

Newsletter - No. 4

Ph 06 8447024
www.gms.school.nz

Dear Parents and Caregivers



Thursday 16 March 2011

Tena koutou katoa,

WELCOME TO GREENMEADOWS SCHOOL

Four New Entrant pupils have joined the Room 8 class over the past two weeks. They are Braxton Bell, Ryan Catley, Charlize Foote and Tyler Hadabora. It is great to see their smiling faces around the place and we welcome these children and their families to Greenmeadows School.

NEW ENTRANT NUMBERS

With a large number of five year old students having started school over the past few weeks, and more due before the end of the term, we are now starting to commence our planning for the establishment of another New Entrant class. This class will be in place from the beginning of Term 2 in Room 7. The announcement of the teacher for this class will be made before the end of this term.

CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE RED and BLACK DAY

The support given to this day was overwhelming, as our school community raised more than \$1030 towards the earthquake appeal – an amazing amount! Thank you to all who got behind this venture. There has also been a significant amount of pet food which has been collected for from our school to be sent to Christchurch. The organisers have been very appreciative of the support provided by our school.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

The Civil Defence emergencies of recent times have served to get many of us thinking about preparedness in the case of an emergency. Our school has held stocks of tinned food as an emergency supply in the case of the school being forced to provide accommodation in the event of a natural disaster. Some of our supplies have passed their 'best before' date and need to be replaced. We ask that families consider donating to this stockpile of food with canned food. This can be dropped off in the box in the office. Thanks.

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Recently, our school has been working with 'SchoolDocs' to create a website for our policies and procedures. We are excited to announce that the site is now live and available to our school community. The school works on a subscription basis with SchoolDocs to maintain, update, and review our policies. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for reporting to parents, etc.

Policies are monitored by SchoolDocs and updated, modified, or created in response to changes in legislation, significant events, Ministry guidelines, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team. Our Board of Trustees has the opportunity to view changes and additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review. We invite you to visit the site at <http://gms.schooldocs.co.nz> (note that there's no "www"!). Our user name is 'gms' and password 'osier'.

CRICKET DRAWS THIS WEEK

Friday team v Nelson Park School on Pitch 6

Saturday team—a bye (you can sleep in)

Please note that only one round of cricket remains after this week.

WALKING BUS

No walking bus tomorrow—we travel again next week on the 24th March starting at 8.05am.

SCHOOL PERMISSION FORMS

We are going to revise the way we get permission for Education Outside the Classroom activities here at school. 'Why' you may ask? The reason is there is considerable stress created by the requirement to get returned all the permission slips for separate events that happen at school — and lately we have been having a number of these activities (e.g. swimming sports, landfill trips and trips to the Aquarium). For a number of reasons permission forms do not always get returned on time, which then causes a lot of frantic telephone calling and, at times, upset children. It is a situation that can be easily remedied with a form that is signed once while a child is enrolled at Greenmeadows School. The body of the form is included below:

'Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) is the name given to all events and activities that occur outside the classroom, both on school grounds, and off-site. Our students participate in a wide range of learning opportunities within and outside the school grounds. Senior students participate in a wide range of sporting events outside the school throughout the year. All class teachers are encouraged to provide extension and enrichment opportunities for their students. These learning opportunities sometimes require travel outside the school.'

The school uses a process to identify and manage risks at every level of activity and this process is monitored by the board and the principal. We recognise four levels of activities, each with specific requirements regarding parental/caregiver consent.

Level	Activity
1.	At school, or within the immediate local environs, for example, sports events, fun days, nature studies. Consent required: Blanket permission provided on enrolment.
2.	Off-site events occurring entirely in school time and finishing no later than 4 pm, for example, zone sports, team sport events, class trips to the museum. Parents are advised of the finishing time if it is later than 3:15 pm.
3.	Off-site or on-site events occurring in one day involving risk assessed to be greater than that associated with the average family activity, for example, water activities (apart from swimming sports), rock climbing. Consent required: Parent/caregiver informed consent is required for each specific event.
4.	Events occurring overnight, for example, school camp. Consent required: Parent/caregiver informed consent is required for each specific event.

