Grant's Braes School

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Newsletter No. 13

16 May 2019



Yesterday, the school children, and a number of our Pre-School Bears children enjoyed 'The Playhouse Theatre's' performance of a modern take on the classic tale of "The Tortoise and the Hare".

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou

What a week of weather! Strong winds, persistent rain and cooler temperatures! Our school uniform has the options of the softshell jacket and polar fleece, but neither of these are waterproof, so on days like this, make sure your children have their_jackets to keep them warm and dry. Please also remember to park safely when dropping your children off or picking them up, especially in this wet weather! Safety has to be paramount for all children so please park further up the street, or on one of the side streets - please do not park over driveways or on the yellow lines.

Last night we held a Whānau Hui for our Māori whanau it was a wonderful opportunity to discuss how we can support our students and further enhance our school programmes and curriculum. I would like to thank the parents who braved the weather to attend. The next Whānau Hui will be held in Term 3 (date to be confirmed).

Industrial Action

Teachers and principals across the country voted overwhelmingly to reject the current offer and have joined the PPTA (secondary Schools Union) to hold a combined strike. <u>The strike day is Wednesday 29 May and as a result our school will be closed on this day.</u>

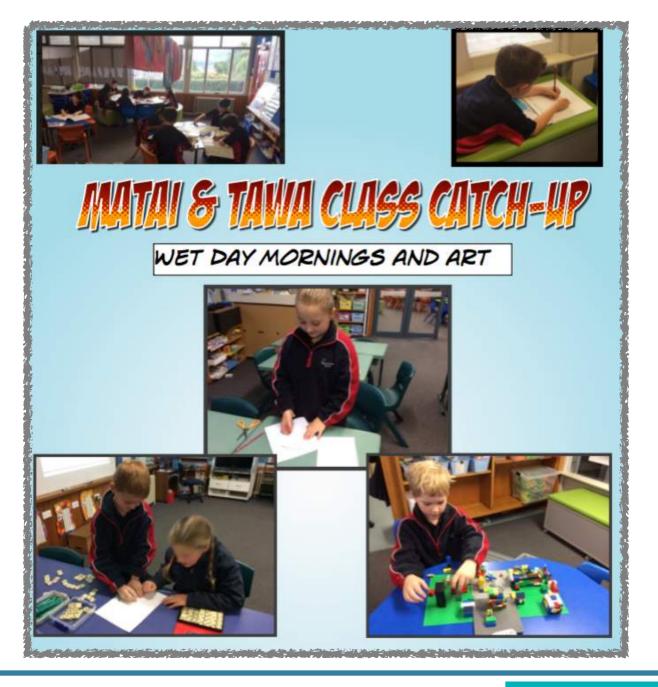
We greatly appreciate the community support that we have already received following the decision by teachers and principals to strike on Wednesday 29 May. The decision to take further strike action was not taken lightly by any of us. For the first time, both primary and secondary teachers are striking together because the crisis in education hits us all very hard and we need the Government to understand how serious it is.

Schools are grappling with the fallout of a 40% nosedive in the number of people training to be teachers between 2010 and 2016, even while the population grew by 400,000. While the situation improved a little last year and the Government has announced an urgent \$95m package to recruit teachers, this is not sufficient to address the crisis. Schools struggle daily to find enough teachers to meet their relief teacher needs and this will worsen as winter approaches. There is also a desperate need for more support for children with additional learning needs.

The fact is that teaching is no longer considered an attractive profession due to long-term under-funding of the education sector. A significant pay jolt is part of the solution, alongside significant improvements to our heavy workloads. Otherwise our schools will end up with larger class sizes and more teachers leaving.

On Wednesday 29 May, we hope you will join us at our local public event, likely to be from midday. We would love to see you and your children standing with us – together we are a community and we can make a difference. We will advise you of further details when they are confirmed. If you would like to know more about our claims and action please follow this link https://campaigns.nzei.org.nz/time/

Hei kona mai I roto I ngā mihi, Goodbye for now and thanks. GARETH TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL



BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

The Board Elections are coming up and letters and nomination forms have been sent out to all parents and caregivers. The information is all self-explanatory; however if you have any queries, Gaylene is the Returning Officer for our School for these Elections so please contact her. Also, there is some very good information on the School Trustee Elections website - www.trustee-election.co.nz; click on the 'Becoming a Trustee' section and it provides a lot of relevant, up to date information.



Dates to note are -

24 May: Nominations close

There are five available positions on the Board and if there are more than five nominations, voting will take place, and voting papers will be sent out.

7 June: Voting closes

13 June: Votes counted and results declared

A copy of the full Electoral Roll is available in the Office Reception area, above 'Milly the Mailbox" and you are welcome to call in to view this if you wish.

As nominations for Candidates come in, the names of these people will be displayed.



