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Dear Parents and Caregivers – Tena Koutou Katoa

## Welcome to GMS

The school roll keeps on climbing...and we have welcomed four new students over the past fortnight. They are Amalia Weeks, Tyson Beams, Bella Arnold and Ryan Hansen. All are New Entrants and they have made a wonderful start to school. We currently have 453 students.

## Teacher Only Day

A reminder that there will be a Teacher Only Day on Monday 3 April. The school will not be open this day. Teachers will be visiting schools in the Manawatu that day.

## New Newsletter Format

We hope you enjoy the new newsletter format - to celebrate we have printed a hard copy version to show it off! Many thanks to Cameron Cook with his help preparing this very impressive template.

Thanks to our two newsletter sponsors Debbie Dudding from Tremains and Phil and Kathryn Simmons from Greenmeadows Service Centre for their contributions to the newsletter

## Pohutukawa Swimming

Swimming went extremely well on Monday for the Pohutukawa classes - so many turned up ready to swim, which is pretty impressive after a weekend (must have been all those alerts on the app?!?!?). The second session of swimming is on again tomorrow - Friday.

## Greenmeadows School App

With a busy school like ours, there are so many different things happening at any one time. Getting information out to all our whanau is a challenge - that is a key reason for our school developing our own 'app' during 2016. We currently have about 450 subscribers to the app which is great, although it means that currently not every family has access to it.

Things you find on the GMS app include:

- the latest school newsletters
- the school calendar
- links to our school's website and Facebook page

One of the most useful features of the app is the ability to send out 'alerts' which are basically text messages. The app allows users to select the apps they want to receive. This includes specific class messages, individual sports, syndicate messages and PTA notifications. So if your child was in Room 10 and played cricket as well as basketball, then you could follow the alerts for:

*Room 10 / Pohutukawa syndicate / Cricket / Basketball*

Download the free Greenmeadows School App from iTunes or the Google Playstore.

## Traffic Safety Around GMS

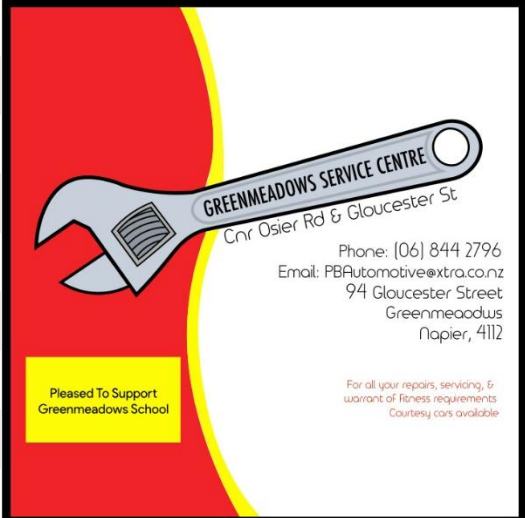
With the increasing numbers of students at school, this means that there are more vehicles around transporting children to and from school. As with so many other schools traffic congestion is becoming a real problem, and this then brings dangers.

One aspect that is causing concern is the number of children not using our road crossing on Osier Road. Last week a very near miss occurred when one of the younger children at school suddenly walked out onto the road from between parked cars. Obviously the child was totally unexpected by the vehicle driving towards them.

Parents, please help and model safe crossing by using the correct place using the Kiwi Crossing by the main school gate. Children will imitate behaviour they see from others, so we all have a role to play in developing these safe habits. It would be an absolute tragedy if a child was hurt moving into traffic in a place away from the controlled Kiwi crossing. Could parents also be patient when collecting children at the end of the school day. A couple of local businesses have contacted us with concerns about GMS parent vehicles parking in their car parks, denying their own customers the access they need. Please consider these businesses who do a lot for our school and community.

## Principal's Awards - Week 5, Term 1

Room 1	Xian O'Brian	Room 2	Sophie Goodman
Room 3	N/A	Room 4	N/A
Room 5	Luka Turner	Room 6	Abby Plapp
Room 7	Alizay Kaukau	Room 8	
Room 9	Kaeden Duncan	Room 10	Jada Hannah
Room 11	Ryan Hansen	Room 12	Grace Lee
Room 13	Nick Catley	Room 14	Ava Humphrey
Room 15	Mille Ford	Room 16	Mila Wishnowsky
Room 17		Room 18	Ryan Brookes   Olivia Maynell



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## School Uniform

It is wonderful to see so many children wearing their school uniforms with pride. The New Entrant pupils who arrive at school in their brand new uniforms must feel so grown up!

