



# Newsletter

**15 May 2019**  
**Newsletter No 8**

Tēnā koutou katoa. Nga mihi ki a koutou.

We currently have a number of students representing Grantlea Downs in a range of events. Today a team is representing us at the Literacy Quiz and last week we had four teams competing in the Extra Spelling Bee.

A group of Year 7 & 8 girls are learning the skills of rugby. They are playing on a Wednesday night against other South Canterbury teams. They are all enjoying the experience.

This Friday we have nine students attending the Pasifika Day at Timaru South School.

Next week we have a team of Year 5/6 students representing us at the South Canterbury Rippa Rugby Tournament. This is a mixed tournament with 5 boys and 5 girls involved. We wish them all the best for the competition. Thanks to Reon for helping coach the team.

We also have 10 girls attending a new initiative by Microsoft and Aoraki Development called "She Can Code". These workshops will include hands on exploratory tech stations for teachers, and girls

aged 8-13 yrs. The aim is to get girls inspired to explore coding, robotics and computer science.

There is also information you can check out yourself on Techweek TV. All of next week there will be a series of live, online video sessions by some of the brightest tech minds in Aotearoa. The link is <https://techweek.co.nz/techweek-tv/>

Nga mihi nui  
Steve Fennessy



**ADVANCED NOTICE!**  
**TEACHER ONLY DAY**  
**TERM 2, WEEK 6 -**  
**TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
**(QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND)**

Included with this newsletter is another opportunity to register for the Light Up New Zealand Book Night, a request for help form for PMP (Perceptual Motor Programme) in Term 3 and for Years 5 -8 the 2019 Great Kiwi English, Mathematics and Science entry form. These all have return slips attached to return to the office asap. Also the last chance to get your order in for a sausage this week (orders now extended until Thursday 12pm. Return slip included in newsletter).

**There is a proposed National Teachers Strike on Wednesday 29th May. More information will be sent out before this date. Information below outlines why the strike is taking place.**

**Kua tae te wā - It's time.**  
Time to lead, teach and learn.

This means freeing teachers to teach so every child receives the personal attention they need to learn and thrive. It means freeing principals to focus on leading and it means ensuring we have enough teachers by attracting more people to teaching, by respecting them as professionals and paying them properly.

We currently have a growing teacher shortage crisis already showing itself in our schools, which looks set to worsen with growing student numbers and less people training to become teachers.

Our students come to school to learn all the skills and abilities that they'll need to grow up healthy, happy and productive in the 21st century. Our nation can afford to ensure every child receives the education they need to succeed in life, and for every educator to be trusted and resourced to make that a reality. It's simply a matter of priorities.

As we continue to go through negotiations for the Primary Teachers' and Principals' Collective Agreements this year, we'll be standing together for our students and for an education system that values, attracts and retains the amazing teachers who are entrusted with the education of our children.

Our students are worth it and so are we.

## NEW STUDENTS

We welcome the following students and their families to Grantlea Downs in the last fortnight: Aaleyah Dhillon, Azariah Vakalala and Axel Ramsey-Turner.

## VISITING PERFORMER – NZ PLAYHOUSE - THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

After beating the Gingerbread Man in the finals of 'Who's the Fastest Of Them All?' everyone knows The Hare is the undisputed 'Master of Faster' and if they don't, they soon will, thanks to the Hare's boasting and gloating about their momentous momentum. In fact, the only creature the harebrained Hare hasn't beaten in a race is the Tortoise, but why bother when everyone knows it would be a walk-over and a run-over. Or maybe not.

For some strange reason the Gingerbread Man thinks the Tortoise could beat the Hare and for some very strange reason so does the Tortoise! Perhaps it has something to do with the very very strange piper dressed in pied clothing with a German accent who's just arrived to escape the rat-race...

This adventurous and interactive adaptation of Aesop's beloved fable teaches about learning, diversity, kindness and how to be a real winner.



*Playhouse Performance Review.  
The Tortoise and the Hare*

*The Tortoise and the Hare is a fun play for all ages. It has jokes that are humorous for everyone and easily recognisable characters from well known stories. There are good quality costumes that took a lot of time to make and they suit the fairy tale creatures in this performance very well. The actors are full of personality and are very talented because each character sound and look very different from one another. This show was very good although it must be difficult having only 3 actors and many roles. Everything is extremely simple yet complex at the same time. It has been rated 8 out of 10 by year 7 and 8's.*

*By Year 7s Ella Craig, Ella Brown and Chelsea Nicholls.*

## ACTIVITY FEES

Activity Fees are now due. Please remember if these are not paid your child will not be able to attend their class trip.

## EXTRA SPELLING QUIZ

We sent four teams to represent us at the annual Extra Spelling Quiz at Timaru Boys High School. In the Year 5 & 6 teams we had Josh Aguirre, Miglia Schicker, Mikayla Willets, McKenzie Don, Jake Rogers and Bella Hopkinson. For the Year 7 & 8 teams we had Oli Kirke, Madi Wills, Jackson, Cassidy Anderson, Holly Thin and Orla Motley. Well done to these students for their efforts at the quiz, their spelling skills were superb.

## SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The Home and School are holding a sausage sizzle on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. We require preorders for this and have extended closing time to tomorrow, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 12pm. Please fill in the return slip enclosed with this newsletter and bring to the office in an envelope with money included, by tomorrow. **Please note there will not be any Subway orders this Friday.**



## 2019 Great Kiwi English, Mathematics and Science Competitions



The Great Kiwi Science, English and Mathematics Competitions are once again being offered to students from Years 5 – 8, by the University of Canterbury and have the advantages of being a New Zealand competition linked to our curriculum.

