



Newsletter

31 January 2022 Newsletter No 1

Dear Parents/Caregivers

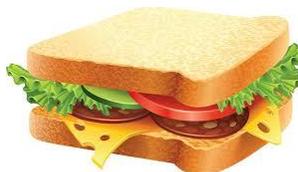


Our team is looking forward to welcoming everyone back on site.

Our first day for the year is Wednesday 2nd February. On arrival we will be following the protocols from last year where parents will drop students at the school gate. We will have staff there to meet the students. If for some reason you need to see the classroom teacher you will need to wear a mask, scan and sign in and head down to the classroom. We appreciate your help with these protocols.

School Lunches

Welcome to Grantlea Downs School Lunches 2022. Just a quick outline of my staff and I and what we are hoping to achieve. My name is Fiona Watson. I am the Catering Lead, and I have 40 years of experience in the food industry. Assisting me in my role are Sonya and Tamara, making up the catering team. We are all very passionate about providing all students with a healthy, edible lunch. This does come as a challenge as we try to cater to all students, and we know we won't be able to please everyone, every day. We do have to comply with Ministry guidelines when planning menus, but we have an open-door policy, and all feedback will be taken on board.



If your child has food allergies, please feel free to contact us through the school office or email us so we can work out alternatives that will suit your child. We want to provide all students with a lunch that they will look forward to eating.

We are working on getting the school vegetable garden up and running, and once we have this ready, we will be hoping to get the students

involved and to use the produce they grow in their lunches.

Included in this newsletter are the fortnightly menus for this term. We will endeavour to follow these but may face the odd supply issue so an alternative may have to be used.

We are all looking forward to the first term and meeting you all.

Kind Regards

Fiona, Sonya & Tamara

lunches@grantleadowns.school.nz

Sage Ross

The school staff have acknowledged the passing of Sage Ross. As a school we have and will be continuing to support Sage's family through this tremendously tough time. We are in contact with the family and they have shared their appreciation of the school and the wider community for the support shown.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GUIDELINES REGARDING COVID19

COVID-19

In regard to COVID-19, we have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for all our school/kura activities and events this year. You will be familiar with all the health measures we will have in place and it is good to know that at Red setting, we are able to support everyone learning onsite.

Events and activities

Large hui and gatherings especially when indoors continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake. We have therefore reviewed all our events and activities for the upcoming term to ensure we meet the health guidance for Red.

Ventilation

We are using the Ministry of Education self-assessment tool to review all our ventilation in

readiness for the start of the year. Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for ākonga and kaiako (and the same goes for you at home). We will also be receiving a CO₂ monitor in the coming weeks to further support our ventilation plan.

Omicron and testing

We have all seen the very large numbers of cases overseas and we will very likely see much larger numbers of cases in Aotearoa than we have previously experienced in the last two years. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who get COVID-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover in their own home.

However, some of our community who are immune-compromised, are ill or have other vulnerabilities, even when they are fully vaccinated, could be more affected by Omicron. So, we all need to continue to play our part to minimise the spread of the virus.

In regard to testing, the health system currently has the capacity to process 40,000 PCR tests a day. PCR testing is the most accurate test for COVID-19 and will continue to be used while New Zealand is in the stamp-it-out phase.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) will begin to be used more widely over time. They are not as accurate as PCR tests and this means that some people who do have COVID-19 will get a negative test result back. There are currently 4.6 million RATs in the country and 10s of millions ordered.

If you are symptomatic or need to be tested to access a workplace or service, you will be guided at the time on which test is best for you.

Face coverings

Staff and children in Years 4 – 8 must wear face coverings when inside at school when we are at Red.

Public health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. This can include single-use, disposable masks (medical masks) and re-usable fabric masks with three layers. Please ensure that these are **named clearly**.



Don't worry if you don't have these specific types of face coverings, as public health experts also say that any face covering is better than no face covering.

The Unite Against COVID-19 website also has information on [how to make a face covering](#).

