

11/04 1 March 2011

Dear Parents/Caregivers and children,

Greetings to you all,  
So where did February go?

What a tragic day last Tuesday was for the people of Christchurch in particular, and all New Zealanders on the whole. I'm sure like me you have felt it really isn't New Zealand on the news. These things happen overseas not at home. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those directly affected by the tragedy. Today at 12.51pm the school held, as a mark of respect and remembrance, two minutes of silence.

I was approached this morning by a group of senior girls keen to help out their peers in Christchurch and have suggested that **this Friday** we have a **red and black day**, similar to what we did last September, and students give a gold coin.

Friday week ago we had a group of 7 of our Year 8 students speak to the school about their desire to be head pupil. After much deliberation and discussion the head pupils for 2011 are: Abbe-Mae Henry and Chris Riddell. Congratulations to you both and we look forward to you representing our school in a positive manner throughout the year.

I've just been given a copy of **Baby Read-Aloud Basics** by **Caroline Blakemore & Barbara Ramirez**. It really shows the importance of reading to babies and the long term benefits of doing so. They outline **10 Benefits of Reading Aloud to Your Baby from Day One**.

1. Reading Aloud Promotes Listening Skills
2. Reading Aloud Increases the Number of Vocabulary Words Babies Hear
3. Reading Aloud Develops Attention Span and Memory
4. Reading Aloud Helps Babies Learn Uncommon Words
5. Reading Aloud Helps Babies Learn to Understand the Meaning of Words
6. Reading Aloud Helps Babies Learn Concepts About Print
7. Reading Aloud Helps Babies Learn to Get Information from Illustrations
8. Reading Aloud Promotes Bonding and Calmness for Both Baby and Parent
9. Reading Aloud Stimulates the Imagination and All of the Senses
10. Reading Aloud Instills the Love of Books and Learning.

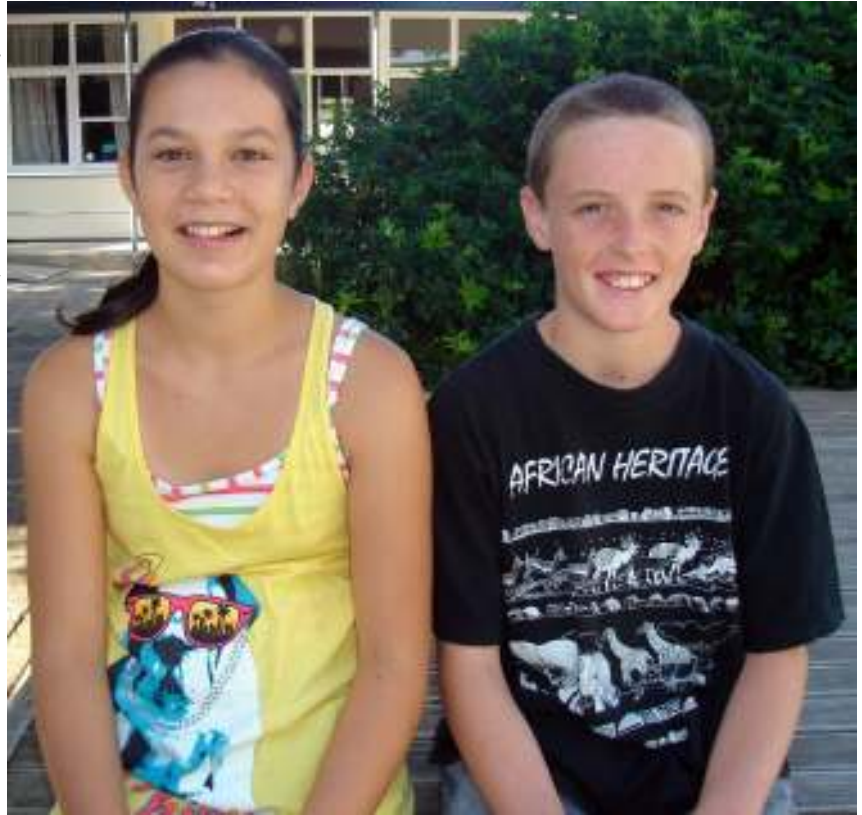
These benefits set the child up so well for their future. Interestingly research clearly shows the positive effect that reading to your school age children has both on their learning and your interaction as parents with them. If you aren't reading to your son/daughter on a regular basis can I recommend that you start today.

