



Tena Koutou Katoa, Welcome back everyone to the new school year I hope you all have had a very relaxing holiday. Students are settling back into routines and are happy to be back at school.

It seems like a long time since I was appointed back in October so it is really nice to finally take up my position as your new principal. I am really looking forward to what 2015 will bring and I wish to thank the staff, students, BOT and families for the warm welcome I have received.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Mr Paul Gill for helping me transition into the role by including me last term in the decision making and set up of the school for 2015. This has certainly helped me to get a head start for the coming year.

Joining the staff this year are Mrs Ellie Ross (Rm 6), Miss Erica Ward (Rm 9) and Miss Maddie Stevenson (Rm 3). I am sure you will all make them feel welcome and part of the Grantlea Downs School Community.

Because of some of the staffing changes that occurred last year I have decided that it is in the best interests of the school for Mr Mike de Joux to continue as acting Deputy Principal for the remainder of 2015 and Miss Alyce Koudys as syndicate leader, this will enable us to have continued stability within the management structure of the school while I become more familiar with the school dynamics. We are currently advertising for a part-time reading recovery teacher and a fulltime permanent Yr 7/8 teacher for room 14. I will keep you informed of the outcome.

Next Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of February we will be having a school picnic to start the new school year off with a chance for our families and staff to get together, welcome new people and reconnect with others, please refer to the insert for details.

On Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> February we will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher' evening as an opportunity to come along to meet your child's teacher and see how the classroom operates and expectations for learning and behaviour. Each teacher will have three time slots 5.30-6.00pm, 6.00-6.30pm & 6.30-7.00 so that you can have an opportunity to visit a number of classrooms and teachers throughout the evening. We encourage families to take this opportunity to come along and hear about your child's classroom and ask questions.

A very warm welcome also to new students and families to our school we hope they have a rewarding time at Grantlea Downs.

Nga Mihi Nui  
Collette Sandilands  
Principal

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDERS**

Order forms are due back by  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February.  
Please make cheques payable to  
Scholastic

**REMINDER:  
SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED THIS  
FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY TO OBSERVE  
WAITANGI DAY**

**Information included  
in this issue...**

- New Students
- 2015 School Term
- Staffing
- Key Dates
- BOT Corner
- Thank You
- Property Matters
- Term 1 Calendar
- Absences 2015
- Contact Medical and Personal Details
- Automatic Payments
- Technology Fees
- Acacia Swimming
- School Bus
- Bicycle Checks
- Uniform Reminder
- Second Hand Uniform Shop
- Archery Club
- Choir
- School Assembly
- Home and School Meeting
- Road Patrol Help
- Itinerant Lessons
- Egg Cartons
- Top Teams
- Grantlea Downs Picnic
- Home and School Information
- Pool Use and Pool Keys
- Hadlow to Harbour
- GD Triathlon
- Return Slips
- Community Notices

## **NEW STUDENTS**

We welcome the following students and their families to Grantlea Downs this week: Calder Dey, Charlotte and Addisyn Hallberg, Connor Hoare, Liam Wisniewski, Arina Lyakh, Quintin Van Tongeren, Madison Anderson, Kaylah Reha, Isabelle La Grange, Jayda Robinson, Skye and Tane Kernohan, Sione and Kalolaine Siale, Kobe, Coen and Nelson White.

## **2015 SCHOOL TERMS**

Term 1 - 9 weeks	2 Feb to 2 April
Term 2 - 11 weeks	20 April to 3 July
Term 3 - 10 weeks	20 July to 25 Sept
Term 4 - 10 weeks	12 Oct to 17 Dec

## **STAFFING**

The full complement of staff this year is as follows:

### Admin

Collette Sandilands	Principal
Shelley Willocks	Office Manager
Andrea Garven	Secretary
Bob Cross	ICT
John Doggett	Bus Driver
Jan Lees	Librarian
Penni Naylor	International Students

### Property

Garry Ford	Property Manager
Wendy Pickard	Cleaner
Cathy Moffat	Cleaner
Jo Tanouye	Relief Cleaner

Catherine Walton	QUEST Co-Ordinator (Individual Needs)
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### Teacher Aides - QUEST

