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Thursday 31 May 2012



**NEWSLETTER NO. 9**

**Dear Parents and Caregivers - Tena koutou katoa**

*It has been quite a while since the last newsletter — and a lot has been happening at Greenmeadows School during the month of May. Enjoy your read about just some of the activities associated with our school.*

## **WELCOME TO GMS!!!**

Let's start out by welcoming our newest arrivals. The school roll currently is 404. This month the following New Entrant pupils have enrolled at our school:

Emma Gorringer	Zoe Ennor
Liam Johns	Maddison Johns
Lily McDonald	Cole Dallimore

We congratulate all six children on starting their years at school and wish them all the very best as their learning journey at GMS begins.

## **BUDGET DECISIONS IMPACT ON GMS**

Many of you will be aware that the Government's intentions to change school staffing ratios from the start of 2013 were confirmed last week in the Budget. This change will have a definite impact on our school and the size of classes particularly for children who are aged 6, 7 and 8 years of age. At Greenmeadows School we aim to keep the class sizes in the earlier years of schooling as low as possible, despite having had the pressures of a growing roll over the past few years. From 2013 every child in a Year 2 and/or 3 class could potentially have to up to four or five additional children in each room to counter the adjusted staff ratios. We may be forced to do this as we will be aiming to offer the same support programmes we currently provide across the school. An increase in numbers of learners add a whole new dynamic to any classroom. Extra students mean the teachers have even less time to spend with individual children helping them make the progress we all desire. As an advocate for your children I do not think this is desirable or fair.

At Greenmeadows School we are all very concerned about the impact this change will have. New Zealand already has class sizes higher than the average of the OECD countries that we consistently compare with favourably in terms of results. In 2013 these average class sizes are going to be even higher. Some find it easy to think back to 'the old days' when classes had more than 40 students - but in reality school environments and programmes of learning are completely different and more challenging in 2012.

At Greenmeadows School we want to help all our learners meet current expectations based on our modern curriculum. That task will be even harder from 2013 if this change in staffing goes through.

## **FROM THE GREENMEADOWS SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*The second term is marching on and the BOT are busy working to ensure the governance and direction of Greenmeadows School is in harmony with the MOE and objectives that the BOT, management team and staff are pursuing.*

**FAREWELL** — *three weeks ago the staff and BOT said farewell to Mrs Johleen Lubbe thanking her for her long service to Greenmeadows School at a function held at Silky Oak. The BOT wish Mrs Lubbe all the best in her future endeavours and a speedy recovery.*

**NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS** — *The BOT wish to congratulate Miss Nicole Trubshaw on her success at being appointed a permanent position. We would also like to thank Mrs Zoe Zealand who is with the school until the end of Term 2 teaching Room 17. Mrs Ceirwyn Ware will be joining the team at the commencement of Term 3 in a full time position in Room 17. Mrs Ware has moved from Auckland to Napier having been teaching at Kaurilands School. Miss Christina Withey has started teaching in the last New Entrant class in Room 7 and will be in this position until the end of the school year. Mrs Anna Murphy also returns for a day per week in Room 7 as well. A special welcome to all.*

**SCHOOL FEE DONATION** — *As part of the BOT role we are continually juggling finances from the Ministry of Education, our wonderful PTA and donations from the school families. We thank those who support our PTA. We also thank those families who have paid or are intending to pay the school donation. These donations are a key part to our school funding and assist in providing essential resources to support all our learners. We would be extremely grateful for those families who have not paid, in full or in part, consider doing so to support our school. If you have forgotten whether you have or haven't paid for fees, you can contact the office.*

*Thank you for the continued support.*

*— Boyd Gross BOT Chair*

## **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY**

Remember that it is Queen's Birthday holiday this weekend. No school on Monday. See you all on Tuesday at 9.00am.



## PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Room 1	Aaron Jones Tyler Hadabora
Room 2	Cooper Fox Emma Anderson Tabitha Francis- Thickpenny
Room 3	Unique Tonihi Janelle Murphy Olivia McKay
Room 4	Lana Simes Luke Tibbitts Jayden Allen
Room 5	Porche Potgeiter Kees McKirdy
Room 6	Hunter Piercy Courtney Banks Chris Moa
Room 7	Welcome to Cole, Lily, Maddison and Liam
Room 8	Janelle Swain Emma Gorringer Jessica Rich Alex Barra
Room 9	Ellie Meynell Summer Campbell Kella Hays
Room 10	Jayden Field Ava Humphrey
Room 11	Caitlin Fisher Elai Harrison Sara Petuha
Room 12	Amber Single-Owens Simran Bedi
Room 13	Jorja Fryer Jordan Peninsula Chaz Heke
Room 14	Brianna Davis Alexi Sewell Tyler Watts
Room 15	Harrison Fox Tyler Payne Tane Thomas
Room 16	Ashley Bayley Phoebe Heays Ethan Yong
Room 17	Bryce Lott Sharn Gliddon

## WEEKS 3, 4 AND 5 — TERM 2 2012



## GMS VALUES MEDALS

The following students have won our medals for displaying the following values of 'respect', 'perseverance' and 'excellence':

**Perseverance** Olive Mudgway Room 11

Unique Tonihi Room 3

Xavier Kirby Room 6

**Respect** Nikita Taylor-Chaffey Room 13

Finn Durrant Room 15

Andre Allan-Wright Room 14

**Excellence** Anna Durrant Room 5

Bella Crawshaw Room 8

Emily Hayes Room 11

## JULY HOLIDAY READING PROGRAMME

Over the holiday break during April a number of students and families were involved in a trial to boost reading. Children were given ten books to read (one for each week day) over the two week break. They also received two visits at home from a Teacher Aide Mrs Cunningham. This trial was a great success and we are looking forward to continue this in the coming school holidays. Are you interested in having your child involved in this programme? Fill in the return form attached for an information sheet if you would like to be considered.

## GMS STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Each year we send out a form to check that we hold the current information on each child. A few weeks ago each child received a sheet detailing the details that we currently have on each child. We need those sheets to be checked, updated if necessary and returned. It is vital that we have this accurate information. Many thanks.

## SENIOR YEAR 5 AND 6 CAMPS

Today a notice will be given to the senior students who are due to go on camp later this year in Term 4. Those parents who want to start making instalment payments, or even pay the entire amount early will receive details in this newsletter.

## WANTED!!!!

1. **PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS** — the office staff are constantly using up their supplies of shopping bags. Do you have a supply at home we could use?
2. **BORROWED UNIFORMS** — our students have a whole range of 'accidents' during the school day that requires them to get a change of clothes. In addition we keep a small supply of spare uniforms that can be used for one off trips out of school. Our supplies have run out!!! We desperately need back all clothing loaned from the office. Make sure all items are washed and brought back in a plastic bag.



## 2012 YOUNG LEADERS DAY

On Tuesday twenty-three Year 6 students from our school attended a Young Leaders Conference in Palmerston North. This was a great day that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. A capacity audience of 1400 spent the day getting some important messages, as well as hearing from six speakers. A special highlight were the two songs performed by Annah Mac, as well as the really inspiring Can Calkoen. Some comments on the day:

**Cedar Wairau** — *I found the day really inspiring. One of the things I learnt was to take care to treat people how they want to be treated. It was a neat day. I wish I could go again.*

**Cory Evans** — *It was really interesting finding out about the speakers' lives. I would encourage anyone to go. We learnt to 'spark our potential'. Potential is hidden ability.*

**Cade Williams** — *You never give up when you are trying to be a good leader. Don't let others get you down.*

**Finn Durrant** — *Good leaders choose the right people to be around to guide them and help them, so that they can help others.*

## EXTENSION SCIENCE PROGRAMMES

One of the trends we have noticed over the past few years is that children's knowledge and understandings in Science have not been as 'practical' as in the past. The Board of Trustees have supported action to address this in 2012. We are very fortunate to be able to utilise the skills of Mrs Paula Kinsey who has been taking four separate groups of children from Pohutukawa and Totara teams on a weekly basis. A range of scientific activities for the groups are developing a whole range of skills in the children, who in turn are sharing their experiences, ideas and activities with other members of their classes. It also allows the teachers time work with smaller groups in their class. This will continue for the remainder of the year. Below is a photo of some of the year 2 students involved in activities looking at 'electricity', in this case static electricity making some 'hair-raising' activities with balloons.



Above: The Greenmeadows School Young Leaders photographed during a break in the one day conference on Tuesday. Below : Annah Mac performs 'Girl In Stilletos' to the enthusiastic crowd.



## LOST!!!!

Morgan Shakeshaft-Vincent has lost several pairs of named footwear this year. Can families check at home of any different pairs of shoes and boots that may have made it home when they shouldn't have? Morgan's toes are getting quite cold on these frosty mornings.

