

GIS Newsletter

Thursday 4 April 2024

Principal's message

Kia ora whānau,

This term has gone past very quickly - and what a great term it has been. Our Year 7's have settled so well this year - it actually feels like they have been at our school for a lot longer than ten weeks! Education, teachers and schools in New Zealand seems to be taking a bit of a public bashing at the moment. I look at our students, our teachers, our community and feel saddened that the great stories are not always shared or even acknowledged in the media to balance out the rhetoric! We have so many stories of success to share at Greenmeadows and this is why we try to celebrate the learning that is happening in our classrooms through our Facebook page and through the newsletter - feel free to share some good news about education if you feel you have a story to tell yourself!



We had some Principals from Christchurch come to visit our school the other week - one of the things they commented on over and over again was how calm the school felt and how genuinely pleasant, polite, friendly and well behaved the students were. How cool is that! We were pretty proud!

On Friday I will be heading off for a ten week Ministry of Education approved sabbatical and I will return to school at the start of Term 3. During my sabbatical I will be carrying out some research relating to attendance and engagement with a particular focus on intermediate schools. The Ministry of Education data shows that across Manurewa, Year 7 & 8 students have the highest levels of regular attendance at school in comparison to all other year levels and I am very interested in unpacking why this might be and what schools do to encourage high levels of attendance. While I am on sabbatical, Nevis Nelson and Joe Lukupa will be sharing the Acting Principal role, ably supported by Whaea Luanda and Vivek Gopal - and will be awesome at it! I leave the school for a term in excellent hands and am very grateful to the school board for supporting my sabbatical.



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See you in Term 3!

This newsletter includes information about:

- School bus - fares changing from 1 May
- Winter Uniform
- 3 Way Conferences - 15 May
- School Holiday dates
- Term 2 Teacher Only Day - 31 May 2024

Ngā mihi

Cathy Chalmers

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School Buses - Fares Changing

Auckland Transport have asked us to inform parents that the free travel for 5 to 12 year olds and half-price travel for 13 to 24 year olds on Auckland Transport bus, train and ferry services will end on 30 April 2024, in line with the government's decision to withdraw funding for these concessions.



This means that from Wednesday 1 May all students catching the bus will need to pay the child concession rate (40% of an adult fare). They will need to have their hop card topped up so they have sufficient funds to pay the fare.

More information about the discounts and what you may need to do next can be found at AT.govt.nz/farechanges



3 Way Conferences

3 Way Conferences will take place on Wednesday 15 May from 1.00p.m. and are an opportunity for parents, students and teachers to have a conversation around the progress and achievement of the student across the curriculum.

Caregivers are able to book a time for this on Hero and should receive two emails telling you when bookings are open; one of these emails is for booking a time with the classroom teacher - the other is for booking a time with a specialist teacher if you wish to do this as well.

School finishes at 12.30p.m. on Wednesday 15 May - please note that the school buses do not come early so bus students need to arrange an alternative way home.



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Footsteps Drama Programme

A reminder that from Term 2, we are offering a drama programme for students who show a particular talent for, or are particularly interested in drama. FootSteps is delivering this programme once a week on a Wednesday. They are a well known company that

does a lot of work in schools to support dance and drama.

Students will be engaged in fun and innovative activities that will develop improvisation skills and encourage them to express themselves through creative role-play.

If you think your child has a particular talent or interest in this area and would benefit from being part of the FootSteps Drama Programme next term then **you are encouraged to nominate them for the programme by completing the form below**. There are a limited number of spaces and parents will be notified if their child has been selected for the programme via email by the end of next week.

Footsteps Drama - sign up form

Winter Uniform - Term 2

From Term 2, students are allowed to wear the long pants that are part of our school uniform **when it is cold**. These can be purchased at the Uniform Shoppe on Cavendish Drive in Manukau. These are navy blue. We do not accept any other type of long pants - even though students always try it on! We would appreciate parents supporting the wearing of correct school uniform to school.

Mathletics Homework

It was great to see that most students are signed up to Mathletics. A reminder that the expectation is that students do 30 minutes of Mathletics three times a week. We have noticed that there are a number of students who are not doing this - we would appreciate parents following up with this at home. If you have any questions about logging on etc, please do contact the class teacher - they are happy to assist.



Term 1 ends Friday 12 April

A reminder that Term 1 ends on 12 April at the normal time of 3.00p.m. Term 2 starts on Monday 29 April at 9.00a.m.



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Teacher Only Day - Friday 31 May

A reminder that there will be a Teacher Only Day on Friday 31 May - this is one of two Ministry approved days that are provided for all schools to engage with the refreshed curriculum. We have booked two external facilitators who will be providing professional development for staff - one is a Maths expert, the other a Literacy expert. There will be no school for students on this day.



Term 2 - May Dates to remember!

- Monday 29 April 2024 - Term 2 starts
- Wednesday 1 May - Footsteps Drama Programme starts for those keen
- Tuesday 7 May - Counties Girls Football Tournament
- Tuesday 14 May - Readers & Writers Festival
- Wednesday 15 May - 3 Way Conferences
- Friday 17 May - Pink Shirt Day - don't to forget to wear pink!
- Wednesday 22 May - Parent Partnership Hui - Come and learn about Maths!
- Tuesday 28th May - Counties Boys Rugby Competition
- **Friday 31 May - Teacher Only Day**
- Monday 3 June - Kings Birthday
- Friday 28 June - Matariki Public Holiday



Greenmeadows Intermediate

Greenmeadows is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



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