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some [helpful advice from Michigan Health](#), including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering, adults being the role models, providing small rewards for wearing them, bringing face coverings into play such as drawing face coverings on characters in colouring books or letting them choose/make the mask.

Vaccination for five- to 11-year-olds

Vaccination including a booster shot remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the COVID-19 virus. If children and young adults who have been vaccinated do develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

The free five- to 11-year-old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose.

There is some helpful information available to support you on the [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#) including [How to book a vaccine for your five – 11-year-old](#) and [some great videos](#) on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your tamariki about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Managing cases in our school

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was in close contact with that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red, we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

Preparing for COVID-19

You can also prepare for COVID-19, making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This will mean your whānau and community can help each other if needed. Find out more here:

- [Be prepared for COVID-19](#)
- [Download the COVID-19 Readiness Checklist \[PDF, 121 KB\]](#)
- [What to expect when self-isolating at home](#)

Self-isolating at home because of COVID-19

Many people will be able to manage self-isolation with help from friends and whānau, but there is help

available if you need it – both with health support and access to food and other essentials.

- [What to expect when self-isolating at home | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [COVID-19 positive – managing your symptoms | Health Navigator NZ](#)

If you know anyone in your community affected by COVID-19 and who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of [supports available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19](#).

Work and Income support

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

[Check what you might get here](#)

- [School costs](#)
- [Out of School Care and Recreation \(OSCAR\) Subsidy](#)
- [Other Childcare Assistance](#)
- [School and Year Start-up Payment \(for people getting Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit\)](#)
- [Help with living costs \(including food and rent/mortgage\)](#)

Use the links above or call 0800 559 009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with [free budgeting and debt help](#)

You can also contact your local community provider. [Please find more information here](#).

Getting ready to return to school

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their [Parents and Whānau website](#) to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can [take care of yourself](#).

While this might all feel a little overwhelming at times, we know that all these measures will help our children return to school, reconnect with whānau and friends and do what they enjoy.

We are also here to help. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or need help in any way.

Reminder: School CLOSED, Monday 7th February to observe Waitangi Day.

NEW STUDENTS

We welcome the following students and their families to Grantlea Downs this week: Kate Inch, Ashtyn Wood, Kean Cinco, JJ Leger, Ali Anderson, Danni Steedman, Harper McIntyre, Sophie Reweti, Ciaran Campbell, George Beeby, Bailey Rawson, Inti Montgomerie, Isabella Zandbergen-Krause, Mahara Tungia, Aaliyah Nausu, Harla Brinsdon, Bianca Valentine, Maddison Valentine, Ella Phipps, Tristan Phipps, Lyall Firmin Tavener.

Reminder:

School Hours are 9am – 3pm, with students able to be on site from 8.30am – 3.15pm.

STAFF UPDATES

Our congratulations to Mrs Melissa O'Connor (formally Miss Davie) on her recent wedding. Also to Mr Sam Carlaw on his engagement.

THANKS

Many thanks to Reon Keenan and Lance Cassidy for preparing the grounds over the holidays. Thanks also to Sonyia Ramsay and Cathy Moffat for having the rooms cleaned, ready for our return to school.

CONTACT MEDICAL AND PERSONAL DETAILS

If you have shifted and changed your contact details or your emergency contacts have changed, please inform the office as soon as possible. It is vital that we hold correct emergency contact details including all cell phone numbers in case of emergencies.

There have been incidents in the past when parents and caregivers could not be contacted.

If for any reason your child's medical details have changed, please make sure the office is notified so all relevant records can be updated i.e. allergies, or allergic reactions, vaccinations etc.



