

11/37 29 November 2011 Dear Parents/Caregivers and children,

Greetings to you all,

The election is now done and dusted and the government in place for at least the next 3 years. I hope you all exercised your democratic right and voted, unlike the 26.2% who didn't bother. A million eligible New Zealanders did not bother to vote in Saturday's election, producing the lowest turnout in percentage terms for 120 years.

Turnout dropped by just over 90,000, from 79.5% of those on the rolls in 2008 to 73.8%. Except for an anomaly in 1978, when the rolls were inflated by outdated and duplicate entries, this was the lowest percentage turnout since 1887, when 67.1% of those on the rolls voted. That was before women won the right to vote in 1893.

I guess the message is if you don't like what we got, and you didn't vote then please don't complain.

Some interesting times for the current education system coming up – greater emphasis on National Standards, the public reporting of school data, and the real possibility of league tables comparing one school with another.

It was great to see so many of you at the opening of our **new courts and pool murals** on Friday. We are particularly proud of these wonderful new assets, and I'm sure our students will reap the benefits of the improved facility of the courts. Special thanks to the **PTA** who once again were there in force providing food and drinks.

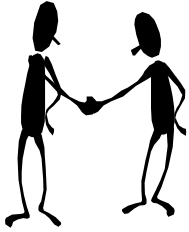
This week we begin our **Christmas songs** in preparation for the final assembly which this year being held at 11:00am on Tuesday 13th of December. Staff have had the unenviable task of choosing the recipients of their class awards. Each year they chose 3 – effort, achievement and citizenship. If your child has been chosen you will be contacted so that you can be in attendance.

LAST DAYS FOR THE YEAR - The last days of the year will be: the Junior School (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10) will be finishing on Tuesday 13th December at the normal time - 2.50p.m. The Seniors (Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4) will be finishing on Wednesday 14 December at 12:00pm when the buses will be coming to collect them, except for the children whose bus goes into town, unfortunately you will have to collect your child/ren from school at 12 noon. We will be having a fun water fight on Wednesday 14 December at approximately 11.15am - **which is for the seniors only - Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4**. There are strict rules for this, which the children will be told - no water bombs (balloons), only containers or water pistols. Please make sure your child/ren has a **full** change of clothes and a towel. **We emphasise - this is for fun and participation is not compulsory.**

Regards, David and The staff.



**KEEP UP THE
GOOD WORK**



FRIDAYS ASSEMBLY CERTIFICATES

Room 1	Joseph Perry and Zara Brown
Room 2	Petra Riddell and Year 6's
Room 3	Mikayla Howser and Sonny Te Maro
Room 4	Aatahliyah Tuwhangai and Christina Bateson
Room 5	Myles Landon and Tessa Conning
Room 6	Cohen O'Donoghue and Ellie Williams
Room 7	Paul Walton and Jack Meredith
Room 8	Angus Stewart and Emily Mitchell
Room 9	Zavier Ripley and Sophie Gavin
Room 10	Makayla Hook and Georgia Hook

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

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.

**WHAT'S
NEW!**

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)

- Oxford Pie order delivery
- Calf Scheme prize draw this week
- Funball draw
- Leavers
- Pre-schoolers
- Term dates for 2012

**NEWS FROM
THE PTA...**



RECIPE BOOKS

FROM THE PTA...

WE HAVE SURPLUS STOCK FROM THE GALA DAY FOR SALE -

Wednesday lunchtime gala surplus stock for sale until all sold - **Flavoured milk** - \$1 each; **Sweet As Popcorn** - Small bag 60 gms \$2 and large bags 140 gms \$3; **Iceblocks** - \$1. All proceeds from the sales will go direct to the Gala total!!

RECIPE BOOKS FOR SALE - Recipe books are once again for sale, without 2010 on the cover. They cost \$15 each and make great Christmas presents. You can purchase them from the office.

YUMMY RAFFLE



CADBURY RAFFLE - We have received a wonderful donation from Cadbury - a variety of chocolate bars, Favourites, Roses, Scorched Almonds, Lollies etc. These were for the Gala day but as they arrived after we had held our Gala we have made them up in a basket and decided to raffle them for Christmas. The basket is in the office for you to view and tickets are \$1 each. All proceeds will go towards the Gala total. The raffle will be drawn on the last Friday assembly - 9 December.

PIE ORDERS



OXFORD PIE ORDERS DELIVERY DATE - Thursday 1 December from 2.30pm in the hall.

