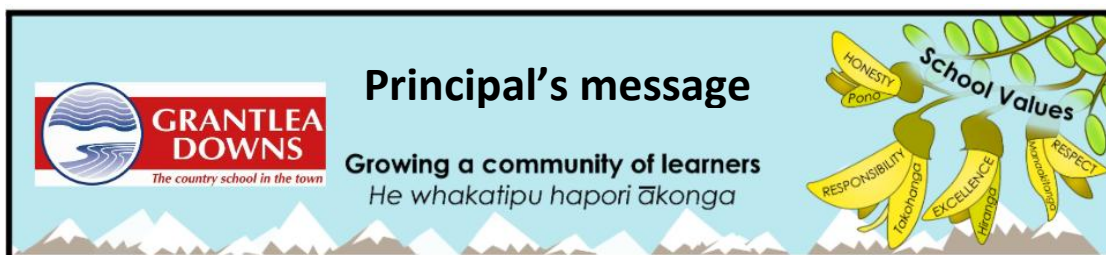




65 Grants Road, Timaru
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13 August 2025
Newsletter No 13



Tena koutou Katou, Mālō e lelei

Welcome to our Term 3 Week 5 newsletter! We're already halfway through Term 3. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who attended the learning conferences. Your participation shows a strong partnership with the school and your interest in supporting your child's learning journey. If you couldn't attend and would like to talk with your child's teacher, please contact them directly. Our teachers are happy to arrange a time that works for both of you.

Upcoming Union Meetings - IMPORTANT

Our teachers and staff are truly dedicated to their work, but the limited funding for schools affects their ability to fully support every student. To tackle this issue, members of the NZEI Te Riu Roa, including primary teachers, teacher aides, and principals, are advocating for increased investment in our children. We're striving to improve conditions for teachers, support staff, and students alike.

Keeping talented teachers, teacher aides, and staff is vital, as they are the heart of our school and make a big impact. As part of this effort, our teachers will attend a paid union meeting on **Wednesday, 20th August. Grantlea Downs will remain open, but we strongly encourage those who can, to pick up their children from 1:45 p.m.** Legally, I must allow every NZEI member to attend these meetings. This means the school will stay open, but only six staff will be available to supervise students throughout the afternoon.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could arrange to collect your child from **1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, 20th August.** For those who cannot be picked up, teachers will continue to support them with an afternoon program. More details about where to collect your child from will be posted on HERO by your child's teacher. Students can not walk home unsupervised before 3pm.

I want to emphasise how important your support is. Our main goal is to fight for better conditions for teachers, making it an attractive profession, and most importantly, to secure better support for our children. Supporting our children's learning also helps our families and communities thrive. Your support is crucial in building the case for better investment in our children. Thank you for standing with us.

Attendance

One of the things we are continuing to focus on in 2025 is student attendance. You will hear us talking about this with you and with our students.

Newsletter

If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day, and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school.

You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure. Family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent.

Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school can be tricky. Health guidance to support you in deciding is available [here](#).

If you are still unsure, get in touch with us and let's work together to support your learner.

If you're struggling at home with getting your child to school, talk to us and we can engage with our attendance advisors or school health nurse for support.

Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school.

Our school continues to build a culture that fosters attendance every day by having:

- School staff who have strong relationships with students and family.
- A school culture that recognises your child and your family for who you are, where you come from and what you value.
- A school whānau that takes all practical steps to make sure your child is at school and progressing in their learning.
- A school that is safe and welcoming for everyone in our school community.

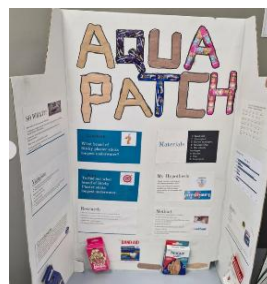
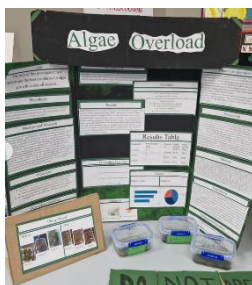
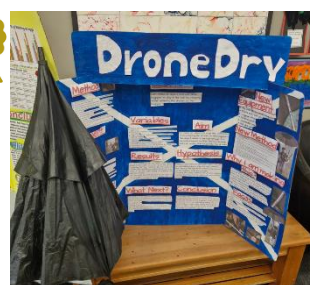
If you have any attendance queries and issues, please contact us so we can work together.

