

GIS Newsletter

Thursday 23 March 2023

Principal's message

Kia ora whanau,

It was such a shame that we had to cancel our Whānau Hub Swimming Day last week due to the rain. However, Whaea Jes and Mr Parsons organised an awesome Whānau Sports event at the drop of a hat which students joined in with up here at school instead. This was a great opportunity for us to build Whānau team spirit!

We were very proud of how well our boys cricket team played at the Counties Manukau tournament and particularly proud of them winning the Sportsmanship Award on the day.



The end of Term 1 is drawing rapidly closer! The last day of term is Wednesday 5th April and we finish at the usual time of 3.00p.m. **We have a Teacher Only Day on Thursday 6th April.** Term 2 starts on Wednesday 26th April, the day after Anzac Day.

Do please have a good read of this newsletter - there is a lot of important information in this weeks - if nothing else, please read the section about school camp and social media!.

Ngā mihi

Cathy Chalmers

cchalmers@greenmeadows.school.nz

Whole School Camp – Totara Springs, Matamata

All students would have brought home the forms for our whole school camp which is taking place next term on the following dates:

- **Tawa & Matai Whanau Hubs** (Rooms 8, 9, 10, 21, 6, 1 and 4) go from Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th May.
- **Kowhai & Rimu Whanau Hubs** (Rooms 18, 20, 17, 5, 7, 3 & 2) will go from Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th May.

Please complete these forms and return them to your child's class teacher by the last day of term, Wednesday 5th April. If your child did not give you their forms, feel free to email the teacher and they



will send them home again.


We really want all students to go if possible - if you have any worries or concerns about your child attending camp, please do contact their class teacher or Joe Lukupa.

jlukupa@greenmeadows.school.nz.

It costs \$280.00 per child for the camp. We ask parents to contribute \$100.00 to the cost of camp. The school covers the remainder of the cost. Payments can be made via [Kindo](#) or at the school Resource Room. Payments on Kindo have been set up so that parents can make part payments if they wish.

We have an **Online Parent Information meeting** on Wednesday 26th April at 7.00p.m. We will share the Zoom link closer to the time.

We still need parent helpers for the camps, so please do fill in the form below or send back the paper slip on the camp letter if you are able to help. Camp is a lot of fun!

A screenshot of a Google Form titled "Totara Springs Camp 2023 - Parent helpers". The form includes instructions for parents to complete it if they are available to be a parent/caregiver helper. It lists the rooms involved: Tawa & Matai Whanau Hubs (Rooms 8, 9, 10, 21, 6, 1 and 4) and the dates: Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th May. There is a section for the helper's name and a "Submit" button.

Totara Springs Ca...

[forms.gle](#)

Please complete this form if you are available to be a parent/caregiver helper on our school camp. Please note that we prefer parents, not older brothers and sisters to help with camp. Tawa & Matai Whanau Hubs (Rooms 8, 9, 10, 21, 6, 1 and 4) go from Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th May.

Social Media

Over the past week, the school has been dealing with a number of social media issues. The majority relate to inappropriate use of the social media platform "Tik Tok" or Instagram which it seems has become the most popular platforms for this age level.

At the moment we are finding that students are setting up school groups often labelled as "class groups". This is not OK. These are not official school groups and the content of them would make ones hair curl! Often the language is obscene and there is an element of online bullying taking place including personal attacks and exclusion of students. Sometimes students are using these groups to set up fights. We note that many of these pages have now been deleted by students as word got around the school that we were investigating, however we encourage parents to keep an eye out for any others that might pop up!

During the course of his investigations, Mr Lukupa also found "Confession" pages that have been set up by students. It would shock parents if they saw what their children were "confessing to" on these pages. He also found videos and comments made by students using language that would make their parents blush!!

We do not encourage the use of Tik Tok or Instagram for this age level unless its use is closely monitored by parents. But of course, a school has no control over that. However we remind parents



that social media accounts are not allowed to be set up unless the person is 13 years and older. Students have also signed agreements not to set up social media accounts using their school email address.

Often when we ring parents regarding their child's social media activity, they are surprised they are even on Instagram or Tik Tok. Our experience is that if they have a phone, the majority are on these platforms and many have set up a number of accounts and pages. It is common practice not to use a handle that can easily identify them - they don't usually use their own name so their handle is not readily identified by their parents as being them. Often their parents only have access to the one account they want them to see.

If your child is a victim of inappropriate messaging or videoing on social media, we advise them to screen shot the messages or save the video and tell their parents. More information for parents around what to do if your child is being bullied online [can be found here](#).

If the behaviour continues, we encourage you to tell us as well. It is most helpful if we have the screenshots and videos to help our investigations. While students only use social media outside of school hours, it always impacts on their social relationships here at school, so we always try to get to the bottom of reported instances.

More information for parents around how to keep your child safe online can be found on the Netsafe website. Follow the button below to access this website.

