



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 Festival of Cultures
- 🔗 From the BoT
- 🔗 Camp Volunteers

From the Principal

Welcome to week 10. I trust you all made the most of the long weekend, spent time doing what you love and squeezing the last few drops out of summer. I was over at the beach briefly and saw a few hardy souls in the water swimming.

The highlight of last week was our Gordonton Festival of Cultures where we celebrated not only the diverse cultural community we have here at school but also the unique characteristics that each of those cultures bring to our school. Starting with a presentation in the hall flying 'Gordonton Air' we then moved around the classrooms looking at the work the children have produced studying their chosen culture or sharing their own. On offer was traditional food as well as students wearing traditional dress and answering questions about their culture.

Outside, the community seized on the opportunity to chat and catch-up. Such was the quality of the event that many stayed right until the end.

Thanks to those who turned out to support it. A special thanks to the



Indian dancers at our Festival of Cultures



A full hall for the performances at our Festival of Cultures



Monday 8 - 10
Te Māhuri Camp



Friday 12 April
Last Day of
Term 1



Monday 29 April
First Day Term 2



13 - 16 May
Book Fair

parents who supported in the learning during the weeks leading up to the festival. It's great to see parents taking opportunities like these to be involved in the school. The students and teachers did a sterling job inquiring and presenting their learning. The PTA and friends worked tirelessly to produce tasty food. Also much credit goes to Mrs Rogers who coordinated and pulled together the event, including the graphics and soundtrack in the hall performance. The feedback on the night was unanimously positive. A great night had by all.

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

Whakatauki

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

Ko taku reo taku ohooho, ko taku reo taku mapihi mauria.

My language is my awakening, my language is the window to my soul



Performances, food, cultural dress and so much more at our Festival of Cultures evening.



From the Board:

The Board held its second meeting for 2024 last week. Agenda items included the school budget/finances, annual implementation plan, steps to review the operation of our school carpark and EOTC matters. Thank you to school parent and senior accountant Rhiannon Kelsey who attended the first part of the meeting to share her financial expertise with the Board - Rhiannon has kindly agreed to being co-opted onto our finance subcommittee for the remainder of the year, to assist the Board carrying out its financial responsibilities.

The Board is conscious of camp costs for whanau this year and approved \$2,000 towards each camp to help reduce the overall per child cost. The Board had been hoping that a grant application in February would be successful, but unfortunately that application was declined. The result being that the school remains reliant on self-funding to make camps happen this year. A big thank you to those who have supported fundraising efforts and who have anonymously donated funds to further reduce costs.

It is also that time of year where parents are asked to make a donation to meet expenses that unfortunately MOE funding is insufficient to cover. Although 31 March has now passed, you will be able to claim back a tax rebate in the next financial year for your 2024 donation if you haven't yet paid it. Donations can be made via a weekly payment plan. Every donation makes a significant difference to the school's annual income and so a huge thank you to everyone who chooses to support the school in this way.

Last year I put a request out for anyone who may have connections with a charitable or community board that funds specific school projects to connect with me, as the Board is keen to explore all opportunities to increase the school's income. I didn't get any uptake last year, so please reach out if you have resources or connections to share. The Board's property sub-committee met in Week 8 and there are some exciting school development projects afoot, which will require additional funding if they are to advance.

One of the school's strategic aims for 2024/25 is to ensure every child's unique identity and culture is celebrated and supported, and to strengthen school/home partnership. The wonderful Festival of Cultures event last week was evidence of the school's commitment to achieving these aims this year. A huge thank you to the staff, volunteer parents and hard working PTA who made the event such a memorable highlight.

Looking ahead to Term 2, the Board will be supporting management in holding an Info Evening for Year 7/8 to help Year 6 parents in their decision making for 2025. If you have any specific questions or topics you'd like to see answered, please email these to Keith so we can ensure they are covered in our planning.

