



Newsletter

31 January 2024 Newsletter No 1

Tena koutou katoa

Welcome back to 2024. Today is the start of the new school year, and we are looking forward to another busy term. A special welcome to any families that are new to Grantlea Downs, we hope that you enjoy your time at our school.

It is natural for children to feel a range of emotions as the new school year begins. These emotions will range from some children feeling excited seeing their friends again, while others will be feeling a little nervous and anxious about getting back into school routines. The first few weeks of school are about setting them up for success and the class teachers will spend time going over the school rules and values, classroom routines and expectations. Establishing good classroom routines early in the year will help children to feel comfortable and safe and will allow them to achieve academic success. You can help at home by ensuring your child is prepared for the school day by having the correct uniform and stationery, making sure they have adjusted to earlier bedtimes and making sure they get to school early enough so they can get prepared for the school day.

The first school event of the year is the school picnic which is being held on Wednesday 7th February from 5pm – 7pm. This is a good opportunity to mix and mingle with school staff and other parents in an informal setting. More information is included in this newsletter.

In staffing news, we welcome back Mrs Melissa O'Connor who will be teaching in Room 15 for Term 1 and two new teacher aides, Ms Sandi Sherborne and Mrs Melissa Fialele who have joined our team this year.

Regards
Richard

**Reminder: Waitangi Day - Tuesday
6th February, School CLOSED.**

**School is open for normal
instruction on Monday 5 February**

**(Apologies for error in final
newsletter of 2023)**

NEW STUDENTS

We welcome the following students to Grantlea Downs today: Jivahn Lambie, Lennox Thomson, Mahana McMillan-Lindberg, Sophie Robinson, Sophia Kirk, Isabelle Palmer, Lucas Gillan, Finley Hunter, Murphie Morris, Skylar Morris, Chloe Ferguson, Deacon Adams, Casper Kovacs, Aliviya Pairama-Wishnowsky, Aura Benton, Zahalia Townsend, Jaber Rahman, Bhavya Gopakumar, Teo Reha-Moki, Lavida Dyer.

SCHOOL PICNIC

Our annual school picnic will be held on Wednesday 7 February 2024 from 5.00-7.00pm and everybody is welcome. This year we are trialling supplying sausages, bread and coleslaw to families for tea. Please note: We are unable to cater for special dietary requirements on this occasion, please feel free to bring your own food should you wish to attend. It is an opportunity to mix and mingle with the staff and parents and play some games. Please fill in the Google form below so we have an idea of numbers for catering purposes.



<https://forms.gle/yiwFyrVFC6sxvjes6>

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS CLOSE

FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2024

Orders can be made via the Scholastic LOOP App or bring your order form with cash payment to the school office.

HERO DROP IN CENTRE

Having problems setting up or navigating the Hero App? Mrs Hide will be holding a drop-in session in Room 12 from 4.30pm -5pm on Wednesday 7 February (half an hour before the School Picnic), to help with any issues you may have with using the app.

THANKS

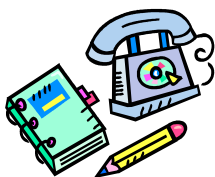
Many thanks to Derek Vogel and Lance Cassidy for preparing the grounds over the holidays. Thanks also to Sonyia Ramsay and Cathy Moffat for having the rooms cleaned, ready for our return to school.

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.



TERM DATES 2024

Term 1 Wed 31 January – Fri 12 April

Term 2 Mon 29 April – Fri 5 July

Term 3 Mon 22 July – Fri 27 September

Term 4 Mon 14 October – Tues 17 December

2024 CLASSES

Opihi Syndicate		Teachers
Room 1	Yr 0 &1	Mrs Sandra Annett (Syndicate Leader)/Ms Raewyn Guise
Room 2	Yr 0 &1	Mrs Rachel Gilchrist
Room 3	Yr 1/2	Miss Georgina Stocks
Room 4	Yr 1/2	Mr Hamish Campbell
Room 6	Yr 1/2	Miss Alice Austin/Mrs Ange Higgins
Waipopo Syndicate		
Room 7	Yr 3/4	Miss Stacey Herd
Room 8	Yr 3/4	Mrs Linda Gordon (Syndicate Leader)/Mrs Tina Gibson
Room 9	Yr 3/4	Ms Sharon Allen
Acacia Syndicate		
Room 10	Yr 4/5/6	Miss Kate Wilson
Room 11	Yr 5/6	Mr Vaughan Skea/Mrs Kerie Elder
Room 12	Yr 4/5/6	Mrs Ange Hide (Syndicate Leader)/ Mrs Rebecca Fennessy
Kereta Syndicate		
Room 13	Yr 7/8	Miss Megan Shaw
Room 14	Yr 7/8	Mr Sam Carlaw (Syndicate Leader)/Mrs Alyce McKerchar
Room 15	Yr 7/8	Mrs Melissa O'Connor

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

The first meeting of the School Board will be Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Administration Office Board Room.

