

GIS Newsletter

Thursday 25 May 2023

Principal's message

Kia ora whanau,

We are midway through Term 2 already! A marvellous time was had by students at Totara Springs Camp last week and now we move forward to a number of other events that are occurring before the end of term. Information about some of these events is detailed below.



At the Board meeting held on Monday night we talked about the attendance of students. The board has set a target this year of increasing **the proportion of students who attend school regularly from 43% to 65%.**

It was great to be able to report that more students were attending school regularly (i.e. 90+% of the time) in Term 1 (63.7%) than in the same term last year (41.4%). This is an improvement of 22.3% which is outstanding! The attendance of Year 7 is slightly better than in Year 8.

This is mainly a result of students who were previously sitting within the 80 - 90% band now attending 90+% of the time. We are also noticing that many parents are tracking their child's absences more closely which is also worth doing! To maintain a 90+ attendance rate (required for students to make steady academic progress), students can still have five days off a term. You can check out your child's own attendance rate by logging into their page on Hero.

Historically, we have found that the attendance rates of students start to slip as the year progresses - this is something we are going to try and keep on top of. We have noticed a significant dip in attendance when it rains - 142 students were away from school on Monday! Kids still need to attend school during the winter months - and it is likely to rain more during this season. Lets plan to get our kids to school even when it is wet!

This newsletter includes information about:

- Kidscan initiative
- Pink Shirt Day
- Literacy Week - Week 7
- Class Wero trips for Year 7
- Kawau Island Camp - expressions of interest

Have a wonderful weekend.

Ngā mihi

Cathy Chalmers

cchalmers@greenmeadows.school.nz



Kidscan Programme

We are very excited to have been accepted into the KidsCan programme. KidsCan is Aotearoa New Zealand's leading charity dedicated to helping Kiwi kids. They help by providing food, jackets, shoes and health products to schools and early childhood centres across New Zealand. Initially they will be providing rain jackets for any students at our school who want/need one. Watch this space!



Pink Shirt Day – Friday 26 May

Tomorrow our school will be celebrating Pink Shirt Day and it is our hope that ALL students will support fundraising for this worthy cause by wearing pink and contributing a gold coin for the Pink Shirt Foundation. By taking part in Pink Shirt Day, people help to stamp out bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusion. Speak up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!

Book Fair: 6 – 9 June

During Week 7, our school will be celebrating Literacy week and promoting the importance of reading books. Reading for pleasure, inside and outside of school, has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the



power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Our children need to get into the habit of reading books regularly as this is a critical capability and disposition needed for success at high school. We have a number of events planned including the following:

- We will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair throughout the week where books will be on sale for purchase. A Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that provides the books kids want to read. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level but targetting this age level.
- We have published authors coming in to read to students and share their experiences.
- There will be a book character dress up parade on the Friday and we are encouraging all students and staff to dress up as their favourite book character.
- There will be a Literacy Whānau Hub event on the Friday.

We hope parents do encourage their children to take part in this week long event.

Class Wero Trips

Wero White Water Park in Manukau City has given our school a great opportunity for the whole school to participate in a two hour programme that will consist of white water rafting, river crossing and swimming down the rapids. The focus is on educating tamariki about being safe around fast moving water.



There will be no cost for the students - all costs are covered by Wero White Water Park. **It is expected that all students will attend.** This is a very safe and well supervised activity run by the trained instructors at Wero, as well as being supervised by staff from Greenmeadows Intermediate School. All students wear life jackets, aqua shoes & helmets and they can stand up in the water.

Year 7 classes will be going down to Wero Term 2 and Year 8 classes in Term 3. Students will be shuttled to the venue in the school vans with the vans leaving school at 11:15 a.m. returning back to school by 2:30 p.m. The timetable is below.

Permission forms were sent home this week with students. Please return these to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Date Of Trip	Room	Time Starting At The Venue
Wednesday 7th June (Week 7)	3	12:00pm to 2:00pm
Tuesday 20th June (Week 8)	1	10:00 pm - 12:00 pm
Tuesday 20th June (Week 8)	18	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Wednesday 21st June (Week 8)	9	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Thursday 22nd June (Week 8)	10	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Friday 23rd June (June 8)	6	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Thursday 29th June (Week 10)	17	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Kawau Island Camp

Each year Greenmeadows Intermediate provides an opportunity for students to put their name forward to attend a week long camp on Kawau Island, which is situated in the Hauraki Gulf. Students take part in a variety of outdoor activities including sailing, kayaking, fishing, a confidence course, orienteering and archery. Students also get the opportunity to hike through a native track to visit the Mansion House, returning to Camp Bentzon by ferry.



Camp Bentzon only accommodates 70 students. If there are more than 70 expressions of interest, the process for selection is by ballot. The first ballot will draw 35 Year 7's and 35 Year 8's from the total number of students who express an interest in going. All remaining student names will be put in the hat and a further ballot will be drawn to create a prioritised waiting list.

We are now calling for expressions of interest in this camp. All students will bring home a copy of the form and more information about Kawau Camp on Monday.

All expressions of interest slips need to be posted into the camp box in the school office by Wednesday 7th June to be included in the ballot. The first ballot will be drawn on **Thursday 8th June**. If your child is selected from the ballot, **parents have until Tuesday 20th June to pay a \$50.00 deposit** to secure their child's place.

The full cost of camp is \$390. This is an extracurricular optional activity and due to this it is a "user pays" activity.