UNIFORM REMINDER

Sun hats – compulsory red floppy. A reminder that all students are required to wear a school sun hat at break times during terms 1 and 4. **Please ensure your child's hat and all school uniform items are clearly named.**



STAFF 2021

The teams in 2021 are as below:

Opihi Syndicate		Teachers
Room 1	Yr 0 &1	Mrs Sandra Annett
Room 2	Yr 0 &1	Ms Sharleen Hole
Room 3	Yr 1/2	Miss Stacey Herd
Room 4	Yr 1/2	Mr Hamish Campbell
Room 6	Yr 1/2	Miss Alice Austin
Waipopo Syndicate		
Room 7	Yr 3/4	Miss Megan Shaw
Room 8	Yr 3/4	Mrs Linda Gordon
Room 9	Yr 4/5	Miss Sally Guthrie
Acacia Syndicate		
Room 10	Yr 5/6	Mrs Kirsty Stone
Room 11	Yr 5/6	Mr Vaughan Skea
Room 12	Yr 5/6	Mrs Ange Hide
Kereta Syndicate		
Room 13	Yr 7/8	Mr Sam Carlaw
Room 14	Yr 7/8	Mrs Melissa O'Connor
Room 15	Yr 7/8	Miss Kirsty Ewart
Release Teachers		
Miss Raewyn Guise		
Mrs Ange Higgins		
Mrs Hilary McKnight		
Mrs Tina Gibson		
Mrs Rebecca Fennessy		
Mrs Alyce Mckerchar		
Support Staff – Teacher Aides		
Mrs Joy McGillvray		
Mrs Jan Lees - Librarian		
Miss Penni Naylor		
Mrs Leah Tee		
Mrs Claire Flynn		
Miss Georgina Frost		
Office Staff		
Mr Steve Fennessy - Principal		
Mrs Shelley Willocks		
Mrs Andrea Garven		
Property/ Cleaners		
Mr Reon Keenan		
Mrs Sonyia Ramsay		
Mrs Cathy Moffat		

The Red Brick Block (Rooms 7 – 12) Outdoor Learning Space is almost complete. This space includes the Archgola, decking and new foot operated drinking fountains.



PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER GOAL SETTING CONFERENCES – TUESDAY 1st MARCH 1.00PM – 6.50PM INCLUSIVE

**SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT
12.30PM ON THIS DAY, IT IS
ONLY OPEN DURING THE
AFTERNOON FOR CONFERENCING**



Bookings will be open from Tuesday 8th February. Just a reminder that if you are going to make consecutive bookings that you leave a 10 minute slot between interviews to allow you time to get to the next appointment. It is expected that each family will attend. If a booking is not made a time will be allocated to you. If you do not have internet access you can book at the school office

A reminder on how to book in for an interview time by following the steps below.

ON-LINE BOOKING SYSTEM

- STEP 1** Go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz
- STEP 2** Enter in the following code where it says “Parents School Event Code” **y552p**
- STEP 3** Type in your email address (this is so a confirmation of your interview booking can be sent back to you) Type in your name, then your child’s name (if you have more than one child at school use the drop down box so more ‘Student’s Name’ lines appear. Press **GO**
- STEP 4** Choose your child’s teacher from the drop down list. Press **GO**
- STEP 5** Choose the times you would like to see each teacher then press **GO**. The time you have booked for each student will appear. Once you have finished press ‘Finish’ then an email will be sent to confirm your parent interview booking.





Prize Giving Trophies



Junior Awards Presentation

Sporting Swimming	Hewson Cup Most Improved Swimmer – Waipopo Mills Family Trophy Most Improved Swimmer - Opitahi Doris Cargo Cup Best Overall Swimmer – Girls Best Overall Swimmer – Boys	Michaela Docherty Avie Ramsey-Turner Amelia Forward Archie Kotua
Sports	Waipopo Syndicate Sports Award Overall for Sprints, Cross Country, Triathlon Year 3 & 4 Cosgrove/Merriman Trophy Overall for Sprints, Cross Country, Triathlon Year 1 & 2	Ashton Duncombe, Oliver Brown-Innes, Amelia Forward Aria Henry Evans, Kayden Young

