



P: 06 844 7024 | E: admin@gms.school.nz | www.gms.school.nz



Dear Parents and Caregivers - *Tena koutou katoa*

The cold of winter has finally arrived and we are certainly feeling the impact here at school. Yesterday seven of our teaching staff are absent from school sick (and a couple more are just hanging in there),. We have a number of students away with coughs, colds and chicken pox. Last week we had ninety-nine children away at some stage of the week, which is more than a quarter of the school. In a typical year we would be on holiday by now, but as we have the adjusted term dates for the Rugby World Cup this year, we still have a week and a half before we can all have the opportunity to relax, rest and recuperate.

This will be our final newsletter for the term - thanks to our sponsorship from Phil and Kathryn Simmons of Greenmeadows Service Centre we have been able to print this edition in colour.

WELCOME TO GREENMEADOWS SCHOOL

We welcome five new students to Greenmeadows School who have enrolled since our last newsletter. Lauchlan Edwards-Wilkinson, Noah Edwards-Wilkinson, Acacia Matangi-Huhu, Tegan McKnight and Eva MacKirdy have all started their at Greenmeadows School. A warm welcome to you and your families as part of the Greenmeadows School community.

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES — GREENMEADOWS SCHOOL CHARTER

All schools are required to prepare a 'charter' (a document that sets out the school's strategic goals and learning targets for each calendar year) and send it to the Ministry of Education. Greenmeadows School submitted its charter on Friday 1 July. The Charter is available on the Greenmeadows School website (www.gms.school.nz). Our school was one of a number of schools throughout New Zealand who elected to submit their school charter on this date. While the school submitted on this date, it is not part of the action group 'Boards Taking Action Coalition' (BTAC) which are actively campaigning against National Standards.

The Greenmeadows Board Of Trustees are taking a considered approach to National Standards, with our focus clearly on the education and achievement of our children. This approach, philosophically, is in line with the National Standards. Where we have not aligned to the National Standards is the specific linking of Greenmeadows School educational targets for the 2011 year to the National Standards. Our Board of Trustees elected not to set targets in direct relation to National Standards this year. We have decided to take a planned and considered

approach in including these into the school's internal assessments. The view of the school's leadership is that by gradually approaching the implementation of National Standards, it will allow us the opportunity to best develop a meaningful use of the standards in our school. Please be assured your child's learning and progress is not affected by this approach, as Greenmeadows School has it's own assessment requirements which are 'at' or 'exceed' the National Standards across the New Zealand curriculum. This is evident in our revised school reports developed in 2010 and being further modified this year. It is our view that by taking the time to carefully implement the standards it will result in a more positive impact than quickly assessing students against unclear guidelines..

If you wish to discuss this do not hesitate to contact our Principal or Board Chair.

- **Boyd Gross, Chairperson**





Above: Scenes from the recent Gymnastics festival at the Omni Gym in Onekawa that a large team of our children competed in. Well done everyone - all your hard work paid off!

Reports from the festival involvement were very positive. The judges complemented our school's competitors, especially our Year 4 students who received plenty of overall 'excellent' gradings.

YEAR 5 & 6 KIWISPORT FIELD DAY - THURSDAY 7 JULY

With this sports event having been postponed from last week, we are all hoping the sunny weather that has been forecast for Thursday eventuates. As this date is the same as the 'PTA Winter Treat', the Year 5 and 6 students who order a hot chocolate and cake will be given their yummy goodies at morning tea before they depart for Park Island. Children need to come prepared for the sports ... (so pack your gear the evening before).



