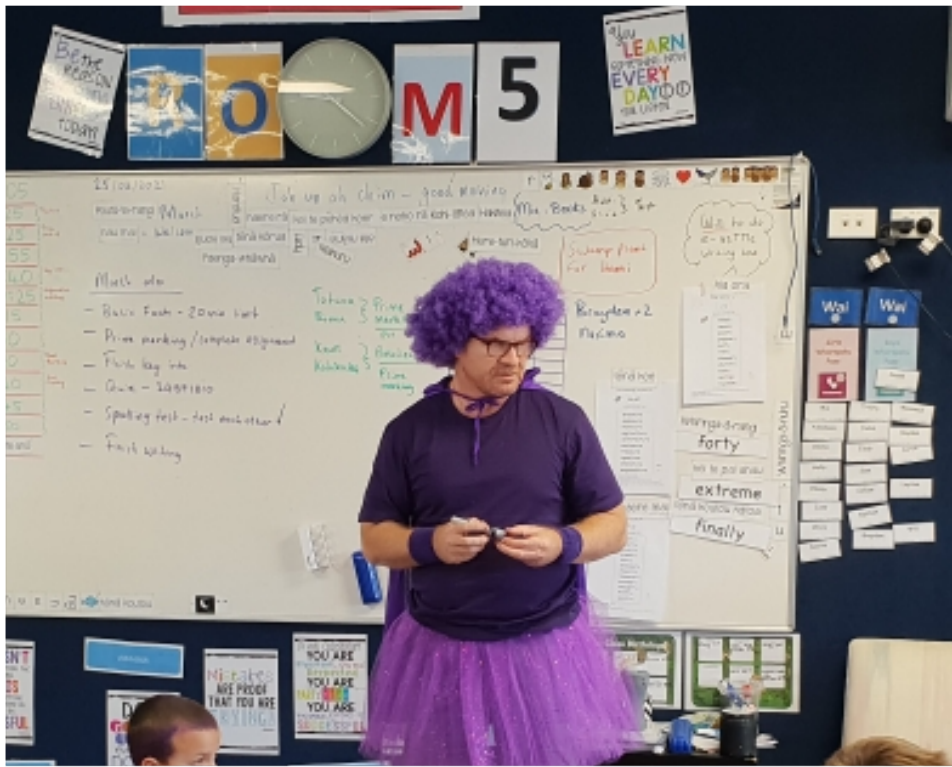




GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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



THIS WEEK'S WHAKATAUKI

**He rau ringa e oti
ai
Many hands
make light work**

*This encourages
people to work
together. It can be
used to invite
people to
participate or to
acknowledge the
effort and work of
many.*

Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)

Welcome to week 9

A couple of short weeks ahead with school finishing on Thursday for the long weekend and the children returning to school the following Wednesday. For over 60 years now Easter Tuesday has been a school holiday for children who go to state and state integrated schools in NZ. By law schools must be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday as they are public holidays, and Easter Tuesday which is a school holiday. When



EWCS SWIMMING
Wednesday 31
March



EASTER PICNIC
Wednesday 31
March 5.30-8pm



EASTER TUESDAY
Remember school
is closed on
Tuesday 6 April



TE KĀKANO TRIP
To Hamilton
Gardens Tuesday
13 April

Easter falls in April this school holiday often goes unnoticed by parents. This is because where possible the Ministry tries to align the start of the April school holidays with Easter.

Ako-quality teaching & learning

EWCS Swimming

Good luck to our representative swimmers who will be travelling to Waterworld on Wednesday to compete at the Eastern Waikato Country Schools swimming sports. This is one of the number of inter school events that we attend, along with Athletics and Cross Country. Swimming is hosted by Horsham Downs School. My thanks to the teachers who have prepared our children for this event. If your child is competing, notices will have already come home with information regarding the day.

Production

This year we are staging a production in Term 3. Last year was supposed to be a production year but covid-19 put a line under that and it was cancelled. Whilst this is not a year we would normally put on a production, if we were to leave it, it would mean that all our Year 8s would miss out during their intermediate years.

We (some year 8's and I) are writing it ourselves and it will happen toward the end of the third term. More information will follow in due course.

Ngākau Pono - Integrity, loyalty & honesty

Erratum

Last week I thanked Stacey Van Der Drift for her time as Chairperson of the PTA. I was quickly reminded that she had been Secretary of the PTA. Debbie Hawkins was and remains our PTA Chairperson. Sorry Debbie and Stacey for my confusion.

This week in New Zealand's Historic past:

- 29 March 1901 Skippers Bridge (suspension Bridge over skippers canyon) opened.
- 30 March 1940 Funeral procession at the state funeral for Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage.
- 31 March 1864 Rewi's last stand. The final Battle of the Waikato Wars was fought at Te Awamutu between Maori and British Soldiers.
- 1 April 1773 First Beer Brewed in New Zealand. Brewed by Captain Cook to ward off Scurvy it was made from Rimu leaves and tasted awful by all accounts.
- 2 April 1916 Arrest of Rua Kēnana - Maori Prophet in Te Urewera Ranges.
- 3 April 1943 Battle of Manners Street (Wellington) between NZ and American servicemen.
- 4 April 2001 Dame Sylvia Cartwright appointed Governor General completing a clean sweep for women of the top roles in New Zealand with Prime Minister Helen Clark, opposition leader Jenny Shipley, Chief Justice Sian Elias and Attorney-

General Margaret Wilson.



