



TĒNĀ KOUTOU,

The events of the weekend in Christchurch have come as a shock to everyone. In some regard, perhaps we in New Zealand, should never have considered ourselves immune from such actions and certainly the actions of a deranged individual have extinguished any residual naivety that anyone may have held. As a school our stated aim is to keep children safe in an active and positive learning environment. I am pleased to report that there was no unique response required at school yesterday to counter any anxiety or stress from students or teachers and it was thankfully, just like any other Monday. That is due in whole to the way you effectively managed the response in your homes and I thank and commend you for that.

My thoughts and best wishes go out to those schools who are having to negotiate such issues or develop responses, especially those directly affected by loss or grieving. A very dark day in New Zealand's history but we will strive to continue to provide a context of routine and safety for students here at Gordonton School. You may notice our flag flying at half-mast. This is done following an instruction from Government around the acknowledgement of the bereavements that we comply with. Also the school can assist in some ways if you or your family encounter anxiety following the events of the weekend. Please let us know and we will help if we can.

### Hamilton West School Sports Exchange

Last Thursday saw a contingent of students and staff from Hamilton West school come to visit us to play T-Ball, Cricket and Touch. It was a fun day and all the children who participated enjoyed themselves and conducted themselves as courteous and respectful hosts. The tournament result was a 2 - 2 draw with Ham West winning the T-Ball and Boys Touch and Gordonton winning the Cricket and Mixed Touch. We have been invited over to Ham West during winter for games of Football, Hockey and Netball.

### PB4L

Our school is embarking on a new journey which has the potential to change our learning and teaching culture by the way we view student behaviour. "Positive Behaviour 4 Learning" (PB4L) is a framework that encourages a consistent, considered approach to student behaviour. In consultation with students, staff, the BOT and the wider school community, we will be implementing a continuum of evidence-based interventions to achieve positive academic and behavioural outcomes for all students (and the adults at school). The emphasis will become the prevention of problem behaviours rather than reacting to them. We will be gathering data continually to guide decisions about school-wide behaviour and individual behavioural needs and we will be emphasising an instructional approach to issues rather than a purely reactive response.

What does this mean for your child and what will it look like? You and your child should see a consistent approach to behaviour management across the school, in all settings.

### David Galbraith Event

I was fortunate enough to attend this evening at the Gordonton community hall last Wednesday. I was very engaged on his presentation which, looking around, found resonance with everyone there. It was pitched in a way that everyone could take home value as it applied to them and their situation. What I took away from the night was the message that our capacity to grow great kids rests squarely on our expectations and development of ourselves and less on our expectations of our children which they may or may not achieve. My thanks to Shona Enersen and the sports committee for organising the evening.

### Class Photos

Class photos are being taken on Friday 29th March. A shot key code will be sent home after the photos are taken, therefore you can order online.

### Teachers Paid Union Meeting

### POSTPONED

NZEI Te Riu Roa (the Primary Teachers union) have postponed the planned meeting that would have affected the school this Wednesday. I will advise when that will take place. Apologies for any inconvenience this postponement may cause.

### CRAYS HAIR DAY

This Friday the Student Council have organised "Crazy Hair Day" as our response to the 'Shave for a Cure' campaign in aid of Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ. I encourage you to support your children to come along with Crazy hair on Friday. The Councillors have organised judging and prizes for the craziest hair.



## Tree Climbing

We are putting coloured discs on trees this week and showing the students which trees can be safely climbed and to how high. Green discs at the base will identify the climbing trees. Red discs on the same trees will indicate a safe height to climb to. I'm a firm believer that kids should climb trees. I have to balance that with providing a safe environment. I think this solution meets both criteria. A group of student councillors lead by Riley Stuart, have identified four trees in the playground and two in the pool area that would be good for climbing. I thank the student council for their effort in identifying the climbing trees.



## WHAT'S COMING UP

### MARCH

28 Harvest Festival

27 New Entrant  
Parent meeting

29 Class Photos

### APRIL

2 BOT meeting

12 End of Term 1

## EOTC

After some editing time, the survey around EOTC will finally appear in your inbox later today. It proposes a broad schematic on how EOTC will be delivered in the school and seeks your input around cost etc. This information will then be used to inform the procedure and policy review around

EOTC so we can arrive at a model which is fair, cost effective and fully meets the needs of the students. I'm excited to be able to lead this development in the school.

## Seesaw

I am pleased to see a good level of engagement on students learning in SeeSaw. I went through and commented on some students work over the last couple of days and I see great celebrations and rich learning happening. Please take the time to comment on your child's work, and go through and look with them. It brings added value to their learning when they know people are looking at and sharing their learning with them. We will keep updating you with developments as we grow this into a robust reporting tool for parents but the indicators are that students and teachers are fully engaged on it.

## Kapa Haka

I met with our new Kapa Haka tutors Olinka Matete and Moeau Stewart at school last week. They are experienced Kapa Haka performers and tutors, recently performing at Te Matatini. They are currently studying Māori and Pasifka relations at Waikato University. We are pleased and excited to have them on board. Kapa Haka begins on Friday and already we have high numbers of students expressing interest. We are fortunate to have found such talented facilitators and I look forward to putting some pictures of this learning in next week's newsletter.

## Harvest Festival

This is fast approaching on the 28th March. Please mark your calendar and check out the PTA flyer later in this newsletter.

## Swimming Sports

Next Wednesday we have EWCS Swimming Sports at Te Rapa Pools. Our team has been selected and have received a letter letting you know more information.

