



11 December 2019

# Gordonton School

Anchored in **MANA**

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

*Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)*

We are now near the end of the term, the year and for some, their time at Gordonton School. Many of our students have completed their full 8 years of schooling here and we are spending the remaining time acknowledging and celebrating not only their time here, but also some of our staff who, as spoken of in previous newsletters, are off to new endeavours, opportunities and experiences. Exciting times ahead following a good summer break.

We also have some in our learning community who are staying with us but stepping back from roles, one of whom I would like to mention here:

Rebecca Barlow is stepping down from her position as the administrator on the Gordonton Sports Committee. Since the committee was formed Rebecca has been one of the mainstays of the committee; organising teams, managers, coaches, registrations and communication with the regional sporting code bodies. She has fielded and resolved complaints, promoted the school under the sporting lens and also co-wrote the Sports Administration policy which is now being adopted by more schools as the most effective way to manage their sports teams. All of this work has been done outside of her role as a learning assistant at the school, another function she performs very well. Rebecca's dedication to Gordonton School sports is significant and she leaves big shoes to fill.

## Rugby Cards

Recently there has been a resurgence in interest in collecting rugby cards and bringing them to school. These are the free cards from cereal packets and depict various All Blacks and their bio-information. They or various iterations of them over the years, have been enthusiastically collected by children - mostly but not exclusively young boys - and brought to school for swapping, trading or just proudly showing off.

Sadly, there is a negative aspect where these items becoming something of a currency for the *collector* community and as commonly happens some children - without thought of manaakitanga and ngakau pono, help themselves to other children's cards. I've never been too draconian when it comes to these items coming into school and have usually adopted an "at your own risk" approach, however, when items start getting stolen it is time to intervene.

I have spoken to the students about this matter. **From today these cards are not to be brought to school.** If children insist on bringing them they will be retained and returned at the end of the day.

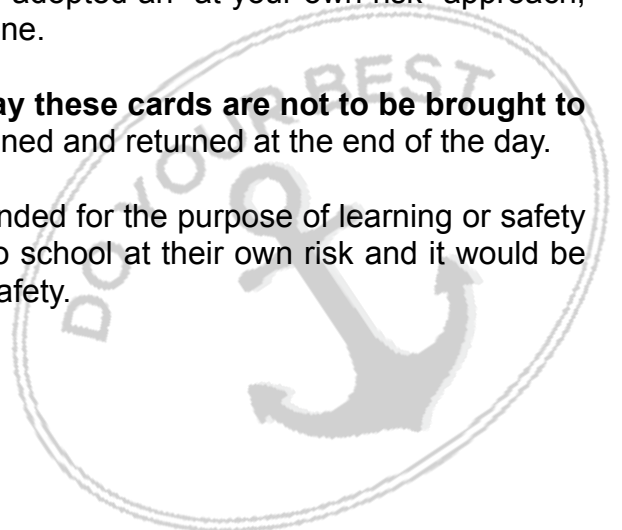
There are other items that come to school that are not intended for the purpose of learning or safety such as bey blades and other toys. Children bring these to school at their own risk and it would be wise to only bring things to school that benefit learning or safety.

## Disco

Busy night tonight with the school disco. Please check later in the newsletter for timings and instructions.

Please avoid sending children along with too much money. They seldom look after it well, they often lose it, and they are always upset about it.

We want them to have a great social time and I thank the PTA for their effort in setting it up and managing it for our tamariki.



## Board of Trustees

Also on tonight's calendar is the final Board of Trustees meeting of the year where we wrap up the Governance for 2019. I will present our school-wide achievement data to the Board and I will be able to share it with the community thereafter in subsequent newsletters. I would like to acknowledge Shona Enersen and the Board for their awhina and hard work this year, some of them entering the role at the mid year elections.

## Music

I attended the Music House concert at school on Monday evening where our students along with some from other schools, were able to showcase some incredible talent playing a range of instruments and singing. This is thanks to the Music House itinerant music teachers who come in weekly to teach the children instruments. It was a great show and we are very lucky to have many talented and enthusiastic musos in our school. Roll on next year where we will have a big arts focus with school music groups and production on the radar.

## Pool Keys

We are still working on our pool use agreement and getting keys cut. Thanks to those who have signed up for keys. We will get these issued mid next week.

## Assembly this week

We have an assembly this Friday where we are acknowledging teachers who are leaving the school at the end of the year. Assembly starts at 2pm on Friday.

## Bus routes

2020 sees the changing of the Ministry of Education Bus Service to and from school. This is a regulatory service so the MOE makes the rules without consultation. Considering it costs \$900,000 annually to bus NZ children to school, where there are savings to be made they are exploited. If you are an affected family or think you might be, contact Dee in the office and she will provide you with the new route maps.

## Butterfly Creek

The Junior Team travelled to Auckland last week to Butterfly Creek. For some of our tamariki, this was their first time on a school trip and on a bus without their parents. It was a great day and all our tamariki showed they were anchored in MANA.

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

Keith O'Donnell  
Principal

## WHAT'S COMING UP

### DECEMBER

- 11 BOT Meeting
- 13 Farewell assembly
- 18 Intermediate trip to Hinterland
- 18 Yr 8 Leaving dinner
- 19 Prizegiving
- 20 Last day of term 4





# NOTICES

## PTA DISCO TONIGHT SCHOOL HALL

The theme is "Superheroes, princesses, fairy, neon, crazy hair, famous person".

Year 0 - 4      4pm - 5.30pm

Year 5 - 8      6pm - 8.30pm

There will be a Sausage Sizzle/BBQ at 5.30 for \$2.00 a sausage.

There will also be a range of kid food/lollies/drinks etc on sale at the Disco.

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## RAFFLE

We have been kindly donated two Kimonos from Augustine to raffle off to raise funds for the Dillion family who lost their house in a fire last term. Tickets will be \$5 each and all the money raised will go to them.

The winner will be drawn at the final assembly Friday 13th December by Mr O'Donnell. There will be two winners and the first name drawn out will get to choose which kimono they would like.

Tickets are open to anyone and we want to raise as much money as we can to support them in rebuilding their lives. Share this around to everyone you know. If your name gets drawn out I will contact you via phone.

Tickets will be available to buy from Mrs Hawkins in Room 5. Cash Only please

## AUGUSTINE KIMONO RAFFLE



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