



Glen Eden Primary School - Newsletter

Number 9 - 2 April 2019 - Week 10



Nau mai haere mai Autumn.

Tuatahi ngā mihi ki a GEPS whānau. The lockdown last week was something we hope never happens again. However this is something that we have practised and we are well organised for such events. Huge praise must go to Alana McKenzie who was Acting Principal and was in charge of a very tense situation. Supporting her were Ngaire Williams, Julie McCallum, Grant Kopua and Dianne Rayner who managed the whole process exactly as it was supposed to be managed. Well done also to all of our GEPS staff and our tamariki who were superb. Ka rawe!

As many of you know we have worked for the last three years with a company called Harrison Tew who are experts in lock down procedures. During a lockdown please do not come to school. We cannot come out of a lockdown or let people in until we have been given the all clear by police and we have a strict procedure for how we come out of a lockdown. We are also unable to answer emails or phone calls during this time as we want the lines of communication to be with the police and with staff who are dealing with the situation. All communication with whānau will be via text and our website which will be updated regularly. If you did not receive a text please let us know as it means that your details may not be up to date. Thank you to whānau who we knew were worried but who trusted that the school would do the right thing. We know how hard that must have been.

While the lockdown was going on one of our classes, Room 14, was happily working away at Bob's Bush Camp in the Waitakere Ranges. All of our senior classes have either done or are doing this trip. The feedback from the staff at Arataki about our students has been excellent. The Arataki staff see students from many different kura and have contacted us after each trip to comment on how wonderful our GEPS tamariki are. Well done Tui team.

Well done also to Harry who competed last week in the interschool cross country and placed 10th. We were only taking a small team to the event and in the end only Harry represented GEPS. Good on you Harry!

This week we farewell two staff members from GEPS and, very sadly, from the teaching profession. Stacey Yates was headhunted to lead a new project at Starship working at connecting seriously ill students with their classmates. The legacy Stacey leaves is evident in every area of the school. So many students have benefitted from her art tuition, her expertise and her abundance of energy and positivity.

Also leaving us is Fiona Wickens who, given a change in family circumstances, needs more flexibility in her work hours and the freedom to be able to work from home. As many of you know Fiona was the person who introduced basketball to GEPS. She has organised, coached and sorted all of our teams for the past few years and this has been greatly appreciated by our tamariki and whānau. I extend a sincere thank you to Fiona and Stacey and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. Ngā mihi nui ki a korua mo te mahi i tenei kura.

Sadly for our profession we lose two very capable educators. It will come as no surprise to you that both Stacey and Fiona will be working less hours for more money in their new roles. The campaign for better pay and conditions in teaching continues as teachers in Aotearoa have just voted to reject the government's latest offer. Please continue to support us in this campaign so that we can keep teachers like Fiona and Stacey in the profession.

Our trip to Ōpōtiki last week was an amazingly valuable learning experience. Except for an agonising two hours when GEPS was in lockdown the haerenga was hugely beneficial. We saw many different ways of supporting a community and truly making a difference. The Whakatōhea iwi was extremely generous of their time and we were welcomed warmly by them. We were so impressed by what we saw and now we hope we can replicate some of their great mahi in our own community. We have many more hours ahead with our Visioning Project and I will feedback to our community as we go.

This Thursday we are holding our movie reward for all of the tamariki who have at least 95% attendance this term. I hope everyone has a fabulous holiday break time over the next two weeks and we look forward to an exciting Term 2.

Ngā mihi mahana

Donna Soljan

Dates for your Calendar 2019

Wednesday 10 April	R7 Bush Camp day trip
Thursday 11 April	6:00pm Camp parent helpers meeting in staffroom
Friday 12 April	Last day of Term 1
Monday 29 April	First day of Term 2
Wednesday 1 - Friday 3 May	Tui Camp
Friday 3 May	No Assembly
Friday 10 May	9:15am Pōwhiri 2:15pm Assembly R8

Last week's proud pupil pizza prize winners were Kelani & Harlem for being reliable and responsible.

