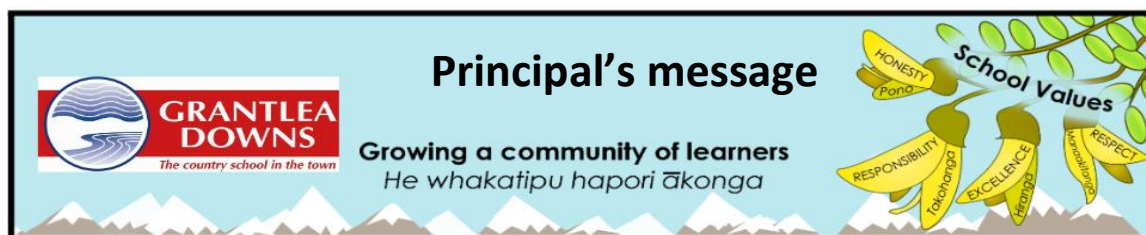




65 Grants Road, Timaru
Phone 684 7706
Absences text 027 684 7706
Email. office@grantleadowns.school.nz
www.grantleadowns.school.nz



3rd December 2025
Newsletter No 20



Tena Koutou Katou

As the year swiftly comes to a close, I've found myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've had at Grantlea Downs. My first year as principal has been filled with numerous highlights and invaluable learning experiences. I am immensely grateful for the unwavering support and involvement from our Grantlea Downs community. Thank you for being an integral part of our success.

Farewell

Firstly, I wish to extend a sincere farewell to some of our staff members who will be moving on at the end of 2025. It is with a mixture of sadness and gratitude that we say goodbye to several valued colleagues who have contributed so much to our community.

Julia Trushin from Room 6 has been a member of our team for just over a year. She will be relocating to Christchurch to be closer to her whānau, and while we will miss her dearly, we wish her all the best in this new chapter.

Joan Constable's dedication in Room 2 has been greatly appreciated. We are grateful for the impact she has made, and we may still see Joan around as she remains available for relief teaching. Her presence will always be welcome.

Kate Wilson will be leaving us to take on a new role at Opihi College. We thank her for her enthusiasm and commitment, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

We also farewell Derek Vogel, who has been a dedicated caretaker at Grantlea Downs for the past 3.5 years. Derek has done a wonderful job maintaining our school grounds and facilities, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

In addition, we would like to acknowledge Linda Esslemont, the South Canterbury Cluster RTLiT, who has been based at Grantlea Downs. We are grateful for her contributions and look forward to seeing her continue her impactful work in the South Canterbury Region.

Lastly, we are very sad to announce that the lovely Andrea Garven, whom we have managed to keep for a few extra months, will be leaving at the end of Term 4. Andrea's warmth and dedication have been a significant asset to our community, and she will be missed.

We thank each of these remarkable individuals for their service and wish them all success and happiness in their future endeavours.



Newsletter

Staffing for 2026

In 2026, Sandra Annett and Linda Gordon will dedicate their time fully to their Deputy Principal (DP) and Assistant Principal (AP) roles. They will lead Literacy and Maths intervention groups, implement the new curriculum changes, and support Learning needs.

We are excited to welcome new faces to our teaching staff for 2026. Joining us will be Cameron Murphy, Lauren Ramsay, Emma Browning, and Christine Nash. We look forward to the fresh perspectives, experience and enthusiasm they will bring to our school. The following will be the school structure for the upcoming year:

Beth Wills (Principal)

Sandra Annett (DP)

Linda Gordon (AP/Learning Support Co-ordinator)

Katharine Wood (SENCO)

Opihi (New Entrant, Year 1 & 2)

- Room 1 - Sharleen Hole (Team Leader)
- Room 2 - Cameron Murphy
- Room 3 - Becky Harvey
- Room 4 - Christine Nash

Waipopo (Year 3 & 4)

- Room 7 - Bethany Marett
- Room 8 - Lauren Ramsay
- Room 9 - Hamish Campbell (Team Leader)

Acacia (Year 5 & 6)

