



65 Grants Road, Timaru
Phone 684 7706
Absences text 027 684 7706
Email: office@grantleadowns.school.nz
www.grantleadowns.school.nz



5th November 2025
Newsletter No 18



Tena koutou Katou

I hope this message finds you well. As we continue to foster a safe and supportive environment for our students, I am thrilled to announce an essential event that we highly encourage you to attend.

Rob Cope Cyber Safety Workshop

We are excited to host Rob Cope, a renowned expert in cyber safety, who will be conducting a workshop specifically for parents. In today's digital world, ensuring the **safety** of our children online is more crucial than ever.

This workshop will provide invaluable insights and practical advice on how to protect your children in the cyber realm. **This is a must-attend event for all parents**, as it will equip you with the knowledge and tools to navigate the online world alongside your children. Please make it a priority to attend and encourage other parents to join as well.

School Highlights and Updates

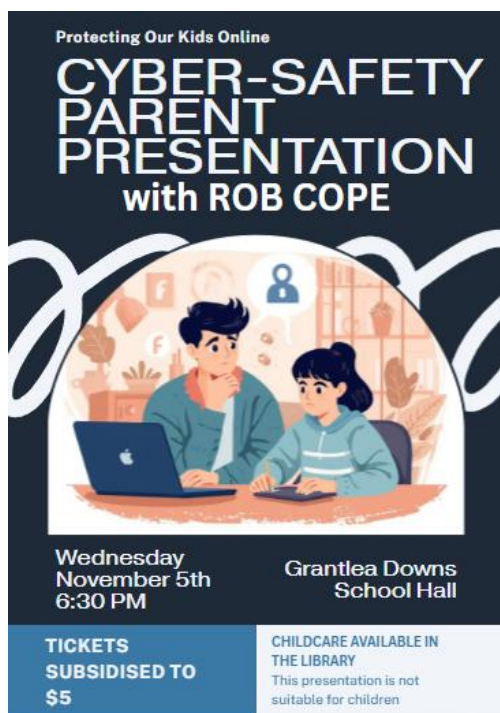
This morning our Year 7 and 8 students have headed off to **camp at Wainui**. This two-night, three-day adventure promises to be an unforgettable experience filled with learning and fun.

Last week, our **Halloween dress-up mufti day** was a resounding success! Not only did we have a blast, but we also **raised \$400** towards our junior playground upgrade. Thank you for your enthusiastic participation and support.

\$140,000



Raised
\$10,400



THANK YOU

Fundraising and donations so far:
*\$10,000 donation from our Home and School
*\$400 Halloween Mufti Day



Newsletter

In **sports news**, the football game between the Year 8s and the staff was a thrilling event. Both teams played with spirit and determination, with the teachers narrowly clinching the victory. The real triumph, however, was the camaraderie and laughter shared by all, despite a few sore muscles the next day.

Don't forget to place your orders for our '**calendar art**' by **Monday, 10th November**. Along with calendars, you can order diaries, sketchbooks, cards, and mouse pads. These personalised items make wonderful Christmas presents, and samples are available in the front office for your viewing. Again any funds raised will go towards our junior playground upgrade.

Next week, we have exciting **athletic events** lined up. On Thursday, the Year 3 to 8 sprints will commence at 1 PM, followed by the Year 5 to 8 Athletics on Friday starting at 9 AM. We will have delicious BBQ sausages available for \$3 each & \$2 drinks, with all proceeds going towards our junior playground upgrade.

Acknowledgments

A special commendation goes to the Acacia team for their incredible work at the Te Aitarakiki Stream. Planting natives to support bird life in the area is a fantastic initiative, and I am proud of how your efforts are enhancing our local environment.



Lastly, thank you to our community for your understanding and support during our recent strike action. We appreciate your patience and are sorry for any inconvenience caused.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the cyber safety workshop and our upcoming events. Your involvement and support are what make our school community thrive.

Ngā mihi nui,

Beth Wills
Principal



NEW STUDENTS

We welcome the following student and his family to Grantlea Downs this week: Alex Streltsov

PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Term 4, Week 4

Emily Smith, Hargun Kaur, Dan Akagi-Taynee, Bailey Clarkson

Caught being Good Award

Term 4, Week 3

Korbyn Fleming, Fin Davie
Tasi Fakasiieike, Max Yerbury
JJ McCarthy Wederell,
Wiremu Kotua-Tekoronga,
Ahvaejah Anglem Tuari, Mason Fitzgerald

Class Values Awards

Term 4, Week 4

Nikau Wong Tung, Ardvik Rinsh, Willow Don
Sonny Dockrill, Athreya Ashwinkumar
Te Aika Reihana, Lucy Clark, Bailey Clarkson

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.

**These orders are due back
Monday 10th November.**



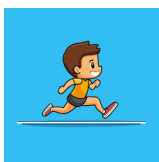
DUFFY BOOKS - \$5 PARENT OFFER

As part of the Duffy Books in Homes Programme, Parents have an opportunity to purchase a variety of books for only \$5 each.



Forms have been sent home but we do have spares in the office.

Order Forms are due back Friday, 14th November.



COMING UP

Waipopo Athletics Day - Friday 7th Nov

You are invited to our Grantlea Downs School U8 & U9 Athletics day. This is for children aged 8 or younger as at the 1st January 2025 and involves 18 children from Acacia Syndicate.

This is being held at school on Friday 7th November. Our postponement date is Tuesday 11th November. If the weather looks doubtful, we will announce the postponement on Hero.

