

# GIS Newsletter

Friday 2 February 2024

## Principal's message

Kia ora whānau,

It has been a particularly lovely start to the 2024 school year! The weather has been glorious, the students have settled in well to school routines and there is a lovely "buzz" around the school! What a heartwarming pōwhiri yesterday - it certainly set the tone for what turned out to be a wonderful week!



We do hope our new students are coming home talking about the good things that have happened in their day. The first six weeks of transitioning to a new school can be a little tricky for some, smooth sailing for others, and an absolute breeze for yet others. If your child is struggling a little after the first week or so, please do reach out to their class teacher, or Mr Gopal, our Learning Support Coordinator, or Mrs Nelson. They will be more than happy to help and we have some good strategies that can be put in place.

For our new whānau, the school newsletter comes out once a fortnight - usually on a Thursday, but always by the Friday. We email it, share it on Facebook and on the school app. It is very rare that we send home paper copies of newsletters or notices, so it is really important to make sure you check your emails regularly - and that we have your correct email address.

Just a reminder that there is no school next Tuesday 6 February due to Waitangi Day **but there IS school on Monday as usual!**

This newsletter includes information about:

- Swimming
- Activities Week
- Whanau Night
- Attendance
- School Uniform
- School Lunches & Fruit in Schools



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- School Communications
- After School pickups

Have a wonderful weekend!

Ngā mihi

Cathy Chalmers

[cchalmers@greenmeadows.school.nz](mailto:cchalmers@greenmeadows.school.nz)

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## Swimming

On Thursday we sent out a school notice with information about the upcoming swimming lessons for all students. It included the timetable for the next three weeks. You can access this newsletter by [clicking on this link](#). Please do take note of when your child has swimming lessons and make sure they come with their togs on that day. If for any reason you do NOT wish them to take part on the day (eg if they are unwell) then it is important that you email the class teacher to let them know this.

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## Activities Week

Every year, we hold a series of Education Outside the Classroom Activities (called Activity Week) to support the building of relationships between students and their peers and students and the staff. Students take part in these activities in their Whānau Hubs; this year the week includes trips to the [Auckland Zoo](#) and [Shakespear Regional Park](#). There is no cost to parents for Activities Week - the school pays.

Detailed information about Activities Events will be emailed out next week, however we thought we would share the dates/trips in this newsletter so that if you were keen to be a parent helper you could plan a little in advance! We do need parent helps for both the Monday and the Thursday!

### Monday 26 February:

- **Shakespear Regional Park** - Tawa & Matai (Rooms 1, 9, 10, 3, 18, 11, 4, 8)
- **Auckland Zoo** - Kowhai & Rimu (Rooms 20, 21, 6, 17, 19, 7, 2, 12,5)

### Tuesday 27 February

- **Whānau Swimming Sports at Massey Park Pools** - whole school

### Thursday 29 February

- **Auckland Zoo**- Tawa & Matai (Rooms 1, 9, 10, 3, 18, 11, 4, 8)
  - **Shakespear Regional Park** - Kowhai & Rimu (Rooms 20, 21, 6, 17, 19, 7, 2, 12,5)
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**Whānau Night**



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**JOIN US!**

for

**WHĀNAU NIGHT**

ON  
**TUESDAY 20  
FEBRUARY**

FROM 6.00P.M. TO 8.00P.M.  
HOT DOGS | CHIPS | DONUTS  
| ICECREAM | BURGERS

*Meet teachers in classrooms first to find out a little more about class expectations etc and then join us for a fun filled evening of games.*

*Bring togs for the waterslide and some money for the Food Trucks!!*

**GREENMEADOWS  
INTERMEDIATE**

Twice a year, we host a really lovely evening where whānau come together up here at school, meet their child's teachers and enjoy some summer fun activities at the same time! The Term 1 Whānau night will be held on Tuesday 20 February from 6.00p.m. to 8.00p.m. Do pop this date in the calendar so you can join us and meet your child's 2024 class teacher.

### **Regular Attendance at School - 90+% is the goal!**

It is not really news to anyone that the education of a child is disadvantaged if they do not attend school regularly and parents play a big part in making sure their child comes to school everyday.

At GIS we are pretty hot on students attending school regularly unless they are absent for a justified reason (such as they are unwell). It is also important that parents let us know the reason why students are absent from school. You can leave a message on the school answer phone, email the teacher or notify us through the school app. Parents will be contacted by the office or the class teacher if we don't hear from you.

90+% attendance is needed for students to continue to progress academically (this means they can be absent 5 days each term). Every student who achieves this goal receives a special certificate at assembly and the class with the highest attendance receives a pizza party to celebrate.



every day counts  
ATTEND TODAY -  
ACHIEVE TOMORROW!



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Parents are able to track their child's attendance on the Hero app - it is a great way to check they are tracking towards that certificate!

Taking a holiday during the school term is classified as an unjustified absence. However if you do choose to take one anyway, or plan to be away for an extended time (longer than a week) parents are required to complete the form below and return it to school beforehand.

## Student Extended Absence Form

### School Uniform

So great to see everyone in uniform! Just a couple of reminders - crocs are not suitable footwear for school (even though they are the current fashion!) and girls are not to wear socks with the sandals (again, the current trend!). We do have a great supply of Kidscans shoes at school, so happily provide these for students who do not have plain black shoes to wear. The other current fashion is for girls to wear a claw clip to put their hair up - please keep these to blue, black or brown ones. Ngā mihi whānau!



### School Lunches and Fruit in Schools

We are fortunate that our students are provided with a Subway lunch each day (paid for by the Ministry of Education - they are NOT "free"! ). All dietary requirements can be catered for - just let the teacher know if your child is vegetarian, gluten free etc. In addition we are part of the Fruit in Schools programme, where students have access to a plentiful supply of fruit. We try to reduce wastage as much as we can - and we do find that some students become quite fussy and refuse to eat the lunch (even though they are really good!). **If you do not want your child to have the lunch, then can you please let the class teacher know** and we will remove them from the order list (be aware you will need to provide food for your child every day). That will go a long way towards reducing the wastage - both of food and the MOE's money!

### School Communications

All school communications are generally digital at our school (we find that way is more likely to reach parents!). We encourage you all to follow our Facebook page, make sure we have your email address and **download the Hero app** which we are going to use as our school app (in place of School Apps who we have used up until now) this year as well; this is in the process of being set up now and we will let this has been finalised.



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# How to set up Hero

## After School Pick ups

The end of the day is always a little bit crazy with 420 students all leaving at the same time. We appreciate parents being considerate of others - especially when school staff are trying to make sure our students get off safely and in a reasonably orderly fashion. You can help us by:

- not parking on the bus stop
- no congregating at the bottom of the drive to collect your child (it creates a bottle neck)
- not standing on the other side of the road calling your child to run across the road to you (so dangerous!)
- not driving up the drive to collect your child.

Sometimes it is a good idea to park further away and get your child to walk down the road to meet you. Working together we can make sure our children get away safely!



### Dates to Remember

- **Waitangi Day** - Tuesday 6 February
- **Swimming Lessons start** - Monday 5 February for Rooms 7, 4, 6, 8, 12, 21
- **Whānau Night/Meet the Teacher** - Tuesday 20 February 6.00 - 8.00p.m.
- **Activities Week** - Monday 26 February to Thursday 29 February



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