- Room 10 - Emma Browning
- Room 11 - Danielle Tippet
- Room 12 - Angela Hide (Team Leader)

Kereta (Year 7 & 8)

- Room 13 - Vicki Evans
- Room 14 - Sam Carlaw (Team Leader)
- Room 15 - Alice Austin

Principals Award, Term 4, Week 8

Harlee - Rose Dragsund, Blake Gordon
Arshik Rinsh, Jack Johnston

Caught being Good Award, Term 4, Week 7

Phoenix Kovacs, Cooper Hutton, Murphie Morris, Ollie Smith, Alac Buckley Judd, Manvi Maneesh, Mason Masters-Simelhay Hunter-Jay Paisley, Leroy Johnston, Maynard Jamieson, JJ Milne

Class Values Awards, Term 4, Week 8

Alex Stelstrov, Sophia Frew, Connor Hough Lucas Gillan, Ashton Ottley, Theo McCarthy, Finn McAuliffe, Bella Ford, Leo Dunnage Wiremu Thomson, Gordon Crichton-Solomon, Ruby MacGregor, Ola Latu

Class Lists for 2026

Creating class lists is a task we undertake with the utmost care and consideration, and we have been working on these since the end of Term 3.

Our dedicated team of teachers strive to make the best combinations possible, ensuring students are placed with a few close friends while avoiding groupings that may not be conducive to learning. We also aim to match each student with the teacher best suited to their needs and learning style. This week, we are holding "transition sessions." Students will visit their 2026 class — meet their teacher, see who will be in their class, and check out the classroom. It's a fun way to get excited about next year and a nice chance to calm nerves by seeing the new classroom and meeting the teacher ahead of time.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Thank you so much to everyone who came along and supported the Grantlea Downs Bunnings community sausage sizzle last Sunday. A big thanks, too, to our House Leaders — they did a fantastic job hosting the event! We raised about \$350 to go towards our Junior Playground.

Thank you

To the Grantlea Downs community, thank you for your unwavering support and partnership throughout this year. I feel incredibly privileged to lead such a wonderful school and am very much looking forward to our upcoming end-of-year celebrations. I hope to see many of you at these events as we come together to celebrate our students' achievements. 'Growing a community of learners.'

Ngā mihi nui,

Beth Wills (Principal)

**Reminder: School finishes at
12.30pm on Tuesday 16th
December. The bus will leave at
the earlier time of 12.40pm.
Lunch will be provided.**

Junior Playground Raffle

Reminder - We have a raffle at the main office! Tickets are only \$2, and all proceeds will contribute to the junior playground.

Remember: The raffle will be drawn on Friday, December 12th.



South Canterbury Athletics



On Tuesday 25th November - we sent a group of 23 students to compete in the South Canterbury Primary Schools Athletics Competition. These students were: Manu Kotua-Tekoronga, Archie Kotua, TJ Kotua-Tekoronga, Scoutt Tee, Kristy Goundar, Ava Maraku, Keeva Fitzgerald, Sisilia Fakasiieiki, Bailey Armstrong, Axle Ramsey-Turner, Axel Strudwicke, Tawhirimatea Whyte, Ruby MacGregor, Joazc Ioka, James Chambers, Bella Ford, Louis Dennis, Avante Watene, Skyler Felizardo, Te Ariki Corbett, Leo Dunnage, Luke MacGregor, James Wilmott and Tessa Fiftia.

Once again, the students' efforts and behaviour were exceptional, as were the results - which were fantastic.

A special mention to Avante who placed 1st in the Under 9 Girls Baseball throw, Skyler Felizardo who placed 1st in the Under 9 Boys 70m sprint, Keeva Fitzgerald who placed 1st in the Under 11 Girls shotput, Luke MacGregor who placed 3rd Under 9 Boys Long Jump and James Chambers who got 1st in the AWDPD 100m, 50m and shotput. Thank you to all the parents who came and supported our children and helped supervise.

Grantlea Downs Volunteers and Helpers - Thank You

We want to say a huge thank you to all the wonderful parents, families, caregivers and supporters of our school who have helped us throughout the year.

