

Green Island School



Te Kura Okaihae

Respecting our Past | Building our Future

Newsletter No: 8

Term 2

16 May 2023

PRINCIPAL COMMENTS

Kia ora koutou e te whānau.

There has been a lot of discussion about the attendance rates in New Zealand and we all recognise the importance of education being a pathway to a bright future. At Green Island School this is reflected in our Vision of “Respecting our Past, Building our Future” and in our value of Courage. If our tamariki turn up to school and participate, they will make progress. So, attendance is a critical element for success. Consistent routines are a big component of learning, where the neurological pathways in our brains require repetitive exposure to strengthen and cement learning and develop mastery. We also develop these neural pathways for resilience, perseverance, and discipline.

Why is it so important to attend school every day?

- Learning is a progressive activity; each day’s lessons build upon those of the previous day(s).
- Reading the material and completing work independently does not compensate for the loss of insight gained during class discussions or the loss of competency acquired through explanation or supervised activities/tasks.
- Teachers use discussions, demonstrations, experiments, and participation as part of the daily learning activities, and these cannot be made up by those who are absent.
- Regular student participation in daily classroom activities plays a significant role in a student’s school success.

So far this year, our school has 65% of our students attending school 90% or more of the time. That leaves 35% of our school attending less than 90% of the time. Research shows that you have a big impact on your child’s attendance. While at primary school your support is important, it helps set up good habits that will last for the whole time are at school. Below are some things that you can do which help get them to school and on time:

- Talk to your child about how school is important for their future and the importance of being at school every day.
- Only take your child out of school when there is a good reason, like when they are sick.
- Take holidays during the school holidays.
- Make appointments, whenever possible, outside the school day
- Come and speak with us if your child is feeling uncomfortable about something at school, we are here to help.
- Get things ready the night before e.g. pack bags, make lunches
- Time how long it takes your child to get ready in the morning and set an alarm with enough time for their morning routine.
- Avoid using devices in the morning before school.
- Identify problems that happen regularly (e.g. bad traffic) and find solutions

We will report back to our community termly on progress with our whole school attendance average. Together we can improve attendance, every day counts.

Ngā mihi nui
Aaron

Quote: Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much. Helen Keller

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ATTENDANCE-EVERY DAY MATTERS

Child is only missing...	That equals to..	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that is...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2.5 per weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	A week per year	Over 2 and a half years

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed

(Visual: A weekly calendar grid with the first day of the second week circled in red and crossed out with an 'X').

1 day per week = **8** weeks  = Over **2.5** years missed

(Visual: A weekly calendar grid with the first day of the second week circled in red and crossed out with an 'X').

ONGOING TEACHER CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

On Friday the latest contract negotiation for teachers was rejected. This will mean further industrial action by primary school teachers is highly likely. At this stage what that will be is yet to be decided. As a parent of two secondary school students and one primary school student, while industrial action is disruptive, its ultimate goal is to improve the educational outcomes of learners which will benefit not only our children but all of society. For too long Health and Education in New Zealand/Aotearoa has been underfunded and neglected. It is time for politicians to fund these substantially more than they currently do. They are investments in our future, not just a number on the balance sheet. The future health and well-being of our tamariki is too precious.



DISCO – FRIDAY 19 MAY

Our first disco fundraiser of the year is coming up, organised by our senior students and FOTs. It will be held this Friday 19 May, \$2 entry at the door. Juniors 6pm-7pm, Seniors 7.15pm-8.15pm. Water and goodies will be available for purchase on the night.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Our next senior school assembly is Friday 26 May, 2.15pm in the school hall. All are welcome to attend.

SPEED ZONE CHANGE

In an effort to make the journey to school safer, the DCC have permanently made areas around schools 30km/h zones. Between now and the end of July new signage will be erected.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held last week are available at the office or by contacting Kellie for a copy to be emailed to you. office@greenisland.school.nz

SPORTS DRAWS

This is the link to **miniball**: <https://www.otago.basketball/competitions/kiwihoops/>

This is the link to **hockey**: <https://www.playhq.com/hockey-new-zealand/org/otago-hockey-association/junior-competition-years-3-6-winter-2023/57fa290e>

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM FOR SALE

Offers for Green Island School Uniform. All size 8. Please phone 027 841 5549 if interested.

2 Polar fleeces

2 Trackpants

3 Polar Tops

2 Shorts

1 Cap

1 Bucket Hat

UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday 17 May – Elgregoe Magic Show

Friday 19 May – Disco, Juniors 6pm to 7pm. Seniors 7:15pm to 8:15pm

Friday 26 May – Senior Assembly 2.15pm

Monday 5 June – School Closed for King's Birthday

Friday 30 June – Last Day of Term 2

Monday 17 July – First Day of Term 3

Influenza (flu) vaccine for 2023

In 2023 the influenza immunisation programme starts on 1 April and runs to 31 December

Everyone from 6 months of age is advised to get a flu vaccination EACH year to protect themselves and to reduce the spread of flu.

- It's best to give your child the flu vaccine as soon as you can.
- Winter is the time when your child is most likely to come into contact with the flu and it takes about 2 weeks for the flu vaccination to be most effective.

The flu vaccine is free for tamariki aged 6 months to 12 years

From 1 April 2023, tamariki 6 months to 12 years old, can get a free flu vaccination from their healthcare provider. Everyone over 3 years old can get flu immunisations at many pharmacies.

The flu vaccine is also free for children older than 12 years with underlying health conditions, including:

- heart disease, cancer, diabetes and serious asthma
- mental illness such as schizophrenia or for people currently accessing mental health services.

Next KCC activity: Lizards!!

We're going to have a Lizard conservation activity on Saturday 20th of May at 2pm at the Zoology Department (340 Great King Street - Dunedin). We'll talk about lizards, how to protect them and create a cool lizard garden. We'll have live lizards that you'll be able to see and touch and we'll have lizard craft and games as well 😊

If you're interested, please sign up <https://forms.office.com/r/DqtiGEzBm0>. We can only fit about 15 kids (+ caregivers) in the room so sign up early as we may have to close the registration early if we get too many kiddos interested.

Anne Besson, Kiwi Conservation Club coordinator, Dunedin branch

Email: dunedin@kcc.org.nz Visit KCC at www.kcc.org.nz