I have been approached from a number of students and parents to begin guitar lessons again. Included with this newsletter is a return slip to indicate your interest in learning guitar this year. There will be a cost of \$5 per lesson which does not come to me but is used within the school arts activities including inviting visiting artist and musicians to perform for us.

**Kids for Kids Concert/Choir:** Once again this year we have been approached to be part of the World Vision Kids for Kids Concert. This is a great nights entertainment, for along with our 25 students, there will be a further 300 from other schools all singing back up for Suzanne Prentice. The show is called 'Top of the World' and we will be performing on Wednesday the 11th of May. Auditions for the choir will be held this week and offered firstly to Years 1-4. There are parts to 20 songs to learn so the words will also need to be learned before the 11th of May

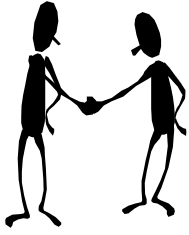
*Finally thank you to all of the parents and staff who made last Tuesday's water activities such a wonderful fun afternoon. Hard to believe that while we were doing this Christchurch was going through their 'hell.'* For the record the winning house was Pohutukawa

**Regards, David and the staff.**



**Head pupils for 2011.  
Abbe- Mae Henry and Chris Riddell**

## KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK



## FRIDAY 4 & 11TH ASSEMBLY CERTIFICATES

Room 1	Jacob Cundy and Cayla Taljaard
Room 2	Jack Illing and Maddison Arnel
Room 3	Max Arnel and Carpice Olsen
Room 4	Trista Sims and Christina Bateson
Room 5	Logan Barlow and Cearah Heise
Room 6	Max Koschany and Paris McConnell
Room 8	Flynn Wilkins and Aimie Savage
Room 9	Emma Walsingham and Emily Crossland

Congratulations to all these children and keep up the good work.

## NEWS FROM THE PTA...



### FROM THE PTA...

**AGM DATE** - . The AGM is being held on 15 March at 7pm in the staffroom. All are very welcome to attend. We will be electing President, Secretary and Treasurer. There will be a quick general meeting after the AGM.

**NAME IT LABELS FUNDRAISER** - Pamphlets for this are with this newsletter. We gain funds through this by commission. Please have **orders back to the school office by 3pm Friday 11 March**. Cheques to be made out to: *Gordonton School PTA*.



**OXFORD PIE ORDERS** - Please support this PTA fundraiser and stock your freezer with these delicious treats! There are also lunch size pies, sausage rolls and lamingtons available to order on the order forms. Order forms were sent home last week and **orders and money are to be returned by 3pm Friday 18 March**. If you didn't receive one please come to the office. Delivery date is Thursday 24 March.



**PUMPKIN HARVEST FESTIVAL** - This will be on 1 April late afternoon. This is our inaugural festival to celebrate the autumn harvest and to weigh in your magnificent giant pumpkins. We will need a handful of keen parent to form an organizing group for this event to occur. Please fill in the slip provided. Our first meeting is penciled in to be at 9am on Wednesday 9 March at the Firepot Café.



**GORDONTON SCHOOL RECIPE BOOK** - We still have these on sale. We have them at the school office if you would like to come and have a look or purchase some. They are wire bound and done similarly to the Edmonds cookbook - look VERY professional! They are \$15 and to order please come and see Diana at the office. Please make cheques out separately to: **Gordonton School PTA**, please don't include payment in with a school payment.



**PTA MILK / ICEBLOCKS FOR SALE** - Every Wednesday flavoured Anchor Milk and Iceblocks will be for sale at lunchtime. (The Iceblocks will only be sold during term 1). These will be sold under the shade sail on the quad at lunchtime if the weather is good or they will be brought around to classrooms if it is raining. Milk flavours available are Chocolate/Strawberry/Caramel/Banana and will be \$1 each. Iceblocks are 50c each. Just bring your money along at lunchtime, no slip required.

