

# School Newsletter

Responsibility - Tū tika . Resilience - Tū kaha . Kindness - Atawhai . Respect - Manaaki



We hope you have had a happy holiday with your families, made some memories and enjoyed some quality time together.

At the end of 2018 I talked about having a break from devices and set my family the challenge of NO DEVICES FOR 8 DAYS!! Well, we did it. Initially it was like giving up sugar, we were all a little cranky and at a bit of a loss of what to do, but it did not take long for my girls to start to use their imaginations. Instead of the usual of watching netflix in the evening, we played cards; instead of searching Facebook looking at what other people had been doing, we spent time discussing what we had experienced that day.

The children probably argued more because they were playing together and when this happened I just told them to go away and sort it themselves. On reflection, that's a good thing as they have to learn how to solve conflict in the real world and by constantly being on a device, we are not allowing our children to develop this skill. In fact, as a family we discovered some hidden talents that we never thought we had, including making up jokes, dares and silly games and also my ability to beat everyone at Jenga!!

So, our next family challenge is for the children to go device free at home Monday to Thursday (except if using for school work at the kitchen table). My husband and I have agreed that once we are home, we are not going to use our devices for work or pleasure until the children have gone to bed.

Lets see how it goes!!!

## WELCOME TO SOME NEW FACES

The new school year is about to start and there are lots of new faces to welcome into the GHS whanau. Firstly, we have **over** 55 children starting with us in 2019 from Year 1 up to Year 6, including 20 international students from China and Korea. This is really exciting and as our school roll continues to grow, we also welcome five new teachers to welcome to our team:

Lisa Anderson - Year 2 Class Teacher  
Chloe Rice - Year 1 Class Teacher  
Ruth Trevathan - Year 5 Class Teacher  
Joann Beven - Year 3 Class Teacher  
Helen Cammell - Year 3 Class Teacher

We are also lucky enough to have the familiar faces of Robyn Joyce (Year 3 Class Teacher), Lara O'Hara (Year 2 Class Teacher) and Melissa Creagh (Year 4 Class Teacher) teaching at GHS this year.

We also have a new leadership team structure this year with Fiona Southgate and Jacki Harrison as Deputy Principals, Ruth Taylor as Assistant Principal and Tuakana Team Leader, along with Gill Steel, Melissa Stilwell and Rebecca Wong as Whanau Team Leaders. Karen Holleron has been appointed as an Across School Community of Learning Lead Teacher.



*'Be the difference to ourselves, others and the world'*



## SCHOOL DONATIONS

As previously stated in the end of year newsletter, we will not be asking for school donations this year. Information regarding activities fees is included in this letter and has also been sent out separately. Please pay via the school website (School shop) or at the main school office.

**AGAIN - WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PB4L)

We will be continuing to develop PB4L during 2019 through teaching our children our school values. Lessons will be explicitly taught around respect, responsibility, kindness and resilience.

House Teams will continue to be a big focus at GHS with all children belonging to either Motuora, Kawau, Motutapu or Tiri. Our staff also belong to these teams, hence starting the year off with all of the GHS team competing in challenging activities that required them to demonstrate our school values. This resulted in many points being earned for all of the houses.



## WEETBIX TRYATHLON

Last year many of our children enjoyed participating in this awesome family event. We want to encourage even more of our children to register in 2019. Leading up to the event we will support the children by offering additional fun training sessions during lunchtimes at school and some weekends. This is a great day out for the whole family to enjoy as we host a school bbq and fun games down at Manly park. Please ensure when you register through the official Weetbix website you select '**Gulf Harbour School**'.



## SCHOOL SPORTS REGISTRATIONS

Please go to our school webpage and follow the online registration procedure for all Term 1 sports. These will be made available in the next few days.

## COMMUNICATION

We are delighted to be able to formally launch our new communication and reporting system, LINC-ED. Our aim is to implement a robust system that allows teachers, parents and students to access learning and school communication in a one stop online environment that is secure, easy and effective. Initially the system will replace the individual class Yammer communication page and the Porthole emails that were used in 2019. You will now receive school wide and class communication by email from LINC- ED. It is therefore critical that we have your most current email address.

Later this year we also intend to start reporting your child's learning journey to you via LINC-ED. This will allow teachers to share learning anytime, anywhere and can be viewed on any device. We are excited about the potential that the software offers. This way of reporting is designed to build year on year progress so that over time you will have access to comments, assessments, images, video and helpful resources all in one place.