PTA CALF SCHEME PRIZE DRAW - Thanks to the generosity of several farmers we have raised over \$5000 this year, a fantastic result! The prize draw will happen at this Fridays assembly, so if you have sold your own bull calf, are donating the average (\$411.70) or making a monetary donation please make sure your money is in to the school office by this Friday morning (cheques payable to: **Gordonton School PTA**). Farmers who reared a calf this year will be entered into the draw, one entry per calf. Many thanks to those who reared calves, and also to our sponsors: **Brent Houghton - Allied Farmers, Jeff Clarke - Ecolab, New World Rototuna & Carleys Transport.**

**DO YOUR
CHILD/REN
WANT TO TAKE
PART?**



WEETBIX TRYATHLON

The Weet-Bix Tryathlon is coming and Gordonton School is signing up for kids aged 7-15 for this fun filled and exciting event! The Hamilton event will be held on February 12 2012 at the Waikato University. Children can enter as an individual or as part of a team and each child who enters receives a medal, an official Weet-Bix Tryathlon t-shirt, a certificate, a swim cap and the chance to win some awesome spot prizes. If we register 15 or more children for this event our school will receive free breakfast at the event, a complimentary group photo, race packs couriered free of charge and the chance to win \$500 worth of sports gear for our school! The entry fee is normally \$38 per competitor, however if your child enters through the school, entries are \$35 per child. Entry forms can be collect from Ms Carter in Room 6 or from the school office and must be returned to school by Friday 9 December.

**FUN BALL
GAME TIME**

FUN BALL DRAW

Due to the weather last week FUNBALL has been extended for another week from the original dates. This week will be played as 'Week 5' of the draw and we will be playing against SPC All Stars at 4:15pm. Next week will be played as 'Week 6' of the draw and will be the final game for the year.

**PLEASE SEND
THEM BACK**

SOCCER UNIFORMS

Can all soccer uniforms please be returned to the school office by the end of this week.

CHOCOLATE FOR SALE

CHOCOLATE BARS FOR SALE

We once again selling the last of the Dairy Milk fundraising chocolate bars this Friday at lunchtime outside Room 3. They are \$2.50 each.

SELECT OUR SCHOOL



RD1 AND BALANCE - If you purchase your fertiliser through either of these companies, for every tonne purchase they will donate \$2 worth of sporting equipment to local schools. Log on to WWW.RD1.COM and navigate to WWW.RD1.COM/sport-your-school and click on the 'nominate a school' link. Selects which RD1 account to use for the nomination, select our school, hit submit. If you have ordered 40 tonnes of fertilizer the school will get \$80 worth of sporting equipment!

A FUNDRAISER THROUGH TRADE ME



FUNDRAISER THROUGH TRADE ME

Trade Me will donate \$5 to nominated schools every time someone lists their service in the Services category on [Trade Me](#) (for the first time) before 31 December 2011, then emails 5bucks@trademe.co.nz with the following information:

- the email address they use on Trade Me;
- the name of the school they wish to support; and
- the school's location.

We'll email nominated schools a list of service providers who've supported their school so they can be acknowledged in newsletters etc. All sorts of people advertise their services on Trade Me's Services section, including tutors, babysitters, builders, gardeners, lawyers, hairdressers and others. It's a great place for people to let 2.8 million Trade Me members know what they can do and it only costs \$19 for a 90 day listing.

CAN YOU HELP?



WEETBIX RUGBY BOOK MISSING

Ryan Salmons' Weetbix Rugby book and cards has gone missing. He has his name on the front cover. It was taken from his bag by Room 7. Can this please be returned - no questions asked. Ryan has collected the cards for months and really loves his book. Any help locating it would be greatly appreciated. You can give either the book or the information to Mrs Bell at the office. Thank you.

ARE YOU LEAVING?



LEAVERS

If your child/ren will be leaving Gordonton School (other than Yr 8 children) at the end of this year could you please fill in the slip provided. This information is invaluable to us for the organisation of classes for next year.

CAN YOU HELP US?



PRE-SCHOOLERS

Do you have or know of any preschoolers that we may not know about? Neighbours, friends etc. If so, can you fill in the slip provided as this information helps us with classroom organisation.

