



11 September 2019

Gordonton School

Anchored in **MANA**

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

Tēna Koutou Katoa. Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)

Welcome to Week 8. It is Te wiki o te reo Māori or Māori language week. We have worked hard to incorporate Te Reo Maori into many aspects of school life. Along with English and NZ sign language it is one of the three official languages of Aotearoa New Zealand and should also take its rightful place in the education settings of our country. It's a little sad that we don't have the resourcing to really embed the language and I have to admit to being a little sad that the Government has announced it has no plans to make it compulsory in schools.

I recently visited Ireland and it was beautiful to see both young and old people there naturally conversing in both Irish Gaelic and English. As it is mandatorily taught in schools over there, it embeds quickly into the culture and becomes normal. We are certainly not there yet but our students will be using Maori phrases a little more than usual this week as we place a focus on Te Reo Maori. Karawhiua! Give it a go!

Student Led Conferences

Thanks to all those Parents and Whanau who turned out to attend the Student Led Conferences last Wednesday and Thursday. The feedback from the parents I spoke to, kids and teachers, was very positive. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged on proudly describing their learning. We will use the feedback we have had to tweak this for next year but overall a resounding success.

Sports Prize Giving

Last Saturday marked the formal end of our winter sports season and we had a full morning of awards, photos, celebrations and acknowledgements as the 17 teams that turned out for Gordonton School this winter season were honoured.

We had Soccer, Hockey and Netball represented and finished up with a beautiful celebratory kai on the deck. My enduring thanks first and foremost to the kids who turned out every week to compete but also to all who make our winter sport possible, especially the coaches, managers as well as Kelly Mills and her willing team of volunteers who make up the Gordonton Sports Committee. Well done!!! Much envied, often copied.

AIMS Update

On Sunday our two teams departed for the AIMS games in Tauranga. Latest update is that we are doing very well and holding our own against some considerably bigger schools. I managed to get over there and catch a couple of games today.

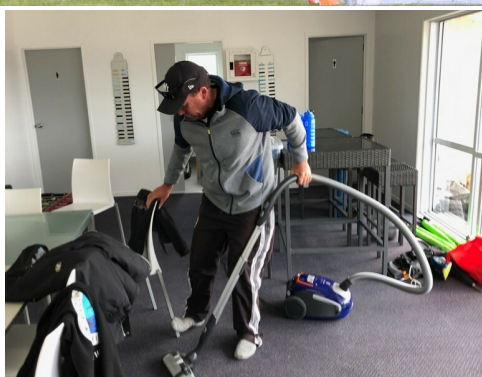
PB4L

Our tamariki continue to show awhina this week by helping their peers and adults in the school. Thank you for your manaakitanga last week when you attended student led conferences.

Next week we will look at our next value which is Ngākau Pono (pronounced ngakoh pawnaw). This is about integrity and honesty and basically doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

Here is a great photo taken by Archie Page to demonstrate Ngākau Pono.





Thanks to the parents assisting - especially Dave Verryt and Mark Van Hellemond who are impressing everyone with their homemaking skills.

EWCS Speech Finals

Several of our children represented our school at the EWCS speech finals held at Puketaha School last week.

Nathan Gill placed third in his category. Miss Thomson tried to get a photo of Nathan speaking but it was too crowded. He hasn't let that hold him back and he is now playing football at AIMS. Ka pai tō mahi, Nathan! Good work.

Hamilton West Winter Sports Exchange

Next week we are taking a group of children to Hamilton West School to return the favour of the Summer sports visit they made to us earlier in the year. We are competing across Year 3 - 8 in Rugby, Soccer, Hockey and Netball. For those children selected relevant permissions and notes will be coming home soon for signing and return.

Fun Friends and Friends For Life

We are very fortunate to be able to offer these programmes in our school as there is often a long waiting list outside school to be on these programmes. These programmes deal with resilience and coping strategies. If you would like your child to be considered for one of these programmes, please let your child's teacher know so they can refer them.

Ice Skating

Don't forget the ice skating rink is being brought in by the PTA next week. We are looking to have a blast with that and there is the added bonus of a curling competition. I have already assembled and entered my team of four. We are looking to lift the trophy at the end. If you think that's a bit of you, get a team together and enter. Will be a great night.

Farewell

Yesterday we farewelled Mrs Welten who has been at Gordonton School for nine years. We wish her well in her new journey. Mrs Pene will be in Room 8 for the remainder of the week until our new teacher, Mrs Neska Steenekamp, starts on Monday.

WHAT'S COMING UP

SEPTEMBER

9-15 Maori Language Week

18 BOT Meeting

18-21 Ice Skating

20 Curling

23 Yr 7/8 Immunisation

27 Last day of term 3

Principal for a block

Surprisingly, one of the most keenly sought prizes in our assembly draw is the prize of 'Principal for a Block'.

This week Kayla MacIntosh was the recipient and she took control of the school for final block on Tuesday. Here she is pictured - assuming command. Well done Kyla.

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



NOTICES

EVERYDAY HEROES'
THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 9.30am-2pm
THE BASE, HAMILTON - NORTHERN CARPARK
An opportunity to get up close with some of the services and agencies involved in keeping your communities safe.

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SEPTEMBER 21ST 8.30AM - 1.00PM
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ICE SKATING

18 September to 21 September

<https://www.facebook.com/events/354366532087347/>

Prices are \$8 for kids under 16, \$12 for adults and \$35 for a family (2 kids + 2 adults or 3 kids + 1 adult) which includes ice skates, helmet, gloves and at least half an hour ice skating (longer if capacity allows). The PTA will be running a canteen every day from 3pm during this time.

All classes have the opportunity to get ice skating lessons during school time. Lessons are \$6.00 per child – this includes a 50 minute lesson, gloves, helmets and skates. **Permission slips need to be returned by Monday 16th of September.**

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

Week 1: Tuesday-Friday

Week 2: Tuesday-Thursday

All are themed around making, baking and creating



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- Email or message treasuredstudio@gmail.com
- or phone/text 0272405222

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TREASURED
STUDIO

THE GORDONTON CURING CUP 2019

20 September 2019 from 6pm

<https://www.facebook.com/events/345327409417634/>

Enjoy a great night out with your colleagues, family or friends

Teams of 4 adults compete in pools of 4 teams (so you get at least 3 matches). Each pool takes 1 hour to finish so you don't have to wait long in between matches. If you make it to the finals you'll play again around 8pm.

Sign up your team now! Limited spaces! Tickets through Eventbrite.

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