### LETTERS, LETTERS & MORE LETTERS .....

We are sorry to bombard you with so many pieces of paper so early on, but we would like to get things up and running straight away. You will be sent home shortly the following letters and forms that need to be read, filled out, signed and **RETURNED TO THE CLASS TEACHER ASAP**:

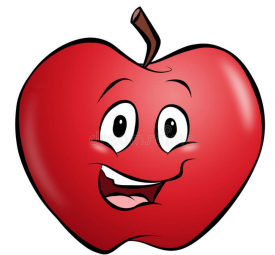
- Cyber safety student/parent agreement
- Blanket 'Education Outside the Classroom' consent letter
- [Student Questionnaire](#) - We were wondering if you could help us to get to know your child better by completing either the paper copy that will be sent home or the attached link for your child's teacher? (One form for each child that you have attending GHS). Knowing what interests and hobbies your child has, helps us to plan learning experiences that are meaningful to your child. Knowing areas you perceive as more difficult for your child, helps us to stretch and encourage your child in new areas or places that they may be tempted to avoid! You are the most important people in your child's life and we need to work together for the benefit of your child. With home and school working together, we know that each student can have the most successful year.

### HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES - pack it in - pack it out

We are encouraging our children to have less packaging in their lunchboxes this year. Any rubbish will be packed back into their boxes and brought home.



We are extending our morning learning time this year from 9.00 - 11.00am. Please ensure your child has at least one piece of fruit or vegetable to eat during their mid morning brain break at 10.00am. This will be a time that teachers will ensure all children take on some water and have fruit/veg only. Brain breaks



During the second term we have the school dental van on site. The main message we always receive from these professionals is about the amount of sugar children consume from different drinks and the damaging effect this has on young teeth. In 2019 we are encouraging all of our children to only drink **plain water throughout the school day**. Please send your child to school with a bottle of water each day - the teachers will allow the children to fill these up throughout the day if needed.

### MOBILE PHONES & WATCHES

#### Mobile phones & watches with mobile phone capability **MUST** be handed into office daily

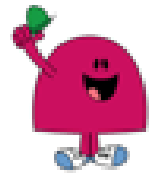
We understand many of our children have mobile phones/watches and parents like to be able to communicate with their children and ensure their safety if they walk to and from school by themselves. However, all children will be asked to hand in their mobile phone/watch at the main school office at the beginning of each day and collected at 3.00pm.



## MEET THE TEACHER EVENING

### We are holding a get together on TUESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

Families are invited to bring a picnic and join us on our school field from 5.00pm. We will have a BBQ and team games for everyone to join in with. From 6.00pm to 7.00pm classrooms will be open and you are welcome to have a look around and meet your child's class teacher. Please note, there will be no presentations, this is just an informal meet and greet - a chance to say 'Hi'.



### LUNCH FOOD ORDERS

This year we have Sushi, Pita Pit and Munchbox available for our children as a lunchtime option:

All week - Munchbox (Pre orders for the week ahead at [www.munchbox.nz](http://www.munchbox.nz))

Tuesday - Sushi (Order online through the GHS website via the school shop)

Wednesday - Pita Pit (Order online through the GHS website via the school shop)

Friday - Sushi (Order online through the GHS website via the school shop)

All lunches are delivered to school, Munchbox includes morning tea.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our children always look so smart wearing their Gulf Harbour School uniforms with pride. Please remember all children should wear their full GHS uniform including the school bucket hat in Term 1 & 4. Hair that is shoulder length or longer, must be tied back.



### PLAIN BLACK FOOTWEAR

All children are expected to come to school and leave wearing **PLAIN** black footwear. If wearing socks, they must be plain navy or black.



**Any shoe with a white or any colour other than black rim is not acceptable. The shoe must be plain black as you look at it from the front, back and side.**

## 2019 TERM DATES

| Start Date            | End Date              | Public Holidays           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Term 1                |                       |                           |
| Thursday 7th February | Friday 12th April     | 6th February Waitangi Day |
| Term 2                |                       |                           |
| Monday 29th April     | Friday 5th July       | 3rd June Queen's Birthday |
| Term 3                |                       |                           |
| Monday 22nd July      | Friday 27th September |                           |
| Term 4                |                       |                           |
| Monday 14th October   | Friday 20th December  | 28th October Labour Day   |

**REMINDER**

**Annual Activity Fees 2019**

By setting an annual activity fee which can be paid either in one lump sum or on a termly basis, we believe will assist you with your annual budgeting - no more trying to find \$10 or \$20 during term to pay for activities, instead you can budget for the year ahead.

| <b>School Year</b>     | <b>Annual Activity Fee</b>          | <b>Annual Activity Fee Instalments</b>        |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Years 5 &amp; 6</b> | <b>\$200 Term 1 Upfront Payment</b> | <b>\$55 Per Term (\$220 over the year)</b>    |
| <b>Years 3 &amp; 4</b> | <b>\$170 Term 1 Upfront Payment</b> | <b>\$47.50 Per Term (\$190 over the year)</b> |
| <b>Years 1 &amp; 2</b> | <b>\$150 Term 1 Upfront Payment</b> | <b>\$42.50 Per Term (\$170 over the year)</b> |

**Brief Overviews of Included Activities:**

**Beach Education (Whole School)**

This program has proved to be very successful and informative for our children. There are specific skills and experiences that the children participate and learn at their appropriate levels. Water safety skills are explicitly covered along with experiences to practice what has been taught. This runs during term 4 in preparation for the summer holidays. All year 1 and 2 children travel by bus to the event while the year 3-6 children are transported to and from this event using private vehicles.

