



Dear Parents,

We will be entering our fifth week back at school next week – the term is flying past! Next week we welcome John Parsons to our school on Thursday and Friday 3rd & 4th March. John is an expert on the subject of cyber safety and will be working with students during the day, staff after school, and presenting a parent workshop on the Thursday starting at 6.30p.m. This age group is the entry level for social media interactions and mobile phone use. It is important that they learn how to navigate the digital world in a way that keeps themselves and others safe from harm. It is also important that parents understand the pitfalls so they can put in place simple strategies to support their child. I encourage you to come along and listen to John next Thursday night. We have also extended the invitation to parents of children at our feeder schools – so bring along a friend if you wish!

Cathy Chalmers
PRINCIPAL

Are you a parent/guardian concerned about how your child uses the internet or mobile phone?

Cybercrime is a very real issue facing families in NZ, but there are easy practical steps to help prevent it. Greenmeadows Intermediate School invites you to a presentation on the issues and dangers associated with the inappropriate use of computers, mobile phones and the internet.



TOPICS COVERED -

- Online grooming
- Sexting
- Damaged reputations
- Cyber bullying
- Reputation Management
- Learning to repel & report
- Future proofing for employment

CYBER SAFETY PRESENTATION

Venue: GREENMEADOWS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HALL

Date: THURSDAY 3rd MARCH 2016 – 6.30PM TO 8PM

Hosted by NZ Cyber Security expert John Parsons who gives you real life examples of children who have been affected by cybercrime. You will leave with the knowledge to help, support and protect your family.

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Educating young people to understand the value of identity is the first step to using ICT safely

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Educating young people to respect and protect friends and family identity is the second step



www.s2e.co.nz ...protecting people online

POLYFEST - FRIDAY 18TH MARCH

120 of our students will be going to Polyfest on Friday 18th March leaving school at 9.30am and returning at 2.45pm. Detailed information regarding the organisation will have already been sent home. Thank you to the parents who are coming along to assist with supervision; without you we would not be able to offer these neat opportunities to our students.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Each year a student from each class is selected to represent their class on the student council. They apply for this position by completing a presentation to their class about why they think they would make an effective Class Ambassador. If you think your child might be interested in this leadership position, then do encourage them to apply.

MANUREWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

I also need to remind parents that the **Manurewa Public Library** is not a babysitting service – every year we have a number of parents who get their child to wait at the library until they finish work. This is not OK. Students of this age are not always doing what their parents think they are when unsupervised – and the school is the first place the public rings with their complaints.



MEET THE TEACHER EVENING - TUESDAY 8TH MARCH

We strongly encourage our parents (and students) to attend our Meet the Teacher evening. We start off in the hall where some of our performance groups perform and I spend a little time talking about school initiatives for the year. Then by 7pm parents move to the classrooms with the students. This is a great opportunity to find out more about your child's class and teacher. You can also ask general questions about the school or what teaching and learning looks like in the classroom. Later in the term we have 3 Way Conferences and this is when parents have the opportunity to talk one on one with the teacher about their child's specific achievements and learning needs.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

School Assemblies are held alternate Fridays at 9am and are a time for celebrating the achievements of our students. If your child is receiving a certificate, we will send home a notice letting you know so you can come along if you wish. Parents are welcome at our assemblies – whether your child is receiving a certificate or not. The dates for assemblies this term are as follows: Friday 26th February; Friday 11th March; Thursday 24th March and Friday 15th April.

We are also welcoming Cam Calkoen to our assembly on Friday 11th March at 9am. Cam is a highly motivating speaker who is sought after around the world.

2016 SPECIALIST CONTRIBUTION Have you paid yours?

This year for the first time, the Board of Trustees is only requesting that parents pay one "donation" or "contribution" of \$65 to support us to maintain the wide range of specialist options at our school – and there are many! In the past, we have asked parents to pay both a donation and a contribution to the specialist programme. If this is paid before the end of March, we offer a discount of \$50.

We have many parents who choose to set up an automatic payment, and others simply pay at the start of each term. If you wish to pay by Internet banking, please email Rachel Lowen at rlowen@greenmeadows.school.nz or ring her at school and she will send you our bank account details. You might wonder what this money goes towards... it helps to pay for things like materials for the Technology, Art and Music programme. It helps us to purchase digital resources that our Ministry operations grant doesn't stretch to.

