

11/17 14 June 2011

Dear Parents/Caregivers and children,

Greetings to you all,

Did you wake up this morning, give your family a hug and think how lucky you are you live in the Waikato and not in the greater Christchurch area? Those poor people! Three more major earthquakes and many aftershocks in the past 24 hours – it really is hard to imagine what they must be going through. So if you haven't given them a hug, now's the time and thank your lucky stars the earthquakes haven't moved north.

Week 7 and Fieldays. It is probably a good time to clarify legislation around non-attendance at school. By law a child in New Zealand who is between the age of 6 and 16 must in school if the school is open. Of course there are legitimate reasons when they can't attend – sickness and funerals spring to mind. Unfortunately taking the family to Australia or a day at a 'farm show' is not a legitimate reason. We do realise that sometimes parents make the decision to do the above, thankfully they inform the school. We can't legally condone what they are doing but quite often the 'educational benefit from such an event can be extremely high and valuable for the child. This can be especially so when the 'event', say a trip to Fiji, is accompanied with a daily diary where the child records not only the day but makes personal comment about their feelings and why they enjoyed or didn't like what happened. Make the excursion a learning event. With this in mind please consider taking your child to the Fieldays on Saturday but if you do decide to take them during the week please make sure you contact us and let us know. Each year we spend a lot of time and money ringing cell phones trying to find out why children are not at school. Do not assume that we will know your child is with you at the Fieldays.

For the first time for many years we have had our **Charter returned** unsigned by the Ministry of Education. The reason for this is that we had neglected to include the two words - 'National Standards' in it. We decided at our board meeting to include National Standards and this was confirmed after a phone call from the Ministry. I received an email from them and they were pleased that we were strengthening the charter by doing this. Far from strengthening it in any way, we are merely complying to MOE requests.

In essence we are saying: *Inserting the words 'National Standards' will not make a jot of difference to the learning and achievement outcomes of our students? It can't! How can it? We are being forced to implement standards that are completely untested. In other words we don't know that what your children are being measured against is in fact the norm. How do you know that what the students are being measured against is in fact what they should know at their stage of learning? Do all children crawl, walk, talk at the same time? Of course they don't. Just because they should, doesn't mean that they will. If child A walks at 18 months is he a walking failure, as he was meant to walk at 12 months. It is exactly the same with their reading writing and mathematics. Children do not all learn to read, write and compute at the same age. Yet we will label children who don't meet what the MOE says that they should be doing at, say 6, as failing the standard. ... as you have quickly gathered I DON'T agree with National Standards but for the sake of our Board and parent community we will comply with the request to include National Standards in it.'*

Tomorrow is Support Staff Day, a day when the teaching staff officially thank Alison Matthews, Alison Thomas, Carol Wong, Diana Bell, Dennis Duncan, Fiona McLeod, Julie Forrest and Justine East for all the help and wonderful support you give us and our children - helping make the school the great place that it is.

Next Wednesday the 22nd of June we will have our **annual mid winter swim**. This is open to all Year 7/8 children who have permission from their parents to take part. Generally they leap in, swim a length, shiver a lot, get out and dressed, then warm up with a hot milo. 'It's just what we do around here.' Oh yes the principal is exempt from the event due to

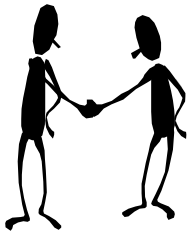
Have a great week.

Regards, David and the staff.



The donated pieces for the Art Auction on display in the office foyer

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK



FRIDAYS ASSEMBLY CERTIFICATES

- Room 1 Joseph Perry and Kaleb Satherley
- Room 2 Simon Coleman and Rueben Coleman
- Room 3 Paige Landon and Olivia Sherborne
- Room 4 Grady Woolerton and Brooklyn Read
- Room 5 Myles Landon and Hayley Brown
- Room 6 Quin Adams and James Jewell
- Room 7 Kyan Loomans and Holly Landon
- Room 8 Lauryn Nelson and Teancum Osman
- Room 9 Sophie Roberts and Quinn Loomans

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



WHAT'S NEW IN THIS NEWSLETTER... (get your calendar and cell phone calendar out and make a note of what's happening in the school so that you don't forget)

- Outstanding money - \$2 per child for 2 recent events
- No flavoured milk
- Art Auction information

NEWS FROM THE PTA...