**Swimming Sports (Years 3 - 6)**

Our year 3 - 4 children participate in a fun annual swimming sports event at Stanmore Bay during term 1. The year 3 and 4 children have lots of fun water challenges to participate in along with some standard swimming races for those who are confident in water. Year 3 and 4 children only use the shallow end of the pool and a number of staff are in the water to ensure their safety. Year 5 and 6 children of our school have some fun water challenges but also concentrate on the competitive events ready for the interschool coastal swimming sports that some children will be chosen for. There are also house competitions on this day and all children are given the opportunity to represent their house in some way that is at a level in which they are comfortable in water. As a school we bus to and from the Leisure Centre.

**Aquatics Program (Whole School)**

**Year 1 - 4 Students:**

This year we are fortunate to have the opportunity to give our students an intensive week of swimming lessons at Northern Arena. It has been proved just how effective daily lessons are compared with weekly sessions. All year 1 and 2 children will have ability small grouped lessons with professional instructors at the leisure centre this year. All parents will be sent a report at the end of their child's session detailing what they can do and what their next steps are. Students will travel by bus to and from these sessions.

### **Year 5 - 6 Students:**

All year 5 and 6 students will participate in a weekly program at Shakespear park for the duration of term 1. Students will receive experienced kayaking coaching provided by the YMCA and will also have coaching in cycling, running, water safety, swimming, and tryathlon training. This will occur on Mondays.

### **Life Education Bus (Whole School)**

The Life Education bus will be at GHS for two weeks. Life Education helps children develop life skills relating to their health and wellbeing, understand how to make healthy choices, gain knowledge about their bodies, develop self esteem and a positive understanding of themselves and develop strategies for relating to others. All children will visit the life education bus for interactive learning sessions.

### **John Parsons Cyber Safety (Whole School)**

John Parsons is a leading Internet Safety and Risk Assessment Consultant to schools, providing specialist advice and direction on the safe use of Digital Communication Technology. He will be holding age appropriate workshops with all of our children talking about protecting and valuing our identity and keeping safe online. A parent workshop held at the school is also included.

### **Curriculum enrichment (Whole School)**

This includes a variety of resources that enable us to deliver a wide and varied curriculum (including materials needed for arts and crafts; science and technology).

### **Kid Power (Whole School)**

Kidpower offers programmes that teach the skills and strategies needed to keep students emotionally and physically safe with others or 'People Safety'. A strong foundation of People Safety Skills and knowledge can help prevent and stop most bullying or abuse in school and the wider community. All children will attend age appropriate sessions delivered by an external trained practitioner.

### **LINC - Ed fee (Whole School)**

This year we launch LINC-ED as a one stop tool for communication, assessment and reporting for all students. It will replace Yammer, the Porthole, and over time will allow reporting of progress and achievement of all students.

### **STEPs to Literacy Online Programme (Years 3 - 6)**

Children from Year 3 to 6 will be provided a personal STEPs to Literacy account. This account will provide leveled Literacy support in the form of spelling / phonics lists. STEPs is a New Zealand programme that links directly with our curriculum. Children will be able to access their accounts both at school and at home. Progress will be monitored and adjusted according to the students ongoing needs. STEPs caters for a wide variety of learning needs including children with Dyslexic tendencies and children with a Gifted and Talented profile.

### **Show Quest (Years 5 - 6)**

This year our senior school students are fortunate to participate in the NZ showquest festival. This will be lead by a very experienced teacher from the Northern Performing Arts School who will be working with our senior students within areas of

the Performing Arts during term 1 and 2. The showcasing of GHS talent will be held over three consecutive nights at the Aotea Centre. This compliments the NZ Arts Curriculum and will compliment the inquiry focus on leadership.

*Your child's teacher may have an opportunity to do other class trips or one off activities during the year that may involve some additional costs, however, the bulk of the activities have been planned to make budgeting for school in your home easier this year.*

***Please support GHS being a "Donation Free School" by buying from our online store, where we get a rebate back from Office Max that goes directly towards your child's education.***

Mel Crosbie  
**PRINCIPAL**