



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 Christmas in the Paddock
- 🔗 Athletics
- 🔗 Reports
- 🔗 Swimming
- 🔗 Christmas in the Paddock

## From the Principal

This will be the last Newsletter for 2024. It will also contain important information around the end of year events and 2025 Information.



Christmas in the Paddock



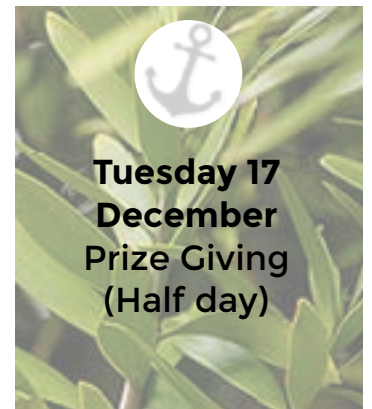
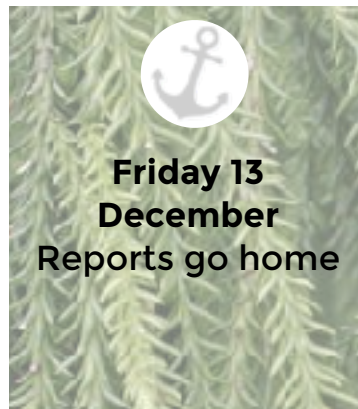
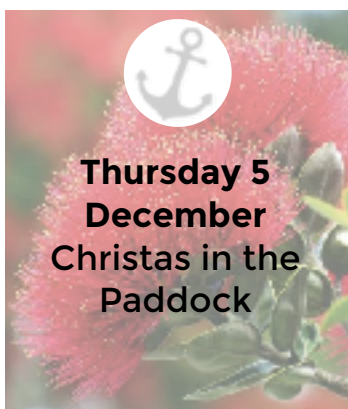
The rain held off just long enough for us to deliver Christmas in the Paddock last Thursday night. An enthusiastic and appreciative crowd of supporters gathered on the field by the hall and took part in this annual celebration. Every team put together an item and performed for the community. In between items we also had Kapa Haka and the young musicians who continually grow in ability under the expert tutelage of Jesse Gyde. A big thank you to the Salvation Army Band who started off the evening.

The food trucks, PTA raffles and coffee cart all added to the enjoyment of the night. The last song played just as the rain started falling in earnest and everyone got away before they were drenched. All in all a great night and my thanks to the teachers for their hard work in putting the evening together. The big news was the announcement from Jamie Haultain that this year's calf donation scheme organised by him and Nath Baxter raised \$17,000!! A huge result and big thanks to Jamie, Nath and all those involved.



This Wednesday, the finance committee convenes to set the draft budgets for 2025 and later that evening the Year 8s will enjoy their Graduation Dinner at Woodlands Estate. This has been an exceptional Year 8 cohort and I, for one, will be very sad to see them leave.

The Board of Trustees has approved the school structure and staffing for 2025:





The School classes and teachers  
Room 1 - Hayley van Hellemond - Year 7  
and 8 (Team Leader Te Rākau)

Room 2 - Sian Scragg - Year 6 and 7

Room 3 - Peter Hunt - Year 5 and 6

Room 4 - Grant Carter - Year 5 and 6 (Team Leader Te Māhuri)

Room 5 Nicola Hooper - Year 3 and 4 (Team Leader Te Pihinga)

Room 6 Amiria Wikaira - Year 3 and 4

Room 8 Julie Dons/Talia Kavanagh - Year 2 and 3

Room 10 Sian Wells - Year 2

Room 11 Neska Steenekamp - Year 1 and 2

Room 12 Lucinda Ransley - New Entrants (Team Leader Te Kakano)

#### Release teachers:

Roger Drury - Swimming and Music

Talia Kavanagh - Science and PE

Michelle Pene - ESOL and Te Reo me Tikanga Maori

#### Learning Assistants:

Mel Saunders

Mel Tapp

Emma McLaggan



We bid farewell to Steph Moloney and Lorraine Dinneen at the end of the year.

