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5 February 2025 Newsletter No 1



Tena koutou katou

I am thrilled to write my first newsletter article as the principal of Grantlea Downs. As we embark on this new school year together, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for the warm welcome I have received. It is truly a privilege to join such a vibrant and supportive community of learners.

I am delighted to introduce four wonderful teachers who have also joined our staff this year: Mrs Bethany Marett (Room 7), Mrs Vicki Evans (Room 13) and Miss Danielle Tippett (Room 11) and Ms Sharleen Hole (Room 9) who is being welcomed back into a classroom teacher role at Grantlea Downs. To all our returning families, welcome back! To our new families, we are excited to have you join us and we look forward to a year of shared learning and growth.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mrs Sandra Annett for her leadership during Term 4 and her extensive work over the summer break. Her thorough handover and dedication have been invaluable as I transition into this role. A special thank you to Mr Derek Vogel for ensuring the school grounds are in pristine condition for our community to enjoy, and to Mrs Sonyia Ramsay and Mrs Cathy Moffat for their hard work in making our classrooms and buildings immaculate.

Summer Improvements

You might have noticed the new shed by the kitchen area, which will greatly assist with storage needs. We have new desks in our Kereta (Year 7 & 8) classes and a new sink/bench area in Room 4. The creative pathway is now complete, which includes a swing bridge.



Professional Development and Classroom Readiness

Our staff at Grantlea Downs recently participated in a two-day workshop led by renowned expert Ross Greene, focusing on collaborative and practical solutions in education. This engaging event offered our educators valuable insights into innovative strategies for fostering a more inclusive and supportive learning environment. Ross Greene modelled effective ways to address diverse student needs while promoting positive behaviour and enhancing overall school culture. This professional

development opportunity not only strengthened our team's commitment to student success but also equipped them with the tools to implement meaningful change within our classrooms.

Looking Ahead

We have an array of exciting events lined up for this term, which I look forward to sharing in greater detail in our next newsletter. In the meantime, our primary focus is on establishing effective classroom routines and behaviour expectations, fostering strong relationships, and nurturing a sense of belonging. These efforts are essential in cultivating a happy and safe environment for our students.

I have greatly enjoyed meeting many of you this week and encourage you to stop by and say hello. It has been a wonderful first three days with the students, and I am eager to continue building connections within our community.

Thank you once again for your warm welcome and support. Here's to a fantastic year at Grantlea Downs!

Ngā mihi nui

Beth Wills

NEW STUDENTS

We welcomed the following students to Grantlea Downs this week: Jozac Ioka, Arshik Rinsh, Xavier Peters, Avante Watene, Alac Buckley Judd, Zion Kai, Lockie Edgeler, Salem Bennetts, AJ Hullen, Sakara List, Ahvaejah Anglem- Tuari, Tamatoa Anglem-Tuari and Aiorangi Tanoa.

2025 CLASSES

Opihi Team		Teachers
Room 1	Yr 0/1	Mrs Sandra Annett (Team Leader)/Miss 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 Julia Trushin
Waipopo Team		
Room 7	Yr 3/4	Mrs Bethany Marett
Room 8	Yr 3/4	Mrs Linda Gordon (Team Leader), Mrs Tina Gibson
Room 9	Yr 3/4	Ms Sharleen Hole
Acacia Team		
Room 10	Yr 5/6	Miss Kate Wilson
Room 11	Yr 5/6	Miss Danielle Tippet
Room 12	Yr 5/6	Mrs Ange Hide (Team Leader), Mrs Rebecca Fennessy
Kereta Team		
Room 13	Yr 7/8	Mrs Vickie Evans
Room 14	Yr 7/8	Mr Sam Carlaw (Team Leader), Mrs Alyce McKerchar
Room 15	Yr 7/8	Miss Alice Austin

Reminder: Waitangi Day – Tomorrow Thursday 6th February, School CLOSED.

School is open for normal instruction on Friday 7 February

SCHOOL PICNIC

Our annual school picnic will be held on Wednesday 12 February 2025 from 5.00-6.30pm and everybody is welcome. We will have some sausages in bread but please feel free to bring your own picnic or takeaway tea. Please note: We are unable to cater for special dietary requirements on this occasion. It is an opportunity to mix and mingle with the staff and parents and play some games.



