student may play more than one sport. We have an excellent sports committee and



**Wednesday 27  
March**  
Festival of  
Cultures



**Thursday 29  
March - 2 April**  
Easter Weekend



**Monday 8 - 10**  
Te Māhuri Camp



**Friday 12 April**  
Last Day of  
Term 1

Kerry, our sports co-ordinator does a sterling job pulling it all together. What is critical is everyone being patient. There have been occasions this year already where speculation and conjecture from outside the sports committee has caused misunderstandings and anxiety about teams for some parents. If you have any queries about teams for winter sports they must be made to Kerry in the office. That way you can be sure the information you get is accurate and up to date.



#### Swimming pool keys

The swimming season has finished now except for a few hardy Te Rakau students who are competing in the Waikato Full Primary Schools competition and still cramming in a bit of training. My thanks to those in the community who supported the use of the pool through the summer and got keys to access the pool over the holidays and hot weekends. Credit to Blair, our property manager for his efforts to keep the water quality top notch during the time. Kerry will issue a form this week for those who are holding keys to return them for their \$20.00 deposit refund.

#### Final thought

Here at Gordonton School we continually draw attention to responsible use of digital media, especially social media and its use. To see the negative impacts of it, look no further than recent events for the Princess of Wales and her current health issues. While she herself was coming to terms with her diagnosis, at the same time navigating telling her children about it - media, mainstream and social, went wild with vile and cruel speculation about what 'might' be happening with her. Then, when left with no alternative but to announce her health issues, her critics shrugged and wandered away - not an apology or an expression of remorse was heard. I'm certainly not a royalist but I am a humanist. It becomes challenging to lead our students into a culture of care, respect and doing the right thing when in the wide world they see people in positions of influence doing the opposite with alacrity and impunity.

Have a good week everyone.

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

## Whakatauki

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

**Ko au te whenua, ko te whenua ko au.**

I am the land and the land is me.

We should look after the land as we look after ourselves.



#### PTA

A reminder that the PTA will be selling sausages, pulled beef buns, hot chips, ice creams, drinks and lollie cake at the Festival of Cultures on Wednesday. If you are interested in purchasing from the PTA, you can pre-order [here](#).

If you purchased a raffle ticket, it will be drawn at the Festival. We have quite a few hampers up for grabs.

If you ordered hot cross buns you will be able to pick them up from 2.45 tomorrow (Tuesday) from the hall. Bring a bag if you can. If you can't pick them up tomorrow, you will be able to pick them up at the Festival.

## Subway Lunch

With Friday being a holiday there is no Subway lunch this week but you can order early for next week since we are still on holiday for Monday and Tuesday.



## Festival of Cultures

Come 'fly' with us as we travel across the globe. From Aotearoa to India, South Africa and more.

**Flight departs at 5.30pm from Gate 02(the Hall) flying Gordonton Air.**

The festival will start at 5.30pm in the hall and will begin with performances from some of our cultural groups. After the performances, children will go to their cultural group class for their evening presentations.

You will then be able to travel through the classrooms to experience elements of other cultures in our school. If you like, you can get your Gordonton Passport stamped at each culture too. Children will have their own passport to complete and will have opportunities throughout the evening to travel to the other rooms. They will get a treat on completion on their passport.

Some of the countries will have some samples of food from their culture, others will have displays, and activities for you to do.

Bring along the whole family and enjoy the range of cultures we have at Gordonton School.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Speaking of Festivals...

Last week the Waikato was full of hot air from balloons for the balloon festival. The Kavanagh family were very lucky to have a hot air balloon land on their farm this morning and took the opportunity to climb aboard for some photos. How exciting!



*Mā te wā*

See you again.



# Community Notices

**OUTINGS @ WOODLANDS**

**The Great Estate Scavenger Hunt**

17-18th of April 2024  
10am - 3pm

**\$3pp @ The Homestead**

For all other details, please check Woodlands Facebook page.




**KELLY SPORTS**

**HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**  
Mon 15 April - Fri 26 April

Join us for a fun-filled School Holiday Programme including Dodgeball Blitz, lots of sports, awesome games & **MUCH MORE!**  
Some activities may need to be swapped for other exciting ones! Go online to check out a full, up-to-date timetable for your venue.

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE! \*Conditions apply BOOK ONLINE NOW AT

**KELLYSPORTS.CO.NZ**

## MUSIC HOUSE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

We are excited to announce - our ROCK BAND SESSIONS holiday program is open for registrations.

This program is great for 8-14 year olds who would like to be in a band!

Where: Marian School, Hamilton

When: April 17th-19th, 9am - 3pm

Cost: \$185

Spaces limited.

Registration and details [HERE!](#)