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



### PTA CALF SCHEME 2011

Each year the Gordonton School PTA runs a calf scheme similar to the IHC where farming families can donate a 100kg bull calf which is taken to the sales in October-November. This is usually the most profitable fundraiser the PTA undertakes and in the past has enabled the school to purchase items such as shade sails, sound field speaker systems for all classrooms, library books etc, the children benefit greatly from the funds raised. Please consider supporting this by rearing a bull calf for our school this year, the return slips may be handed in to your child's teacher or the school office. I am happy to answer any questions you may have, please phone Jenny Smith 824 3672.

## RM 3 & 4 CAMP & CHOCOLATE INFO



### ROOM 3 AND 4 CAMP AND CHOCOLATE INFORMATION

A reminder that camp payment or arrangement for payment needs to be in by **next Friday 11 March**. **Chocolates** - For those who have sold chocolates can you please fill in the slip provided to let us know how you want this money disbursed - either have it taken off your camp fees or if you have already paid camp fees in full, have the money reimbursed. We will not be ordering any more chocolates to sell so if you have unsold boxes or bars that you can't sell can you please return them so that they can be passed on to those who require more to sell.

## APPLES FOR SALE



### FRESH APPLES

Room 4 are selling **Fresh Apples** (they will be Royal Gala) to raise funds for their school camp. **\$4.00 for a 2kg bag**. Please complete the slip provided and drop into the office by Thursday afternoon. Pickup will be after assembly on Fridays outside the hall. Apples will be available weekly. Please tell friends & family outside of the school and encourage them to get their orders in also.

**STORE THIS IN YOUR PHONE**

**SCHOOL CELLPHONE**

We have the school cellphone up and running, if you wish to text in your child's absence you can text it to **027 482 4360**. Please - only use this for texting, don't leave phone messages. The phone is turned off at 3pm so please don't send any texts that are for that day after that time - ring the school phone 8243602.



**DO YOU HAVE ANY?**

**BAMBOO STAKES WANTED**

Do you have any bamboo on your farm? Dennis requires quite a number for stakes for trees in the bush area. If you have any can you please let us know.

**AFTER SCHOOL CARE INFO**

**KIDDLY WINKS AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

We are open daily in the Gordonton School hall from 2.45 to 5.45pm. Lots of fun with daily activities, friendly staff and nutritious afternoon tea. WINZ subsidies available. Pop into the hall to discuss further or if a holiday programme would be of interest to you.



Regards,

David, Mary, Brian, Grant, Lisa, Genevieve, Jaimee, Sam, Karen, Diana, Bridget, Marie, Julie W, Michelle, Julie F, Alison T, Carol, Fiona, Alison M and Dennis.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

**COMING UP**



- March 4 Red and Black day - gold coin, which will go to
- 12 Orders and money to be returned for Name It Labels fundraiser by 3pm
- 15 PTA AGM - 7pm in staffroom
- 18 Orders close for Oxford Pie orders - money and orders to be in by 3pm
- 21-23 Room 3 & 4 camp
- 24 Delivery date for Oxford Pie orders
- 25 Class and Individual/family photos being taken
- April 11-13 Room 1 & 2 camp

**OUT AND ABOUT**

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**DINNERS @ FIREPOT CAFÉ** - Casual Dining | Beer | Wine | platters. **Every Friday Night. Bookings essential, phone 8242006**

**BUDGIES FOR SALE** - Yellow/Green Colourings, Males \$12.50. Please Phone Alison Matthews on 8243220 or see me at school.

**WOBBLE – essentials for little kids** – everything for babies and toddlers. **March Specials:** 10% off Amber Teething Necklaces; HOT Mountain Buggy Deals; Specials on Cots & Bugaboo Strollers and much more! Located in the Rototuna Shopping Centre. Phone: 855-3630. Open 9am-5pm Monday – Friday, 10am-4pm Saturday. Email [info@wobble.co.nz](mailto:info@wobble.co.nz). Webstore [www.wobble.co.nz](http://www.wobble.co.nz).

**CHARITY AUCTION** - Our Tatua Oxfam Charity Auction night is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March (next week) and we have a guest speaker (Bernie Crosby – CEO Prolife Foods), nibbles, licensed cash bar and some great goodies up for auction! Flights to Queenstown, accommodation in Taupo, beauty therapy, sporting goods, boat cruise with lunch, wine etc. So get a group together and come along for a good, fun night out and support a crazy group of try-hards who intend to stagger through 100km in one go, and do some good in the world at the same time. Tickets available at Tatua Reception, Firepot café Gordonton, Ag Research, Dairy NZ, LIC, James & Wells (CBD), Smiths sport shoes (CBD) or contact this email and tickets can be posted to you.