Carol Dale	Penni Naylor
Reon Keenan	Leslie Pedlow
Jan Lees	Naresha Waa
Joy McGillivray	Jill White
Ann Flavell (Casual)	Michelle Allison (Casual)

### Teachers

#### Opihi Syndicate

1 Sandra Annett	<b>Syndicate Leader</b>
2 Raewyn Guise	
3 Maddie Stevenson	
4 Linda Gordon	
5 Claire Jeffrey	

#### Waipopo Syndicate

6 Ellie Ross	
7 Allison Ford	
8 Sally Guthrie	<b>Syndicate Leader</b>
9 Erica Ward	

### Acacia Syndicate

10 Jade Blackman	
11 Michelle Bray	
12 Mike de Joux	

**Syndicate Leader  
(Deputy Principal - 2015)**

### Kereta Syndicate

13 Alyce Koudys	
14 Kathryn Ford	
15 Kirsty White	

**Syndicate Leader - 2015  
Term 1**

### Part Time Teachers

Jo Armstrong	Jane Murphy
Carmen Brown	Nadine McFarlane
Carly Butler	Kathryn Ford (Term 2-4)
Cynthia Gill	

### Social Worker in Schools

Diane Masuini

### Canteen

Jo Williams

## **Key Dates**

5 Feb	Top Teams
6 Feb	Waitangi Day Holiday
9-20 Feb	Acacia Swimming
11 Feb	School Picnic Evening 4:45-7pm
17 Feb	SC PCT Challenge
17 Feb	Meet the Teacher Evening 5:30-7pm
18 Feb	Home & School Meeting 7.30pm
27 Feb	Triathlon
9-13 March	ERO Visit

## **BOT CORNER**

### **Policy Review**

*The Board of Trustees will be reviewing one community policy, "Consultation of the Health Syllabus", at their next meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February. If you wish to view or comment on this policy, a copy is available at the school office. Any comment concerning this policy needs to be made to the BOT via the Office Manager in writing by Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015.*

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Wendy Pickard and Cathy Moffat for their hard work getting the rooms cleaned for our return and to Garry Ford for preparing the grounds, they are looking as good as ever. Also John Doggett for his work on the farm and Reon Keenan for his help over the holidays.

## PROPERTY MATTERS

During the holidays the brick block was reroofed and some painting was completed.

## TERM 1 CALENDAR

A calendar of events and activities is included with this newsletter.



## ABSENCES 2015

Each day we have to account for every student on our roll. If for any reason your child is going to be absent **please** contact the school office. You can call any time in the morning before 9.00 am as our phone system is automated to take messages before school opens or you can text on 027 684 7706 stating your child's name and reason for absence. If no message is passed onto the school office Mrs Garven and Mrs Willocks have to spend valuable time phoning parents. Staff often have a meeting between 8.00 and 8.30 am so are unavailable at this time to personally answer phones.

## CONTACT MEDICAL AND PERSONAL DETAILS

If you have shifted and changed your contact details or your emergency contacts have changed, please change these at 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 etc.



## AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

Setting up an automatic payment authority is becoming a very popular and stress free way to pay for school activities. Parents are continually surprised about how quickly they accumulate credit sufficient to support such things as sports fees, camps and other school activities.

Please contact Mrs Willocks in the office if you wish to explore this idea.

## TECHNOLOGY FEES – YEAR 7 & 8'S ONLY

Parents need to **pay \$61** to our school office which is the 'Take Home' component of these classes. We, the school pay the remaining \$95 which makes up a total annual fee of \$156. Your prompt payment and urgent attention to this matter would be appreciated.

## ACACIA SWIMMING – 9 – 20 FEBRUARY

Please help your child to remember their togs and towel each day of week 2 and 3. As in previous years, girls are required to wear one-piece togs please – no bikinis.

**Swimming Fees are: \$30 per child and are now payable at the school office, in a named envelope.**



## SCHOOL BUS

Please remember to contact the school office if your child will not be on the bus in the afternoon.