## TARADALE RUGBY CLUB SAYS "HELP?"

Taradale Rugby Club are currently short of numbers in the 6th grade team. Are there any six year olds feeling left out on a Saturday morning with nothing to do? These children play 'ripper rugby' with tags on their hips instead of tackling. Both boys and girls play. Taradale need to add extra players to their squad, so if you are interested in finding out any more information please contact Mr J at school. Please note they will also welcome players into other grades as well.



## WINTER SPORTS

It is great to see so many of our students involved in winter sports. Our school has so many children taking part in a whole host of sports teams. On Saturday evening I was at the Napier Pirates rugby clubrooms when the JAB players of the day were announced. I was a very proud Principal when five of the eight award winners named came from GMS!! Well done to you all!

Also our netballers are making very positive starts to the season, and there are great reports from our hockey team's performances. Keep it going everyone.

## HEARING RESEARCH STUDY

Matthew Barker, a local audiologist, who received his doctorate in researching listening skills in children, is doing some research into hearing problems for school children in Hawke's Bay. He is particularly interested in how listening skills apply to a student's ability to perform at school. With your permission he will be visiting our school and testing your child. The test will be administered by iPad with headphones and takes less than 20 minutes. It is available for all school-aged children enrolled at Greenmeadows School. He has been testing at a number of other local schools in what could be groundbreaking research.

Once the data can be analyzed properly, the school and parents will be made aware of any concerns so proper follow up can be made. This will also include information regarding any general hearing concerns as well. The study is **not invasive** and there are **no negative effects** from being involved in this research. If you give permission for your child to be involved, please fill in the permission form below. This can be returned direct to the teacher of your eldest child at Greenmeadows School. We are aiming for at least 80-% of our children to be involved in this study. Please return the forms by Friday 8 June.

## MID YEAR REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS

Teachers are currently preparing the reports on each child which will be made available in the last week of school. In the next newsletter we will set out how parents can book interview times to meet the teachers.

## GMS STARS OF STAGE

Students from our school, Adam Barron, as well as Jacob and Maia Driver, are in an upcoming production of 'Over The Rainbow' which is based on the Wizard of Oz. It is being put on by the Napier Frivolity Minstrels ('Junior Frivs'). Performances are on at the Little Theatre, McGrath Street, Napier on Friday 6th July (7.30pm), Saturday 7th (2.00pm and 7.30pm) and Sunday 8th July (2.00pm). Costs are \$15 for adults and children \$10 and tickets can be booked the Napier Municipal Theatre.

## GMS FACEBOOK PAGE

As promised last term we have now established our school's own Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/gmsnapier>

We want this to become a quick way of getting information out about things happening at school. Let's see if we can build on our number of followers by the end of the week. We look forward to your feedback!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**(FOR MORE DETAILS LOOK UNDER 'SCHOOL EVENTS' ON WWW.GMS.SCHOOL.NZ)**

4 June Queen's Birthday (no school)

14 June Transition meeting for parents of children about to start school in the coming months

22 June Reports sent home

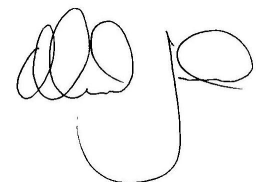
25 June Parent interviews

26 June Parent interviews

29 June Last day of Term 2

16 July Start of Term 3

Ka kite ano,



Mark Johnson

**HEARING RESEARCH TRIAL**

(Please return to the class teacher of your eldest child by Friday 8 June)

I give permission for my child/ren to participate in this study?

YES            NO

If 'Yes', do you have any genuine concerns about your child's ability to hear and/or understand spoken language?

YES            NO

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Child's (or Children's) name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

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**HOLIDAY READING PROGRAMME ( please return to the class teacher by Friday 8 June )**

I/we are interested in our child being involved in holiday reading programme for the July holiday break.

I understand that:

- \* My child will receive ten school books to read each day of the programme and that I will read with them
- \* We return the books to school at the end of the holiday break
- \* A teacher aide will visit my house twice during the programme to read with the child and with myself ( or another adult ) watching reading support techniques
- \* I will have to complete a brief survey at the conclusion of the holiday break to give feedback about the effectiveness of the programme
- \* There may be too many requests to involve all families in the programme these July holidays

Child 's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_