Senior Awards Presentation

Sporting Triathlon	Johnston Family Trophy Achievement in Triathlon	Millie Boyle, Leon Liu
Swimming	Coles Family Trophy Achievement in Swimming 8 – 9 Years Wilkinson Family Trophy Achievement in Swimming 10 – 11 Years Collins Family Trophy Achievement in Swimming 12 – 13 Years	Izabella Simms, Oscar Bennett, Greer Black, Boston Davis Briar Taylor, Tim Kirke Baylee Walker
Netball	Sargeant Family Trophy Achievement in Netball	Josh Aguirre
Basketball	Hessel/Robertson Family Trophy Effort, Achievement, Sportsmanship	Millie Boyle
Sportsmanship	Tracy Brown Trophy Outstanding Sportsmanship and Fair Play	Leon Liu
Sports Award	White Family Trophy Effort, Achievement, Sportsmanship – Year 7 – 8 Redhead Family Trophy Effort, Achievement, Sportsmanship – Year 7 – 8 Pooley Family Trophy Effort, Achievement, Sportsmanship – Year 5 – 6 Charlie Palmer Stuart Family Shield	Millie Boyle Azaria Kleinow, Charlie Palmer Grant
Cultural Speech	Welsh Family Trophy	Tim Kirke
Kapa Haka	Kapa Haka Trophy Effort, Achievement	Ardia Akurangi-Fitzgerald
Art	Lyness Family Trophy Effort, Attitude, Achievement	Cassie Thornley

CLASS AWARDS

Room 1 Art Values Values Values Values	Tessa Ffita, Athena Rejeech Dan Taynee James Willmott Lucy Clark Tessa Ffita	Room 11 Art Academic Diligence Values	Chloe Holden Annabelle Gilmour Mikayla Winiata Charlie Hayes
Room 2 Art Values Values Values Values	Kobbin List, Wiremu Thomson Briar Marshall Morris Kennerley Mikayla Rose Dekota-Rose Cadigan Henry Morris	Room 12 Art Academic Diligence Values	Jett Whyte Jessica Beeby Hunter Hopkinson Murphy Geary
Room 3 Art Values Values Values Values	Hazel McGlinchy Azariah Vakalala Zaliyah Karena Jamison Jaxon Bell Neala Morris	Room 13 Art Academic Diligence Values	Cassie Thornley Jake Rogers Briar Taylor Zacklai Salwy
Room 4 Art Values Values Values Values	Chevelle Thomas Anabelle O'Connor Violet Ffita Lavanya Rejith Aria Henry Evans	Room 14 Art Academic Diligence Values	Zachary Penny Rebecca Bramley Mikayla Willetts Asenica Kurutiaudua
Room 6 Art Values Values Values Values	Tawhirimatea Whyte Ashton Wentworth Smith Fletcher Jackson Francesca Russell Charlie Rawson	Room 15 Art Academic Diligence Values	George Elder Bella Hopkinson Tim Kirke Faliqh Faris
Room 7 Art Academic Diligence Values	Caiden Hough Mason Fitzgerald Dominic Esler Amelia Forward, Indie Amnear-Mason	Junior School Overall Values	Grace Hooke Memorial Cup JJ Milline, Ava Maraku
Room 8 Art Academic Diligence Values	Ruby Macgregor Kaloni Latu Ella Lambert Jak Rolton	Academic Achievement Senior Scholar (Dux) Citizenship Cup All Round Contribution to the School	McAllister Family Trophy Board of Trustees Award Stuart Family Trophy Hawley/Lawrie/Tindall Cup Bella Hopkinson
Room 9 Art Academic Diligence Values	Bailey Clarkson Jaxon Wickenden, Ava Maraku Heidi Fuller, Jaydie Taylor-Dinsdale Vann Agnew	House Leaders 2022	Michelle Van Rooyen, Seven Felizardo Arina Lyakh, Harrison Butler Greer Black, Cooper Kelliker Riley Kirkwood Ezra Cockburn
Room 10 Art Academic Diligence Values	Riley Wentworth Smith Fathin Faris Kate Hoare Chase Thomas	Evans Gould Grant Jellicoe	