**Please contact John Doggett on his cell phone 0274 327 500 if your child will not be on the bus on the morning run.**



## BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club has started up again. We require some volunteers to help clean up after breakfast on a Monday and Wednesday only, so as to allow the Teacher Aides to get to class by 9:00am. This would be for approx. 15mins from 9am. If you are able to spare the time please complete the form on the Return Slips page.

## BICYCLE CHECKS!!

Although not needed until Week 4, it is important that bikes are roadworthy and ready to go for the school **Triathlon (Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February)** and **Wheelathon**

**(Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March).**

Preparing the bike involves getting the bike safety checked, pumping tyres and oiling the chain.



## UNIFORM REMINDER

Sun hats – compulsory red floppy.

A reminder that all students are required to wear a school sun hat at break times.

**Please ensure your child's hat is clearly named.**

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open on Mondays from 2.45 – 3.15 am from next week 9<sup>th</sup> February.

### **ARCHERY CLUB**

We are looking for an expression of interest for Archery Club with sessions being offered in conjunction with Y.M.C.A., to be held in term 2 and 3. There will be an approx cost of \$60 per person per term. This will be held on a Wednesday 3.30 -4.30pm. We need at least 15 students in the club in order to make the cost viable. Because some strength is required to draw a bowstring only children from Year 5 upwards will be eligible to join archery club. If you are interested please fill in the Return Slip and bring back to the office.

### **CHOIR**

I am once again running the choir at Grantlea Downs this year. Lessons will begin next Friday at 12:30pm in the hall. I encourage students both boys and girls with a love of singing to come and give choir a go. The first few weeks will be a trial period to see if it is something you'd like to do. Once the trial period is over we will be into full swing getting some songs together to perform at events and at assemblies throughout the year. I look forward to seeing you.

Sharleyne Diamond

### **SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**

Parents are welcome, see the Term Calendar for details.

### **HOME & SCHOOL**

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. All new members or those who may be interested in joining are welcome. Also see information later in newsletter.

### **ROAD PATROL – CROSSING DUTY – PARENTS NEEDED**

Thank you to the parents who gave up their time to supervise the Road Patrol after school last year. Your assistance and support is much appreciated.

We require more parent help for Term 1. If you are able to undertake a duty from 3-3.15 pm one day a

week for a term, please contact Sally Guthrie in Room 8 or by phoning the school office.

### **ITINERANT LESSONS 2015 (Also see Return Slips)**

#### **KEYBOARD:**

Wednesday lunchtimes  
12.30-1.30pm in 2015  
Grantlea Downs Music  
Room, for more information  
contact Peter McMullan 0274211216



#### **GUITAR:**

Guitar lessons available in 2015 at Grantlea Downs.  
Competitive prices, family concessions available.  
Please contact Kathy Macdonald on 03 686 0181 or 021 023 9975.



#### **SPEECH AND DRAMA:**

Speech and Drama lessons available beginning Term 1 2015 with Kathryn Ford.

Fees: Yr 3 - 8 \$90 for 9 lessons.

Yr 1 - 2 \$70 for 9 lessons

Contact Kathryn on 688 0393 or 027 389 1584

New students welcome



#### **EGG CARTONS**

We urgently require egg cartons. If you have any spare please bring into the school office.



## **Top Teams 2015**

This annual event will be held at school this Thursday (5<sup>th</sup> February)

For the day your child will need to:

- Arrive at school in house colours for an official house photo.
- Wear their hat, sunscreen, bring water bottle and lunch, togs, etc...
  - Children to bring school uniform to change back into.
- Postponement notices – listen to Port FM 7-8am (please do not ring school)

### **Programme**

*Rooms 10-15*  
**10.15** START  
**12.15** FINISH

*Rooms 1-9*  
**1.00** START  
**2.50** FINISH

Thank you to all those parents who have returned notices to help.



# Grantlea Downs Community Picnic

4.45 - 7.00 pm

Wednesday 11 February 2015

Grantlea Downs School playground

Bring a picnic or a fish 'n' chip tea

Rugs or chairs

- Games for the children
- Bouncy Castle
- An opportunity for parents and caregivers to meet

Come along with your children for a relaxed evening. We look forward to seeing you all.