FROM THE PTA...

AFTERNOON TEA TO WELCOME NEW FAMILIES - On Tuesday 21 June we invite all new families to the school to join us for afternoon tea at 2pm. This is an opportunity to get to know some of the other parents/caregivers in the school so we hope you can join us.

NO MILK FOR SALE - We have run out of the flavoured milk and so there will be no milk for sale tomorrow. We will let you know if we are going to continue selling milk this term.

PTA MEETING - The next meeting will be tonight, Tuesday 14th June at 7:30 in the staffroom.

NEXT GALA DAY MEETING - The next Gala Meeting: Tuesday 21 June @ 7.30pm, 57 Piako Road, Rebecca Barlow's. All Welcome to attend.

GORDONTON SCHOOL PTA NEEDS YOU!!!

The PTA is looking to hold a Gala Day in November. To make this a successful event we would like to call upon the generosity of our school families and community for any goods/services/resources that may be able to be used for our Gala Day i.e. **Bouncy Castles, Advertising/Billboard signs, Ponies (for pony rides), Candyfloss machine / Mini Donut stand, Trestle Tables for stalls, Rides or Amusements, Raffle Prizes, Celebrity for signing purposes to attract crowds or any other Gala related item would be much appreciated, to keep costs down and enable us to reach our goal of a successful fundraising gala.** Please complete slip attached if you can offer any goods/services/resources for our Gala Day 2011.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE A CALF?



2011 CALF SCHEME - ATTENTION FARMERS!

The Gordonton School PTA has over the past few years run a calf scheme as a major fundraiser for our school. This involves rearing a bull calf to 100kgs then we either collect your calf or you may deliver it to a central collection point. The calves are then taken to the saleyards and all proceeds go directly to enhance our school and learning tools. This is a fantastic way to support our fundraising efforts especially if you are unable to help out at other events during the year. Please consider donating this year and complete the return slip and send it in to the school office. I'm happy to answer any queries, Jenny Smith 824 3672.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY THIS WITH US



ART AUCTION - A GREAT NIGHT OUT!

Our biannual Art Auction is happening next Thursday 23 June. It is a **GREAT NIGHT** and we already have some quality work, that has been donated, for you to bid on. These donated pieces are being auctioned in the conventional manner, orally and out loud. Some of the work donated is on display in the office foyer so come and have a look and see what you would like to purchase. The children's work will be done by silent auction - this is where you place a bid on a piece of paper attached to the piece of art. Someone else may then come along and bid higher, so if you really want your child's work you will need to keep an eye on it and bid higher if need be. Starting bids for the silent auction will be \$5. **With regard to the donated pieces - we would like to formally thank all of the parents and friends of Gordonton School for your wonderful generosity.**

Drinks will be available and supper will be served later in the evening. The programme for the evening is:

- 6.30 - 7.15pm** - Silent Auction bidding done
- A chance to look at the quality art work donated for the main auction.
- 7.15pm** - Children will go to a classroom to watch a DVD under careful supervision. You may want to organise a babysitter to take your child/ren or a group of children home.
- Adults will stay in the hall for the main auction
- 7.30pm** - **Main Auction will start**



BISCUIT RAFFLE



FOOTBALL RAFFLE

The Gordonton Football (soccer) teams are having a raffle to raise money for some small goals. We have a 6.5kg (about \$80 worth of biscuity goodness) box filled with yummy Tim Tams, Crackers, Tiny Teddys and so much more! The tickets are \$2 each, so go and see Diana at the office and get your lucky number. Thanks on behalf of the Gordonton Rockets, Jets, Missiles and Torpedoes.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?



