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Dear Parents and Caregivers – Tena Koutou Katoa

FIRST SCHOOL ASSEMBLY RAINED OFF

We had our first assembly for 2018 rained off on Friday morning (BOOHOO!) ... which was a real shame as we wanted to announce our 2018 House Captains to the school. Our Hall simply can not fit the whole school at one time. Instead we gathered the Year 3 to 6 students together to congratulate and recognise these students:

House Captains 2018

Ngahere - Emma Blake, Jessica Pyott, Liam Johns and Zane Langridge

Moana - Katie Donnelly, Zoe Ennor, Rylin Glenny and Daniel Smith

Ahi - Grace Lee, Lucy England, Thomas Anderson and Lachie Richards

Marama - Emily Davidson-Payne, Myah Smith, Cole Dallimore and Ashton Plapp

This looks to be an impressive group of school leaders. They will have a great year!

PARENT INTERVIEWS – MONDAY 5 AND TUESDAY 6 MARCH

In just over four weeks the school will be holding parent-teacher interviews. We are having an interview early in the year so teachers and parents get the opportunity to talk about the learning ahead and work together in the best interests of the child.

We urge **all families** to participate in these interviews and have set aside two afternoons for these to occur.

Monday 5 March	2.15 pm - 5.30 pm	6.15 pm - 7.30 pm
Tuesday 6 March	2.15 pm - 7.00 pm	
Thursday 8 March	additional Room 14 and 3 collaborative classroom interviews from 2.30pm	

Note when booking for Room 14 and 15 (Mrs Groenveld and Mrs Kinsey) you will meet with both teachers. So only book with Mrs Kinsey to get a time. This also applies to Rooms 3 and 3a (Miss Nikolaison and Mrs Harvey) - book a time with Miss Nikolaison and you will for both teachers.

You can request an interview by using our online booking program. Go to our school website www.gms.school.nz and click on the 'Parent - Teacher Interviews 2018' tab. There you will see instructions to take you to the interview booking website, along with the necessary code for booking dates and times at our school (remember to use the school code which is 'cay76').

Once your booking is completed you will receive an email confirming your interview. These details can be rescheduled if your availability changes.

If you are unable to access the school's website, then you can ring or visit the school office and Carolyn or Sara will book a time for you. We expect a 100% attendance of families at these interviews, so please let us know of any difficulties you may be having booking a time.

Other Information:

A number of children switch teachers for their Mathematics lessons. We will organize interview times for parents who wish to talk to their child's Maths teacher only on Thursday 8th March. These bookings can also be organized by booking online.

Because of the interviews **school will close early at 2.00 pm on both Monday 5th March and Tuesday 6th March.**

CANTEEN OPENS 14 FEBRUARY

We have our canteen opening up again on Wednesday 14 February.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TAMARIKI

Our school has more new enrolments this week – a very warm welcome to: Leila Rae, Te Oka Komene, Sienna Rae and Maarire Komene. We wish you all the best for your time at GMS!!!
Our roll is currently 446 students.

SCHOOL POWHIRI FOR NEW FAMILIES AND WHANAU

We will be having an official welcome for new families this term. We have decided to delay this until Week 5 of Term 1. This will be Thursday 1 March at 9.10am. More details to follow.

ART DECO DAY

This Friday children will have the opportunity to dress up in Art Deco gear. They do not need to bring money as they would for a normal muftiday.

VERY SAD STATISTIC ...

We try and keep our newsletter positive and cheerful. However, I need to share this with you. Over the course of 2017 we lost 491 reading books that were sent home and did not return. This includes School Journals as well as all the different graded readers. To replace these is \$5,890 (excluding GST), which is basically our whole reading budget. Please help us get these books back ... as well as ensuring we don't keep losing our valuable books.

This is not counting the more than 200 library books we are still trying to find from last year. To replace these is in excess of \$4000 ... Add the two amounts together and this is \$10,000 – an amount we do not want to keep spending. We would rather be purchasing new books to add to our collections, instead of simply spending our stretched funds on replacing missing books.

PTA MEETING – WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 7.30PM

Take a little time off from Valentine's Day folks and come along to our GMS PTA Food Fair meeting. All most welcome, including any new keen parents!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Check the school App or www.gms.school.nz website for details on the events coming up.

1 March	GMS Powhiri for new families and whanau
5 and 6 March	Parent interviews
23 March	GMS PTA Food Fair
15, 16 and 19 March	Kowhai classes trip to Estuary
13 April	Term 1 ends
30 April	Term 2 commences

Have a great week. Ka kite ano,

Mark Johnson

Principal