Your child will need the following:

- House colours may be worn to school
- Wear shorts, not track pants
- Sunscreen and a school sunhat
- Drink bottle to ensure they drink plenty of water throughout the day
- Warm clothing for between events or if the weather changes

Waipopo/Acacia/Kereta

House and Relay Sprints – Thurs 13th Nov

On Thursday 13th November from 1 pm the Waipopo, Acacia and Kereta Teams (Room 7-Room 15) 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.**

Reminder: Rotary Club Timaru North – JR McKenzie Youth Education Fund – 2025 applications due back by end of this week.

Steps for Success

At Grantlea Downs we believe that part of preparing our tamariki for success in life is helping them learn responsibility and independence — both at school and at home.

When children help out at home — making their bed, tidying their backpack, organising their school things, washing a dish — they are doing more than just chores. They are building:

- discipline (“I can begin the day well”)
- ownership (“This is mine and I can look after it”)
- follow-through (“I do what I say I’ll do”)

Research and practice tell us that children who learn small responsibilities early often grow into young adults who feel confident tackling big tasks. We also know that many households have different routines, time pressures and cultural practices. If your child is not yet doing these things — it doesn’t mean they are lazy, nor does it mean you’ve done something wrong. It’s an invitation to start a conversation at home — “What daily routines do we have? What simple responsibility could your child start with this week?”

Here are some ideas to try together:

- Choose one small thing this week (make the bed, pack the bag, clean the lunch box)
- At the end of the week, reflect together: “What went well? What could I try differently next week?”
- As your child becomes consistent, add in one more responsibility.

Let’s embrace responsibility as one of our school values — and enjoy learning it together as capable, grounded and confident young people.

Keeping the Beat

On Monday, 28th October 2025, I took part in the **South Canterbury Pipe Band Championship**. The event was held at **Geraldine High School** and included many other bands.

First up was the **MSR**. We warmed up, headed over to the board, and played really well. Next was the **Juvenile Band**, which was a mix of the South Canterbury Highland Pipe Band and the Celtic Pipe Band. We also performed strongly and won **1st place** — because we’re really good!

I also performed a **drum solo** and was awarded **1st place in the D Grade Aggregate**. I’m proud to say I’m the **youngest drum major in the country!**

TJ Kotua - Tekoronga (***Congratulations TJ – Grantlea Downs is very proud of your achievement!***)



ACACIA AND WAIPOPO - 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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

South Canterbury Eco Youth Presents

ECO ECHO FEST

South Canterbury Eco Youth invites you to our
Eco Echo Music Festival

to see our talented school bands and students perform on

**SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER
4PM - 9PM**

ECO CENTRE 55C REDRUTH ST, TIMARU
(NEXT TO THE CROWS NEST)



SCAN ME  GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
**TICKETS: \$10.00
UNDER 13: \$5.00**

SCAN ME  To register a band To buy a ticket

www.scecoecentre.org.nz/events/
This is a smoke, vape, and alcohol free event.

  © ECO Youth

Purveyors of Ominous Productions Presents

Pan-demonium

A Neverland Adventure

Written by:
Sarah Prallier



December Show Dates:
Sat 20th 7pm
Sun 21st 2pm & 7pm
Tue 23rd 7pm
Wed 24th 4pm

Timaru Scottish Society Hall
20 Bernard Street


Tickets Available at:
www.timarupanto.com
ph: 0233500589

LEVEL UP  

Transition to High School

Parents and Caregivers Information Evening

Date: Thursday 6th November 2025
Time: 6pm - 8pm
Where: The Y on Sophia, 7-9 Sophia St, Timaru
RSVP: jo@ymcasc.org.nz

 **Topics:**

- Support for your students while at high school
- The school day
- Buses
- Differences between primary and high school
- Bring Your Own Device



»»»» Wheelie Good Tip ««««

GENERAL TIP

Switching the font from 'Arial' to 'Century Gothic' saves 30% on ink when printing



TogetherReducingWaste@timarutown.co.nz

WAIMATE RODEO CLUB YOUTH BULL RIDING

SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

WAIMATE RODEO GROUNDS
5TH CANTEEN

Ages 5-18 (years 0-13)

Bucking machines, technique coaching

Jnr Steers, Novice Steers, 2nd Division Bulls

Great low key day to come along and have a go!

OPEN TO EVERYONE!

COACHING FROM 10AM

JACKPOT AFTER LUNCH

SAVE THE DATE!

Entry form to follow on our FB page



Timaru Golf Club Junior Golf Programme

SKILLS

@ Timaru Golf Club

Growing the Love of Golf

Learn Golf for Free!

Led by certified instructor Mark Scott, Skills @ Timaru Golf Club combines fun coaching sessions with friendly competitions. It's perfect for beginners and young golfers with some experience — all in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Golf lessons start at 4pm with certified instructor Mark Scott. After your lesson, head out and play either 1 hole or up to 9 — it's up to you! Take part in our 10-week, 9-hole competition! Your best 5 rounds count. Overall and weekly prizes. Mixed tees. You can play from 4pm or after your lesson.

- Starts Tuesday 28th October 4pm @ Timaru Golf Club
- Ages 5 to 18
- Everyone is welcome
- Free to join
- Clubs available
- Discounted green fees for parents/caregivers on the night
- With or without a handicap for competition
- Phone/text 0275188140 for more info

MARK SCOTT
CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR

GLE
GOLF

MarkScottGolf.com

 **Everyone Welcome**



PLEASE CHECK YOUR STUDENTS UNIFORM

ARE YOU MISSING SOME ITEMS???

Our lost property box is overflowing. Unclaimed, un-named uniform items will periodically be disposed of.

If you are trying to locate a lost uniform item, please discuss this with your child's classroom teacher and feel free to check at the school office.

A black rectangular label with the word "NAME" in white capital letters. A faint watermark "BTC Dog Tags" is visible in the background.

NAME

ALSO - PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM ITEMS ARE NAMED!

We strongly encourage the naming of all uniform items, including shoes, drink bottles and lunch boxes.