



Newsletter - Thursday 14th November 2019

ATHLETICS DAY

Last Tuesday we had our annual Athletics day. It is a day full of fun and competition starting with the House Chants Competition, and finishing with the annual Dads vs Mums vs Staff vs Year 8 boys vs Year 8 girls. This year was no different as the title of best relay team was hotly contested! It was extremely close between the Dads team and the Year 8 boys. The boys were determined to win and make one of their final marks of success...and they achieved it! Well done Year 8 boys!



A huge thank you to all the families and friends that came to cheer on our children. The kids loved having their turn at the various events. Congratulations to all those children who achieved their own personal bests and the 75+ kids representing our school next week at the Interschool Athletics! Good luck!

SAVE THE DATE

We are in the early stages of reviewing and changing our Greytown School Curriculum. We will be having our first parent discussion to start this process which will be held on Thursday 28th November at 9.00am in the staffroom. Coffee and nibbles provided. Preschoolers are welcome to come with their parents. More detailed information to follow.

HEADS UP - PARENT TALK TIME

We are seeing a few things around school that we need your help and support to actively discourage, teach or re-teach the SHARP behaviour and encourage others to follow.

- **HELMETS** - We are noticing a lot of kids (and a few parents) not wearing their bike helmets while riding (in and out of school). Local police officers have also noticed this outside of school time and I have encouraged them to stop kids and talk to them to reinforce the message. Constable Julie will pop into school also to reinforce this. Please remember it is the law and it is critical that these are worn for safety reasons.
- **CROSSINGS** - It is important that we ALL model the importance of using the crossings before and after school rather than crossing closely to it. I know that it is convenient and easier...however our children need to learn that it is an important and safe way to cross the road, especially outside of the school and on the main road where there is a large volume of traffic.

Please help us to reinforce

- Walking not biking or scootering across the crossing.
- Stop, look, check and wait until cars or trucks stop. This is particularly important on the main street as children do not understand that trucks take a lot of time to stop!

“DREAMS COME IN A SIZE TOO BIG, SO THAT YOU CAN GROW IN TO THEM!”

- SLIP, SLOP, SLAP and SLURP – please help us to reinforce with children the importance of slipping into the shade, slopping on some sunscreen, slapping on a sunhat and slurping down more water as the days get hotter. We will also remind them and provide sunscreen, however the more we can do this together, the more it will remind them to make it a daily habit in the summer.
- LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS – We have started to notice just a few older children doing some early morning shopping at the dairy or supermarket. On occasion recently it has come to our attention (via local spies and shop staff) that children after being dropped off at school sneak back out before the bell goes to go and buy treats or give money to others to do it for them. They return back to school in time for the bell, however this is a behaviour we all need to nip in the bud fast. Please talk to your children (as we are) about the importance of staying on school site before school and not bringing money to school (unless for a lunch order or paying for a school activity). The rule and expectation is clear that children are not allowed to leave the school grounds without permission once dropped off and/or step on to the school grounds.
- DROP OFF – A reminder that the school grounds and classes are open from 8.00am with teachers popping in and out of classes as they prep for the day until the bell rings at 8.50am. Please note supervision and road patrol on the crossing starts at 8.30am and children arriving at 7.30am is too early. The POD provides before school care.

YEAR 7 CAMP

It is always a pleasure to defend the principal and parents high success rate of winning the “Hide and Seek” or “Spotlight” challenge at the Year 7 Camp. Admittedly this year it was a lot easier for us as many kids forgot the fundamental strategies of being quiet and not moving! Despite a few quick and easy finds we all enjoyed the games.

I love spending time with our kids at camp and I was once again impressed by their “give it a go” attitude and entertained by their many antics or late night made up stories or bad jokes. A huge thank you to Yolandi Verwey, David French, Alex Southall, Neil Preston, parent helpers, CK and Beachy from Kahikatea Outdoor Centre for all your hard work making this happen. The kids “had a blast” and experienced the “best rafting ever!” or ate “the longest, yummiest and darkest ice cream sundae out!”.



CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to announce that Mrs Penny Hopkins has been successful in securing the role of Assistant Principal and will take up this role permanently in 2020. Penny has been acting in this role in 2019 while Mrs Kath McRae has been on maternity leave. (Kath will return part time next year in the Kōwhai area.) We know that Penny will continue to do an incredible job in this role as she loves our kids, our staff and our community. Her enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to continually making our school successful makes her the fantastic leader she is. Congratulations Penny!

CLASS STRUCTURE FOR 2020

Behind the scenes we have been working and reworking the class structure for 2020. We can now confirm that we will have a similar structure for classes and year groups to this year with a few changes in the Kowhai Syndicate due to increased numbers and trying to cater for any future growth that will occur during the year.

Kōwhai (Yr 0-2) - (4 classes starting)

Reception/Year 1 Class, two Year 1 and 2 composite classes and one straight Year 2 class.

Kawaka (Yr 3 and 4)- (4 classes)

Four composite classes of Year 3 and 4's

Kahikatea (Yr 5 and 6)- (4 classes)

Four composite classes of Year 5 and 6's

Kauri (Yr 7 and 8)- (3 classes)

Three composite classes of Year 7 and 8's

In our next newsletter I will be announcing the teachers in each class, including our new teachers yet to be appointed as Miss J has resigned and Mrs McRae is moving into part time work in the juniors.

DIGITAL CURRICULUM

Over the last few days Donna Golightly (our facilitator from Using Technology Better) and I have had the pleasure of observing teachers and children in action using the Digital Curriculum in their daily learning programmes.

We have seen children teaching, learning and demonstrating their new skills on how to write code using grid sheets or online using a variety of robotic equipment (eg: spheros and Mbots), making movies for their stories, using animations and voice recording to share their learning and experiences about Athletics day, presenting research projects using Google Slide presentations, planning speeches using Popplet, using Education Perfect to learn new languages...just to name a few.

It has been truly wonderful to see how our children's collaboration, creativity, determination and problem solving skills come alive with the assistance of this new curriculum area.

We want to say a huge thank you once again to the Greytown Trustlands Trust who have helped to fund a lot of our new equipment. Thanks to their generosity we have been able to purchase more Chromebooks for our Years 3-6, engineering and robotics equipment to make this more accessible, fun and full of learning. Thank you!



Miss Patrice O'Connor

Dates For Your Diary

20 Nov	Sth Wairarapa Athletics Day
26 Nov	Kawaka trip to Featherston
27 & 28 Nov	Year 5 & 6 Camp
1 Dec	Year 8 Moving On Conference

“Pack The Bus”

This Christmas we will be taking part in the “Pack the Bus” campaign an initiative with Tranzit, Property Brokers, Mediaworks, Mitre10 Mega Masterton and the three Wairarapa District Councils.

“Pack the Bus” has a goal to PACK a Tranzit school bus FULL of donated Christmas Gifts. These Christmas gifts will then be distributed by the Wairarapa Foodbanks prior to Christmas to those families in our community who need extra support to ensure they also have an awesome Christmas this year. The ‘Pack the Bus’ campaign will tour the Wairarapa, visiting local schools, supermarkets, shops and businesses from Wednesday 27th November until Wednesday 11th December (TBC) – where community members can donate gifts on the bus. We know that as a community we will be able to Pack the Bus, and in doing so helping so many in our community have an awesome/less stress Christmas!



Parent Help is a non-profit organisation supporting parents/caregivers in New Zealand by operating a free parenting helpline. This provides personalised, practical support and strategies to parents/caregivers on a diverse range of parenting issues and challenges.

Summer Reading Programme

Encouraging a love of books and reading is one of the most important things you can do to help develop your child's literacy skills. Often children's reading skills slip over the summer holidays. You can help retain skills by enrolling your child in the ECREAD Summer Reading Programme at Greytown Library from 2nd Dec 2019 to 17th Jan 2020. Children enrolled in the 7 week programme:

- receive a colourful folder to record the library books they have read
- “report-in” to the library to share their books with a staff member
- receive a small gift at each report-in
- have the chance to hear storytellers throughout the programme

Children who complete the programme, by reporting-in 4 times, will be invited to a finale celebration where they will receive a certificate and a book. This is free of charge thanks to the funding of the Eastern and Central Community Trust. Registrations open 18th November 2019 at Greytown Library.

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