PRINCIPAL AWARDS

WEEKS 5 AND 6 - TERM 2 2011



Room 1

Holly Ireland
Ellie Harding
Claire Meybaum

Room 2

Logan Gray
Lia Sefton-Zachan
Will Steadman

Room 3

Ella Herekiuha
Jacob Fraser
Kaylee McKirdy

Room 4

Jasmine Hawthorne-Gray
Kristina Wilson
Savanah Peach

Room 5

Emily Hawkins
Max Johns
Tristram Fryer

Room 7

Brooker Senior
Abbey Pascoe
X'phia Johnson

Room 8

Brianna Boyce
Melissa Kinzett
Georgia Brown

Room 9

Lydia Wilkins
Tayla Tierney
Leroy Corby

Room 10

Ryder Moore
Unique Tonihi
Giana Weeks

Room 11

Logan Sharp
Evan Gray
Jessica Joe-Harrison

Room 12

Maddison Greeks
Sam Thorburn

Room 13

Mathew Hyde
Maddi McIntyre
Lachlan Edwards-Wilkinson

Room 14

Cassidy Konia
Jacob Driver
Kayla Heath

Room 15

Tiaki Fabish
Sara Dooney

Room 16

Casey Yarrell
Oliver Burder
Amos Plumpton

Room 17

Keryn Olsen
Sean Kearney

EXAMPLES OF FABULOUS WRITING

This year has seen an ongoing focus on developing our writing throughout our school. You may have noticed the regular inclusion of writing in previous newsletters and we will continue this throughout the year.

This edition we have some examples of a book created by Room 3 titled 'What do you think Room 3 children are scared of?'

Ella Herekiuha

"I'm scared of ... hmm oh yeah, CLOWNS! They are the freakiest thing ever. I hate them because you get a fright when you see them. I really really don't like them because of the way they laugh. It is so, so freakish. I don't like going to the circus because I don't cope very well when I see them.'

Jared Kinsey

"I am really scared of sharks, especially 'great whites' because they have killed 169 people in two years. That is a true fact, especially when you swim in the sea. I never want to swim in the sea. I only want to swim in swimming pools."

Cameron Steed

"I am really scared of hurricanes because they swirl around and pick things up from the ground. When the houses are spinning in the hurricanes it breaks things up. When the hurricane dies out, all the bits and pieces drop from the sky."

Some wonderful writing Room 3!!!



PARENT INTERVIEWS - 11TH TO 13TH JULY

To date there have been an impressive number of bookings for parent interviews due to be held next week. We urge all families to take the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and talk through the content of each report. It is not too late to book a time to have an interview and there are plenty of time slots available. Bookings can be made online (follow the link on our school's website) or get a booking sheet from the office. Our aim is 100% of families involved in the interview process.

Please make sure you are on time for your child's interview. It only takes one parent interview to run overtime before a whole lot of subsequent interviews can be put out of kilter - this is the biggest hassle for teachers at interview time. Each child has fifteen minutes allocated for the interview, and this time can go quickly as the report is discussed. We have adapted our mid-year reports from 2011 to include the following:

- a range of assessment information in relation to Reading, Writing and Mathematics
- next learning steps in each of the areas above
- a percentage of each student's attendance to date
- a student review of their goals from Term 1
- a general comment on the student

You will have the opportunity to give us feedback on the reports early next term.

PTA WINTER TREAT - THURSDAY 7 JULY

This Thursday is the PTA 'winter treat' for the children - a hot chocolate and a piece of chocolate cake for \$2. This will be served at lunch time for the students in Years 1 to 4.

The next meeting of the PTA is set for Wednesday 13 July in the school staffroom, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

FREEZER FOR SALE

The PTA are selling the old canteen freezer for \$30. It is still in working order, and would be perfect as a bait freezer or similar use. Contact Mr Mellon if you wish to see the freezer.

TAEKWON-DO - GREENMEADOWS SCHOOL HALL

New Intake - General classes from 6.00 to 7.30pm on Monday and Wednesday evenings (including adults). Mini-kids (from 5 to 7 years) from 5.00 to 5.45pm on Mondays only.

Free introductory lessons - family discounts available. Run by experienced, mature, internationally qualified instructors. For more information check out <http://www.rtrkd.co.nz> or phone 021 032 3289.

HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA SCHOOL

The drama classes will be finishing this term and not resuming after the holidays.

WHAT'S COMING UP...

For more details look under 'School Events' on www.gms.school.nz

JULY

- 11 - 13 Parent Interviews and reports given out
- 12 Board of Trustees meeting 5.30pm
- 13 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 15 End of Term 2

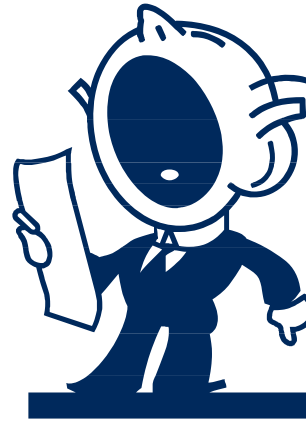
AUGUST

- 1 Start of Term 3

OCTOBER

- 7 End of Term 3

TERM 4 - 25 OCTOBER TO 15 DECEMBER



Have a great week and a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

Mark Johnson
Principal