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Thursday 26th March 2015



NEWSLETTER 5

Dear Parents and Caregivers - *Tena koutou katoa*

Here is the last newsletter of Term 1 — quite a short term to start 2015 with. We only have nine weeks this term to fit around the Easter break which is included in the term holidays. Term 2 will be eleven weeks.

There is plenty of information in this newsletter - so to give some holiday reading here is a paper version, as well as the emailed copy.

2015 GMS PTA FOOD FAIR

What an amazing evening we had on the 20th March! This year's Food Fair was yet another fantastic success — we have made a profit of \$5500!!! Proceeds will go towards upgrading our senior and junior adventure playground equipment.

Thanks to:

- * our fantastic PTA led by Aaron Boyce
- * the wonderful GMS staff who were manning the stalls and entry gates after a full day at work
- * the many parents who came along to help on the night
- * our fantastic MC 'Waggs'!
- * all the students and former GMS students who supported us and enjoyed all the activities
- * everyone who spent money on the food, drink and games: we raised heaps!!

We want to acknowledge the following sponsors and those businesses who contributed to our very successful evening:

- Unison
- Onekawa New World
- ASB bank
- ANZ bank
- Hirequip
- Greenmeadows Chippie
- Pedal Power
- Apollo Apples
- all those other businesses and individuals who donated goods for the winning wheel: thank you all so very much

STAFFING UPDATES

We have news about our school staff ...

Mr Ball has informed us that he has taken on a teaching role at Tamatea Intermediate in one of their digital classrooms. Dan will not be leaving immediately as his position at the new school does not commence until 18 May, so we will have him around school for the first four weeks of next term.

Mrs Nicole Johnson is going to be taking maternity leave by the middle of the year, as she and Ashton are expecting their first baby in late July. A very exciting time for their family!

We will farewell these teachers during next term and will certainly miss not having them here at GMS.

We are also looking at employing another New Entrant teacher during the course of Term 2 as the number of children in Rooms 1 and 2 continue to steadily increase.

We are presently advertising for three teachers and will keep you updated with progress as we find new staff.

EASTER RAFFLE

On Monday each child would have received a Easter Raffle Sheet. Please sell as many as you can, extra sheets are available from the school office. If you do not want to be involved in selling, please return the sheets to school. There will be prizes for the most raffle tickets sold. Please have all money and UNSOLD tickets returned to the school by Monday 30 March by 9.00am.

Raffle prizes and student sellers will be announced on Thursday 2 April at the assembly to end the term.

SCHOOL GATES CLOSED

This week we are going endeavour to keep our school gates shut during the school day. Please note they won't be locked. Anyone entering or exiting school can assist by closing the gates. Many thanks.

HELP!!

The school office is running low on spare clothes and underwear. If your child has come home in a change of clothes from the office, please return these ASAP.

SWIMMING POHUTUKAWA CLASSES

The Greendale swimming complex at Taradale Primary School has been experiencing a couple of problems over the last few days with the water in the pool. Unfortunately this has meant a couple of swimming sessions have not been held. We are in discussion with ways in which to organise catchup lessons. We will let you know once this has happened.

Until then, keep sending your children to school with their togs and towels if your child is in Rooms 8 to 13, as we do not want them to miss any other sessions in the pool.

SCHOOL LIBRARY OPEN IN HOLIDAYS

The GMS Library will be open during the holidays on Thursday 9th and 16th April from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Children of all ages are encouraged to come along to keep catching the 'reading bug'. Mark the dates on your calendar ...!

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Please keep the payments coming in. A big thank you to those who have already paid. Please remember to pay your swimming fees for those in Pohutukawa classes.

A reminder that we have EFT-POS facilities for payment if that helps.

CRICKET DRAWS

Our two Saturday morning cricket teams will play at Greenmeadows School this Friday after school against each other. 3.30pm start, and the game is going to go until about 6.30pm as there are two full innings. This is the last cricket game of the season.

Friday teams are also due to have their final games at Nelson Park this week.

GMS Kiwi 1 v Napier Central Fireballs Pitch 3
GMS Kiwi 2 v Tamatea Kiwi Sixes Pitch 1
GMS Kiwi 3 v Nelson Park Pitch 7

All teams have had a great season — thanks so much to the coaches and supporters!

GETTING SCHOOL NOTICES OUT

One of the things we are always trying to stay on top of at school is how to get out messages to our community, and ensuring that as many people as possible receive the information. These are the ways we do so:

i) The school newsletter: which is usually produced every fortnight. These are emailed out to all the listed email addresses provided by parents when students enrol (or update their family information). Each school newsletter can also be found on our school website, as well as the latest copy being displayed on the notice board outside the school office. Paper copies of newsletters are given to those families who do not have an email address, or have specifically requested a paper version.

ii) Our bulk text messaging service which is operated through Twitter. All you have to do is text:

follow GMSNapier to '8987'

(make sure there is a space in between 'follow' and 'GMSNapier'.)