**CALF SCHEME**

Yes I intend to rear a Bull Calf for the 2011 Gordonton School PTA Calf Scheme

Name.....Phone.....

**APPLE ORDER - Orders must be in on Thursday afternoons - 3pm**

Child's name..... Room.....

No. of 2kg bags wanted..... @ \$4 per bag = \$..... enclosed

**NB** Pick up will be after assembly on Fridays outside the hall.

**GREAT BEGINNINGS EARLY LEARNING CENTRE** - We are now OPEN! Ages 0 - 6 years. Directly opposite Gordonton School. We are open from 7.30am - 5.30pm. Extensive rural outdoor area. Great beginnings....where children are only limited by their imagination. Phone 8243772.



**NZ YOUNG FARMERS AGRIKIDSNZ CONTEST** - This is being held on Saturday 5 March at the Morrinsville A & P Show. It is a skills-based competition run by Young Farmers aimed at Primary school aged children. There is plenty of excitement, challenges, fun and prizes. Each region in NZ hosts a regional final, where the top 3 school teams are invited to participate in the Grand Final which will be held in Masterton 29 June - 3 July. If you are interested, more information and entry forms are available at the school office. Entries need to be in by 25 February.

**TANK WATER AVAILABLE** - We have 12,000 litres of good clean rain water available to anyone who wants it. Contact Des Hansen at Orini Honey Packers, phone 8244700.

**CHARITY AUCTION** - Oxfam Trailwalker Charity Auction 10<sup>th</sup> March at the Bill Gallagher Centre, The Hub, Wintec (in town). Tickets \$15 inc. guest speaker, nibbles. Cash bar available. Items for auction include: flights to Queenstown, Woodbox voucher, accommodation, boat charter, wine, beauty therapy, magazine subscriptions..... So get the girls together for a night out! Tickets available from the FirePot Cafe (thanks Michelle) or call Jacquie Sherborne on 824 3144 (hm). All proceeds to Oxfam NZ. We are looking for further sponsorship (goods, services of all kinds). If you are interested in this marketing opportunity call Jacquie or email [jacquie.sherborne@tatua.com](mailto:jacquie.sherborne@tatua.com) The auctioneer will read a brief on your business and show slides when auctioning your sponsored items.



**BADMINTON** - The Horsham Downs Badminton Club will be resuming its new playing season shortly. We have a Junior (ages 6 to 13) night on Friday evenings during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> school terms, where we provide encouragement and coaching for anyone wanting to learn and play badminton. Enquiries: Lesley 8294870 or Darren 8243969.



**RUGBY WEIGH IN** - Hamilton Eastern Suburbs Junior Rugby Club weigh-in is on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 10:00am - 12:00pm at the Flagstaff Club, Commodore Ave. All players need to bring their Birth Certificate or Passport and a copy for our records. For further details contact: David den Hertog 0275786414 or Mike Gregan 021381318.



**WAIKATO JUNIOR RUGBY REGISTRATION DAY** - Saturday 12 March at Willoughby Park from 10am - 4pm. Sign up for an exciting year of rugby with your chosen Waikato club. Plus the NZRU Trophy tour will be there! Bring your camera and have your photo taken with the trophies.

**LOST DOG** - Our lovely dog Sue has gone missing in the Gordonton area. She is a black/tan huntaway cross cattle dog with a chain collar. Any sightings please phone Wayne or Deb at 8243070.

**PUMPKIN FESTIVAL ORGANISING GROUP**

I would like to help organize the pumpkin festival.

Name..... Phone.....

**ROOM 3 AND 4 CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISING REFUND**

I would like the refund owed to me (please circle):

Refunded

Put towards camp fees

Put into Activity Fee

Put into Stationery Credit

Child's Name..... Room.....

**GUITAR LESSONS**

My child/ren ..... in Room/s.....

are interest in learning to play the guitar.

Signed.....