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22 October 2025
Newsletter No 17



Tena koutou Katou,

We're already in full swing in Term 4 with athletic training taking off, school photos snapped, and our students have been engaging in Financial Literacy sessions with Jeff from ASB Money Wise.

Important Notice



Please be reminded that the school will be **closed tomorrow, Thursday 23 October 2025**, due to the strike action. We appreciate your understanding and support.



Shakeout Practice

Last Thursday, our entire school participated in an important earthquake safety drill. We refreshed our knowledge on what to do in the event of a very strong earthquake, following the mantra: "If it's long or strong, we get gone." This is crucial because a strong earthquake could potentially trigger a tsunami, requiring us to move to higher ground for safety. During the drill, all classrooms practised the Drop, Cover, and Hold technique, ensuring students know how to protect themselves. After practising this technique, we evacuated to our designated safe area at Marchwiell Park, located just behind Grant's One Stop dairy on Selwyn Street.

We want to remind you that in the event of an actual emergency, this is where we will keep your tamariki safe until you are able to collect them. Please ensure you are familiar with this location and discuss it with your child/children so they are reassured about the process.



Newsletter

Artarama - Junk to Funk



Last term, our students engaged in a creative exploration of transforming 'junk to funk.' The culmination of their efforts was showcased at the Artarama exhibition in town.

Congratulations to Hazel Hutton, who won the Year 4 to 6 sculpture section. It's wonderful to see our students' creativity celebrated.

Jellicoe Assembly

Last Friday, our Jellicoe house leaders, Mason and Ella, hosted an inspiring assembly themed 'The GD Way.' They highlighted essential messages about being an upstander, making good choices, using our WITS, and embodying GD values. I challenged the students to carry out one simple and kind act before the day ended. It was heartwarming to hear about the many small yet meaningful gestures that took place. One student wrote thoughtful messages for every classmate, a testament to the kindness we hope to cultivate continuously.

Uniform

Please find attached the school uniform policy. We ask that you review it to ensure your child is in the correct uniform. If you need any items, Mrs. Cameron in the office has second-hand options available, or you can visit The Warehouse for most uniform pieces. With sunhat season upon us, please ensure your child brings a named hat to school daily.

Remember: **Grantlea Downs shorts only (no Canterbury shorts)**
Canterbury trackpants are reserved for Year 6 to 8 students.



Reminder – Bottom staff car park

Just a reminder that the car park at the bottom of Grantlea Drive is for **Staff only**. We also ask that Parents and Students **do not use** this entrance before or after school. Please also be mindful of our neighbours on Grants Road and Grantlea Drive and **do not** park over driveways.

As we continue through the term, let's embody 'The GD Way' in all we do—be respectful, be responsible, be honest, and strive for excellence. Together, let's nurture an environment where kindness and positivity thrive, planting seeds that grow into a strong, supportive community.

Ngā mihi nui,

Beth Wills
Principal



NEW STUDENTS

We welcome the following student and their family to Grantlea Downs this week: Raddix Felstead- Moss, Lilly Moss-Felstead, Roxy Armstrong.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Term 4, Week 2

Anne Akagi-Tayne, Henry Morris, Brodie Penty

Caught being Good Award

Term 4, Week 1

Madison Chambers, Emily Smith, Ali Ryan, Louis Dennis, Sophie Robinson, Luca Thomas, Sydney Rongonui, Xhyon Gordon-Patterson, Manaia Evans

Class Values Awards

Term 4, Week 2

Evie Ford, Jayden Kannemeyer, Harlow Corbin, Waimarama Hiri-Harris, Harla Brinsdon, Taleah Frew, Gypzy Smith, Ella Lambert, Jaydie Taylor-Dinsdale

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The School Board meeting is next Tuesday, 28 October 2025 at 6.30 pm in the Administration Office Board Room. All parents are welcome to attend.

Please note that while members of the public can attend this meeting, it is not a public meeting.

The following policies are being reviewed on schooldocs this term:

Bullying and Harassment, Behaviour Management, Searches, Surrender, and Retention of Property, Minimising Physical

Restraint, Stand-down, Suspension and Exclusion, Staff Wellbeing and Safety.

To view our school policies

1. Visit the website <https://grantleadowns.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username (grantleadowns) and password (grantsroad).
3. Search for the relevant policy on the left-hand side.

To review the current policies

4. Click on the Green Current Review tab and click on the relevant policy under review.
5. Read the policy.
6. Click the **Start your review** button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
7. Select the reviewer type.
8. Enter your name (optional).
9. Follow the prompts to show that you've read the topic and enter your feedback if you'd like to comment.
10. Agree to the privacy statement and click "Submit review".

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

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PRIZE GIVING TROPHIES

A reminder that these are to be returned to the office by

Friday 31st October

please so we can get them ready for this year's recipients.