Year 7 and 8 Science Fair

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Science Fair. It was a fantastic learning opportunity, and they should be proud of their achievements. Mr. Vogel, our resident scientist, has completed the marking process, and here are the results:

- **1st Place** - *Tooth Paste or Tooth Waste* by TJ
- **2nd Place** - *Algae Overload* by Honor and Araliyah
- **3rd Place** - *Aqua Patch* by Scoutt
- **1st Place in the Technology Division** - *Drone Dry* by Manu

These projects are on display in the foyer. The winners have been entered into the CSI NIWA Science Fair, where they will compete against other regional winners. A big thank you to all the parents and caregivers who supported this event.





NEW STUDENTS

We welcome the following students and their families to Grantlea Downs this week:
Korbyn Fleming, Phoenix Kovacs

Principal Awards

Term 3, Week 4

Harvey Dixon, Pascoe Smillie, Archie Kotua, Kailex Cariaga

Class Values Awards

Term 3, Week 3

Lincoln Reynolds and Sophia Frew, Murphie Morris Aliviyah Pairama-Wishnowsky, Finley Hunter, Charmaine Bussey, Mia Thompson, Aaliyah Nausu, Ella Shand, Violet Fifita, Greer Hurst

Term 3, Week 4

Willow Don, Frankie McArthur, Xavier Peters, Mitul Ranjan, Mason Masters-Simelhay, Te Ariki Corbett

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR COMING UP 1ST SEPTEMBER IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOYER

Check out the competitions you can enter.
Be inspired and let your imagination run wild!



SCHOOL LUNCHES

Our amazing kitchen team are providing yummy lunches for our students – these food choices were particularly popular. Huge thanks to Fiona, Amber and Julie .



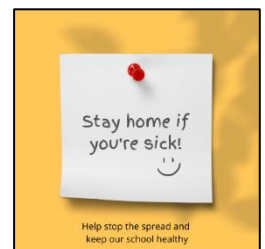
CONGRATS TO KASSI

From the 1-3 of August 2025, Kassi went to the Snow Sports NZ Adaptive Ski Festival at Cardrona. During this time she said she had some one-on-one lessons with the staff and helpers from Snow Sports NZ. She felt it was a great opportunity to try out new skills and make friends from all over New Zealand and Australia. Here are some photos from this year's trip.



Pictured above are Snow Sports NZ Board members along with Cardrona Ski Staff.

Please if your student is unwell – keep them home.



Last week some of our students participated in an exciting trip to the Eco Centre on the new double decker bus. They learnt about the Redruth

Resource Recovery Park. The students and adults enjoyed searching for treasures in the Crows Nest shop, which reminded us of the importance of donating our old items instead of tossing them away. A huge thank you to our wonderful parent helpers for making it all possible!

South Island Times Table Rock Stars Battle - On Thursday, Waipopo Syndicate participated in a South Island Times Tables Rock Stars battle. You might have seen it promoted on the news! Our students made us extremely proud, placing 56th out of 73 schools, even competing against some very talented Year 7 & 8 students from other schools. Well done, team!

Aoraki Maths Competition

On July 29th, three teams of Grantlea Downs students attended the Aoraki Maths Competition at Timaru Boys High School. It was the first time I had been. In the hall, they had set out a large number of single desks. Each team of 4 would stand around their desk to solve a maths problem.

Then a runner from each team would run around all the desks in their row to bring a new question back to the group. The faster the students solved the problem, the more the runner had to rush off. It was a hot hall. Once the runner took the answer to the judges table, they would be told whether or not the question was correct. If it was, they would get a new question, otherwise they would have to return to solve the problem.



The teams were all very close. We had teams from Ashburton, Hinds, Waimate and Oamaru there as well as our local schools. Grantlea Downs students stood out in the red uniforms, so the parents and I could see how they were going.



It was a privilege to watch our school's teams; two year 8 teams and 1 year 7 team. They did not give up on any hard question, and they stayed very focussed throughout the competition. All of the teams worked so well together and were very supportive of each other. All three groups worked collaboratively thus making their event a success. Well done to you all.

I can't wait until we go again next year.