This year, the Board is building a fitness trail and buying new sports uniforms for our sports teams. We also often subsidise the cost of trips etc. At our school, we do very little other fundraising – so we really bank on parents helping out by paying this contribution.

BYOD

Students who have returned their signed BYOD agreements are now welcome to bring their own device to school to use. Their teacher will have provided them with a letter with more detail about what to do. Please remember the following:

- Devices need to be clearly labelled (Bag/Cover & Device)
- All devices need to be charged each day before arriving at school
- If bringing a laptop please ensure Chrome is installed on your device. You can download it from this link: <https://www.google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/index.html>
- Students are responsible for the care and storage of their own device

Your child will bring home a copy of their login details and instructions for how to access their Greenmeadows account. Please make sure to keep this in a safe place so you can refer to it when you would like to check the work they are doing from home.

P: (09) 267 6255

F: (09) 268 0159

E: gis@greenmeadows.school.nz

29 Greenmeadows Ave,
Manurewa,
Auckland.

www.greenmeadows.school.nz

IS YOUR CHILD WELL SUPERVISED WHILE YOU ARE STILL WORKING?

i-Hub operates an after school programme at school and we strongly encourage working parents who require supervision for their children until they get home from work to sign up. It is very reasonably priced and often parents are entitled to subsidies. It is important for parents to remember children are not allowed to be left alone at home before the age of 14 – which is why the Board have worked with i-Hub to provide this service. If you would like more information, please contact George Bautista on 0212784462 or by emailing george@ghbskids.co.nz



We don't operate a before school service, as to be honest, we find most students come straight to school when their parents leave for work unless they leave really early! Breakfast is able to be purchased from the canteen for a very reasonable price.

PERFORMANCE GROUPS

Auditions for performance groups have begun and we have a number of sports trials happening at the moment as well. Often we find our new Year 7's don't put their hands up for these opportunities for a number of reasons; sometimes they are too shy, sometimes they just don't know what to do. If your child is talented in any particular sport, or keen to join one of our many performance groups, but hasn't put their own name forward, please do encourage them to talk to their class teacher about it, or even email the class teacher about it and they can take it from there. Taking advantage of the wide range of options and opportunities available at GIS is one of the great benefits of being at an intermediate school.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Softball Tournament	Tuesday 1 st March
John Parsons workshop	Thursday 3 rd March
Meet the Teacher Evening	Tuesday 8 th March
School Assembly (Guest Speaker – Cam Calkoen)	Friday 11 th March
Polyfest Trip	Friday 18 th March
Cricket Tournament	Tuesday 22 nd March
EASTER BREAK	25 th – 29 th March
3 Way Conferences	Tuesday 12 th April
End of Term 1	Friday 15 th April



WRITING

Summer

Have you ever seen Summer?
Look into the blazing sun,
See the heat rising from the ground?
Remember when you stood staring into the crystal clear water,
Wishing you could dive in?

Or remember that time when so much sweat dripped off your face and it could fill a bucket,
And you felt so sticky,
The only way you could take your t-shirt off is by peeling it?

Have you ever heard Summer?
People breathing heavily because of the heat,
The squeal of people when they jumped into the water?
That was Summer.

Remember that time,
When you could smell the sea salt from a mile away?
And the BBQ smell drifting through the air?

Have you ever tasted summer?
Sure you have!
Ice-Cream dripping down your chin?
Or when you sat on the beach with fish 'n' chips sitting right in front of you?
That was summer.

By Jasmine Rota-Leggan, Room 1

As I walk onto the field I see
the place we score a try.
Where we can win the grand
final. I pull a piece of grass
and softly let it blow away in
the wind. Finally the whistle
blows. I run quickly to the
ball carrier and tackle him. I
run, tackle, and nearly get
pushed over the sideline but
the strength in my legs
pushes me back into the
field of play. I run and look
to see if anyone is following
me but the path is clear. I
slide under the post to get
the try. I'm happy on the
inside but not showing it on
the outside. The game is
finished, final score 36 - 0.

**By Connah Pihama
Room 2**