KIDSARTWORK Fundraiser

Last term the student's were busy creating art work that can be made into affordable Calendars, Cards, Diaries, Mouse Mats and Sketch Pads. The Home and School are fundraising for the new Junior Playground.

Each product is made from your own child's art.

These make unique Christmas gifts for family and friends and are perfect for posting overseas.



More information to follow.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Mr Derek Vogel and Mr Lance Cassidy for always keeping our grounds looking smart and attending to maintenance and repairs when needed.

Thanks also to Mrs Sonyia Ramsay and Ms Cathy Moffat for the great job they do making sure our School is clean and tidy.

We are very fortunate to have such amazing, well looked after facilities.

REMINDER - UNIFORM – Sun hats

Sun hats are required to be worn this term. Please ensure your child has one and it is **clearly named**.



COMMUNITY DIGITAL EVENING

AT GRANTLEA DOWNS SCHOOL WED 5TH NOV

Cyber-Safety Parent Presentation with Rob Cope
Wednesday 5th November from 6.30 to about 8pm.
Tickets are \$5 and available from the office.



Thank you to Venture Timaru for the donations of gear left over from a previous initiative they were involved with.

100 METRES SPRINTS EVENT

Waipopo / Acacia / Kereta

Room 7 – Room 15

**Thursday 13th November (Week 6)
from 1 pm**

On Thursday 13th November from 1 pm the Waipopo, Acacia and Kereta Teams are having their Sprint and House relay races. We would love to see you come down and watch at the rugby field.

The races will begin with the Under 8 Girls and go up to the Over 12 Boys. Heats will run first for every age group and then we will hold the finals. House Relays will be after this.

Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate shoes for running.

ANNUAL SENIOR ATHLETICS SPORTS

Friday 14th November 2025

Postponement date: Tuesday 18th November

We would like to invite you to the annual Senior Athletics Sports for students **Years 5-8.**

Information about the "Standards Events"

The "Standards Athletics Sports" that your child will be competing in is designed to have each child compete against prearranged standards, but it also accommodates those who excel and are more competitive. In standards events, students are competing to a standard rather than just against other students. Each child will score 1, 2, 3 or 4 for every event. All those achieving a 3 will then compete for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing. A child who achieves a 4 will be measured against the South Canterbury Standards.

The athletics sports is also an Interhouse sports competition with a shield up for grabs. The winning house will be decided by all the students' individual points being added together.

The students are encouraged to dress in the colour of their house as this promotes house spirit and competition.

Jellicoe – Green Gould – Blue
Grant – Red Evans – Yellow

Order of Events:

		Under 10	Under 11	Under 12	Over 12
Round 1	9.15 - 10am	LJ	200m	SB Throw	Shot Put
Round 2	10 - 10.45	HJ	SB Throw	Shot Put	200m
Break: 15mins	10.45-11.00am				
Round 3	11.15 - 12pm	SB Throw	Shot Put	HJ	LJ
Break: 45mins	12 - 12.45pm				
Round 4	1pm -1.45	Shot Put	LJ	200m	HJ
Round 5	1..45 - 2.30pm	200m	HJ	LJ	SB Throw

ROUNDS
High Jump (H J)
Long Jump (L J)
Softball Throw (SB Throw)
200 metres (200m)
Shot Put

Your child will need the following:

- Students are required to **wear shorts**, not track pants.
- All students must wear both **sunscreen and a sunhat**.
- They will need a **drink bottle** to ensure they drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- Students will need warm clothing for between events or if the weather changes.
- Postponement will be announced on our Facebook page/Hero community post

We require some parents to help on the day. If you are able to assist, please contact Sam or Alice via email.

Any questions please email Mr Sam Carlaw or
Miss Alice Austin

sam@grantleadowns.school.nz

alice@grantleadowns.school.nz

UNIFORM NOTICE – We are noticing several students wearing in-correct uniform, please read our School Policy and ensure your student is dressed accordingly.



**GRANTLEA
DOWNS**

The country school in the town

POLICY

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

The wearing of a Grantlea Downs School uniform as detailed in this Policy is compulsory.

RATIONALE:

Compulsory uniform aims to instil pride in appearance and personal grooming and is consistent with the image that the school endeavours to portray.

