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Tuesday 4 February 2014

CHATTERBOX



NEWSLETTER NO.1

Dear Parents and Caregivers - *Tena koutou katoa*

WELCOME TO 2014

The new school year has arrived ...! Here we are on the second day, with virtually 100% of the students here, smiling faces, a sea of new uniforms and right into learning. This is a great start to what is sure to be a fantastic year. It is encouraging to see so many students already with their stationery organised and ready to go — thank you families and whanau for all your support getting your children ready.

Here is to a very successful year for all.

NEW PEOPLE AT GMS

The first day of any year brings plenty of new faces to our school. We welcome the following new pupils who started with us yesterday:

Tyla Motley	Kyle Leitch
Mary-Anne Tuala	Natasha Sibley-Ireland
Max Giddens	Jordan Sullivan
Thomas Martin	Savannah Terry-Moore
Caitlin O'Shea	Joel Parker
Ayla Pain	Hadley Richards
Charlie Matson	Makena Hawkins
Louie Hodgson	

It is great to have you all with us here at GMS — we wish you all the very best for the time you will spend with us ... learning, growing and achieving!

Our roll starting today is 390 — a similar number to the start over the last two years.

There are some members of staff also enjoying their first week at our school. Mrs. Ali de Lange has commenced as Assistant Principal as Head of the Junior School. She is also working alongside Mrs. Tareha teaching in Room 1. Mr. Dan Ball has started out in Room 9 with his class. Mr. Darren Holloway has also been enjoying the fantastic first week focus levels of the children in Room 17. Greetings to these new teachers. Mrs. Currie has had surgery and will miss the first few weeks of school. We had Mr. Michael Whitesmith due to cover for her, but he now has a job

at Te Awa School. Mrs. Toni Miles will now work in Room 7 until Wendy returns.

There are changes in the office as well. Mrs. Carolyn Thorburn has officially taken over from Mrs. Gregory and started today. Ms. Garrett has also decided that the list of jobs that had built up over the holiday break became too much, and as she had done such a wonderful job training her replacements, the time was right to retire. And so she has! Mrs. Sara Anderson commenced her role on Monday. Special greetings to Carolyn and Sara.

We will hold an official farewell for Micky in the next few weeks.

SCOOTERS AT SCHOOL

We have decided to trial giving children the opportunity to ride scooters at school during interval and lunchtime (but not before school). Children of all ages can do so, with the understanding it is at their own risk ...!

Interested? Read on:

- Riders will only be able to ride in the designated area marked out by large cones (initially on the netball court near OSCAR)
- All riders need to have their own helmet to be worn at all times
- Footwear must be worn while scootering
- No riding of other children's scooters
- All scooters need to be stored away in the bike area during the day

If the trial goes well, we may extend it to skateboards. We anticipate this news is bound to cause some excitement ... so, scooters can be brought to school from Wednesday 5 February.

WAITANGI DAY

A reminder the school will be closed with Waitangi Day observation this Thursday 6 February. Please note that there will be school as normal on Friday 7 February.



ABSENT CHILDREN

Our administrative staff do an excellent job of checking each day if all children are accounted for at school. If we have a child who is absent and we have no explanation, then Mrs Anderson will ring or text the family. She will then ring emergency contacts in an attempt to find out where the child is and check that they are safe. If there is no information as a result of these calls, then our school's policy is to inform the local truancy officer and involve them. This happens as a result of our concern for all children and doing all we can to make sure they are safe.

You can help making sure the school knows if your child is going to be absent or late for school before the start of the school day. A message on the school's answer service, email or note should be provided if your child will not be at school to start the day at 9.00am.

Best option is to text the number 0279264452 with your child's name, class and reason for absence.

Please note we do not shorten the school day if it is wet. School always finishes at 3.00pm.

CLASS NEWSLETTERS

This Friday each child will take home a letter from their class teacher introducing themselves to families. Many of our staff have children from families they are not familiar with, so it will be a great opportunity to start sharing information. We encourage all families to make contact with their child's teacher, especially as the year is starting to get underway.

GMS CANTEEN

The school canteen will reopen on Wednesday 12th February. There have been a couple of price changes on the menu (to be sent home tomorrow) plus a new item:

'Fruit Hitz—Grape or Tropical \$1

No added sugar or preservatives

No artificial colours or flavours. Gluten Free!

NZ POST CRICKET

The NZ Post 'Have A Go' cricket program is about to begin at Taradale Park on Monday nights. This is for Year 3 and 4 children who have lots of fun while learning the basics of cricket. It will run for six weeks in Term 1 and a further six weeks in Term 4 next summer. The next session is Monday 10th February from 5.00 to 6.00pm. The cost is \$60.00.

Contact Baden Wilton on 0224223360 for more info or just turn up next week.

KELLY SPORTS

Kelly Sports is again offering it's multisport programme on Tuesdays after school in Term 1 at GMS. This is designed for Year 1 to 4 children so they can experience a range of sports. To enroll please visit www.kellysports.co.nz.

EQUIPKIDS— AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- After-school care Monday to Friday. Free pick up from school. WINZ subsidies available. \$4.50 per hour with healthy afternoon tea included.
- Our after-school care and holiday programmes are run by a qualified teacher Debbie Peninsula.
- Holiday programmes run throughout the term holidays with a range of fun activities (e.g. Laserforce, the movies). Breakfast club is also available from 6.45am and children get dropped off to school from 8.30am.
- Any bookings or questions call Debbie on 0219187898.

TOP GEAR CYCLING PROGRAMME

A six week cycling programme designed for children aged 8 to 13 years and for all abilities. This will be held on six consecutive Sundays in Term 1 and another programme will follow in Term 2.

Term 1 sessions are on Sunday 16 and 23 February, as well as 2, 9, 16 and 23 March. Times are from 10.00am until 11.30am.

The venue is the Hawkes Bay Sports Park just off the Expressway. The cost is \$30 for the six lessons with qualified instructors. All sessions will be held at the park using the new cycle skills track, the 2.3km limestone track and the internal roading and areas.

2014 TERM DATES

- Term 1 — 3 February to 17 April
- Term 2 — 5 May to 4 July
- Term 3 — 21 July to 26 September
- Term 4 — 13 October to 17 December

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

6 Feb Waitangi Day

Have a great week. Ka kite ano,

Mark Johnson
Principal