SCHOOL LUNCHES 2025

School lunches will continue to be supplied to your child in 2025, if they have not opted out of the programme. These are free, fresh, nutritious and healthy lunches supplied by our own school kitchen that follow the supplied guidelines. Please make sure that your child brings healthy snacks for the day.



BREAKFAST CLUB AND FRUIT IN SCHOOLS

Please note that Breakfast Club this year, will only run **Monday-Thursday 8.30-8.55 am**. There will be no breakfasts available on Fridays.

We are very fortunate to still be receiving Fruit in Schools in 2025. This means that every child receives a piece of fruit every day, **except** in the first week of each term.


SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS CLOSE
THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

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

GET UP TO 3 FREE BOOKS WHEN YOU ORDER ON ISSUE 1

Every LOOP order earns a **\$5 PROMO CODE** to spend on Issue 2!

Offers are valid once per Issue on LOOP Orders only. See LOOP for Terms & Conditions.



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.



PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER GOAL SETTING INTERVIEWS –

WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 1.00PM – 6.50PM

INCLUSIVE

THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 3.30PM – 5.20PM INCLUSIVE

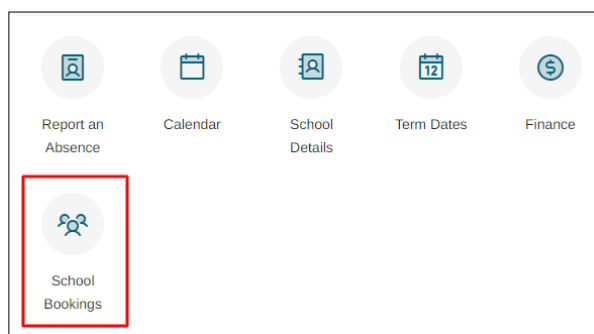
SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 12.30PM ON THIS DAY, IT IS ONLY OPEN DURING THE AFTERNOON FOR INTERVIEWS



Interview slots are now open on the Hero App for booking the interviews. Just a reminder that if you are going to make consecutive bookings that you leave a 10 minute slot between interviews to allow you time to get to the next appointment. It is expected that each family will attend. If a booking is not made, a time will be allocated to you. If you do not have the Hero App you can book at the school office

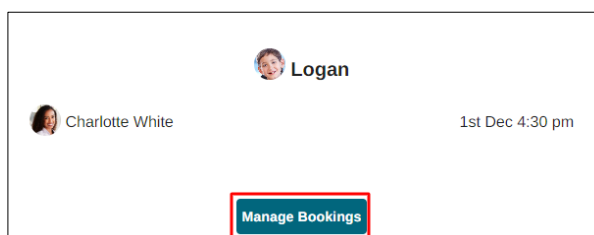
How to book in for an interview time by following the steps below.

STEP 1 Log into your Hero App and click on the School Bookings icon on the Landing Page.



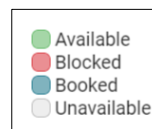
STEP 2 Click on the **Manage Bookings** tab.

This will display a table of all available slots for all of your associated students.



STEP 4 A colour key provides information on the status of each interview slot.

STEP 5 To add a booking, click a GREEN slot. The booking popup will be displayed, and you have the option of entering a note for the relevant staff member. Clicking CONFIRM will secure the interview slot.



the interview slot.

TERM DATES 2025

Term 1	Mon 3 Feb – Fri 11 April
Term 2	Mon 28 April – Fri 27 June
Term 3	Mon 14 July – Fri 19 Sept
Term 4	Mon 6 Oct – Tues 16 Dec

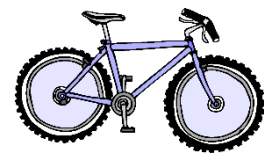


Grantlea Downs Triathlon

YEARS 5-8

Thursday 27th February

9:30 – 12:30 pm



Competitors need to remember their bikes (make sure tyres are pumped up!!!), helmets, togs, towel, running shoes and a drink bottle.

We encourage parents and family members to come along and support their child. Below is a copy of the day's programme so that you can get some idea of when your child will be racing. As with any school event, times are always approximate.

Time	Event	Order
9.30-10.40am	Year 5/6 Individual	Girls
		Boys
11.00-12.30pm	Year 7/8 Individual	Girls
		Boys

YEARS 1-4

Thursday 27th February

1:30 – 3.00pm

All children in Years 1-4 will be participating as individuals in the triathlon.