GENERAL:

- At the time of enrolment families will sign a declaration that they are aware of the School Uniform Policy and will be given a copy of the uniform schedule.
- It is the role of the Board and Staff to ensure that the Policy is observed.
- **All new uniforms are purchased through The Warehouse, Browne Street, Timaru**

UNIFORM SCHEDULE:

Girls' Uniform

Grantlea Downs logo red sweatshirt and/or polar fleece

Grantlea Downs logo navy shorts

Grantlea Downs logo polo shirt – short sleeve

Navy or Black ankle socks

Navy Tights (Winter wear only)

Boys' Uniform

Grantlea Downs logo red sweatshirt and/or polar fleece

Grantlea Downs logo navy shorts

Grantlea Downs logo polo shirt – short sleeve

Navy or Black ankle socks

Optional Uniform

Grantlea Downs Skort

Canterbury Track Pants (Yr 6, 7 & 8) small canterbury logo only permitted

Asics Blue Track Pants (Yr 6, 7, & 8)

Grantlea Downs logo navy trackpants

Navy thermal tops can be worn under the Grantlea Downs polo shirt

Footwear

Students are required to wear footwear that:

- Is not a fashion shoe
- Is well fitting and suitable for playground and physical activity

Sun Hats

These are to be purchased from The Warehouse. Sun hats are compulsory during specific dates in Terms 1 and 4. Refer Sun Protection Policy.

Sports Uniform

Most sports uniform items will be supplied by the school. Children are expected to wear their own Grantlea Downs School shorts or track pants.

- Sports uniforms are issued for wearing on sports day only.
- Appropriate sports shoes and sports socks to be worn.
- No jewellery is to be worn for sports events.
- Medic Alert bracelets are to be taped.

It is important that children look and dress as a team when representing the school.

Jewellery

Only Medic Alert bracelets, watches, studs, and keepers (ears only) are allowed. Approved cultural jewellery such as pounamu and bone carving will also be permitted.

Makeup

Makeup and nail polish are not allowed.

Hair

- Long hair is to be tied back – long hair is deemed lower than shoulder length.
- Un-natural hair colouring is not allowed.
- Hair should not cover the student's face.

Senior staff reserve the right to decide what constitutes extreme and what constitutes as being inappropriate and non-compliant.

Students not adhering to these uniform and appearance regulations are considered to be in breach of school rules and can expect to be made accountable for their choices/decisions.

»»»»» Wheelie Good Tip «««««

RECYCLE BIN

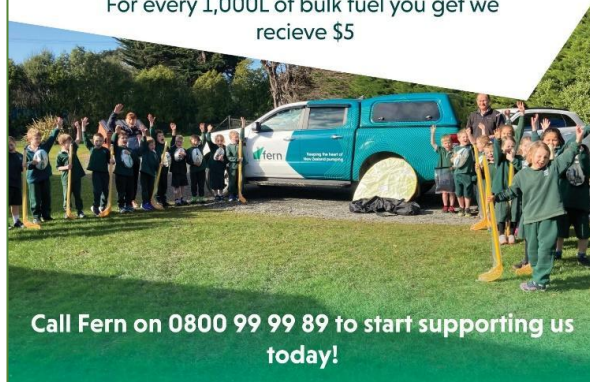
- Plastics can typically be recycled only 7 to 9 times
- Paper and cardboard can typically be recycled only 4 to 6 times
- Glass, steel and aluminium can be recycled indefinitely – great news!

TogetherReducingWaste@enviroz.co.nz



**Have your bulk fuel purchases support
our school!**

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**Call Fern on 0800 99 99 89 to start supporting us
today!**

The Dyspraxia Support Group is a charitable, non-profit organisation, committed to providing support, practical advice, and educational programmes for those who support and care for children, youth and adults affected with Developmental Dyspraxia/DCD. This neurological disorder affects at least 6% of the population.

If you wish to learn more regarding the child and youth programmes held in Christchurch or just learn about dyspraxia/DCD, please feel free to contact us.

Email: dyspraxai CENTRE@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.dyspraxia.org.nz

COMMUNITY NOTICES




WE ARE OPEN TEACHER STRIKE 23RD OCTOBER

PRICING:

FULL DAY:
8am-6pm
\$57

SCHOOL DAY:
8am-3pm
\$50

BOOK NOW:
kats.almyplus.com

Location:
Waimataitai School
School Hall
25 Trafalgar St
Timaru

Contact Information:

Call: 022 6556 7263
Email: admin@katsschoolcare.co.nz

WHAKANUIA AWARDS 2025





Nominations are open!

Timaru District Council and Parent to Parent South Canterbury is proud to confirm that Whakanuia 2025 will be held on Saturday 15th November.

We will be celebrating the remarkable achievements of children and youth with disabilities, neurodivergence, and other health impairments.

You must register your child/student to receive an award. Once registrations are complete, invitations will be sent directly to nominees.

Registrations close on October 28th.

Please register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/UuqtSCGAKK> or scan the QR code below







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- ☒ Hands-On Learning
- ☒ Fun & Engaging
- ☒ Small Class Sizes

23RD OCTOBER 25

Gleniti Primary
22 Heath Street, Gleniti
Phone 03 423 2270

BOOK ONLINE

www.hitplay.co.nz



Elloughton Gardens Halloween Party



Grantlea Downs School
Years 1 - 6

TRICK OR TREAT

Friday
31ST
OCTOBER
From 3.30 -
4.15 pm

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