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Dear Parents and Caregivers – Tena Koutou Katoa

2018 ... here it is! January is behind us, but the hot weather sure isn't.

Great to see all the children back – happy and raring to go. It is going to be great year!

2018 SCHOOL ORGANISATION

We have a couple of changes in staffing for the start of our year. Mrs Millner has suffered a serious back injury so will not be in Room 6 for Term 1. We welcome back Mr Chris Sullivan, who previously taught here in 2012 and 2013, then went teaching overseas. He will take Room 6 until Mrs Millner returns.

Mrs Currie has taken leave for surgery so will not be in school during Term 1 either. Mrs Jacqui Geange will provide cover for Wendy in her absence. Mrs Murphy will be teaching Team Tahi for Term 1, until Mrs Christina Tareha returns from maternity leave. At the end of 2017 the intention had been for Mr Sullivan to be in Team Tahi until the recent switch. Mrs Jan Furlong and Mrs Sharon Young will also be teaching in our junior classes providing release on various days.

Our staff is:

Principal Mr. Mark Johnson Deputy Principal appointed for Term 2
Assistant Principal Ms. Allyson Ross AP (Junior School) Mrs. Ali de Lange

Kowhai ('Junior') Syndicate

Team Tahi Miss Shari Mackay (NE) and Mrs Anna Murphy

Team 2 Mrs Jacqui Geange (Year 1) and Mrs. Jane Carter (Year 1) Room 5 To fill during 2018

(the new prefabs called Rooms 18,19,20)

Room 18 Miss Leah Nikolaison (Year 1&2) Room 19 Mrs. Helen Harvey (Year 1&2)

Room 20 Mrs Sue Martin (Year 2)

Pohutukawa ('Middle') Syndicate

Room 8 Ms. Ceirwyn Ware (Year 4) Room 9 Miss Toni Miles (Year 4)

Room 10 Miss Jane McCosh (Year 3) Room 11 Mrs. Monique Cowie (Year 2/3)

(new learning space that were Rooms 15 & 14)

Room 14 Mrs. Sarah Groenveld (Year 4) Room 15 Mrs. Paula Kinsey (Year 3)

Totara ('Senior') Syndicate

Room 12 Mrs Pixie Bryan (Year 6) Room 13 Miss Rebecca Start (Year 5)

(new learning space in Rooms 16 & 17)

Room 16 Ms. Kim Davidson (Year 5 & 6) Room 17 Mr Greg Bain (Year 5)

Room 6 Mr Chris Sullivan (Year 4 & 5) Room 7 Mr. Marty Gibbs (Year 6)

Other GMS staff:

Catherine Webster - Reading Recovery

Jane Lee - CRT release teacher

New Entrant Transition class – Anna Murphy (Wednesdays)

Sara Anderson - Office Administrator Carolyn Thorburn - Office Administrator

Librarian Kim Cook Sports Coordinator Nicki Sunley

Teacher Aides - Linda Cunningham, Lynne Canty, Hayley Jury, Carol Mardon,

Kirsten Martin, Leanne Duncan, Vanessa Wells

Property Maintenance - Paddy Mellon Cleaners - Heather Kennedy & Jess Harrison

Canteen – Kim Batt Gardener - Louise Nicholson

SCHOOL CLOSED – MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY and WAITANGI DAY 6th February

To enable a four day weekend (that many families were going to be taking any way), as well as allowing the builders more time to finish their work, school will be closed next Monday. Tuesday is Waitangi Day.

School opens next week on Wednesday 7 February.

CANTEEN OPENS 14 February

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

Parent Meetings – Thursday 8 February GMS Hall

A number of children will be in collaborative teaching spaces this year at GMS. This means a larger group of children than a typical class and more than one teacher. From the community survey last year, a number of you stated that you would like to find out more about these types of classrooms and how they run.

We will have meetings next week to give an outline of how this style of classroom will operate. We will have these on Thursday 8 February at 3.15pm, as well as a repeat meeting at 5.15pm if that time is better for parents to attend. Both meetings will be in the Hall.

All are welcome to attend – whether your child is in one of the classes, or you are just interested in hearing more about how these rooms work.

SCHOOL POWHIRI FOR NEW FAMILIES AND WHANAU

In Week 3 we are planning have a school powhiri to welcome all our new students and their whanau. The tentative date for this will be on Friday 16 February at 9.00am. This will be confirmed next week.

FIRST SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

We have our first school assembly scheduled for Friday 9 February at 9.15am in the Heart of the School – weather permitting.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TAMARIKI

Welcome to all our new students – twenty nine children started with us this morning.

Nau mai to Sophie Chandra, Layla Cairns, Stephanie Chandra, Ada Kelsen, Evelyn Millar, Mae Kelsen, Paiton Konia, Shire Haddon, Mikayla Stanton, Shade Taylor-Cobb, Eva Smith, Tyler Stanton, Joshua Madder, Carter Miller, Aimee Madder, Daniel Smith, Zach Millar, Kyle Leitch, Zoe Steyn, Taylor Oldham, Mac Firman, Aston Hadabora, Charlie Bott, Joshua Pawson, Sophie Wilkie, Phalen Smith, Connor Leathard, Valentin Murua,

TJ Culshaw and Callum Brown. What a fantastic and willing bunch who settled into school beautifully! We wish you all the very best for the time you have in front of you at GMS!!!!

Forthcoming Events!

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

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| 8 February | Parent Meetings about collaborative classrooms 3.15pm and 5.15pm |
| 5 and 6 March | Parent interviews |
| 24 March | GMS PTA Food Fair |
| 12 April | Term 1 ends |
| 1 May | Term 2 commences |

Have a great week everyone.

