



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🌀 ERO
- 🌀 Disco
- 🌀 Student Council
- 🌀 Athletics
- 🌀 Christmas in the Paddock

From the Principal

Welcome to Week 6 of Term 4.

This week starts off with the Senior Athletics. A staple of summer as the students compete across a range of track and field disciplines, either achieving personal improvement goals or vying for

coveted slots in the inter school competitions. Running, high jump, shot put, discus and long jump are all competed in with house points also being awarded toward the annual house competition.



Student Council at Puketaha School

While many relish the competition, there are also a few kids for whom athletics is not their pastime of choice. We have a great culture here of giving it your best effort even if you find it uninspiring. In life, everyone isn't awesome at everything. Sometimes just getting through the events is victory enough and I urge you to encourage your child to have a go, even if they are reluctant athletes.



Mr Sweetman has been busy preparing the swimming pool area to receive the new toilet block which is being installed soon. This will make for a much nicer environment over summer, especially when we have families using the facilities over the summer break. My heartfelt thanks to Blair for this work, to Jamie Bird who is managing the plumbing component and James Gavin who is handling the concreting and moving of the unit into place.



On Tuesday just gone, I took a small group of Student Councillors to Puketaha School on a Manaakitanga Mission. As you know, that school recently sustained extensive fire damage to



their buildings as the result of a freak lightning strike. The students wanted to extend Manaakitanga to their neighbours and dipped into their funds to supply a Juicy for every student. Pictured are our councillors Aleah, Angus, Hayden and Kim as they delivered the Juicies to the student representatives from Puketaha. The Principal, Nyree Oliver, and I were very proud of the heartfelt words of kindness and gratitude expressed by both groups. The children relished the juicies on what was a very warm day.

Last week, Te Pihinga explored nature on Pukemokemoke including a hike to the top. Thank you to Nic Hooper and her team for their organisation of this trip and thank you to the parents who helped make this trip possible.



We are currently in the process of setting the school up for operations next year, confirming teacher positions and allocating classes. This is a very complex process and has many moving parts. When we allocate classes we always consider the overarching lens of 'what is best for the child and their learning'. The class compositions will not be published in their entirety. Generally speaking, each child's class for next year will be notified in their end of year report.

Finally, on Tuesday we are hosting the 2nd Gordonton Community Emergency response meeting at school. This committee is set up to plan and share a response plan for Gordonton should an emergency such as flooding, storms, earthquake etc occur. Tania and I are part of this committee which also includes Regional Council and Iwi leaders. The school is an integral resource in the management of an emergency

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.

Nā kawē kōrero te ki!

Nah Kah-weh Caw-reh-raw teh key

A little birdy told me!



Term 4

November

Friday 22 - Ag Day Prize giving

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

Term 4 Lunch orders

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

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





SUMMER SPORTS ROUND UP

Hockey

Great night of Hockey with both teams coming away with convincing wins.

Player of the day for the **Hurricanes** went to James for a great game and goal haul to match. Coaches award went to Hunter for his attacking play and reading the game.

Player of the day for the **Stormers** went to Mason for an awesome game both in attack and defence when not feeling 100%. Coaches award to Leyton for stepping in with natural talent and helping us field a team.

Splash Polo

The **Stingers** had 2 great games on Sunday. POD to Madi for great attacking and Cameron for being on fire in defence!

Futsal

Cancelled due to the All White's Football game in Hamilton

Cricket

Cancelled due to the weather

The All Whites played at FMG Stadium on Fri night in the Oceania Qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup. If you braved the rain to watch the Samoan team vs Tahiti beforehand, you were in for a treat. A great display of hard work and perseverance in the pouring rain, followed by the Samoan team spending loads of time with the kids afterwards, despite being sopping wet! The All Whites put on a show of goals against Vanuatu, much too the crowds enjoyment! It was a treat for the kids to be able to witness a couple of Chris Wood's header goals too. Some of the players took the time to come out to sign autographs and take pics with the fans after the game. Highly recommend the experience if you get the chance again!



FROM THE PTA...

To raise funds for school trip transportation and classroom lockdown blinds in 2025, the PTA will be selling raffle tickets to win Christmas hampers at the event "Christmas in the Paddock." We would be grateful if children could contribute an item to our hampers. Please bring these to the office by Monday, 2nd December.

Year 1 & 2 - Non-perishable food items such as chocolate, crackers, chips, lollies, etc.

Year 3, 4 & 5 - Toys and stationery items like pens, notebooks, board games, balls, and general toys.

Year 6, 7 & 8 - Beauty products, including body wash, face masks, nail polish, moisturiser, suntan lotion, candles, diffusers, etc.

Feel free to donate any product or service not listed if it is more convenient for you.



Gordonton School
INVITES YOU TO

Christmas

in the paddock

Thursday 5 December
5.30pm @ Gordonton School

Come along and have a picnic on the field while you watch and listen to our tamariki perform Christmas songs.
Each team will be presenting a Christmas item and there will be performances from Kapa haka, band, Music House and special guests, *The Salvation Army*.




There is no postponement date for this event. This is an alcohol and smoke free event.



O.T.T. HAULAGE LTD

HAULING ALL
BIG AND SMALL

LANCE MIDDLETON
027970949
OTTHAUL@GMAIL.COM



Unit 9, 39 Karewa Place
Hamilton

Tracy 027 373 5285
Brent 027 826 7888

sales@euflooria.co.nz