



TALENT QUEST FINALS



PRINCIPALS' MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou

With now only 15 days until Christmas, and the school year drawing to a close and it is a time to reflect on what an interesting year we have had! I would like to take the time to thank my awesome staff who all work tirelessly to ensure every student receives an incredible education, despite all the challenges this year has given us. Every role within the school is important and with the sum of all of these parts, we have a dedicated team whom I am in awe of. Our Board of Trustees have had another big year and I would like to thank their dedication to the school and their wise decision making and careful allocation of resources. This year the PTA have paired back their fundraising efforts to ensure that no undue stress was put on whānau, however, they have kept things ticking along and I would like to thank them for their continued support of the school. I would like to once again send my gratitude to everybody who has supported our school and students, no matter how large or small, and I look forward to working with you all in 2021.

Last Friday, the school was treated to our annual Talent Quest. This was a fantastic showcase of the talented children we have at our school. I would like to thank Lewis Howell for his co-ordination and organisation of this, and to the PTA for providing the funds to buy prizes.

Thanks to Leon and his apprentice Matt for a superb job of replacing the plywood surface on the skateboard ramp. This was a bigger job than first envisaged, and we are very appreciative to Leon and Matt that this is now up and running again.

Tomorrow, you will be receiving your child's end of year report. If there is anything you wish to discuss within this, please contact your child's teacher. Children will also be bringing home a letter stating which class your child has been placed in for 2021. Please be aware that a lot of consideration has been put into these class decisions to ensure that every child's needs, both social and educational are met. Due to the numbers within the year groups, we are required to have a mixture of straight year level and composite classes throughout the school.

Kōhanga - Kākāpō - Yr 0-1 - Susan Tait, Kea - Yr 0-1 - Jen Stevenson,

Te Ngahere - Rātā - Yr 1-2 - Desiree Wispinski & Natalie Snook, Kōwhai - Yr 1-2 - Shannon Te Huna, Mataī - Year 3 - Hannah van Plateringen, Tawa - Yr 3/4 - Kay Masters

Kā Manu - Pūkeko -Yr 4 - Sara Carr & Rebecca McKeever, Ruru - Yr 5 - Hugh Fry, Pīwakawaka - Yr 5-6 - Rebecca Barrow, Toroa - Yr 6 - Lewis Howell.

Security around the school during the summer break is of high importance. If you see anything untoward, please do not hesitate contacting the most appropriate people; myself via email or call the Police.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and safe and enjoyable holidays.

Hei kona mai i roto i kā mihi, Goodbye for now and thanks.

GARETH TAYLOR

Newsletter – December 2020

Board update

Kia ora koutou katoa. With the Christmas holidays rapidly approaching we would like to provide one last board update for the year!



Whānau Evening

On a stunning Dunedin evening in November, it was fantastic to see so many families join this inaugural event. We thank all of the staff involved in organising this, particularly Lewis Howell and Gareth, our whānau for your support, those who provided the kai, and of course, our children for their engaging performances. This will be an event to look forward to in years to come!

Community Consultation



Thank you to everyone who took part in our Community Consultation evening in October or completed a SurveyMonkey questionnaire – we are grateful for the input and support we have received throughout this process. We have collated and distilled the feedback received from parents and whānau and some of this information will feed into our 4-year strategic plan.

While we continue to analyse the data, some of the key summary points are:

1. **What Grant's Braes is doing well:** School culture and community feel (providing a safe inclusive environment); Communication between school and home, including during COVID; Teaching and learning (including the range of opportunities and extra-curricular activities); Our teachers are highly valued and address individual children's needs; Play-based learning; Interaction between senior and junior children, which encompasses the buddy system; Extra support that is provided to children with additional needs
2. **What can be done better:** Communication relating to specific aspects of school life; Teaching and learning including information about children's progress, and opportunities for learning different languages or other skills; Consider approach to reports and parent-teacher interviews; Sports and activities; Extra-curricular activities
3. **Embedding vision and values:** Work will continue to improve the communication around our school vision and values and to embed them within our localised curriculum, linking to the wider community

We welcome feedback on these aspects of our School at any time. Also, if you have any concerns we also encourage you to please discuss these with Gareth so that he is able to follow-up.

Thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all **parents and whānau** who have supported our children within the school environs over this year – from helping with spelling, school camps, sports coaching, swimming, and community trips through to supporting kapa haka. Thank you, as your help is invaluable in providing exciting opportunities for our children's ongoing learning.



Finally, a big thank you to **Gareth and all of the Grant's Braes staff** for your work during 2020 – it's been a different year to any other, and your dedication to our school and children is truly appreciated.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a fun and safe holiday....

Steph Woodley, on behalf of the Grant's Braes Board of Trustees: Paul Stevenson, Amie Curtis, Trudie Evans, Nic Wall, Rachel Brown, Desiree Wispinski, Gareth Taylor

SWIMMING!



Christmas Crafts underway!



'BLUE MUFTI DAY'

This Friday, 11 December

The Whānau leaders have chosen this Mufti Day fundraising to be in support of the 'Do Blue' campaign, for Diabetes NZ.

Please send along a gold coin to your child's class teacher on Friday.

We have children and staff in our school who are diabetic, so this is definitely a 'close to home' cause to support.



diabetes
new zealand

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS AND YEAR 6 FAREWELL ASSEMBLY

Next Wednesday 16 December

A letter is coming home today with all the children, with a 'return slip' included. This needs to be returned to your child's teacher by Monday 14 December.

The Year 6 Farewell Assembly commences at 10.30am at Bayfield High School Hall and is expected to finish at around 12noon. Please arrange for your child to be collected from there, or contact Magic Kids Club (info in the letter) for earlier after school care.

PLAYERS OF THE DAY

Rippa

Red - Theo (Pukeko)

- Thomas (Tawa)

- Blue - Max (Pukeko)

Enrichment Group Sharing Assembly Tuesday 15th December at 1:30pm. All welcome.

Groups sharing are -

Ukulele group

Sign language group

Gregor and Grace sharing about their experience at the Marine Centre

Porotiti group

Photography group

Certificates for problem solving group

LAUNCHPAD CHRISTMAS SHOW



DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 11 Dec - Reports home

- Muffi Day and Sausage Sizzle

Mon 14 Dec - Last day Kohanga & Te Ngahere

Swimming

Wed 16 December - last day of school year

Tuesday 2 February- First day of school year

**WE HAVE SOME EXTRA JARS
OF TRUFFLE MIX AVAILABLE
- PLEASE CONTACT THE
OFFICE TO BUY!!!
GREAT PRESENT IDEA!!!**



CONGRATULATIONS LUCY



For your recent Grade 1 Ballet Merit Award and your Promising Technique and Stage Performance Awards.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Please ensure that all Library Books are sent back to school in the next week, so that they can all be returned into the system.

LOST PROPERTY BOX

This blue box found either outside the school hall, or just inside the hall door, is overflowing with many unclaimed items of school clothing. Please come and check this out ASAP for any items that may belong to your children as anything unclaimed after the last day of the term will be washed and sold through our 2nd Hand Uniform Shop.

SCHOOL POLICY INFORMATION

School Docs Access

Visit the website -

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

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

School Leavers – notice re ezlunch / Kindo school shop

If your family is leaving our school and moving to another school that does not use ezlunch or Kindo for school payments, you need to close your account. If you're not sure about the new school, log in, go to My Details and click on the list of schools, scrolling to find your new school.

If your new school is NOT on the list, use the 'close account' button on that screen. You can choose to donate your balance to school or have it paid out to your nominated bank account.

NEED A BABYSITTER?

My name is
ABBY SIMPSON

I LIVE IN WAVERLEY

Contact me on: 0211137742



I'M 14 YEARS OLD
AND I'M LEVI'S SISTER
(YEAR 6 AT GRANTS BRAES)

A time for
giving & getting
together

Buy an Entertainment
Membership to help us raise
MORE this festive season.

FUNDRAISING WITH
entertainment

T&Cs apply. Ends 11:59pm 31/12/21 AEST.