Last Friday, the Ng \bar{a} Manu children took part in another awesome session of W \bar{a} Tuhura. The focus was 'Relating to Others' and the following children were the Stars -

Daniel, Maddy, Mia, Ben C, Anahera, Gregor, Sophie, Callan, Grace M, Liam, Cooper, Paige, Jack, Hugo I, Srinath, Marshall, Marnie, Bethany, Lola, Gus, Juliette, Juno, Max B and Hugo M

WINTER SPORTS DRAWS

To quickly and easily access the draws for hockey, netball and miniball each week, go direct to our school website link as below -

https://www.grantsbraes.school.nz/ our-learning/sports-draws-winter

Does your child or pre-schooler love to move, jump, dance and be active?

Dunedin Gymnastics Academy has spaces available for anyone wanting to start Gymnastics!

Play gym: For Boys and Girls under 5, this programme develops coordination, confidence and movement.

Kiwi Gym Fun: For Boys and Girls 5-8 years old. These classes are designed to be fun, challenging and help develop physical skills and confidence that can be transferred to any sport.

Sport Gym: For Boys and Girls 7-16 years olds wanting to further develop their gymnastic skills. Gymnasts learn skills on vault, bar, rings, beam, floor and trampoline.

Parkour: For Boys and Girls 5 years+. Learn Free Running and Parkour style tricks in a safe, supervised environment.

Trampoline: For Boys and Girls 5 years+. Learn to bounce! This class teaches the basics of trampoline and double mini-trampoline, as well as basic trampoline safety

Rhythmic Gymnastics: For Girls 5 years+ who love to combine dance and gymnastics.

Team Gym: For Girls and Boys 8 years+. Team Gym combines parts of tumbling, mini tramp vaulting, acrobatic balances and dance to create exciting and fun gymnastic displays

You can register now on our website: https://dunedingymnastics.co.nz/

Or for more information please contact: $\underline{manager@dunedingymnastics.co.nz}$





SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

ISSUE 3 Brochures went home with children a few weeks back. Orders to be in by <u>9am</u>, <u>Friday 24 May</u>.

School Docs Access

Visit the website -

http://grantsbraes.schooldocs.co.nz/ 1893.htm

Enter the username (grantsbraes) and password (gbparents).

Follow the link to the relevant Policy.

PLAYER OF THE DAY

Netball - Diamonds - Grace M (Pukeko)

DESPERATELY NEEDED - LARNACH RD ROAD PATROL SUPERVISOR FOR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

This is a vitally important safety role supervising our Year 6 road patrol children with the Larnach Rd crossing. Please contact Gaylene in the office if you can help, time commitment 2.55pm - 3.15pm.

TE NGAHERE would still appreciate any donations of the following items for their Pataitai time. If you can help, please send them along to Mrs McAuley in Room Kowhai.

- * Off cuts of wood
- * Screwdrivers/hammers
- * Barbies & dolls
- * Matchbox cars
- * Marbles
- * Materials/buttons
- * Outdoor kitchen equipment
- * Old electronic devices for the children to deconstruct (don't need to work)

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK 2019/2020 PRE-SALES ARE OPEN!!



Please support the school and click on the link below to order your new Entertainment Book for 2019 (now) / 2020 (1 June). Includes 50 new offers including Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways offers.

Purchase either a digital version for your phone or a hard copy book – details on the link.

Browsing options are available also by copying and

TAKEN from Room Ruru on Friday 13 May one Vtech Star Wars Smart Watch. This holds a lot of sentimental value to the owner, and also has lots of photos stored on it. Please return this watch to the Office if found.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 17 May - Pukeko/Ruru Assembly Monday 20 May - BOT Meeting

Thurs 23 May - Chess Power Tournament Wed 29 May - Teachers Strike, NO SCHOOL Fri 31 May - **Pink** Anti-Bullying Mufti Day and Sausage Sizzle

Mon 3 June - Queens Birthday Mon 17 - Thurs 20 June - Scholastic Book Fair Thurs 20 June - Book Character Dress Up Day and Sausage Sizzle

Sat 22 June - Otago Primary School Chess Championships

Fri 28 June - School Reports home Fri 5 July - Last day of Term 2



Did you know that there are children in New Zealand who have never worn a new pair of pyjamas in their lives.

Foster Hope are again running their annual new pyjama drive leading up to winter. One of the reasons that Foster Hope specifically ask for new summer or winter pyjamas (aged 0-18 years) is that many of these children have never had a brand new pair of their very own and knowing that someone has shopped especially for them is a huge boost to their self-esteem. We want this to be a positive experience as some foster children tend do feel like a bit like second hand kids themselves. Anything we can do to help them feel loved and valued is a huge part of what we do. Postie and The Warehouse currently have pyjamas at really good prices so please consider buying one pair, two pair or maybe even three pair and pop into the box in the foyer to support this great cause.





LOST - two MGP Scooters over recent weeks. One blue, and the other green with green grips. If found, please contact the school office.