Steph has taken up a New Entrant position at Hamilton West School and

Lorraine and her partner are slowly heading

back to Ireland stopping here and there along the way. I thank them both for their contribution and care to the learning of our Tamariki.

On Friday, the end of year school reports come home. These detail the year of learning explained with summative statements from the teachers. There should be no surprises in the report, however, if you wish to discuss any aspect of it, your first port of call will be your child's teacher.

Breakfast club finishes on Friday. We won't be running it next Monday or Tuesday mornings. Breakfast club will start again Week 2 Term 1 which will be the 10th February.

We will end the year with our Prize Giving at the Gordonton Community Hall on the last day of school.

## Kīwaha

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

The pronunciation is underneath.

**Mahi tika ana!**  
**Mah-he tea-nah ah-nah**

**Great work!**



#### Term 4

#### December

Thursday 11 - Year 8 Leavers Dinner

Friday 13 - Reports home

Tuesday 17 - Prize Giving and Term ends

### Pool Key

As is Gordonton School tradition, we hire out pool keys to school families over the summer. All information is on the form [HERE](#). Please complete the form, taking note of the opening/closing days. Pool conditions of use forms will go home with kids on Mon 9th Dec, to be returned by Thurs 12th Dec with payment. Keys will be sent home on Mon 16th Dec, once payment has been made.

### Term 4 Lunch orders

We will have lunches from Matte Black and Juicie Tubes available to order.

Order & pay by 3pm  
Wednesday [LINK](#)



The children will walk down to the hall at 10.15 and Prize giving will start at 11am. We usually finish around 12.30 and children can go home then.

We ask that all children are picked up from the Gordonton Hall at 12.30 on the last day as there is no bus running that day.

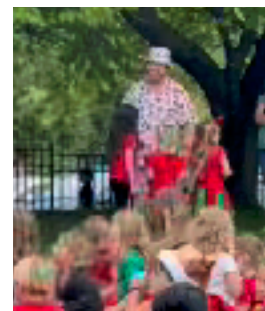
That's about it for this week. We hope to see you all at Prize Giving I'm sure I'll see you in person before year end but in the event I don't, please have a safe, happy and enjoyable break. Make the most of your time with family. For those leaving all the very best and for those remaining we will see you back in Term 1 next year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

Keith O'Donnell

Principal





SUMMER SPORTS ROUND UP

As our teams start winding down for the season, they can all be proud of the way they have performed in their chosen sport. Whether winning or losing, they put their best foot forward and show up with smiles every week. We have had a number of great comments from parents, especially around sportsmanship and how well our tamariki represent Gordonton School

Hockey

The **Hurricanes** had a fun game against parents/siblings and some Stormers players as they team they were meant to play forfeit. It was a great way to end a year of Hockey.

**Stormers** played a tough game against a team that left their Manaakitanga at home! As tough as it was it was a good lesson to not drop to their level and show them how good you are with your skills on the field and not your mouth. POD went to Archie for his solid defence and the two coaches award went to Hunter and Ruby for the constant workload on the field.

That wraps a great year of Hockey with an awesome bunch of kids and parents.

Splash Polo

The **Stingers** had a week off due to the Weetbix Tryathlon but will be back in the pool next week for finals

Futsal

The **Gunners** finished their season off with a win. POD to Jack & Slade

It was a tough last game for the **Avalanche** but they played well and enjoyed themselves. They all tried hard and improved and are ready to give it a go again next year!! POD went to Benji, Archie and Elsa!

Touch

Some pretty spot on passes and great runs from Sarah earnt her POD for the **Drivers** last game of the season. The whole team has come so far in their short 6 week season. Would be great to see them back next year!

Cricket

The Gordonton **Hawks** had a great last game. They worked well together and showed great Sportsmanship with a much younger opposing team. POD went to Blake, fantastic attitude and a great effort





# Christmas in the Paddock, 2024



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