

11/38 6 December 2011 Dear Parents/Caregivers and children,

Greetings to you all,

This has been an amazingly short and full on term. Other than the Calf Club, which was moved to the end of last term, schools throughout the country, like us, have basically tried to cram 10 weeks into 8 which obviously doesn't work. Ahhhhhh! So much to do.

Lisa Gwyn had her final day on Friday and is now on Maternity Leave. We wish Lisa and her husband Jon all the best for the huge changes about to take place in their lives. Rachel Gower, who has been working in Room 4 all year will be teaching in Lisa's place for the next two weeks so the students are well used to her and the transition has been seamless.

The Junior School heads off to the Hall on Thursday evening for the beginning of outdoor camping experiences at our school. They go home for their tea on Thursday and return to school, set their beds up, and get involved with activities before heading off to bed. They have breakfast, tidy the hall up then head out to Te Rapa pools. It is a great introduction to camps. It is strictly optional, with teacher good will and parental support that makes it possible.



Tiana Wallbank, a Year 6 young lady in Room 2, will be driving (weather permitting) her mini-stock this weekend at Waharoa. We wish her every success in this exciting sport. There is apparently a Principal's stock car challenge race next year but as I drive similar to James May (Captain Slow) off Top Gear I wouldn't be competitive! Not on my bucket list either I'm afraid!

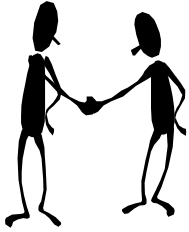
This morning many of you will have heard for the first time the term **Charter School** which the 1 Act member has some how persuaded the Government to look at. What are Charter Schools? They are primary or secondary schools that receive public money (they may also receive private donations) but are not subject to some of the rules, regulations, and statutes that apply to other public schools in exchange for some type of accountability for producing certain results, which are set forth in each school's charter. Charter schools are opened and attended by choice. While charter schools provide an alternative to other public schools, they are part of the public education system and are not allowed to charge tuition.

They originated in America yet interestingly well before American charter schools, New Zealand went much further in granting power to individual schools by abolishing all regional school boards and making each public school independent, with local parent and teacher involvement in decision making. Although not called charter schools, each school does have a charter under which it operates with a board of trustees and has a high degree of autonomy. (Wikipedia) Unfortunately in the past 3 years this autonomy has begun to be whittled away in our schools.

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	Cayla Taljaard and Sunny Singh
Room 2	Jack Illing and Rick Harris
Room 3	Junseo Song and Cameron Bevan
Room 4	Trista Sims and Kamryn Nelson
Room 5	Bayley Smallwood and Joel Morgan
Room 6	Claire Matthews and Ryan McIntosh
Room 7	Ryan Suisted and Olivia Poulin
Room 8	Ollie Mens and Bree Brindle
Room 9	Emily Crossland and Navleen Kaur Singh
Room 10	Ben Murphy and Emily Bennett

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)

- Tryathlon entries close this Friday
- End of year dinner reminder
- Funball draw

NEWS FROM THE PTA...



RECIPE BOOKS

YUMMY RAFFLE



THANK YOU

COME AND JOIN US



DO YOUR CHILD/REN WANT TO TAKE PART?



FUN BALL GAME TIME

PLEASE SELECT OUR SCHOOL



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.

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.

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 - We had 150 pies ordered last week and we would like to thank all those who supported this fundraiser. We would also like to thank Justine East for co-ordinating this fundraiser.

END OF YEAR DINNER

Just a reminder that Gordonton School is having their End of Year Dinner on Thursday 15th December at the FirePot. Everyone is invited to come to the FirePot and help celebrate the end of another great year at Gordonton School. Three Course Buffet Dinner - \$36.50 per person. Drinks extra. Fully licensed - Beer, Wine and RTD's. All associated with Gordonton School are invited eg Parents, PTA, BOT, Staff. A great way to meet and mix and mingle with other parents and staff at our school. RSVP by 12 Dec direct to school 8243602 or fill in return slip that came home with flyer last week.