There are also some very good quick videos by John Parsons who is an expert on social media safety. I do recommend these as worth a watch!

LEAVING PRIMARY SCHOOL

<https://www.facebook.com/johnparsonsS2E/videos/611498169867650>

TRUSTING GUT FEELING

<https://www.facebook.com/johnparsonsS2E/videos/934567347129643>

TEENAGERS AND FUTURE PROOFING FOR EMPLOYMENT

<https://www.facebook.com/johnparsonsS2E/videos/592289241813040>

Live Streaming: Understand the risks for children

<https://www.facebook.com/johnparsonsS2E/videos/244747619971043/>

BEDROOM, BATHROOM, PAJAMAS

<https://www.facebook.com/johnparsonsS2E/videos/1112030665810052/>

HOW TO DEAL WITH ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

<https://www.facebook.com/johnparsonsS2E/videos/643131269822891/>

CHILDREN & ONLINE GAMES - A NOSY PARENT IS A LOVING PARENT

<https://www.facebook.com/johnparsonsS2E/videos/653756001863893/>

CIRCLE OF LIGHTHOUSES

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=256299468768773>

FAMILIES THAT EAT TOGETHER HEAL TOGETHER

<https://www.facebook.com/johnparsonsS2E/videos/2866705640318593>

Let's all work together to help our tamariki build and maintain a safe and future proofed online presence.

Private Music Tutoring

We are very fortunate at Greenmeadows Intermediate to be able to offer private music lessons to our students at a very reasonable cost for those parents who wish to have their child to have access to private tutoring during school time. Lessons are provided by Sharon's Music Studio. See below for more information and [contact Sharon directly](#) if you would like to sign your child up.

Sharon's Music Studio KEYBOARD • PIANO • GUITAR LESSON



Keyboard, Piano & Guitar group lessons are provided by experienced tutors during the school hours.

Instrument and music will be provided for the music tuition.

Only \$13 per lesson!



Please contact Sharon for more information
sharonmusic.nz@gmail.com

Have you accessed the Hero App?

We encourage our whānau to log in and check their child's Hero report regularly. Teachers have already posted comments on Hero. It has a "facebook feel" to it and is intended to act as a communication bridge between students, teachers and parents. Parents can "like" posts and respond with positive comments to their child about their progress and it



is awesome when they do! Parents can also track their child's attendance rates and download reports in a pdf format.

Instructions for downloading the app are below:

- Download the Hero app from the Play Store or App Store if using on a smartphone or tablet device. Use the key words "Hero Linc-Ed" to locate the app.
- Follow this link in your web browser if using a computer or tablet. go.linc-ed.com. (please use Google Chrome)
- **Parents login using the email address that the school has on file**; this would have been given to the school when your child enrolled. Contact Josie in the school office if you are unsure of the email address we have on file.

To view a presentation on how to use Hero to access information about your child [follow this link to our school website](#).

3 Way Conferences – heads up!

Just a heads up that we have 3 Way Conferences happening on Wednesday 3rd May. These start at 1.00p.m. Students will be finishing school at 12.30p.m. The buses will not be coming early so parents need to make alternative arrangements.

Parents will be able to book their conference time through our Hero App - if you haven't downloaded it and logged in yet, you might want to do so. We will let parents know when booking are open which will be in the last week of term.



Absences – what is justified and what is not?

It is great to see that so far this term, Year 7 students have a 91.02% attendance rate (meaning on average 91.02% are at school on any given day) and Year 8 are sitting around 87.7%. This is a great improvement from last year and we hope everyone keeps it up as attending school regularly does make a difference to a student's ability to make consistent progress.

It is important for parents to understand the Ministry of Education guidelines which schools are expected to follow in relation to how absences are recorded for your child's attendance. Some parents have been asking what is the difference between a justified absence and an unjustified absence. Most absences are justified - eg when a child is sick, at a doctor's appointment, a funeral or tangi. Going on holiday during the school term is generally not considered a justified reason for absence unless for significant family circumstances. If you are going on holiday during school time, it is important you email me in advance with the reasons why so I can make a decision about whether to record this as a justified absence or not.

It is important that you let us know the reason your child is absent from school. If we are not provided with a reason for absence within

3 days, then the attendance system marks them as Truant. If a pattern of absences (eg every Monday and Friday) is noted or if we are not provided with a reason for absence within 3 days, we are obliged to do a referral to the Attendance Service. We always try to contact parents ourselves each day if a child is away and we don't know why - but often we find parents aren't always able to answer their phones during the day.

What is good is that now parents can very simply send a message through the Hero app which automatically goes into our attendance system. Or you can email the teacher or leave a message on our answerphone.

Teacher Only Day - Thursday 6 April

Please note that there is a Teacher Only Day scheduled for the last day of Term 1 - Thursday 6 April.