Weather permitting

**WE WANT YOU**



## Reasons why you should join Home & School

**1. Benefit all children at Grantlea Downs**

*It's proven that children perform better when parents are involved at both home & school*

**2. Get Connected!**

*There is no better way to know what's happening at school*

**3. Tap into a network!**

*Home & School connects you to other parents and teachers through meetings, events & communications, helping to build a sense of community*

**4. Be a role model!**

*Being a positive role model for a child is a rewarding experience and the students receive endless benefits from examples we set*

**5. Witness Improvement!**

*By getting involved, you'll be part of the solution - helping to make positive changes by providing the best equipment & ensuring our children get the best education.*

**We need more parents, grandparents and caregivers to help make Grantlea Downs School the best it can be.**

**Help us help the school and Help the students be successful**

**It's rewarding  
It's important  
and its fun**

*Please call, text or email Haylee Davis - Chairperson  
027 221 9444 - [haylee@sortedforlife.co.nz](mailto:haylee@sortedforlife.co.nz)*

**NEXT MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY @ 7.30pm - SCHOOL OFFICE - EVERYONE WELCOME**

**POOL USE AND POOL KEYS**

We wish to encourage parents to use our school pool out of school hours. Our view is that time in the water builds confidence, improves a child’s skill level and enhances the fact that you can have fun in the water.



The keys are now available at the office for a cost of \$35 for existing key holders and \$40 for new key holders. This goes some way to meeting the expense of keeping the pool heated and clean.

The school office will issue you a receipt, which you then take to Allied Locks in Bank Street, who will electronically code your key, allowing you both access to the grounds and pool area. They will charge you \$3 for this.

All key holders must abide by the rules stated in the agreement which you will need to sign and retain a copy of.

**Hadlow to Harbour Fun Run**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March



This year we intend to enter a school team into the Hadlow to Harbour Fun Run. We will have two groups, one running the 10km run from Hadlow and the other group running/walking the 3km run outside the Countdown Supermarket on Church Street.

If your child/children is interested in participating in either of these events please fill in the sheet below. There is a cost of \$2.00 per child to participate in this event, this will need to be handed in along with the permission slip by the 20 February 2015. We will register the children on the 23 February 2015 and will be unable to take late entries.

We require some parental help with supervising the children at the 3km start as well as at the finish line. If you are able to assist with this, please complete the slip below. You will be expected to wait for the children to complete the 10km run as well, so you need to be able to stay until prize giving is over at the end of the event.

If you have any questions please see Mrs White in Room 15.

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*Please return to the office or Room 15*

Yes my child/children will participate in the school team competing in the Hadlow to Harbour.

Name: Room: Event: 3km / 10km

Name: Room: Event: 3km / 10km

Name: Room: Event: 3km / 10km

I am able to assist with the supervision of Grantlea Downs Children:

Name:

Contact Phone:

Event: 3km      Finish Line      (Please circle your preference)

# Grantlea Downs Triathlon



**YEARS 5-8**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**  
**1:00 – 3:00pm**

**Please note: The change of times for the senior and junior events**

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 morning's programme so that you can get some idea of when your child will be racing.

Any questions can be directed to Alyce Koudys in Room 13.

Event	
Year 5/6 Individual	Girls
	Boys
Year 7/8 Individual	Girls
	Boys
Year 5/6 Teams	Mixed
Year 7/8 Teams	Mixed

*Due to the 1pm start we will be having an early lunch at 12pm.*

**YEARS 1-4**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**  
**10:00 – 12:00pm**

Once again we are offering the Year 1 and 2 students a chance to experience competing in a school triathlon. For the cycling leg of the race they will be able to use bikes or scooters and must have helmets.

*Bike/Scooter – Year 1 & 2-one lap around the outside of the netball/basketball courts*

*Year 3 & 4-one lap of the field*

*Swim – one length running of the school pool (helped in and out by senior students)*

*Run – one lap of the soccer field*

On the day the children will need to remember their bike/scooter, helmet, togs, towel, running shoes and a drink bottle.

