



Garston School Newsletter

Thursday, 30th May 2019



Garston School students proudly showing off their new sports uniforms.
Thanks, King Beats.

From the Garston School Writers' Guild

Descriptive Writing - Room 3 (Year 5)

We put together an old fashioned stove. Paper and wood made the heat. The paper crumpled and shrivelled as it was burning. The newspaper burnt very fast like dandruff falling on the ground. The kindling took and made heat without electricity. It felt very warm but not as comforting as usual. My legs were the only part of my body that was warm as they were closest to the fire.

Getting water to boil took much longer than cooking the sausages. The kettle was whistling very loudly and it was distracting me from reading. Sitting around the warmth with friends was comforting.

Bernie said he'd stick around for a sausage until he realised that there was only enough cooking for our class. But he did get a cup of tea and a big smile on his face because he appreciated it. The sausages were striped like tigers and tasted scrumptious and sweet. Delicious! we ate them all up in white bread but the adults chose 'brown bread plates' to eat theirs with. It was worth waiting for!

Cross-Country by Molly McFadzean (Year 6)

Yay!! Cross-country today and I'm super-duper excited because I've missed doing it.

When we arrive I see so many children from Mossburn and Lumsden.

The first race was 11 years and over and that's when I start to get nervous because Ms 'O' said that once they have done one lap she would start the 10 year old girls.

She calls us up. "On your marks, get set, bang!" Ms 'O' slams two blocks together.

Everyone sprints except me because I know that I've got to keep the same pace.

I overtake a few kids but not the two that speed up. Well at least I'm doing good, no stitch yet.

One lap was easy but the second one was challenging for me. I hang in there and dig deep to cross the finish line. I feel proud of myself because of my great effort.

Synopsis of the Garston School Board of Trustees meeting held on Tuesday, 21st May 2019 at 7:00pm.

2. Audit Committee

Board Elections:

- * There were 4 parent rep nominations at the time of the meeting for the 6 vacancies.
The election time-frame was discussed.

3. Strategic Report

Report to the Board - May 2019

Curriculum Area: Writing. Genre: Descriptive Writing.

Aim: The school's aim is to improve all students' ability to clearly and accurately convey their ideas when writing, using appropriate forms to suit different purposes.

The principal reported on the analysis of data of students' learning levels and needs at the start of this year and compared them to mid-year results and described the programmes being taught to make meaningful links between writing and reading. As well as writing time at least four times a week there are many other opportunities for students to use their writing skills as part of other lessons (e.g. science). Writing lessons deliberately focus on teaching students, skills in a progressive manner, so they learn to manage the process of writing from planning through to editing. Teachers individually conference the students to review their progress made towards meeting their personal goals and also to talk with them about their next learning steps.

To date this year the writing programmes have focussed on developing the skills needed for:

- personal writing and recounting an event (Term 1).
- writing a descriptive text (Term 2 - weeks 1-5).

Particular areas of focus at the different school levels are:

- * Year 1 - development of sequence through picture planning.
- * Year 2 - development of ideas by answering who, what, why, how questions.
- * Years 3 & 4 - inclusion of some descriptive language and use of conjunctions to join two related ideas.
- * Year 5 - formation of a plan using key words that highlight main points.
- * Year 6 - selection of precise words that add interest and detail.
- * Year 7 - addition of relevant details to each key word to form several related sentences around an idea.
- * Year 8 - development of proof-reading and editing skills.

An evaluation of students' writing included a breakdown of trends as identified through the assessments made in 7 key learning areas (planning, spelling, sentence building, punctuation, use of words, language features, proof-reading/editing).

In November their writing progress and attitudes towards writing will be reassessed and analysed with the results then compared to mid-year.

4. National Administration Guidelines - NAG's

4a. Curriculum (NAG 1) - Curriculum Area: Physical Education & Health

The biennial Sexuality Education Consultation will be conducted in June, 2019 as per the N.Z. Health Education guidelines. Firstly parents will be informed of some of the possible learning experiences to be taught at the different school levels and that they have the right to withdraw their children from any of the planned classes.

The responses from the parent survey will be considered before the sexuality education programme will be taught.

4b. Documentation and Self Review (NAG 2)

Assurance was given that the Abuse Recognition and Reporting and also the Digital Technology and Cyber Safety Policies have been reviewed as part of the triennial cycle of review.

4f. Health & Safety (NAG 5)

- An Injury/Incident Report for the period - 31/05/2019 to 06/03/2019 noted no serious harm injuries.
- The 2019 Cross-Country event Risk Analysis and Management document was presented and approved.

