



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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



Lunch with the Principal: Lily, Izaiah and Stephanie having lunch with Mr O'Donnell

Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)

Covid update

My thanks to all our students, staff and community for the manner in which we traversed last week's change in Covid Alert levels. There was little or no imposition on learning and classes all ran smoothly.

THIS WEEK'S WHAKATAUKI/ WHAKATAUAKI

**Te amorangi ki
mua, te hapai o ki
muri**

The leader at the
front and the
workers behind the
scenes

This is a reference to Marae protocol where the speakers are at the front of the meeting house and the workers are at the back making sure everything is prepared and that the guests are well looked after. It is important to note that both jobs are equally important, and are like the yin and yang, for without one, everything would fail.



**SPORTS
COMMITTEE AGM**
Monday 15th
March, 7pm in the
staffroom



SCHOOL PHOTOS
Tuesday 16th
March



PTA AGM
Wednesday 17th
March, 3.15pm in
the staffroom



**EPILEPSY DAY
PURPLE DAY**
Friday 26th March

In the main people observed the entry restrictions although a couple of reminders had to be given out. I understand it can be easy to forget when everyone has become so accustomed and 'relaxed' around what seems to be the way life will be moving forward.

And so we return to Level 1 and normal service resumes. I doubt anyone would wager on where we will be next week or the week after. Rest assured, the safety and well-being of the students and staff are paramount in the decisions we make in respect of alert levels.

We do still require ALL parents to come to the office when picking up children during the day. Please do not go to the class to collect your child, we will do that for you. Thank you

Awhina - Supporting others to be the best they can be

Student Leaders

Last week we completed the process of appointing the student council for 2021. We had many more applicants than the 10 positions available. The students completed a CV, gathered referees and references, came to a scheduled formal interview and waited for the outcome. This process mirrored the appointment process they will encounter once they leave school and start applying for jobs. Preparing students for life is the underlying tenet of education.

I would like to congratulate our successful applicants. They will formally receive their badges at this Friday's assembly.

This week in New Zealand's Historic past:

8 March 1859	Governor Thomas Gore Browne agrees to purchase lands at Waitara, Taranaki from Te Teira.
9 March 1890	Great Sutherland waterfall which cascades down for 580 m near Milford Sound is first climbed
10 March 1869	New Zealand Cross Created
11 March 1845	The fall of Kororāreka (Russel) NZ's first Capital city and then 5th largest settlement in the country.
12 March 1864	Arthurs pass discovered.
13 March 1956	NZ first ever Cricket Test Victory vs West Indies at Eden Park.
14 March 1980	Split Enz hit Number 1 with 'I got you'



Pictured L-R: Lily Johnson (Deputy Head Student), Stephanie Lucy, Heidi Gavin (Head Student), David Grayson, Tiare Ennion, Troy McIntosh (Head Student), Holly Grayburn, Carlo Marquand, Daisy Gower (Deputy Head Student), Riley Fenn.

We wish them every success in growing their leadership this year.

Ako - Quality Teaching and learning

Te Rakau Trip

Museum and Tutu's on Tour

Tomorrow Te Rakau year 7-8 team are heading out of the school on a trip. This trip highlights the learning theme of Kotahitanga (unity). The first stop is the Museum where they will explore the *Shaping Hamilton* exhibition. The second part will be watching the Royal New Zealand Ballet's 'Tutus on tour' show at the Clarence Street Theatre highlighting unity in the arts. I'm joining them for part of this trip and special thanks to the accompanying parents and adults who make these things possible.

Achievement

As I've mentioned previously our Student achievement data from 2020 was very pleasing considering the disruptions to the learning programmes. Each week I will share some of the results that I was pleased to share with the Board of Trustees at our last meeting.

Reading

At the start of 2020, 22% of our learners across the school were reading below their expected level of the curriculum. Through class programmes and interventions both in and out of the classroom we reduced that to 13%.

The number of children reading 'At' their level dropped by 11.6% and the number of children across the school learning above or well above their expected level increased by 21%.

I will share the other curriculum areas with you in the coming weeks.

PTA

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will hold their AGM on Wednesday 17th March at 3.15pm in the school staff room. The PTA has an integral role in school

operations. It provides an opportunity for parents to involve themselves in the school at a more organisational level. They drive fundraising projects that benefit the learners and last but not least to have fun and make social connections with a group of like minded parents. We have lost a few members with families graduating from the school or relocating and now is the time for some new faces.

If you would like to join the PTA please come to the meeting and offer your help. If you'd like to find out more please email the school and we will connect you with the right people.