WEETBIX TRYATHLON - Entries close this Friday

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 DRAW

We will be playing against Te Akau at 4:15pm. This will be the final game for the year.

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 he school will get \$80 worth of sporting equipment!

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 8 & 9** Junior (Rms 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10) Overnight camp
- 13** End of year Prizegiving Assembly - 11am
- 14** 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.

You're their lifeguard - Keep your Child safe at the pool this summer!



Over the Summer School holidays many families will be enjoying all the fun and excitement local swimming pools have to offer. Water Safety NZ and NZ Recreation Association would like to remind families about the Pool Alone policy that public pools in New Zealand are required to adhere to: **Children under 8 must be actively supervised by a caregiver 16 years or over. Actively supervised means watching your child at all times; Able to provide immediate assistance***

Lifeguards are an important safety feature, but they are not intended to replace the close supervision of parents or caregivers. Tragically many drowning deaths occur in the few seconds that parents are distracted. The role of a lifeguard is to ensure people are safe in the water - they are not babysitters. Remembering this when you take your family for a swim will help our pools to remain safe and fun places for everyone to enjoy.

*Please note that some pools have a stricter policy than the one above



Banana Freezies

Summer Recipe 1

Try these **Banana Freezies** to keep you cool over summer!

Ingredients:

- 4 bananas
- Fruit yoghurt
- 4 Popsicle sticks

Method:

1. Peel bananas
2. Pour some yoghurt into a bowl. Place popsicle sticks into bananas
3. Dip bananas into yoghurt
4. Place on a tray lined with greaseproof paper
5. Put in freezer till frozen, then enjoy!!



From ProJoe!

Thank you for your participation in Project Energize during 2011!

Ideas to keep active over summer:

Water fights and water sprinkler races

Create your own obstacle course

Eat Healthy, Be Active, Have Fun!



OUT AND ABOUT



COMMUNITY NOTICES

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.

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

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

SPEECH AND DRAMA LESSONS - Develop communication skills! Book now for 2012! Private Speech and Drama Lessons. Fun, interactive groups. Competition and Exam work covered. A range of skills including impromptu work, drama, talks, reading and poetry are taught. Spaces available for students 8-15 years. Contact Laura Watson A.S.B. lauraw09@gmail.com or 0220896158.

BLUEBERRIES FOR SALE - Blueberry Country has 2 orchards in the North Island, one in Ohaupo and one in Ngatea. We open to the public each year for "Pick Your Own", where families can come and pick their own fresh blueberries at a price never to be beaten in supermarkets. Pick Your Own is a great opportunity for children to experience where some of their food comes from and is a great adventure and day out for the family. Our cafes serve light refreshments and snacks, baked goods, and real fruit ice cream or frozen yoghurt. Open 7 days, 8am – 6pm. 397 Jary Road Ohaupo or 229 Central Road South Ngatea. Phone 07 823 6923 for info."

DO YOU NEED WATER - Call WATER BOYZ - We are on call anytime for: Domestic water delivery. Competitive prices. We fill water tanks and pools. Tank Cleaning available. Free phone: 0508 H2O 4 YOU (426 4 96) Eft pos and Credit cards accepted.

WOODLANDS CAROLS EVENING - Woodlands will be holding their Christmas Carols Event on Thursday 15 December , 5-9pm. Please bring along a picnic and enjoy an evening of entertainment with soloists, choirs and joining in with singing Carols. There will be penny-bikes and donkeys for the children – gold coin donation. The Homestead will be open with the Christmas display – gold coin donation.

THANK YOU - On behalf of us all at COMBINED AUTOMOTIVE LTD we would like to thank you for your support throughout the year, and wish you a safe and happy holiday season. We will be closed from 23rd December 2011 and reopen 16 January 2012.

LEAVERS SLIP

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

PRE-SCHOOLER SLIP

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