

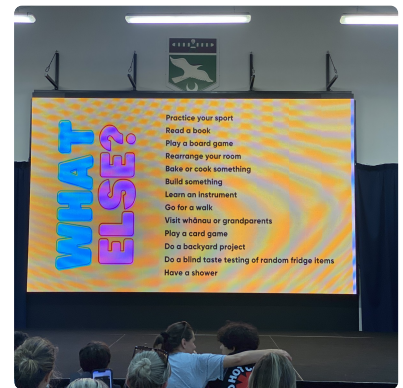
# GIS Newsletter

Thursday 7 March 2024

## Principal's message

Kia ora whānau,

What a great turnout of parents to the "Behind the Screens" parent workshop last night! Thanks so much for coming! So much interesting information was presented to help parents understand how they can support their child as they navigate the online world - particularly around social media and gaming. They talked about the excessive amount of "screentime" young adolescents are experiencing and how this often affects their ability to sleep. I don't think I was the only adult in the room surprised to hear that over 70% of teenagers sleep with their phone within reach by their bed. The suggestion is that all parents set "stopping cues" in the home - times when there are no screens allowed - such as before school, at mealtimes and when in the car. Parents were encouraged to be influencers and model the behaviours they want their child to mimic. Another tip was to have the same apps on your phone that your kids have - and use them so you can teach them how you want them to use them! Because if you don't, someone else surely will! They suggest limiting online game time by "rounds", rather than time and to make sure they have other leisure activities at home they can do if they are not gaming (see photo for ideas). It was a great evening - and we thank you again for coming!



We have a fair bit happening at the school in the next two weeks. Today we had our Alfriston Kāhui Ako hui for Within School Teachers - and one of them made the comment to me that "your kids are always involved in something outside the classroom". True that! Next week we have a number of students visiting the Science Roadshow (which we are hosting), our cricket team is representing the school at the Counties Cricket tournament on Tuesday and we have a group of Principals from Christchurch schools visiting us on Wednesday.

Tomorrow (Friday) we farewell Abi Rere from our support staff team. Abi leaves us to go on her mission to Tahiti. We are so proud of her! Abi has been an outstanding teacher aide - her work as a tutor of the Pasifika group has been particularly awesome and she will be dearly missed by staff and students alike. We wish her well with her mission.



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Next week Mr Walker-Tate will be taking two weeks leave to welcome a new wee addition to his family; such an exciting time and we are so happy for him! We have also welcomed Maylene Tanielu as the new teacher in Room 12 this week - and we feel so fortunate to have her join our staff.

This newsletter includes information about:

- Paid Union Meeting for Teachers
- The importance of having the Hero app!
- Athletics
- Leadership Camp
- Road and Driveway safety before and after school
- Softball
- Easter break timings

Ngā mihi

Cathy Chalmers

[cchalmers@greenmeadows.school.nz](mailto:cchalmers@greenmeadows.school.nz)

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### **Paid Union Meetings for Teachers - Thursday 21st March, 1.30p.m.**

The NZEI Teachers Union is holding a Paid Union Meeting for all Manurewa union members to be held on Thursday 21st March at 1.30p.m. **All students are to attend school as usual.** While we will have some teachers who wish to attend we will be able to maintain normal school operations, although it is likely we may have an alternative programme running for some classes.

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### **Have you got the Hero app on your phone?**

Just a reminder to parents to make sure that you have the Hero app downloaded onto your phone. This is one of our main methods of communication with parents. It is also where you can access realtime information about your child's current attendance rate, their learning and access community notices. It is important to note that you need to use the same email address to login as the one we have at school on file.



More information about how to download the app can be found by [following this link](#) to our school website.

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### **Mathletics for Homework**

We are in the process of finalising subscriptions for all students whose parents have indicated they wish for their child to have Mathletics so they can access this for their homework three times per week. We should receive each child's login next week



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It is not too late to sign your child up for Mathletics - please email your class teacher for a "sign up" form if keen.

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## Leadership Camp - Sonshine Ranch

Every year we take our school leaders and class ambassadors on a three day camp to Sonshine Ranch. This year it will take place from 19 - 21st March. Whaea Luanda, Whaea Jes, Whaea Justine, Mr Lukupa and I will all be at camp those three days - Mrs Nelson and Mr Gopal will be ensuring school ticks along smoothly while we are away.

A reminder to our leaders parents that we have an online parent hui taking place on Monday 11 March at 6.30p.m. via google meet where we will go through all of the organisation for camp. I have already emailed the link, but will resend it on Monday just in case.

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## Road and Driveway Safety

Lately we have had a number of parents coming up the drive to drop off or pick up students from the staff carpark and we respectfully ask parents not to do this as it is creating a real health and safety issue. The congestion at the school gate (particularly on Greenmeadows Ave) is quite bad at 3.00p.m.

especially as we have 440 students all leaving at the same time. We are really conscious of putting our kids safety first. This means we often have to ask parents not to park on the school bus stops, not to drive up the drive and sometimes to exercise a little patience. By 3.10, the congestion is usually all sorted! Please help us to keep your children safe 😊 Thanks!

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## Softball

Congratulations to our girls softball team who competed in the Counties Zone Tournament on Tuesday and came third overall. For many of the team it was their first time playing the game! We were very grateful to Matua Fraser for umpiring, and repairing our gloves! Well done girls!

## Easter Break

A reminder to parents that the Easter Break is coming up soon.

**School finishes at the normal time of 3.00p.m. on Thursday 28**

**March.** As you know, schools are expected to have a strong focus

on regular attendance and **we are obliged to remind parents that pulling your child out of school early that day just so you can get a head start on the Easter weekend is not a justified reason for absence.** We do hope that all students will finish at the usual time of 3.00;.m.



A reminder that all NZ schools are also closed on Tuesday 2 April - school resumes at 9.00a.m. on Wednesday 3 April.



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