



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 Maths
- 🔗 Ag Day

## From the Principal

These days we are being bombarded with information lurching toward rhetoric from central Government that there is a one size fits all approach to education and kids need to just be taught properly with some standardised programmes to reach their educational potential, find fulfilling and meaningful jobs and, by natural process, fix the flagging economy.



Calves being judged for Ag Day

These are great statements, especially coming from Politicians, whose sole experience in education is that they received one, in many cases delivered from the 'broken' system they now claim to be fixing.



With 23 years in education I feel I can challenge many of those assertions but the ability to act is all but taken away by legislation and policy. As a school leader I just want what is best for our children, taking into account that no two children are the same, each has individual learning needs and our mission is to do our best to meet them.



Occasionally though, we get lucky and last week Minister Stanford released the content of the new curriculum in Maths. One of the Government's mandated programmes that schools can choose is PR1ME Maths. Luckily, here at Gordonton, we have been using PR1ME for 6 years and it is not only well embedded in our curriculum but also, we have adjusted the settings slightly to best serve the learning needs of our students. While many NZ schools will be scrambling to firstly decide and then implement a whole new programme, we can keep on going in the same direction with little or no impact on our staff and students.



**Monday 19  
October  
Group Day**



**Friday 25 October  
Teacher Only Day  
School is closed**



**Monday 28  
October  
Labour Day  
School is closed**



**Wednesday 30  
October  
Orini Fun Day**

Another programme offered is Numicon. Another resource we have been using for some time to support our littlest learners to build a strong foundation in number and to supplement our Maths programmes for those who require extra support.

I'm confident our Structured Literacy programme will share the same goodwill and it will be business as usual for us here at Gordonton. I feel for those schools having to navigate quantum change - especially those who were using systems that were working well for their Tamariki. In this case it seems though, we are not one of them.



If you want to see an example of how country schools find and celebrate their points of difference, look no further than Ag Day. Ours was held here on Friday last

week and Emma and her team stitched together a fabulous day of calves, lambs and goats as well as sand saucers, flower arrangements, decorated gumboots, cakes and fun. It was a perfect day and well attended by the community and guests. The kids were fabulous and the competition was fierce. Many thanks to the organisers, sponsors, judges, community and kids. Group day is happening as I write this.



We have a board meeting next week with some policy reviews on the agenda. These are:

School Donations and Student Activity Payments / Attendance Dues and Other

Income

Expenditure

Property Planning and Maintenance

Prevention of Bribery, Corruption, Fraud, and Theft

If any of these areas are of interest to you please follow the links and leave some feedback for the Board to consider.

Lastly, remember that this Friday (25th October) the school will be closed for a teacher only day. This is the final accord day and we have scheduled it here to align with the other schools in our Kahui Ako.

Enjoy the warmer weather and the long weekend.  
Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī (That's all for now)  
Keith O'Donnell  
Principal

## Kīwaha

Kīwaha are sayings or idioms.  
Try and use this one at home.

The pronunciation is underneath.

### Ngā tairo a Kupe

Ngaa tie-raw ah coo-  
peh

Literally - the obstacles  
of Kupe

Figuratively -  
The struggle is real



### Term 4

#### October

Monday 21 - Group Day

Friday 25 - Teacher Only Day

Monday 28 - Labour Day

Wednesday 30th - Orini Fun Day

#### November

Monday 4 - PTA Meeting @7pm

Friday 8th - School Disco

Thursday 14th - Te Pihinga

Pukemokemoke Trip

Monday 18 - Senior School Athletics Day.

Wednesday 27 - EWCS Athletics (Porritt Stadium)

Friday 29th November - Junior Athletics Day

#### December

Thursday 5th - Christmas in the Paddock

Friday 13 - Reports home

Tuesday 17 - Prize Giving and Term ends

## Winter Sports Photos

Order & pay by  
3pm 31st October  
\$25 each

[LINK](#)



Gordonton School PTA

**Mrs G  
is in the  
house!**

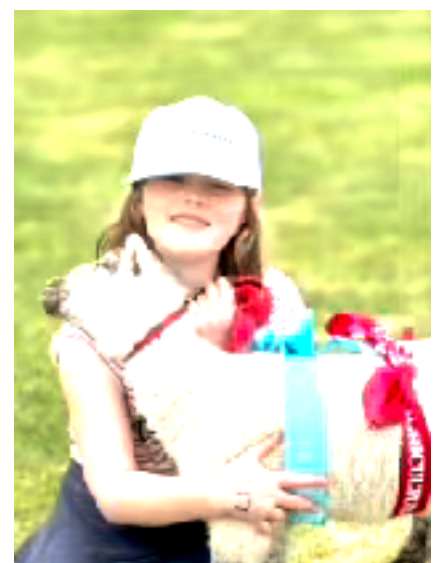
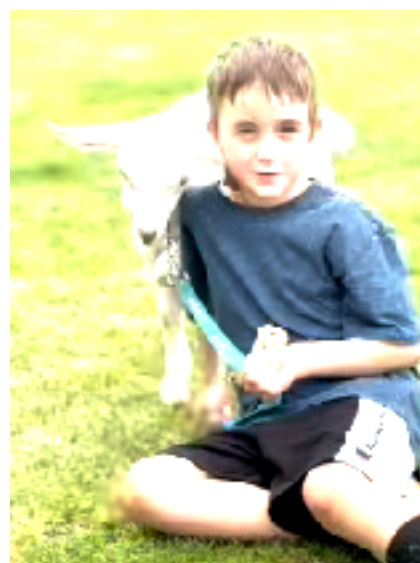
**NOT SO  
SPOOKY  
DISCO**

**GOLD  
COIN  
ENTRY**

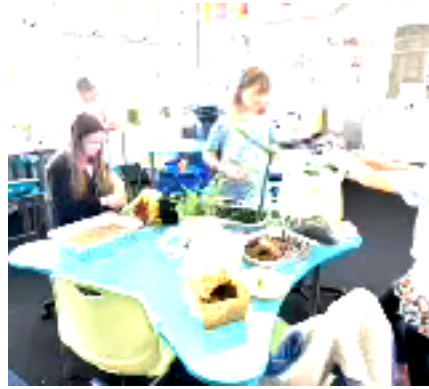
**GLOW TOYS  
FOOD AND  
DRINK ON  
SALE**

Friday 8 November  
5 - 6.30pm  
Gordonton School  
children only


Prizes for best costume







On Saturday, Ella Wylie, Van and Ash Haveman and George Wylie (as cheerleader and paparazzi this time due to broken arm) competed at the final series of the NZ Battle of the Schools MX Series, a 3 event series where they race in 3 races each event. They all raced so well and ended up earning Gordonton School 2nd Place Overall in the Primary/Intermediate School division!



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