All parents are welcome to attend.

School Docs

All of our School Policies are located on the SchoolDocs website. Below are instructions on how you can view these.

1. Go to www.schooldocs.co.nz and click on *Search for your school* in the top right hand corner
2. Type in Grantlea Downs, and click on the prompted school name
3. Username is grantleadowns
4. Password is grantsroad

There is a **Quick Links for Parents** topic with links to the most relevant policies and procedures.

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PRACTICAL MATTERS

Ten ways you can help your child and the school

1. Ensure that your child arrives at school from 8.30 am and well before 8.55 am. Children who arrive late interrupt the class and do not have time to adjust to the start of the school day.
2. If your child is going to be absent ring or text the school or send a message via the Hero App, by 8.55 am. If the child has not arrived the school will telephone parents/caregivers but we prefer that the office staff spend as little time as possible undertaking this task. This is a measure to ensure children are safe.
3. Make sure that children have adequate and healthy snacks. We do our best to ensure that the children eat enough at lunchtime.
4. Monitor your child's television viewing, 'screentime' such as computers, ipads, digital devices and have them in bed at a reasonable hour.
5. Look after the reading books that are sent home. Please return them daily. Encourage your child to read every night.
6. When sending money to school, please put it in an envelope with the child's name on it, the amount, and its purpose.
7. Keep children who are sick, at home. This limits the spread of infection and is best for the child's recovery.
8. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have a change of address, or if a contact number has changed.
9. Name children's clothing and check for anything that is mislaid. The Lost Property box in the office foyer can be accessed during school hours.
10. Maintain communication with the school staff. We are here to do our best for your children.

Welcome to all new & existing parents and caregivers for 2024

This year the Home & School would love to get some new members on board, so if you are keen to come along and find out more, keep an eye out on Hero, in the Newsletter or the schools Facebook page for notification of upcoming meetings.

About the Home & School

We work with the school to maintain and build close links with the community. Our aim is to plan and implement fundraising projects to support the school and its students.

Who can join the H & S?

Anyone! Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Caregivers – you are all welcome :-)

Things you should know...

- ❖ We need more committee members
- ❖ We don't expect you to come to every meeting
- ❖ We don't expect you to help at every event
- ❖ We value all input and fresh ideas
- ❖ We are a fun laid-back bunch



For more information please feel free to call the office on 684 7706

We need your support to succeed

COMMUNITY NOTICES

EMARIE TUTORING
Private tuition in Mathematics, Reading, Writing and Spelling (Year 1-10)

Get in touch to book an assessment or time slot today!

Social media and contact details:
0212600601
emarietutoring@gmail.com

Pandora's Op shop at 124 Luxmoore Road is having a clothing sale on February 10th. 9am - 12 noon.

Sale of clothing in the hall – nothing over \$1.

Pandora's shop will be open.

PREMIUM AFTER SCHOOL CARE

AFTER SCHOOL
2.50pm until 6.00pm
Includes school pick up, healthy afternoon tea, play and homework
\$22.00 per day (must be a permanent booking)
\$25.00 casual rate per day

OPEN DAY
Thursday 8th February 2024, 4-7pm
Head to chipmunks.aimyplus.com
to register your interest

If you are entitled to a WINZ subsidy we do have the forms available in the office
timaru@chipmunks.co.nz | 03 688 8848

Grantlea Downs Calendar - Term 1 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	29	30	31 First Day Term 1 Newsletter	February 1	2 Syndicate newsletters to go home
2	5	6 Waitangi Day	7 School Picnic 5-7pm	8	9 Assembly 2.15pm
3	12	13	14 Newsletter	15	16
4	19 Acacia Swimming	20 Acacia Swimming School Board Meeting 6.30pm	21 Goal Setting Interviews 1-7pm	22 Acacia Swimming Goal Setting Interviews 3:30-5:30	23 Acacia Swimming Assembly 2.15pm
5	26 Acacia Swimming	27 Acacia Swimming	28 Acacia Swimming Newsletter	29 Acacia Swimming Triathlon	March 1 Acacia Swimming
6	4	5	6	7	8 South Canterbury Triathlon Assembly 2.15pm
7	11	12 Top Teams	13 Newsletter	14	15 Rock'n'Hop Walk
8	18	19 School Board Meeting 6.30pm	20	21 Senior Swimming Sports	22 Assembly 2.15pm Storylines National Story tour
9	25	26	27 Newsletter	28 Mufti Day - Charity Bike Ride	29 Good Friday
10	April 1 Easter Monday	2 Easter Tuesday	3	4	5 South Canterbury Swimming Sports Assembly 2.15pm
11	April 8	9	10	11	12 ANZAC Commemoration Last day of Term1