Grantlea Downs Term Calendar Term 1 2022

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	31	February 1	2 Newsletter First Day Term 1	3	4
2	7 Waitangi Day	8	9	10	11
3	14	15	16 Newsletter	17	18
4	21	22 BOT Meeting 6.30pm	23	24	25
5	28	March 1 Proposed Goal Setting 1 - 7pm	2 Newsletter	3	4 Modified Triathlon TBC
6 Swimming - Acacia & Kereta TBC	7	8 Modified Triathlon p/p TBC PCT - Year 8's TBC	9	10	11
7 Swimming - Acacia & Kereta TBC	14	15	16 Newsletter	17 Be Bright Eat Right Opihi & Waipopo Afternoon Hall TBC	18 SC Triathlon TBC
8	21	22 BOT Meeting 6.30pm	23	24	25 Multi cultural Celebration TBC
9	28	29	30 Newsletter	31 MUFTI DAY for Tonga	April 1 SC Swimming Sports TBC
10	4	5	6	7	8 Wheelathon TBC
11	11	12	13 Newsletter	14 ANZAC Ceremony TBC Last Day of Term 1	15 Good Friday

GRANTLEA DOWNS

WEEKS: 1 3 5 7 9 11

MONDAY

Ham & Cheese & Salad Sandwich
Yoghurt
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternatives:

GF, DF, EF: Bread

DF: Cheese, Fruit Jelly

H: Chicken Sandwich

V: Salad Sandwich

THURSDAY

Corned Beef & Salad Sandwich
Apple Shortcake Slice
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternatives:

GF, DF, EF: Bread, Slice

DF: Cheese

NB: Ham Sandwich

V: Salad Sandwich

TUESDAY

Meatball & Salad Sub Roll
Blueberry & Apple Muffin
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternative:

GF, DF, EF: Meatball, Roll, Slice

DF: Cheese

NB, V: Falafel

FRIDAY

Pizza - Ham Cheese, Spinach, Capsicums
Tomato Paste
Yoghurt
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternative:

GF, DF, EF: Base

DF: Cheese, Fruit Jelly

H: Beef Pizza

V: Vegetarian Pizza

WEDNESDAY

Chicken Tender & Salad Wrap
Yoghurt
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternatives:

GF, DF, EF: Chicken Crumbs, Wrap

DF: Cheese, Fruit Jelly

V: Salad Wrap



Key: (V) Vegetarian. (GF) Gluten Free. (DF) Dairy Free. (EF) Egg Free. (H) Halal. (NB) No Beef. (NP) No Pork. *Senior students additional item.

GRANTLEA DOWNS

WEEKS: 2 4 6 8 10

MONDAY

Corn & Salad Wrap
Raspberry Slice
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternative:
GF, DF, EF: Wrap, Slice
DF: Cheese

TUESDAY

BLT Sandwich
Yoghurt
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternative:
GF, DF, EF: Bread
DF: Fruit Jelly
H: Chicken
V: Cheese

WEDNESDAY

Toasties - Spaghetti, Cheese, Bacon
Corn Cob & Carrot Sticks
Blueberry & Apple Muffin
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternative:
GF, DF, EF: Bread, No Spaghetti, Slice
DF: Cheese
H, V: No Bacon

Key: (V) Vegetarian. (GF) Gluten Free. (DF) Dairy Free. (EF) Egg Free. (H) Halal. (NB) No Beef. (NP) No Pork. *Senior students additional item.

THURSDAY

Shredded Chicken & Salad Wrap
Yoghurt
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternative:
GF, DF, EF: Wrap
DF: Cheese, Fruit Jelly
V: Falafel

FRIDAY

Beef & Salad Burger
Corn Chips
Fresh Fruit

Dietary Alternative:
GF, DF, EF: Bun, Pattie
DF: Cheese
NB, V: Vegetarian Pattie

