



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 Ag Day Prize giving
- 🔗 Athletics
- 🔗 Reports
- 🔗 Swimming
- 🔗 Christmas in the Paddock

## From the Principal

Welcome to Week 8 ,Term 4.



Parents vs Teachers



Hard to comprehend but December is here. Meteorological Summer seems to be a little slow getting up to speed

but the weather experts tell us this week is going to be very warm. The pool is open and functioning with the sounds of summer - lots of happy 'children noise' coming from the pool most days and teachers attentively supervising and coaching young swimmers. Unfortunately, a few New Zealand families will remember summer for all the wrong reasons.

I watched a report from Water Safety NZ that made the news over the weekend that said modelling had predicted over 70 drownings this summer. Given we are an island nation with only coastal borders and a long standing enjoyment of water-based activities, that number is understandable but also entirely preventable.

I have seen many families devastated by drowning deaths throughout my life. In all cases their grief was amplified due to the absolutely avoidable aspects of the incident.



Athletics was the name of the game last week with our Eastern Waikato Cluster and Gordonton Junior School Athletics both being held. The EWCS was held at Orini Reserve on a glorious day with the top athletes across our North Eastern Country schools vying for podiums in track and field. Ruby Baxter and Will Page won the Girls and Boys Year 8 championship on the day. The



**Thursday 5  
December**  
Christas in the  
Paddock



**Wednesday 11  
December**  
Year 8 Leavers'  
Dinner



**Friday 13  
December**  
Reports go home



**Tuesday 17  
December**  
Prize Giving  
(Half day)

first time in many years that both awards have gone to Gordonton School in the same year.



Once again our children shone with MANA values consistently on display. I can't but be immensely proud of our tamariki whether they are in school or out and about representing us.

This Tuesday we have our final Board meeting of the year. Lots on the agenda including whole school achievement data and evaluation, policies and focus for 2025.



This Thursday is our annual Christmas in the Paddock. Always well attended and looked forward to by students, teachers and the community. This festive night always goes over well and has become a hallmark of our school at this time of year. Always fun and a range of talents on display.

The gates open at 5pm but things don't kick off until 5.30 with the Salvation Army Band. This is followed by Kapa Haka, performances by teams, with Music House performances in between, and finishing off with our Band.

Bring along a picnic or you can purchase from the small selection of food trucks the PTA have organised.

This is a smoke and alcohol free event.

We have not set a postponement date if it rains as it is a very busy time of year. We will let you know via Facebook, Skool Loop and the @school app if we cancel the event.

Well, two and a bit weeks to go till the year is over. Have a great week everyone and I hope to see you out in the Paddock on Thursday.

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.

Āpāia!  
Aah-pie-ah

Of course!



### Term 4

#### **December**

Thursday 5th - Christmas in the Paddock

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](#)





SUMMER SPORTS ROUND UP

Hockey

**Hurricanes** POD went to Carter with an impressive game in defence and attack after being out for so long injured. Coaches award went to Nika for great tackling and stopping some much bigger players in their tracks.

**Stormers** had an epic game and it was just too hard to pick two players for the awards. You all listened and played so well against a usually much more dominant Tigers team to take the well deserved win. So player of the day went to the team

Splash Polo

The **Stingers** had a tough playoff against a strong team. POD to the goalies, Jake and Jah-rall for some great saves!

Futsal

The **Gunners** POD Alex, for getting back out on the court after a nasty trip and Ashton for being all over the court!

The **Avalanche** had a great game this week. There were a few goals and a few misses but they never gave up and kept on trying. POD to Noah and Charlie.

Touch

Another incredible game played by the **Lasers**. Excellent sportsmanship and team work shown by the whole team - they have learnt so much and now play like a well oiled machine! Congratulations to Mae and Ruben, our PODs for awesome tries and defence. Thank you to our 2 assistant coaches out on the field this week - George & Bruce

The Gordonton **Flash** team is having a great season so far. POD for Monday's game went to Ella for playing hard and for scoring her first try and to Van for demonstrating excellent sportsmanship on the field and towards the players from the other team. Well done! We are proud of you both.

Alex took out POD last week for the Gordonton **Drivers**. Super high work rate and an awwwwesome dive!





# Calf Scheme

The 2024 calf fundraising scheme has been triumphant to say the least. I recall saying last year that a target of \$10,000 raised for the school would be a great achievement. Last year we raised over \$7000 and this year we have blown that out of the park with close to \$17,000 raised!

This donation has been made by the following families and businesses and my sincere thanks go to; Michael and Monique Allison, Nathan and Katy Baxter, Bindra Farms Ltd, Bird family, Cam and Megan Buhler, Mike and Emma Browning, Nick and Ruth Cunard, De Veth Family, James and Erin Gavin, Olin and Anna Greenan, Jamie and Kate Haultain, Kendre Farms Ltd, Latto Family Trust, Grant and Emma McLaggan, Nagra Farms Ltd, Purdie Family, San Down Farming Ltd, Aneera Singh, Alister Smith, Laura and James Welch, Carrfields, Andy Smith Transport, Farmsource Taupiri, ANEXA Vets Gordonton, Ballance Agri-Nutrients Huntly and Brandt Hamilton.

A quick prize giving will be held at the Christmas in the paddock evening. There is a prize for ANEXA Top Calf, Balance Highest Earning Calf, and a Brandt spot prize.

Jamie Haultain



**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.*



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Unit 9, 39 Karewa Place  
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