Lunch with the Principal

Last Wednesday I had the pleasure of the company of Lily, Izaiah and Stephanie for lunch in my office. These three along with Cooper Hughes were the recipients of the MANA awards at the previous assembly. Unfortunately Cooper was away so I'll catch up with him at the next one. It was great having an informal lunchtime chat over lunch.

Manaakitanga-Kindness, care & respect

Resilience Programme

We have decided not to offer the Friends for Life programme anymore and instead are developing a programme that includes our school values and the wellbeing professional development the staff have been getting from Libby Gairdner. Resilience is also covered in this. We plan to have this programme up and running by the start of next term.

Good Luck

Tracey Clark has resigned her position as a Learning Assistant at Gordonton to pursue new opportunities. I wish Tracey well on her new journey.

Policy Review Consultation

Our Home Learning Policy is currently due for review. I have presented it in full below. If you have any feedback or would like to offer an opinion, please do so in writing to me keitho@gordonton.school.nz before 17 March 2021.

Home Learning

Home learning is an extension of the school programme and supports, enhances, and consolidates teaching and learning. It provides a positive link between home and school.

Teachers:

- outline expectations, routines, and suggested time requirements for home learning to students and parents at the start of the year
- set home learning that reflects students' individual needs and changing ages and stages, and reinforces teaching and learning
- set home learning that incorporates the vision, values, key competencies, essential learning areas and principles as expressed in The New Zealand Curriculum or Te Marautanga o Aotearoa
- ensure students understand their home learning tasks and can work independently, where possible

- communicate home learning concerns to parents.

Students:

- are responsible for their own home learning
- understand their home learning tasks and work as independently as possible.

Parents:

- encourage and support their children
- provide feedback to the child and the teacher
- communicate with the teacher if their child is unable to complete the home learning, or if family or other circumstances take priority

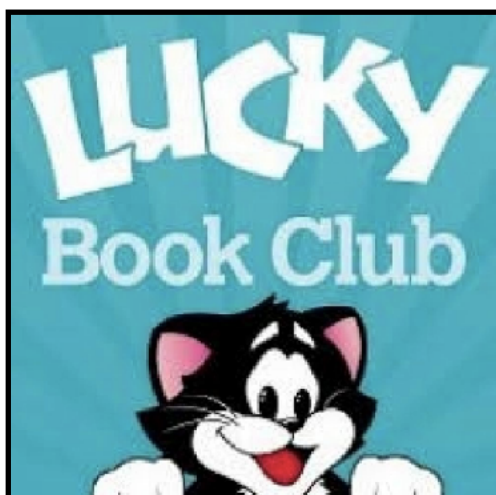
School Photos

Class and Individual photos will be taken next week, Tuesday 16th March. A flyer went home last week about photos.

Sibling photos **will not** be taken automatically. If you would like to order a sibling photo please email Dee in the office.

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

Keith O'Donnell, Principal



LUCKY BOOK CLUB

We are looking for a lovely parent volunteer to help out with our Lucky Book Club. If you have a couple hours too spare twice a term we would love to hear from you. You will need a home computer.

Please see Dee in the office.

Thank you

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Gordonton School Sports Committee AGM

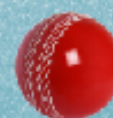
Date: Monday 15th March

Time: 7pm

School Staff Room

All welcome

The Sports Committee are looking for a couple of keen individuals to join our team. No special skills needed, just an enthusiastic attitude! Come and have a chat with us



KIDS SPEAK OUT!

**SPEAK 4
SUCCESS**

No Confidence – School speeches – Bullies - a NIGHTMARE?

After School Classes: Kids gain a voice and real-life skills.

LEADERSHIP: School Holidays 1-4 days with Certificate - Age 10+

RING: Roz 027 248 2888 www.speak4success.co.nz



21 College Drive, Gordonton

office@rainbows.org.nz

www.rainbows.nz Phone: (07) 8243188

Rainbows are a well established Christian Centre based in rural surroundings.

6 months - 6 years

8:00am - 4:30pm

Sessions and full days available

20 hours ECE subsidy and WINZ.



Waikato Diocesan School for Girls

Open Day 2021

Anglican Boarding School for Years 9 to 13



WAIKATO DIOCESAN
School for Girls

Friday 19 March

Come experience what Dio has to offer at our Open Day 2021.

10.00am – Principal's welcome in the All Saints Chapel followed by tours of boarding and the day school.

10:00am to 12:00pm

Waikato Diocesan School for Girls - Limited on-site parking at Martin Street entrance (off McNicol Street). *No registration required

We welcome your enquiry about joining our school family