



26 November 2019

# Gordonton School

Anchored in **MANA**

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

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

As this goes to print I will be over at Waimarino Adventure Park near Tauranga with Brendon and Theodore van Vugt, visiting and assisting the Intermediate EOTC experience. This is a great experience for them as a final bonding trip before we bid farewell to our graduating year 8 students at the end of the year and wish them well on their journeys to higher educational endeavour. Read more about their experience to date a little later in the newsletter.

## **Pool - community use over summer**

Work is progressing toward making this a reality. We will be installing a porta-loo down in the pool area for the summer as the absence of a toilet has made it difficult for the pool to be used in the past. It was decided this was a far superior and economic option than constructing a permanent facility down there which would have cost around \$10,000! Keys will be cut ready for issue and pool will have a new lock to match. These will be numbered keys and those wishing to use the pool over the summer outside school hours will be asked to pay a fee for a key which will be assigned against their names as well as sign a pool use agreement. Part of that fee will be in the form of a refundable deposit upon the keys return. The exact fee has yet to be finalised. With the increased use of pool chemicals the fee will only cover the cost of extra chlorination and consumables.

With heightened traffic through the pool there is an increased need for water quality testing and adjustment. Two local school dads have kindly stepped forward and offered to be trained by Blair to carry out this daily task. More on this later as the figures are finalised.

## **New Appointment**

I am now able to inform you that the newly appointed teacher for the year 3/4 team for 2020 is Jennifer Adam. Jennifer comes to us from Rototuna Primary where she taught at a similar level. She has high level strengths in Maths and has led this curriculum area with success. She is an experienced classroom practitioner with superior capability in sports coaching across a range of codes including cricket and netball. Along with Education she has a degree in Sports and Leisure as well as strengths in dance and the performing arts. We welcome Jennifer to Gordonton in 2020.

We have one more appointment to make for the Team Leader for the Intermediate School. This will be finalised this week and I hope to be able to announce the successful candidate in next week's newsletter.

## **Intermediate Trip**

The Intermediate team are currently in Tauranga. Last night they spent the night at Tutereinga Marae where they were welcomed by Mrs Rogers' whānau and told that they are welcome to return whenever they like. Our

## **Air Conditioning**

Staff and Children in Rooms 1 - 6 won't know themselves this summer as we are currently having air conditioning units installed in those classrooms.

The Board of Trustees have authorised the installation after class temperatures reached 35 deg Celsius on the warmest days last summer. Teachers and children enthusiastically collected temperature data over time which I was able to present to the Board. I thank them for their commitment to making our learning environments comfortable and healthy for our Tamariki and Staff.



tamariki soon made themselves at home and we even captured a rare photograph of some of them doing the dishes by hand!

They also went for a short walk to see the Takitimu waka and Mrs Rogers' uncle gave a kōrero about the wharehau and the history of the marae.

Today they will be at Waimarino Adventure Park participating in a range of water activities.

A huge thank you to Mrs Van Hellemond for organising this trip and to the adults who helped make this possible. This has been a great opportunity for our tamariki, some of whom have never stayed at a marae before.



One of the enduring joys of Principalship is when students bring their work to share with me. Last Thursday David Grayson from Room 3, brought his writing to show me. This writing was from Room 3's recent study of Ancient Rome, particularly the eruption of Mt Vesuvius that decimated Pompeii. What an outstanding, well crafted piece of work. I have included it in this week's newsletter for your reading pleasure. Great work David and thank you for sharing.

Only 3 and a half weeks until the end of the year. Summer is well and truly here and the last few weeks will fly past. Make the most of the great weather.

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

Keith O'Donnell, Principal

## WHAT'S COMING UP

### NOVEMBER

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

We're looking forward to presenting another...

# MUSIC HOUSE CONCERT!

Puketaha and Hautapu Schools combined concert  
6.30pm  
Monday 9th December  
Puketaha School hall  
All welcome!

If your child is performing we ask that they be at the venue 15 minutes before to make sure they're warmed up and in tune.



# *The Disaster of Pompeii*

By David Grayson - Room 3

*Kaboom! The volcano was gasping out smoke and ash. I was screaming for mother. Pots and pans were falling off shelves. The screams of children were all around me. Earlier...*

*22nd August 79AD*

*I, Claudia Flavius, have decided to start a dairy. No reason for it. I just needed something to do. This morning, Pompeii was hotter than 700 suns. Vulcan must be infuriated.*

*Mother and I were at the forum. We were buying wine for a grand banquet at our palace of a home. That's when the ground shook again. We were so used to it that you could even hear some people groaning. "Celia!" Mother shouted as soon as the shaking stopped, "please help Antonia carry the bread."*

*Antonia is our slave. We are very nice to her. We teach her Math, Writing and Latin. She seems more of a big sister. I wish I could have a big sister.*

*Before bed, I was trying to find Felix. Felix is my little brother. I would never let anything bad happen to him. I found him in his room, hiding under his bed. "Why are you under there?" I asked curiously.*

*"The dog was acting funny. Is he ok? Will he die?"*

*"No, he won't. It's ok. Our gods will look after him." There was a pause.*

*"Ok. Goodnight Claudia."*

*"Goodnight Felix."*

*24th August 79AD*

*I don't know what to write about. The horror that happened today. I'll start from the beginning.*

*It started as an ordinary day. Father and mother were on the porch. I was helping Antonia carry some expensive vases to the temple.*

*After 2 hours, disaster struck. There was a loud boom and the entire city of Pompeii shook. Vesuvius was breathing out smoke and ash. I put Felix on my back and I ran. It was almost like I was flying. I went to find mother and father. By the time we got there, most of the ships had left. We found one that had not left yet. Felix asked, "Are we ok?" That's when we saw a huge wave coming towards us. We did manage to make it over though.*

*After 30 minutes of sailing, we were far enough away that we wouldn't get hit by the falling rocks of the volcano. I couldn't watch.*

*25th August 79AD*

*It turns out that Vesuvius is still erupting. Those who stayed got their just desserts. Father said we are never going to go near it. Ever. We have been sailing close to the shore. I wonder when we will ever get off this boat?*



# NOTICES

## Term dates for 2020

### 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

GLOBAL FLAVOURS

## CHINESE SWEET & SOUR PORK



**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 Tbsp oil
- 350g lean pork, diced
- 1 red capsicum, chopped
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, sliced
- 1 can pineapple pieces in juice, drained

- 1/2 c pineapple juice
- 1 tsp ginger, grated
- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1 1/2 Tbsp white vinegar
- 1 1/2 Tbsp tomato sauce
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp cornflour
- 2 Tbsp cold water

Heat oil in pan over high heat. Add pork. Stir-fry until lightly browned. Add veges. Stir-fry for 5mins. Add ginger, juice, soy sauce, vinegar, tomato sauce and sugar. Simmer until veges are just cooked. Dissolve cornflour in water, add to pan along with pineapple pieces and stir until sauce thickens. Serve with rice.



[www.sportwaikato.org.nz](http://www.sportwaikato.org.nz)  
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## LIBRARY BOOK AND READERS



Can all library book and school readers please be returned to school as soon as possible.

Every year we do a stocktake of all our library books and books we send home for reading.

As you can imagine this is a big job, therefore the sooner we get all our books back the sooner we can start stocktake.

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