SCHOOL PADDOCK

The school paddock has come up for lease again. This is situated between the swimming pool and dental clinic. If you are interested and would like more information contact Richard Riddell at 8243850.

PLEASE PAY THIS



MONEY OUTSTANDING

Recently we have had the Kahurangi Dancers and an Art Workshop held at school. Each event cost \$2 per child and there are still some children who have not paid for either event or only one of them. Can you ensure that this is paid please, unless you have an activity fee and then it has been taken from that.

COME AND JOIN US



FRIDAYS SHARING ASSEMBLY

Every Friday we have a sharing assembly from 2.20pm, in the school hall. Classes alternate - odds and evens - each week to share with everyone the work they have been doing in class. We also sing a couple of songs. We invite you, your extended family and friends to join us for this assembly.

PLEASE COLLECT THESE

YUMMY STICKERS

With all the fruit around with Yummy stickers on them, we would like to ask you to collect them for us so that we can redeem them later in the year for sports equipment. We have included a collection sheet with this newsletter for you to put on your fridge. Once the sheet is complete, please return to school and collect a new sheet from the school office. Thanks for your support!!

AND THESE TOO!



COLGATE CARTON RACE

We need your empty Colgate Toothpaste Cartons!!!! We are competing to win a share of \$60,000 worth of new sports gear so we are asking everyone we know to raid your bathrooms, check your recycling bins, ask your friends and family, even your neighbours because every carton counts!!! We have until **30 June** to collect as many as we can get our hands on, so please drop them in at our school office. Thanks for support!

NETBALL SUBS OVERDUE

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Netball fees are now outstanding. They are \$35 per player and need to be paid to the school now, as we have to pay the Netball Centre registration.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



COMING UP (get your calendar and cell phone calendar out and make a note of what's happening in the school so that you don't forget)

June	21	Welcome to new families afternoon tea - 2pm
	23	Art Auction
	29	Middle trip to Mystery Creek
	30	Junior trip to Mystery Creek
July	15	Last day of this term

Regards,

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

OUT AND ABOUT



COMMUNITY NOTICES

WOBBLE - essentials for little kids - everything for babies and toddlers. Located in the Rototuna Shopping Centre. Phone 8553630. Open 9am-5pm Monday - Friday, 10am-2pm Saturday. Email info@wobble.co.nz. Webstore www.wobble.co.nz.

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

HOUSE AVAILABLE FOR RENT - 4 bedroom house over looking a dairy farm. Double garage. For more information contact Kelly at 0272930540

SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR SALE -

Size 10 Gordonton School black shorts \$15. Size 12 Gordonton School blue polo shirt \$25. Size 10 Gordonton School blue polar fleece jacket \$30. Black Jazz dancing shoes size 4½ \$50. All items are in very good condition. Please phone Leanne 8242208.

TUTORING - available for maths, reading, writing, spelling. Sessions available afternoons, evenings and weekends. Qualified teacher. Contact Kelly 8555439 or 021617159. Email kelly@gtx.net.nz





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WINTER WARMERS

SOUP

Soup is great warmer for a cold winter's day. Serve with some wholegrain bread for a warm and tasty lunch or dinner. Try this yummy vegetable soup recipe:

- 1 onion chopped
- 2-3 cups chopped veg – pumpkin, kumara, carrot, parsnip etc
- 1 1/2 litres water or stock
- 1/2 cup skim milk powder
- 2 tbsp plain flour

Add veg, onion, water/stock into a pot, simmer until veges are very soft. Mix flour, milk powder and a little water into a smooth paste. Add to soup and simmer until creamy.



CALF REARING SCHEME

Please tick which of the following you are willing to donate:

We would like to raise a calf for the PTA

We would like to purchase a calf to be reared

We would like to rear an extra calf/calves.....(Please state number of calves)

We would like to donate \$..... towards purchasing a calf to be reared

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

GALA DAY HELP SLIP

Donation of goods/services/resources for Gala Day 2011

I can help you out and supply _____

Name.....

Phone.....