They will need:

Bike and helmet Yrs 3 -8 (as the year 3 and 4 course is on the grass a bike will make it easier for your child)

Scooter – Year 1 & 2 and helmet

Swimming togs and towel

House coloured top

Drink bottle

Time	Event	Order
1.30-2.15pm	Year 1/2 Individual	Girls
		Boys
2.15-3.00pm	Year 3/4 Individual	Girls
		Boys

Any questions can be directed to Sam Carlaw or Alice Austin

sam@grantleadowns.school.nz and alice@grantleadowns.school.nz

PLEASE DO NOT RING THE OFFICE TO ASK WHEN A SPECIFIC YEAR LEVEL WILL START – RACES WILL BE RUN IN THE ORDERS ABOVE UPON COMPLETION OF PREVIOUS RACE

Please complete and return the slip in our newsletter if you are able to help with either the senior or junior race. This would involve either directing children, counting lengths or helping move bikes.

IMPORTANT - PARENT HELP NEEDED

If you are able to help, please fill in the slip below and have your child return it to Miss Austin in Room 15 or to the office or phone on 684 7706, by Friday 21st February

I am able to assist with 5/6 Triathlon

I am able to assist with 7/8 Triathlon

I am able to assist with Triathlon in the afternoon (Years 1-4)

You are welcome to tick more than one option!

Name: _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

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 2025

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

YAY WE'RE IN THE FINALS!

BCIA WINNER
FINALIST

CPlay
Caroline Bay Playground

VOTE FOR CAROLINE BAY PLAYGROUND

Help Us Win NZ's Choicest Playground

VOTE trademe.co.nz/c/promo/peoples-choicest-voting

Pssst... Vote more than once. Voting ends 14 Feb 2025

ST MARY'S CHURCH

JOIN OUR CHILDREN'S CHOIR AGES 7-12

FREE TO JOIN AND NO AUDITIONS !!

- Learn basic note reading skills and harmonies
- Work towards Royal School of Church music Voice for Life singing medals
- Sing at a 10am Sunday Service once a month

WHERE: ST MARY'S CHURCH, 24 CHURCH STREET, TIMARU

WHEN: FRIDAY NIGHTS

TIME: 5-5.45PM

Contact: Catherine Anderson Director of Music at st.marys.timaruxtra.co.nz for more information or to sign up

Grantlea Downs School Calendar – Term 1 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 3 Feb-7 Feb	February 3 Term 1 Starts Greeting assembly seated by 10.10am	4	5 Newsletter	6 Waitangi Day	7
2 10 Feb-14 Feb	10	11	12 School Picnic 5-6.30pm	13	14 Assembly 2.15pm
3 17 Feb - 21 Feb	17	18	19 10 min Goal Setting Conferences 1-7pm. Newsletter	20 Goal Setting Conferences 3:30- 5:30pm	21
4 24 Feb - 28 Feb	24	25 Board Meeting 6.30 pm	26	27 Triathlon	28 Assembly 2.15pm
5 3 Mar-7 Mar	March 3	4	5 Newsletter	6 SC Triathlon	7
6 10 Mar - 14 Mar	10 Duffy Theatre 11.10am	11	12 Acacia Woodend Camp	13 Acacia Woodend Camp	14 Acacia Woodend Camp Assembly 2.15pm
7 17 Mar - 21 Mar	17 MOE – Kahui Ako Teacher Only Day Day 1 - Maths	18 Duffy Role Model Assy 9.30am	19 Newsletter	20	21 Mufti Day - Charity Bike Ride
Swimming Acacia and Kereta					
8 24 Mar - 28 Mar	24	25 Board Meeting 6.30 pm	26	27 Top Teams	28 Assembly 2.15pm
Swimming Acacia and Kereta					
9 3 Apr - 4 Apr	31 Kids Lit Quiz	April 1	2 PD Newsletter	3	4 Colour Run 2-3pm
10 7 Apr - 11 Apr	7	8	9	10	11 End of Term 1 Anzac Day Comm. 11am Assembly
Events/Notes Term 1	Easter in the school holidays Good Friday 18 April, Easter Monday 21 April ANZAC Day is in the school holidays Friday 25 April				