PLEASE HAVE A LOOK

SCHOOL READERS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

Could you please hunt in all the obvious places (and then the not so obvious places) and have all reading and library books returned to school by the end of this week so that we can do a stocktake

2012 DATES



TERM DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

The **term dates for 2012** are:

Term 1	Tuesday 31 January	to	Thursday 5 April
Term 2	Monday 23 April	to	Friday 29 June
Term 3	Monday 16 July	to	Friday 28 September
Term 4	Monday 15 October	to	Friday 14 December (approx)

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)

December	1	Full Primary Athletics day Delivery day for Oxford Pie orders - 2.30pm in the hall
	6	Rms 3 & 4 trip to Waterworld
	8 & 9	Junior (Rms 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10) Overnight camp
	13	End of year Prizegiving Assembly - 11am Last day for Junior school (Rms 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10) finishing at 2.50pm
	14	Last day for Senior school (Rms 1, 2, 3 & 4) finishing at 12 noon
2012 January	31	1st day of Term 1

Regards,

David, Mary, Brian, Grant, Lisa, Jaimee, Sam, Diana, Marie, Nikki, Karen R, Brooke, Karen M, Julie, Michelle, Carol, Lynette, Alison, Fiona and Dennis.

OUT AND ABOUT



COMMUNITY NOTICES

KITTENS - We have 6 gorgeous kittens to give away. See Michelle Pene at school (Rm 8) or phone 8242112.

EGGS FOR SALE - Free Range Eggs. \$4 per dozen, can deliver to school. Phone Justine 8242142.

CAN YOU HELP US? - We are looking for a 50/50 sharemilking position and would love to stay around Gordonton as we have a child attending the school. If you know of any please contact Richard on 027 291 0746.

WOODEN NZ NATIVE BIRD SETS - Wooden sets include: Kiwi, Piwakawaka (fantail), Kereru (Wood Pigeon) and Tui. \$10 per set. They are laser cut from 3mm MDF wood. These make a perfect NZ resource for early childhood settings and also make brilliant Xmas decorations or mobiles. To purchase phone Rebecca or Grant at Creative Etch 8563333.

HOLIDAY CAMPS - January Camps at CYC Ngaruawahia! Three camps for all different ages! Come for a week full of all sorts of activities like archery, kayaks, bmx bikes, mini golf, field games, night games and much, much more. **9-12 Year olds:** 9th-13th January 2012. Cost \$140.00. **12-16 year olds:** 17th-21st January 2012. Cost \$140.00. **6-8 Year olds:** 23rd-26th January 2012. Cost \$115.00. Prices include food, accommodation, and tons of fun! For more info or a registration form go to our website at www.cyc.org.nz or contact Nicole at leaders@cyc.org.nz or ph 824 8495.

POTTERY FOR SALE - McLeod pottery is once again on sale for Christmas at 1116 Gordonton Rd. Please phone first - Fiona at 8242170.

ORINI RESERVE XMAS PARTY - This is being held on Friday 2 December starting at 6pm. Entry by donation. Picnic dinner or support the food stalls. There will be live entertainment, Christmas carols and fireworks. Everyone welcome to come along.

FIREPOT CAFÉ - We have **3 course Buffet Dinner's @ FirePot Café**. \$36.50 per person December **3rd, 9th & 14th**. Grab some friends and book today. No minimum numbers. **Bookings only! Phone 8242006**. Now fully licensed for beer, wine & R.T.D's from 10 am.

DIVING HOLIDAY PROGRAMME - Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd December, 9am to 2pm. A **FUN** programme that includes a mix of **DIVING, GYMNASTICS** and **TRAMPOLINING**. Suitable for children of all ages and abilities. Cost: \$25 day - \$20 for extra family members. Location: Water World. Contact: Clare on 8432118, 027 752 1366 clarespringwater@gmail.com

HOCKEY - A hockey upskilling opportunity like no other | 3 days of hockey fun | new coaching techniques from Australia | guest coaches including current NZ players | speed and agility sessions | meet new people | competitions and challenges and much much more. Start 2012 in awesome hockey form. For more details - visit www.midlandshockey.co.nz, and register online today!!

GARAGE SALE - This Saturday 3 December at 31 Garfield St, Gordonton. 8-11am. Household items, clothes, baby gear and much more.

LUNCHBOX SAVERS

Kids lunchboxes don't have to be full of expensive packet foods.

Doing home baking or putting in fresh foods helps to save money and make it much healthier for the kids.

TIP
Try rice crackers instead of chip packets, fruit pieces/slices instead of muesli bars or make a healthy muffin instead of chocolate biscuits (each toffee pop has about 1tsp of fat in it).

LEAVERS SLIP

My child/ren will not be attending Gordonton School in 2012.

Signature.....

PRE-SCHOOLER SLIP

Name.....

Date of birth..... Phone number.....