If you have helped coach or manage a team, or were a parent helper on day trips, been on the Home & School, the School Board, helped out with Sports Days, School Events or anyone who has volunteered to make our school the great place that it is, THANK YOU!



Have you returned your library books?



END OF YEAR PRIZEGIVING

Junior Prizegiving (Rm's 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9) will be held in the Grantlea Downs Hall at 2pm on Monday 15th December. Those attending are asked to be seated **no later than 1.50pm**.

The **Senior Prizegiving** (Rm's 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) will be at **6pm Monday 15th December** also in the Grantlea Downs Hall. All students will be expected to be here **no later than 5:40pm** wearing clean, tidy and correct uniform, shorts and polo shirts only for this occasion, no polar fleeces or sweatshirts to be worn. It is important that **all** students attend this special occasion. **Parents and those attending are asked to be seated before 5:50pm.**



St John

Proceeds from our recent **Mufti Day** saw \$334.30 donated to St John. They were very grateful to receive these funds. Thank you to all who contributed.

CONGRATULATIONS HAZEL



Hazel entered a colouring competition earlier in the year with The Carus Group. They were so impressed with her colouring style that she won **1st place** and an amazing prize of sporting equipment for her school. Hazel was able to choose from a huge selection what she thought would best support the Tamariki at Grant Downs.

She has had a fantastic year showcasing her artistic talents — keep it up, Hazel! The equipment pictured above was the winning prize, kindly donated by The Carus Group (their representative is shown above with Hazel).

FINISHING THEIR TIME WITH GRANTLEA DOWNS

Some families will finish their association with the school at the end of the year, with their children completing their Year 8 year. For a few families this association has spanned many years.

We acknowledge those families support and thank them for all they have contributed – we wish all our Year 8 students all the best for their High School years.

TERM DATES 2026

28th January - Office will re-open

Tues 3rd February - Student Induction

(as per your specific allocated times - see Hero late January).

Term 1 Wed 4 Feb – Thu 2 April

Term 2 Mon 20 April – Fri 3 July

Term 3 Mon 20 July – Fri 25 Sept

Term 4 Mon 12 Oct – Wed 16 Dec

TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY – RETURN TO SCHOOL – STUDENT INDUCTION

you and your student will be invited to choose a time that suits - to meet and greet your teacher for 2026. You will be notified through Hero when booking times are available.

2026

FRIDGE MAGNET – 2026 Term Dates - Coming home with your child soon will be a fridge magnet showing next year's term dates and the school's contact details.

2026 TERM 1 KEY DATES:

3rd Feb – As per allocated Induction Times - all students

4th Feb – Return to school

6th Feb – Waitangi Day

11th Feb – School Picnic

24th Feb – Board Meeting

26th Feb – Triathlon

5 Mar – Triathlon PP date

13th March – SC Triathlon

16th March – Teacher Only Day

24th March – Board Meeting

27th March – Top Teams

31st Mar – 1st April – Parent/Teacher interviews

2 April – Last Day of Term.



STATIONERY 2026

Your child's class stationery list for 2026 will be coming home soon. As an option for purchasing your stationery online, we have sent our class lists to the following stationery providers. You can visit any of the following sites as below:

Officemax:

www.myschool.co.nz/grantleadowns

Qizzle:

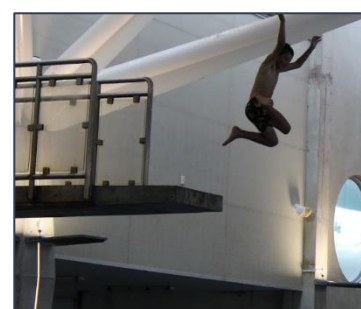
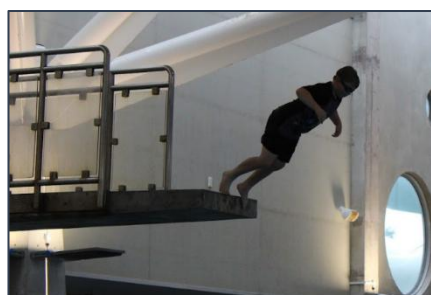
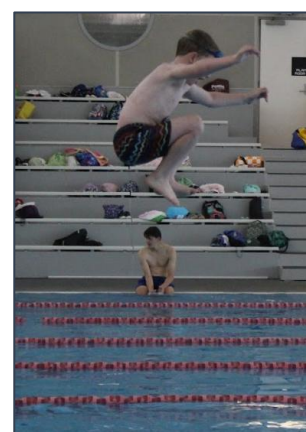
www.schoolpacks.co.nz