The Board's next meeting is 6.30 pm
Tuesday 14 May 2024

Katy Baxter
Presiding Member

Camp Volunteer selection

Volunteers are an integral part of Gordonton School's EOTC events. Without volunteers, these events would not be possible and we value everybody who volunteers their time and support.

Our EOTC policies and procedures have been designed with the health and safety of all participants in mind, under the guidance and advice of "EOTC: Bringing the Curriculum Alive" by the Ministry of Education and ECONZ (Education Outdoors New Zealand).



Supervision Structures:

Supervision structures are based on many elements. Including but not limited to;

- The number of students attending
- Student ability for the planned activities
- Type of scheduled activities.
- More adults may be required if water is involved, which relates directly to the group's abilities in, around or on water.
- If any of our students require one-on-one support, consideration may be given to take an extra adult not counted in our overall supervision. This will be at the combined discretion of the PIC and EOTC coordinator in consultation with the child's parents.

Overnight Camps require all adults to be police vetted. This may result in an applicant not being suitable to attend the EOTC event. Due to the cost of completing a Police Vet, these are only completed if an applicant has been selected for the EOTC event.

We cannot accept volunteers with additional dependents at any EOTC event. We require the attention of our volunteers to be solely on our students.

There are 3 different categories of volunteers that may be required for any EOTC event.

1. General supervision while our students are at the event
2. Group Leaders while our students are rotating through activities
3. Activity leaders. You will be responsible for running an activity

Application Process:

Volunteers are selected carefully, with the health and safety of ALL students being our priority.

Indicate on the "Consent and Information Form" that you would like to volunteer as an adult for the EOTC event.

You can expect to receive a "Day Volunteer Application Form" or an "Overnight Volunteer Application Form". The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all components of the form are completed and returned

to the Person In Charge of the EOTC event within the specified time frame. Overnight Volunteers are required to complete a Health form. This information is only used in case of emergency and is not used to select volunteers.

All staff involved in the event will then meet to select volunteers based on;

- Gender balance
- Previous EOTC experience (previous camps and day trips)
- Health and Safety qualifications
- Experience with leading and supervising groups of students
- Observations of interactions with students at Gordonton School.
- Ability to listen and follow directions from event leaders.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with our students.

Applicants can then expect to be notified if their support is or is not required for the event. We will not disclose specific information about why individuals were or were not selected due to private information disclosed during the application process.

Successful Applicants will then receive information regarding the event and their responsibilities. Overnight camps require volunteers to attend a briefing prior to the event.

If you would like to discuss the policy around volunteer selection, please contact the office to arrange an appointment with the EOTC Coordinator and the Principal.

Mā te wā

See you again.



Community Notices

News from your Waikato District Councillors – March 2024

Let's talk about the Annual Plan and proposed rates rise

Waikato District Council has deferred its Long Term Plan until next year and is now presenting an "enhanced" Annual Plan 2024/25 to the community instead.

A general rates increase of 13.75% is proposed to meet a range of increased costs including inflation, interest rates, escalating compliance requirements, and asset maintenance costs. This is a no frills budget and will only just allow the Council to continue to provide services at the same levels as previously. We've had to find \$2m in operational efficiencies to keep rates from going higher.

Meet your Councillors (and bring your questions) to one of the Annual Plan meetings in the Ward:

- Tuesday 2 April, 6.30-7.30pm, Tamahere Community Centre, 17 Devine Rd, Tamahere, followed by a presentation to the Tamahere Community Committee
- Friday 5 April, 6.30-8pm, Matangi Hall, 478 Tauwhare Rd, Matangi
- Thursday 18 April, 6.30-8pm, Gordonton District Hall, 1024 State Highway 1B, Gordonton

Read more about this and other Ward news on www.crystalbeavis.com – click on "latest news". See the full 2024/25 Draft Annual Plan Consultation Document and draft general and targeted rates on <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/say-it>.

Contact your Tamahere-Woodlands Councillors:



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