To the parents of our students who took part, I would like to say thank you all for getting the students to and from the competition, and for looking out for all the students in the group. Your support was greatly appreciated.

Vicki Evans



Second-hand uniform sale happening now! We have some second hand uniform available for sale:

Polar Fleece: Size 5,7,8,10
Sweatshirts: Size 8,10,12,14

Polar Fleece \$8

Sweatshirts \$3

Limited stocks available at the office



Pictured here with a certificate of thanks from Cardiac Kids Club – Mid and South Canterbury – is Charlee – thanks to students/staff for the successful Mufti Day fundraiser held earlier in the year, this organisation was extremely grateful to get some funds.



THANK YOU TO NZ COMMUNITY TRUST



At the end of the swimming season in March, our pool's heat pump decided that it no longer wanted to heat the 55,000L of water. It had reached the end of its lifespan. As a result, the School Board

authorised the purchase of a new heat pump, so our children's swimming lessons wouldn't be disrupted in the coming season. We are very grateful to the **New Zealand Community Trust** for contributing a substantial amount to the purchase of this essential equipment to keep our children happy in the pool.



THANK YOU TO PUB CHARITY

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to **Pub Charity** for their generous grant, which has enabled us to purchase **Charging Trolleys** for our school devices. This support plays an important role in enhancing digital learning by ensuring our devices are safely stored and ready for student use each day.

We would like to thank Pub Charity's local partners: Armadillo's In The City Timaru; Crown Hotel & Pub; Empire Hotel; Grosvenor Hotel and Richard Pearse Tavern



COMMUNITY NOTICES



22a Timaru-Temuka Highway, Washdyke, TIMARU
P: (03) 687 4699 | F: (03) 688 2699 | www.rooneygroup.co.nz

Wednesday, 6 August 2025

Dear Resident,

Public Notification – TDC Evans Street Water Main Upgrade

As works progress on Evans Street we are ready to start the installation of the Stormwater, crossing over Grants Road. To complete these works safely we require closing off part of the road leading into Evans Street, creating a detour as shown below.

Night works will commence Sunday 17th August 6:00pm to Friday 22nd August 7:00am

Day works will commence Monday 25th August 6:00am to Wednesday 27th August 6:00pm



During the works;

1. Access will always be maintained to your property.
2. The road will be closed for the general public.
3. Unless otherwise notified, your bins will be collected as usual.

Key Contacts

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of the following:

Rooney Earthmoving Contract Manager:

Cameron Rooney – 0273357530 – cameron.rooney@rooneygroup.co.nz

Timaru District Council Project Manager:

Grant Hall – 027 442 2406 – grant.hall@timdc.govt.nz

Regards

Cameron Rooney

»»»»» Wheelie Good Tip «««««

WASTE BIN (RED)

All disposable nappies and
sanitary items go in red bin
only, please.

Consider reusable alternatives

TogetherReducingWaste@environment.co.nz



SUNDAY AUGUST 24TH

GIRLS RUGBY FESTIVAL

AT BURNSIDE PARK

OPEN TO GIRLS FROM YEAR 4-8 AND PLAYED IN 2 GRADES- 10
ASIDE FOR YEARS 4-6 AND GAME ON FOR YEARS 7 & 8.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE AUGUST 13TH SO REGISTER NOW TO
SECURE YOUR PLACE VIA THE QR CODE BELOW.



EACH REGISTERED PLAYER GETS
A **FREE** TICKET TO THE
CANTERBURY FPC GAME V
COUNTIES MANUKAU ON
AUGUST 23RD!

THINK YOU CAN'T LIVE **WITHOUT** SMOKES?

Withdrawals can be tough, but with support and
a bit of distraction, you can break through it.



BREAK FREE TO SMOKEFREE
breakfreetosmokefree.nz



Scan to sign up

Arowhenua Whānau Services
reception@aws.health.nz
0800 615 5180

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora



Proudly supporting
the fundraising
efforts of Grantlea
Downs School



We are giving back to Grantlea Downs School!

**Purchase your flooring through Simpson's Flooring Xtra
Timaru, and we'll donate \$1 per metre to Grantlea
Downs School.** Mention the initiative and your local
school when shopping with your local flooring expert and
we'll take care of the donation back to your school.

**Visit our showroom at 102 Hilton Highway, Timaru
Contact 03 688 2829 for a free measure & quote**