## Achievement

Writing Data 2018.

The final part of the achievement data to share with you from last year is the writing results. This was another area of growth last year and this year has become a definite curriculum focus with the appointment in the school of Jaimee Carter as literacy leader and the exploration of ways to increase the students learning opportunities in Writing and Reading.

We have recently posted our 2019 Charter and strategic goals up to the school website. This sets out our learning intention and direction for the year. If you haven't checked out the school website make a point of visiting regularly. There is lots to see and read on there including some historic pictures from when the

Have a great week everyone.

Thank you Keith O'Donnell

Nominal Percentages	Year Start	Year End	Difference
Above	6.12	20.53	14.41
At	63.67	61.07	-2.60
Below	24.90	13.74	-11.16
Well Below	5.30	4.56	-0.74

**Largest shift from 'AT' to 'ABOVE'**  
Very little shift in the Below and Well Below students. 81.67% of students at or above expectations. (69.8% at the start of the year)(+11.87%)

## FRIDAY 15 MARCH - CERTIFICATE OF SUCCESS

- Room 1 Ben Sim and Hayley Verryt
  - Room 2 Seth Thomas and Caitlyn Day
  - Room 3 Max Maclennan and Jonathon Wiseman
  - Room 4 Esther Chow and Daisy Gower
  - Room 5 Tiare Ennion and Riley Dons
  - Room 6 Alanah Sherley and Xaviar Eagles
  - Room 8 Will Page and Robert Emery
  - Room 9 Ellie Halpin and Foster Nelson
  - Room 10 Azaray Gardiner and Lochie Macdonald
  - Room 11 Haswell Weston and Archie Page
  - Room 12 Jack Greenan and Aiden Wright
- Congratulations to all these children and keep up the good work. Every second Friday we have a sharing assembly, from 2.20pm, in the school hall. We invite you, your extended family and friends to join us for this assembly.

FRUIT JUICE

DRINKS

Fruit juice still contains sugar and only a small amount of goodness for our bodies. 250mls = 6 tsp sugar, so should be kept to a **SOMETIMES** drink.

**TIP:**  
Eat fresh/frozen/tinned fruit rather than drinking fruit juice for more goodness.

Developed by Sport Waikato 2019

# SHAVE FOR A CURE

Friday 22nd march  
funky hair day bring a gold coin donation.



Fundraising for leukemia and blood disease.

Its a competition Junior/middle boy and girl and Senior/intermediate boy and girl. To create a wild and iconic hairstyle to support research for a cure for blood cancer.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

PUKETAHA SCHOOL PTA INVITES YOU TO A



DRIVE – IN/OUTDOOR BIG SCREEN MOVIE NIGHT

# PETER RABBIT

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Gates Open 6.30pm  
Puketaha School Field

Admission - \$10 Adult \$5 Child

Drive-In Vehicle additional \$10 – Limited Number available

Tickets from the Puketaha School Office or Cash Sales on the night.  
Contact: 07 8243870 or office@puketaha.school.nz

### KEYS FOUND

Grandmother garden has found a set of keys outside their property. There is a Toyota car and a house key. Please call in if they may be yours.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Newly renovated 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom home available. No pets.  
Contact on 021 022 87148



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## PTA NEWS

Last Tuesday, the PTA met for their annual AGM and meeting. The nominations for positions were held and the results are:

President	Rhianna Annear
Secretary	Stacey Van Der Drift
Treasurer	Sandy Page

**Harvest Festival** – this is next Thursday from 5.00pm to 8.30pm. There are going to be many activities including pony rides, wobbly train, dunking tank, face board and a car wreck (let's wreck it!). The Student Council are also hosting games such as gumboot throwing, three legged race, egg & spoon race and other events. There will be a Fonterra Tanker on display, vintage vehicles on display, class projects on display, live music and much more. BBQ food for sale and many stalls to buy local crafts and produce from. Games and rides will be cashless – you will be able to purchase tickets for these on the night. Share the Facebook post, call friends and family and come along for a great night. <https://www.facebook.com/events/548566795644999/>

**Pumpkin Competition** – if you are entering a pumpkin at the Harvest Festival, can you please confirm your entry to Rhianna at [lr.annear@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lr.annear@xtra.co.nz)

**Cake Decorating Competition** – we are very lucky that Blackwell and Ruth Publishing House have donated The Great New Zealand Cooking Book, The Great New Zealand Baking Book and The Great New Zealand Birthday Cake Book as a prize for this competition (valued at \$140.00). All cakes entered will be sold via a silent auction. Can all who are entering a cake please confirm you will be bringing a cake to Rhianna at [lr.annear@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lr.annear@xtra.co.nz)

**Scarecrow Competition** – Who will be the winner this year? Will it be your scarecrow? All entries to be at school by 4pm next Thursday. This will be judged as 'The People's Award' – vote for your favourite on the night and winners announced at Assembly the following day.

**Easter Raffle** – we have had some amazing treats delivered for these raffles and we have some great prizes to go with them. Keep those Easter goodies coming in, so we can have great baskets to raffle off. Tickets are on sale now and will also be available for sale at the Harvest Festival. Draw to take place before the end of the term.

**Art Auction** – This will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. More details to follow next term.

**Ice Skating** – This has been booked in from the 18 to the 21 September. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, there will be an adult Curling Competition. Teams of 4 - \$50.00 per team. Who will be the Gordonton Curling Champions? Get your team together now!!

**Term Four** – to be confirmed...

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