Make sure you receive a confirmation text so you know its activated. If you are no longer receiving the texts, try following the process above again. There currently seems to be a problem with Vodafone customers getting all the texts. If you are still not receiving them contact Vodafone directly. Alternately you could create your own Twitter account which will allow you to have more success in accessing these texts.

We will send out a 'test' text message at 4.00pm on Thursday 26 March. Check and see if you get it ...!

iii) You can find us on Facebook to keep up to date with things that are happening at school. We now link the school's text messages to be posts on Facebook.

iv) The upgraded website for the school www.gms.school.nz including a easier to access calendar.

SCHOOL ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent from school please do one of the following:

- please ring the school office on **8447024**
- or text **0279264452** before 9.00am

Supporting success in your school.

For every new ASB home loan over \$150,000 taken out by a member of your school community before 30 June 2015, your school will get \$500.

Terms and conditions apply.



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Getting this information each morning from families is very helpful. We will check on the whereabouts of any children without an explanation for their absence. If we are sent a message without having to ring, it really does save us a lot of time.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM NOTICE BOARD.

We are trialling a uniform notice board at school. This will be located outside the school office. If you have any uniform items you wish to sell please write the details (e.g. item size and condition) on a piece of paper with your contact details. You can attach the note to the notice board so others can view and will contact you directly.

NEXT SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Friday 27 March 11.30am

Thursday 2 April 2.30pm

TRIATHLON

Congratulations to the triathletes who competed in Sunday's triathlon. A special mention to Cameron Steed who came 2nd, Judge Jury 11th and Jacob Morris 13th. Others who took part and gave it their all were Jesse Beals, Luke Hawkins, Bonnie Wedd, Sarah Wedd, Grace Henriksen, Kayla Glentworth, Clayton Terry-Moore and Abby Pascoe. The triathlon season takes a break now until next summer. Great perseverance in your training and on race days every one.



HIWI THE KIWI

On Monday 30th March, we are lucky enough to be hosting 'Hiwi the Kiwi' and the Minstrel. They will present a live show for the school titled 'Hiwi the Kiwi goes fishing'. The show comes highly recommended and delivers a very important message about conservation and sustainability. It compliments some of the learning our children have been involved in very well. The cost of the presentation is \$3 per child. This will be charged to your school account. If you do not wish your child to be involved please let the school office know prior to Monday.

Nb. Due to prearranged swimming lessons, the performance will not involve Rooms 8, 10 or 13.

SCHOOLHOCKEY

We need a few more players in Years 3 to 6 to join our team squads. Year 1 and 2 students can also be involved in hockey as well — is your junior student interested?

Are there any more notices that have yet been returned? They need to be back by this Friday when entries have to be submitted.

GMS BLACK OUT MUFTI DAY

The students and staff of Greenmeadows School raised a whopping \$526 for the people of Vanuatu as we arrived in black gear to support the mighty Black Caps. Well done GMS!!!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR VANUATU

Schooling in Vanuatu is very important and valued by the people of Vanuatu. Their teachers are funded by the government but all the school supplies have to be purchased by the community and the pupils families. Cyclone Pam has destroyed many of the islanders ability to earn a living and their schools no longer have the money for resources, particularly in the outer islands. Perhaps your school community may like to help out their fellow students in Vanuatu by donating resources that can be included in one of the containers being put together at present. Items that would be appreciated are: Pencils, Rubbers, Rulers, Coloured Pencils (not felts), Compass, Paper, Cardboard, Exercise Books, Scissors, Chalk, Reading books, second hand is fine. This would need to be actioned before the upcoming school holidays. Any donations can be dropped into the school office.

NAMING UNIFORMS

Just a reminder, please ensure your children's uniforms and footwear are labelled. Please also check your child has their own uniform and hasn't picked up someone elses! We have had a number of uniform pieces go missing recently.

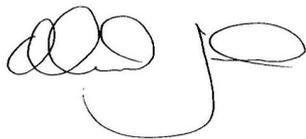
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 March | Hiwi the Kiwi show |
| 2 April | Last day of Term 1
Assembly 2.30pm |
| 16 April | Library open 10.00am to 12.00pm |
| 20 April | Term 2 begins |
| 24 April | School ANZAC assembly 11.30am |
| 27 April | Anzac day Observed (school closed) |

Look on our school website for additional dates and events: there are plenty!!!!

Have a very safe and happy Easter break — enjoy that quality family time.

Ka kite ano,



*Mark Johnson
Principal*



Our volleyball team finished off their season yesterday—what a great team!!! Pretty photogenic too!