If you are interested in entering your child in this competition, please see the handout that is included in the newsletter and **return the slip with payment by next Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.**

Please note also that these tests have a reasonably high level of difficulty, so generally students who are achieving particularly well are entered. Any questions please contact Mrs White in Room 15.

## PASIFIKA ART WEEK

This is to be held in Week 9 Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June.



We are having a celebration day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June to showcase to our school community what we have been doing.

Visiting artists will be working at school that day so please invite family and friends to join us.

Throughout the week we will be offering lunchtime activities to the students.

If anyone in our school community, or a contact that you may have, has expertise in 'Pasifika' arts, dance or song, we would love to hear from you.

Further times and information to be advised.

Raewyn Guise

The Arts Committee

# Assembly Awards

## Principals Award – Term 2 – Week 2

Taveon Kleinow, Aria Lister, Charlie Pelvin, Dyllin Morris

## Term 2 - Week 1

Araliyah Karena-Jamison, Axel Price, Brodie Penty, Jasmyn Cleland, Poppy Pratt, Jett Whyte, Ethan Nesbitt, Cooper Borcovsky, Zachary Penty, Blake Coombes, Ryan Donehue, John Liu

## Term 2 - Week 2

Azariah Vakalala, Ava Lambert, Ambrose Bryan, Aleka Beckett-Gillett, Jacob Bramley, Savannah Annear-Mason, Liam Pratt, Chloe Holden, Telila Fagalima, Tawhai Reihana, Harriet Baxter, Kyle Hauptfleisch, Hunter Morris, Kawend Kuang, Mercedes Karauria

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## CROSS COUNTRY

### Friday 31st May (pp Thursday 6th June)

The Grantlea Downs Cross Country will be held this year on Friday 31st May. All students from Years 1 to Year 8 will be running. The Cross Country will begin at 1:00pm and we expect to be finished by approximately 2.45pm.

#### Race Events:

- Year 8
- Year 7
- Year 6
- Year 5
- Year 3 and 4 Boys
- Year 3 and 4 Girls
- Year 2 Boys
- Year 2 Girls
- Year 1 Boys
- Year 1 Girls

**Please note change  
of order from  
previous newsletter**



***This is the confirmed order of all races***

#### *Please ensure your child brings the following:*

- Suitable running shoes
- School shorts and t-shirt to run in (children can run in their house colour t-shirts and will need their school sweatshirt/polar fleece for after the race)
- Water bottle

**Students are training daily at school for their race, and we encourage parents to support their children in practising at home for the event as well.**

We welcome and encourage parents, caregivers and family members to attend and support the students.

The South Canterbury event will be held on Tuesday 11th June. We will be sending the top 3 boys and girls for each year level from Years 5-8.

## Return Slip

### **\$2 Sausage Sizzle - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Please pre-order by 12pm Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, by completing the slip below and return to the school office.

**PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THE ORDER.**

#### **Sausage Sizzle**

**Childs name .....** **Room no. ....**

**Number of sausages .....** **Payment of \$..... Enclosed.**





## Grantlea Downs School Board of Trustees' election

Nominations are invited for the election of three parent representatives to the Board of Trustees.

A nomination form and a notice calling for nominations have been posted to all eligible voters.

You can nominate another person to stand as a candidate, or you can nominate yourself. Both parts of the form must be signed.

Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office.

Nominations close at noon on Friday 24 May and may be accompanied by a signed candidate statement and photograph.

The voting roll is open for inspection from next week at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

There will also be a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.

Voting closes at noon on Friday 7 June.

S Willocks

Returning Officer

### Election Timeline

Nomination forms sent by post	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Nominations Close	Friday, 24th May 2019
Voting Papers Sent by	Wednesday, 29th May 2019
Election Day	Friday 7 June 2019
Count Votes	Thursday, 13th June 2019
Board Takes Office	Friday, 14th June 2019



### What is a school board of trustees?

Almost all state and state integrated schools in New Zealand have a board of trustees. School board membership includes parent representatives, a staff representative, a student representative (where there are students above year 9) and the principal. Your board may also include other types of trustees. Contact your school for more information on the composition of your school's board.

### Who can become a trustee?

Parents, caregivers and people from the wider community can put their name forward to be on a school board during the board of trustee elections.

### What do trustees do?

The board is accountable to its parents and community and for student progress and achievement. Here are some specific things a board does:

- Sets the strategic direction and plans for the school and monitors the school's progress against them.
- Monitors and evaluates student progress.
- Oversees the management of staff, property, finances, curriculum and administration.
- Ensures that the educational needs and aspirations of Maori learners, Pasifika learners and learners with special learning and behaviour needs are identified, planned for and met.
- Fulfills the intent of the Treaty of Waitangi by valuing and reflecting New Zealand's dual cultural heritage.
- Appoints and supports the principal and assesses their performance.

### What skills do trustees need?

Trustees are active leaders in their schools and need to work well in a team, ask challenging questions and have good communications skills. Boards need a balance of skills and experiences around the table to ensure effective processes for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing of the school's performance are in place.

### What help do school trustees get?

New Zealand School Trustees Association provides free advice around employment and governance, support and resources. NZSTA also provides a variety of professional development opportunities for trustees.