Manaakitanga-Kindness, care & respect

Whanau Group

One of my directives as a Principal is to ensure the school meets its obligations under the National Education Learning Priorities (NELPs). I report to the Board of Trustees at each meeting around progress on these priorities.

One of these is 'Collaborating more with whānau, employers, industry and communities to help create an education environment that is learner-centred, and where more of our learners, and especially our Māori and Pacific learners, are successful'.

To that end I am calling for expressions of interest from parents to contribute to a whanau group, one which seeks your contribution to the conversation around creating a better learning environment for our learners - especially (but not exclusively) those who identify as Maori or Pasifika. It would amount to at the most one or two meetings a term where I would be seeking your input. Please drop me an email keitho@gordonton.school.nz if this interests you or you wish to be part of it. I will convene a meeting when interest is known.

From the Board of Trustees

A meeting was held last Tuesday and the Board progressed a number of matters:

- Regarding sowing and treatment of the school field to combat Black Beetle infestation.
- Moving of the containers to other parts of the school.
- The Board heard from Kelly Mills from the sports committee and pledged to support where possible to keep sports at the forefront of Gordonton School life.

- Discussion was held around school donations, especially camps. The Principal and Board Chair will communicate a letter home to all families outlining the position relating to donations and school activities.
- The Policies around Financial and Property Management and Home Learning were ratified.

Awhina-Supporting others to be the best they can be

Last week we had Purple Day to raise awareness for Epilepsy. It was great to see so many people dressed in purple. We raised \$210.60.

Photos

MANA Card draw

Our MANA Card Draw winners had lunch with Mr Sweetman last week. Here they are enjoying their Pizza Lunch. At the last assembly the winners won a lunch with Mrs Rogers.

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

Keith O'Donnell, Principal



EASTER PICNIC

This is a PTA run event held **THIS WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH** 5.30-8pm on the field.

Bring along your dinner, drink (non alcoholic) and join in the fun and games.

There will be a children's easter egg/scavenger hunt and games for all the family.

Cancellation: If this event is cancelled we will post on Facebook and Skoolloop. The decision will be made at 3pm Wednesday. Please keep an eye on Facebook.



Gordonton School, Hamilton

Holiday Programme

Term 1 2021

Full Day 8.00am to 6.00pm \$ 45 Trip Day 8.00am to 6.00pm \$ 55 Short Day 8.00am to 3.00pm \$ 35 Half Day 8.00am to 1.00pm OR 1.00pm to 6.00pm \$ 25	
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<p>Mon 19th April</p> <p>Backyard Birds</p> <p>Spread your wings and get creative with DIY bird homes, macrame bird feeders, crafts, challenges and more!</p> 	<p>Tue 20th April</p> <p>Sensational Senses</p> <p>Put your senses to the test today with blindfolded drawing, slime, putty and playdough creations, DIY harmonicas and challenges to test your knowledge of taste and smell!</p> 	<p>Wed 21st April</p> <p>TRIP: Tom & Jerry: The Movie</p> <p>Everyone's favourite cat and mouse team bring their classic rivalry to the big screen in the animated comedy adventure, TOM & JERRY – only in cinemas.</p> 	<p>Thu 22nd April</p> <p>Spies & Detectives</p> <p>Could you crack the code and uncover who stole the missing diamonds? How about write secret messages in invisible ink...? Find out today as we do all that and more!</p> 	<p>Fri 23rd April</p> <p>Pancakes and Pyjama Party</p> <p>Come dressed in your cosiest pyjamas for this pancake and pyjama party day! Make your own bath bomb, dream catcher, and eye mask then finish the day with some tasty pancakes!</p> 
<p>Mon 26th April</p> <p>Closed</p> <p>Sorry, we're closed for ANZAC Day.</p> <p>Take care and we'll see you tomorrow!</p> 	<p>Tue 27th April</p> <p>Out of this World</p> <p>Journey to a Galaxy far, far away today as we compete in astronaut training before learning how craters form and creating sun catchers, shooting star launchers and fizzing moon rocks!</p> 	<p>Wed 28th April</p> <p>TRIP: Hamilton Hop Along</p> <p>We spring into town and see amazing inventions that tackle issues in our region, experience the wonders of innovations and get inspired to get inventing!</p> 	<p>Thu 29th April</p> <p>Dino Dash!</p> <p>Roar, stomp and roar some more this Dino day! Today we're digging for dinosaur fossils and creating our own! Have fun with Fizzing Dino Eggs and tasty landscape cups!</p> 	<p>Fri 30th April</p> <p>Geology Day</p> <p>Create edible crystals, erupting volcanoes, quicksand, agate art and more today! As we explore all things Geology!</p> 

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