Event	
Year 3/4 Individual	Girls
	Boys
Year 1 Individual	Girls
	Boys
Year 2 Individual	Girls
	Boys
Year 3/4 Teams	Mixed

Any questions can be directed to Claire Jeffery in Room 5.

**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.



# Return Slips

## GRANTLEA DOWNS TRIATHLON – Friday 27th February 2015

We are looking for parents to help with our School Triathlon on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February (Week 4).

If you are available, please fill in and return this slip to the school office.

I \_\_\_\_\_ am able to assist with the Junior/Senior (circle one) school triathlon

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Time to ring: \_\_\_\_\_

AK/CJ

## ARCHERY LESSONS

My child, \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) of Room No \_\_\_\_\_ wishes to join archery club for Term 2 at an approx cost of \$60/term.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Caregiver Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

JA

## ITINERANT LESSONS – 2015 - Expression of interest/enrolment:

	Student Name	Phone	Room
Keyboard (Over 8 years old)			
Guitar (Over 8 years old)			
Speech & Drama			

## **BREAKFAST CLUB HELP**

I can help clean up after Breakfast Club on: (please circle)    Monday    Wednesday

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Community Notices

## Parenting Tips

From [www.theparentingplace.com](http://www.theparentingplace.com)

### Take the pressure out of starting school

The start of the school year can be a challenging time for children with perfectionist traits. They may be nervous about getting off to a good start, impressing the new teacher, following everything to the letter, and of course doing their very best at everything.

Help them to relax by providing lots of conversations that gently challenge their all-or-nothing way of seeing themselves. Ask them questions like;

- “If I try my hardest, but someone else does better, am I still allowed to feel proud of myself?”
- “What makes someone a great class member or student? Would I pick a friend who was friendly, encouraging, and persistent, or one who always knew the answer to every question?”

### 3<sup>rd</sup> TIMARU GIRLS' BRIGADE

Meets during school term, Tuesdays at Trinity Presbyterian Hall, College Road, Timaru

Tuesdays Juniors, 5-8 years old 3.30pm to 4.45pm

Tuesdays Seniors & Pioneers, 9-17 years old 6pm to 7.30pm

Activities include: swimming, music, drama, devotions, games, church parades, national camps, badges, Duke of Edinburgh award, leadership opportunities, fun, fellowship and friendship.

All most welcome, contact Fiona  
021 170 2930



**Timaru School of Music** offers a unique opportunity to learn a musical instrument at little cost. We teach Brass, Cello, Clarinet, Flute, Guitar, Oboe, Recorder, Violin and Ukulele. We also run a music appreciation class for 5 & 6 year olds. Enrolments take place on Wednesday February 11, Waimataitai School Hall, 4 -6 pm. Come and join us for a new challenge. Enquiries to [timaruschoolofmusic@gmail.com](mailto:timaruschoolofmusic@gmail.com)

# Community Notices

**The PlaceMakers Pass2Pub** is on Sunday 1st March (it always on the first Sunday in March). It runs from Burkes Pass to Albury and is a thrilling mountain bike ride over 36km and suitable for all levels of rider and capability. It is also hugely popular with the gun riders who can go flat out to try and win the coveted Farm Gate Fence trophies. Recent overall winners include David Ashby-Coventry, Logan Horn and Brad Hudson. It is perfect for newbies to the most experienced riders. Check it out [www.pass2pub.com](http://www.pass2pub.com). There are over \$10,000 of prizes up for grabs and a fantastic after race party at the Albury Tavern. We choose to donate a share of the proceeds to local schools – Albury Home and School and Mackenzie College get a donation for supporting this event.

**TIMARU GYMNASTICS CLUB** are now taking enrolments for the 2015 classes Incentive and Competition gymnastics for girls and boys 5 years and over. New and existing members please phone. Betty McIver Phone 03-6847438



SOUL SURF & SKATE  
**SK& COMP**

Caroline Bay Skate Park  
Saturday 7th Feb 11am - registration & practice  
Start time 12pm  
Divisions - 13 & under, 16 & under, Open Mens & Girls Jam  
Sunday 8th Feb is back up day

**DGK**  
**neff**

**ZOO YORK**  
**Skullcandy**

**SUPRA**  
**Def.**