Warehouse Stationery: www.warehousestationery.co.nz

We encourage reusing any unfinished books and stationery items left over from this year.



FUN TIMES AT CBAY THIS WEEK BY WAIPOPO TEAM



COMMUNITY NOTICES




Have your bulk fuel purchases support our school!

For every 1,000L of bulk fuel you get we receive \$5



Call Fern on 0800 99 99 89 to start supporting us today!



Our Christmas event is going to be a cracker
11 December from 3pm

4x
Airpoints Dollars

In-store treasure hunt

Loads of festive fun

To find out more, visit mitre10.co.nz/christmasevent | Airpoints™ terms and conditions apply.

TENNIS
 SOUTH CANTERBURY

SC JUNIOR CLOSED CHAMPS

13TH DECEMBER 2025 TRUST AORAKI TENNIS CENTRE

OPEN TO BOYS & GIRLS AGES U8, U10, U12, U14, U17

\$25 ENTRY FEE

ENTER HERE




Mitre 10 Mega Christmas Celebration Invitation:

You are invited to the annual FREE Christmas Event on Thursday 11th December 3pm-6pm. Staff will be dressed in festive outfits, there will be plenty of decorations, facepainting, treasure hunt, craft stations activities for the kids and there will be MEGA deals instore, Santa and his lovely wife might visit us as well.

 **Travelling overseas in the school holidays?**

You must do a **New Zealand Traveller Declaration** when you come back

TravellerDeclaration.govt.nz

Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri
New Zealand Government New Zealand Traveller Declaration Whakapapa Kōwhiri
Tangata Hāoro ki Aotearoa

hitMerry Christmas
 DECEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Come join us at HitPlay - for the December School Holidays, our team can't wait to see you!
 For more information, visit us online www.hitplay.co.nz, call 03 423 2270 or email info@hitplay.co.nz
 HITPLAY Gleniti - 22 Heath Street, Gleniti - Primary School



15 DEC	16 DEC	17 DEC	18 DEC	19 DEC
				
XMAS TREE	CLAUS KITCHEN	ELF WORKSHOP	ELF GAMES	SANTA HUNT
Tree Decorating Decorate the HITPLAY Xmas Tree and create your own wonderful decorations for your own tree or to give as gifts. This is a full craft day! Fun themed Xmas Games	Gingerbread Cookies Reindeer Hot Chocolates Melted Snowman Marshmallows A day full of delicious treats for your child to make and take home to enjoy with family	We are making plushies... There is a Xmas Tree Gingerbread Man Reindeer Stocking A day full of creating and Christmas cheer. We love how cute these activities are and the kids will have these toys for a long time!	Minute to Win It Xmas Games is back... Can you win our Xmas challenges and beat the Elves? Spot prizes and activity prizes are there for the taking! Good luck!	Can you find Santa? Join us on a hunt to find Santa and save Xmas for all boys and girls. This is a full day of activities, puzzles and clues... Good Luck!

FEELING UNWELL? PLEASE STAY HOME! Absence text 0212227770

HIGHFIELD MOUNTAINVIEW SCOUT GROUP

Cookbook for Kids

90 kid-friendly recipes and Scouting tips

\$15

great for Christmas!

The Highfield Mountainview Scouting families have dug through their recipe books to come up with **The Highfield Mountainview Scout Group Cookbook for Kids**.

90 kid-friendly recipes and Scouting tips - Hungry at Home, Slices + Sweet Treats, Cakes + Desserts, Outdoor Cooking and Tramping Snacks. And we're still asking the age-old question ... are toasted marshmallows better golden or charred!