



13 November 2019

Gordonton School

Anchored in **MANA**

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)

If you've been in the school this week you may have spotted children running, jumping, throwing, and generally being athletic. It's the time of year when athletics dominates the health and PE curriculum and the much anticipated competition between students occurs. Like every curriculum area there are those who are naturally capable, those who have to work hard and those who face challenges to fully achieve.

In other schools I have worked in this type of activity is often preceded by a range of mystery physical ailments that preclude students actively participating. I'm very pleased to say this isn't an issue confronting Gordonton School and all of our students participate regardless of their ability. Well done, Gordonton kids!



Thank you

A big thanks to **Komatsu** for sponsoring bucket hats in Room 7! We are sun safe at Gordonton School and the children of Room 7 are so proud and lucky to each have received a hat!



Junior athletics is on Thursday, next week. Keep an eye on the school *facebook* page for dates and times as well as postponement information. Eastern Waikato interschool athletics for our senior students is next Tuesday.

Appointment

Last Saturday we held interviews at the school for the junior school position and I am pleased to announce that Mrs Enya Smuts has been appointed as a junior school teacher from Term 1 2020. Enya has been teaching in a fixed term capacity in Room 7 this term. Congratulations and welcome, Enya. This Saturday we are conducting interviews for the Year 3/4 and year 5/6 positions for 2020. I will be able to announce the successful applicants next week.

Support Staff Conditions and Pay

Currently the support staff collective agreement is under review. They are submitting a case for better pay and conditions for their roles. Support staff (Learning assistants) are paid by the school to come in and support our students with their learning or physical challenges in school and frankly, we could not operate without them. Some support general learning, while others are assigned to specific students who attract funding from other Government providers to meet their needs. We also have one specifically employed to support our speakers of other languages (International and ESOL learners).

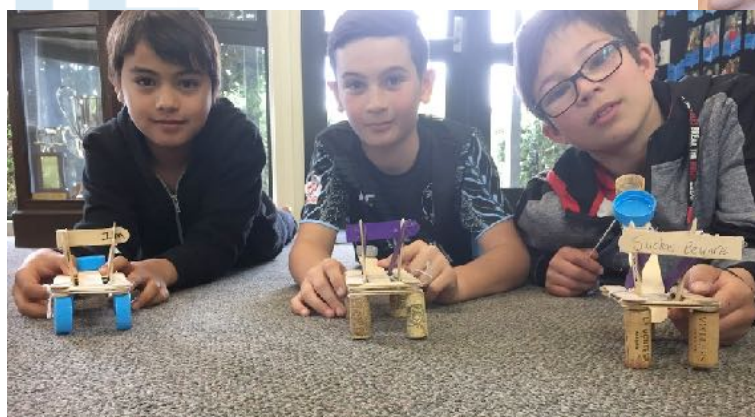
Unlike teaching staff who are paid from the Ministry of Education coffers, Learning Assistants are mostly paid from the school's operations grant which is the lump sum given by Government to operate public schools. Their hourly rates are set by their collective agreement but these don't in any way reflect the responsibilities they are asked to perform. We value our support staff! Please support them in their endeavour to improve their pay and conditions.

Calendar

Please check the calendar in this newsletter for upcoming events and attractions. It's a busy time of year as we are on the downslope to Christmas.

Roman Studies

I was lucky to have these four Room 3 students visit me last week and show me their operational Roman catapults. These had been made in conjunction with their topic studies but also integrated technology, fair



testing and design innovation. Well done Room 3.

Troy McIntosh (above) showing his design innovation. David Grayson, Max MacLennan, Matthys Zondagh (left) ready to fire!

PTA Quiz Night

If you attended the quiz night last Saturday you will have seen what a fantastic event had



been organised by our hard-working PTA. Some of Gordonton's best brains were in action and the knowledge harnessed in that room was as impressive as the costumes and team spirit on display. A fantastic night was had by all and I thank our very generous sponsors and benefactors for providing stunning prizes and auction items. I will update you with what was raised next newsletter. Pictured is one of the high performing teams getting into their work. Thanks to all who took part.

As I write this the happy summer sounds of children participating in athletics is drifting in the window. Think I'll go and catch some of the action.

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

Keith O'Donnell, Principal

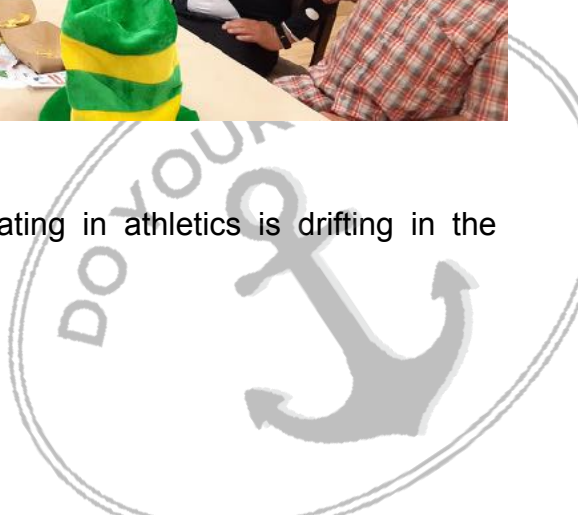
WHAT'S COMING UP

NOVEMBER

- 19 EWCS Athletics
- 21 Junior Athletics
- 22 Postponement day
- 26-27 Intermediate Trip to Te Puna
- 29 Yr 8 RJHS orientation

DECEMBER

- 5 Junior School trip Butterfly Creek
- 11 BOT Meeting
- 18 Intermediate trip to Hinterland
- 18 Yr 8 Leaving dinner
- 19 Prizegiving
- 20 Last day of term 4



NOTICES

Term dates for 2020

The BoT have ratified the term dates for 2020. You'll note the school is closed for instruction on the Friday between Waitangi day and the weekend that follows to allow families to travel away on that weekend. Also the inclusion of a teacher only day in July and a mid term break (Monday) in Term 3 giving a long weekend in August.

Term 1

Monday 3rd February Thursday 9th April

Term 2

Tuesday 28th April Friday 3rd July

Term 3

Tuesday 21st July Friday 25th September

Term 4

Monday 12th October Tuesday 15th December, 1.15pm

Holidays/Teacher only Days

Term 1

Thursday 6th February	Waitangi Day
Friday 7th February	Teacher Only Day
Friday 10th April	Good Friday

Term 2

Monday 27th April	Anzac Day holiday
Monday 1st June	Queens Birthday

Term 3

Monday 20th July	Teacher only day
Monday 24th August	Mid Term Break

Term 4

Monday 26th October	Labour Day
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Contact Catherine Weston 022 3064865
email: niawithcatherine@gmail.com FB: niadancewithcatherine

GLOBAL FLAVOURS

MALAYSIAN FRIED RICE



Ingredients:

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp oil
- 1 c cooked rice
- 1 c mixed frozen veges
- 1/2 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1/2 Tbsp toasted sesame seeds (optional)
- 1 - 2 Tbsp spring onions, thinly sliced

Heat pan over medium heat, add oil. Pour in beaten eggs. As eggs cook, break them into smaller pieces using a fork. Add rice when the egg is partly (70 - 80%) cooked and stir. Add mixed veges and soy sauce and gently mix. Add sesame seeds and spring onions, gently toss to coat. Serves 2.



www.sportwaikato.org.nz
© This resource was developed by Sport Waikato 2019



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