



Gordonton School

Anchored in **MANA**

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

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

Final week of term is here. Two things start this weekend... the school holidays and daylight saving. It has been a challenging term weather wise and I must commend the children on their choice-making - Ngakau Pono, and the teachers for their Manaakitanga and Awhina in guiding and supporting our learners.

Ice Skating

Thanks to everyone who showed awhina and supported this event last week. It went really well and Robin, the ice skating man pointed out that the respect and courtesy shown by our children was exceptional. He gets to see kids all over the country so can speak with some authority. This is great feedback for our children and staff.

Friday night saw the curling cup where 10 teams competed for a podium in a well contested event.

My team - with not much help from me I have to say - placed first. It was

a great night and thanks to all who played or supported it. And finally to the PTA for organising the rink to come here, showing another point of difference for our school.



HATS HATS HATS

With Term 4 being one of our summer terms we have a school-wide expectation around the wearing of Hats.

They should be wide-brimmed and preferably without a neck-tie cord. We don't insist on the school hat but if you would like a school one they will be available from the school office hopefully by the start of the term. The price is \$25.00 each.

Children who don't have hats will be restricted to playing under the shade sails

Lost Property

There is a large amount of lost property accumulated and as is usual at the end of term we will be putting it out - weather permitting. (The only thing worse than lost property is wet lost property). Anything not collected by the end of the term will be moved on. We can't hold onto these items. Please come into the school and take a look if you are missing an item.

Car Parking

With extra pressure on our staff car park these days - we have no room for any extraneous cars. I ask if you are a parent visiting the school for meetings or extended visits between 7.45am and 4.15pm that you use the bottom car-park by the road. That ensures that our staff who are here all day have secure parks available. Health and safety legislation also directs that we keep the disabled carpark beside the office free for use by those with disabilities and lately staff have been forced to park there. I appreciate your cooperation with this.

Mahuru Māori - Maori Language Month

As we near the end of Mahuru (September) we can look back and see how we have celebrated and embraced the evolution of te reo and the blending of both languages through learning waiata (songs) to celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, playing kēmu (games), learning tī rakau (stick games), including the haka in the National Anthem and singing Big Aroha - The catchy bilingual creation is a feel good number pumped full of messages of unity, love, and community. It's a song that blends the

two languages together as well as having a message that celebrates the use of te reo Māori as part of our everyday language.

Big Aroha, by Taranaki group the Slacks, came from a conversation the lead singer had with his mate Jeff about the importance of community and manaakitanga. The release of the song was blessed at Parihaka. It also ties in quite nicely with our school values, not to mention being a fun, catchy song.

Rugby Honours

Congratulations to Sam Van Hellemond who has won selection for the Waikato U13 Roller-Mills rugby team.

Box Bots - robotics competition

Last Friday a group of nine year five and six students travelled to Fairfield Intermediate to represent the school at the Boxbot Challenge. This involved designing and making a remote-controlled robot from a box to complete five challenges including a maze, sumo challenge, rob the nest, dash and a drawing activity.

This was the first time the school has competed at the challenge and the two teams performed admirably. This was highlighted by both teams reaching the Sumo final where they combined to 'destroy' the opposition. This opportunity provided rich learning experiences in the new Digital Technologies Curriculum.

Thank you to the parents and supporters who attended the event and cheered our teams on. The Boxbots can currently be viewed in the office. Thank you to Mr Carter who worked with the teams to design and create their Boxbots.

Hamilton West Sports exchange

As the newsletter went to print last Wednesday 84 students, teachers and parents from Gordonton were on our way to Hamilton West school to return the sports exchange visit across the winter codes of Football, Hockey, Rugby and Netball.

I'm pleased to report that after a full day of tough competition Gordonton came out victorious and we are the 2019 *Town v Country trophy* holders. Now all we need is the trophy, which Mr Penman, Principal of Ham West and I are organising. I was very pleased with the *Manaakitanga* and *Awhina* of our children who played hard and fair with *Ngakau Pono* across all codes. Thanks to Parents who supported the day.

2020 and beyond

Planning is well underway for next year and we are focussing our school-wide development on curriculum design for improved learning, reviewing improving our assessment strategies, effective use of the digital medium and of course excellence and equity for all. We have a growing school roll so in order to design the school for next year we require some confirmation of numbers so classrooms are maintained at manageable levels to best enhance learning.

We are also planning exciting things for the Intermediate area of the school for 2020 where, at this stage, it is quite likely there will be 3 classes. In order to help with planning these quality learning opportunities, we would appreciate it if parents of Year 6 children could let us know if your child is not completing their primary education here. Can you please let me know as soon as possible so



WHAT'S COMING UP

SEPTEMBER

27 Last day of term
3

OCTOBER

14 First day of term
4

we can plan with confidence. If you are undecided and would like to have a conversation please call and book a time to see me.

In any event we will be hosting an intermediate open night early in Term 4 where we will lay out a prospectus presentation for 2020 and beyond. Date to be advised.

PB4L

Throughout the term we have been focussing on our school values and showing how we are anchored in MANA. The last value is Ako which is about quality teaching and learning as well as mahi tahi - working together.

Our tamariki are starting to use the language in their everyday conversations reminding each other to show manaakitanga and awhina and practice ngākau pono while focussing on ako. One of the best ways for our tamariki to learn about these is for adults to model these expectations we want them to display. Next term, we will be looking at specific areas of the school and the expectations for each of those areas and how we show each of the values in those areas.

Behaviour is just like learning maths or spelling or any other curriculum area. If we don't teach the expectations, we can't expect children to learn them.

Assembly this week

Our final assembly for the term is on Friday at 2.15. We have been working very hard to keep our assembly formal. It is my view that there are times when formality is essential and other times when we can be informal. All welcome to attend. We will be celebrating our students success around our value of Ngakau Pono.

I'm in Auckland during the first week of the holidays attending a Principals' conference but looking forward to a break after that. If you are travelling away these holidays please stay safe on the roads. Enjoy the holidays with your children and we will see you all again on Monday the 14th October for Term 4.

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

Keith O'Donnell
Principal



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