By signing this form, you consent to your child participating in level 1 and 2 activities. For any level 3 or 4 activity, you will always be provided with a specific consent form.'

Over the next few weeks all families will receive a copy of the one off form for signing, and remove the need for constant permission slips. This form will also be included in enrolment packs for new students from now on.

HEART OF THE SCHOOL PROJECT

The project to develop the site of the old swimming pool is now 'finally' able to move to the next stage. This has been a long process as we have been aiming to get the funding for this approved as a health and safety issue (in part due to the drainage issues associated with the pool area). We have finally received the permission to start finalising the plans and putting the job out for tender. We will keep you updated as developments are known.

GREENMEADOWS SCHOOL PTA 'FOOD FAIR' Friday 25 March 5.00pm start

We are now only nine days away from our major fundraiser this year—the evening 'Food Fair' to be held at school on 25th March from 5.00pm and 8.00pm. We want as many families, friends and neighbours of Greenmeadows School to attend next Friday and be involved. Take the night off cooking and join the fun! All funds raised will go towards supporting the school's ICT resources and purchasing more computers for the classroom use.

Latest development — we will have a hangi meal on sale during the evening. We extend thanks to the staff and whanau of St Joseph's Maori Girls College who are being an enormous support towards the hangi. Tickets will be presold for the hangi — and we will be limited to 100 meals. Details of pre-purchasing the tickets will be notified by a PTA newsletter in the next few days. **DON'T MISS OUT!!**

PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Room 1	Brooke Exeter Jamie Evans
Room 2	Angelyn Zeng
Room 3	Jobe Kirby Sharne Gliddon
Room 4	James Gerken Isobel Harris
Room 5	Sophie Dodd Hannah Exton
Room 8	Brianna Boyce Giana Weeks
Room 9	Jayden Allen Caitlin Gorringe
Room 10	Cooper Fox Helgard Oosthuysen
Room 11	Nathan Stone Rylee Moore
Room 12	Charlotte Brown Mia Penisula
Room 13	Michael Pistorius
Room 14	Jordan Penisula Warner Dearn
Room 15	Aaron Robinson Hamish Johnson
Room 16	Luke Yarrell Levi Rice
Room 17	Joshua Parslow Rylee McIntyre Ellie Watts

Weeks 4 and 6 — Term 1 2011



GREENMEADOWS SCHOOL OSCAR

The OSCAR programme based at our school has received a very prestigious honour in being named the 'regional winner' of the OSCAR Foundation annual awards. This means the facility has been voted as the best programme in Hawkes Bay, Taupo, Poverty Bay, Manawatu, Wanganui and Waiouru—an outstanding achievement, and very well deserved. On behalf of the school community I would like to wish them all the very best for the national award announcement in May. Well done team!!!!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (for more details look under 'School Events' on www.gms.school.nz)

16 Mar	PTA meeting re Food fair planning
23 Mar	Rugby Barefoot 5s competition
25 Mar	Greenmeadows School PTA Food Fair 5.00pm to 8.00pm
26 Mar	Last day of school cricket
31 Mar	Junior trip to the Ahuriri Estuary
13 Apr	Board of Trustees meeting 5.30pm
16 Apr	End of Term 1
2 May	Start of Term 2

Finally — attached are ideas for your own personal emergency kit to have at home. Obviously this is very topical at the moment and an activity to involve your whole family in.

Have a safe and happy week.

Ka kite ano.

Mark Johnson

Principal

GREENMEADOWS SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDER—To be returned to school by Wednesday 22 February

ITEM	Size (Please circle)	No Req'd	Cost	Total Cost
Shorts	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16		\$13.50	
Sports shirt	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16		\$12..50	
TOTAL				\$

Child's Name: _____	Home phone: _____
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