It is time for a gentle reminder about the footwear some children are wearing. Children are asked to come to school in either:

- black shoes or sandals
- dark blue (navy) socks or navy tights.

We are currently seeing some colourful laces, sports shoes and different soled shoes walking into school. We are asking for assistance from home to help with this.

## Sick Bay Clothes

We have sent home a number of changes of clothing on children over the last few weeks, and not too many of these items of school uniform have made it back. If your child has arrived home with school supplied clothing, can it please be returned washed?

Many thanks.

## ANZAC Speech Competition

Yesterday, the Taradale RSA hosted the annual 'Spirit of Anzac' speech competition. Our school was very capably represented by Year 6 students Ava Humphrey and Clara Newman. The girls were tasked with speaking about the lessons we have learned from the spirit the Anzacs displayed almost 102 years ago. Mr. Papuni was very proud of the job both Clara and Ava did. They had to do a lot of preparation and practice leading up to the competition. They both spoke confidently and with obvious pride in themselves, the Anzacs and our school. They each received a certificate and a book voucher.

Ka mau te wehe Ava and Clara!



Pictured: Mr Lima (Vietnam veteran) and Peter Grant (RSA president) present Ava and Clara with their certificates and book vouchers.

## Sports Fees

Although many families may not realise this, our school subsidises lots of costs associated with school. This includes the amount your children are asked to pay for sports fees. We want to see children playing sport and being active. However the codes charge quite a bit for sports involvement - and GMS will pay this amount in advance. As an example we have just paid an invoice for \$2000 for basketball fees this term. When families do not pay the amounts for their children to be involved in the sports, it becomes an immense cost to our school: one we simply can not keep affording to continue doing. Please help us by making these payments immediately.

## GMS Values Medals

Congratulations to these fantastic students who were presented with the GMS values medals in the last assembly.

Respect: Reanna Robson  
Perseverance: Rieley Jackson  
Excellence: Holly Menzies



If you are thinking about moving, let's work together to help both YOU and Greenmeadows School achieve a great result.

For every property that is listed and sold with us, we will give \$500 back towards Greenmeadows School for them to use to benefit your children. The next school trip, the new playground equipment - it could be on us! Give me a call today, I would love to hear from you.



**Debbie Dudding**

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## Building News

The old Rooms 3 and 4 are still being transformed by the wonderful builders from Atkin Construction... hmmm, we will have to come up with a new name for these classrooms soon.

The intention is to be in this space by the end of March



You see the wonderful new space that can take all the New Entrant pupils who are tightly working away in Rooms 1 and 2!

## Brass Instruments Band

They make beautiful music...



## LIBRARY CORNER!



Scholastic Lucky Book Club brochures have been sent home today. While each child receives a brochure, you can put in one order for all your children through Scholastic's new Online Ordering system, LOOP and make the one payment for all your children. Here's the link: <https://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz>

When you order online, your order automatically connects to the School Page. On the closing date, which for Issue 2, is March 24<sup>th</sup> all orders will be forwarded to Scholastic, so that orders will arrive at the school together. Book Club helps create readers by creating interest in books and providing an opportunity for students to choose their own books at discounted prices. Also every order earns scholastic rewards for the School. Happy Reading Everyone!

## GMS PTA Food Fair

Only eight sleeps now until the Food Fair ... excitement is building!!!!

The Food Fair is the big fundraiser for the GMS PTA: a wonderful group of fantastic supporters of our school. Come for dinner, join in the fun and be entertained!!!

1. Parent helpers we need more PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE to help on the night. There are so many activities planned, but we need more parents to assist. If you can help contact the school office, reply to the PTA Facebook page or let PTA Secretary Pam Angland know. It only needs to be 30 minutes during the evening
2. The PTA Facebook has a challenge: once it has 200 Likes then there will be a draw for some free Food Fair money ... who will get this? We need 66 more people to like the page for the draw to happen.
3. Cake Stall plates will be sent home on Monday to all families to supply baking to the Cake Stall: no cream, return by Friday morning
4. Remember to bring cash for the White Elephant stall this year, which won't be accepting the tokens used for the evening.
5. Does anyone have any 'pop up gazebos' we can use? Let the PTA know if you can.

All profits from the Food Fair will go towards new ICT equipment for the school. New iPads and Chromebooks will be purchased - so please support this great cause.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS!

Check the school App or [www.gms.school.nz](http://www.gms.school.nz) website for details on the events coming up.

24 March - GMS PTA Food Fair

13 April - Taradale and districts ANZAC day service

13 April - Term One ends

1 May - Term Two commences

Have a great week everyone

Ka kite ano

Mark Johnson, Principal