4g. Legal Compliance (NAG 6)

- The school roll at the date of the meeting was 42 and made up of 27 (Year 1-3) and 15 (Year 4-8) students.

5. Events/Special Topics

- The principal thanked Gillian Evans for the tremendous amount of work that she had put in to organising the new school sports uniforms that have just arrived. These were to be issued to students when they agreed to and signed the student contract for use of the uniforms.

- The date of the 2020 Garston School Trail Bike ride was set at Saturday, 25th January 2020.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 26th June at 7pm.

Mid-Dome Cross-Country

Congratulations to all our competitors at Mid-Dome. What a fantastic day.

Below is unsolicited feedback following the big day which Garston School hosted:

- ◆ I just wanted to thank you for a fantastic event on Thursday. The location and course were brilliant. It was great to have the relay option too, that certainly made it more manageable for some of our kids. Talking with our teachers and students yesterday there was a buzz about how great it had been. Thanks to you and to everyone on your team who had a hand in putting this together. Callum Tytler - Lumsden School.
- ◆ Thanks heaps for all the work you and the team put in Kathryn - Great day again! I also loved the input from your senior children during the introduction. Andrew Watson - Principal, Lumsden School.

THANKS to the following for helping on the BBQ and/or setting up and pulling down the course:

Karen, Lucky, Fran, Gillian, Pam, Bernie, Becks, Mescha, Ben, Lauren, Rich, Katie, Tom, Allana, and Jane. If I have missed anyone then I do apologise.

A HUGE thank you to Terry for the use of his paddock.

We wish the following students well when they represent the Mid-Dome Zone at the Northern Cross-Country Championships:

* Evie Arthur, Gabby Evans, Joel Wallis, Lylla O'Brien, Molly McFadzean, Alex Glover, Zara Glover and Chonelle Evans.

With the exception of the children who will be running at Northern all sports uniforms must be laundered and returned to school.

REMINDER

* Monday, 3rd June is the Queen's Birthday public holiday so school will be closed. The 3 teachers will be attending a Professional Learning and Development seminar the next day (Tuesday, 4th June) but our school will be staffed and classes will continue as normal.

SANDPIT UP-DATE

Now that the temperatures have plummeted it's time for some minor changes to routines as the children are not able to get clean and dry again so easily after playing in their favourite place.

Starting tomorrow and until advised differently, those children who are playing in the sandpit need to be wearing their gumboots while doing so.

Each class has a week's turn on a rotating cycle which is as follows:

- This week: Mataura (Room 2).
- Queen's Birthday week: Nevis Team (Room 3).
- 10 - 14 June: Eyre Team (Room 1). etc, etc.

Thanks, in anticipation of your co-operation.

Board of Trustee Elections



As there were the same number of nominations as vacancies (6) for Parent Representatives on the Board there is no requirement to hold an election therefore all nominees were duly elected.

Congratulations to our two new Board members Richard Stokes and Andrew McLachlan and welcome back to Mark Evans, Helen Innes, Stephen Glover, Jono Edmond. Bernie McNabb was the only nomination for Staff Representative and was duly elected.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Rebecca Butler and Rebecca Price (who both resigned earlier) for their service and commitment as members of the Garston School Board of Trustees.

7.5 EARTHQUAKE

Written by Ryder Davis (Year 6)

2:36am.

I woke up to the sound of car alarms. The earthquake had begun. I fell out of bed and could barely walk. The earthquake had gone on for 2 minutes. We turned on the T.V. and watched a minute of the news and then the tsunami alarm went off. It grew louder and louder.

We went outside and got in the car and drove up a hill close to us. We all slept in the car.

The next day we went home, watched the news and then we felt the aftershock. It was a little one so we kept watching the news. The news reporter said the earthquake had spread to Kaikoura and the tsunami could still happen.

Despite that we had breakfast and went to Kmart because my dad said there was a very low chance of a tsunami.

Time to lighten up with a few one-liners:

- "I'd like to start with the chimney jokes - I've got a stack of them. The first one is on the house."
- Two windmills are standing in a field and one asks the other, "What kind of music do you like?" The other says, "I'm a big metal fan."
- Did you hear about the semi-colon that broke the law? He was given two consecutive sentences.
- The world tongue-twister champion just got arrested. I hear they're gonna give him a really tough sentence.
- "I went to buy a watch and the man said, 'analogue?' I said, 'no thanks, just the watch.'"
- I woke up this morning and forgot which side the sun rises from, then it dawned on me
- If we shouldn't eat at night, why do they put a light in the fridge?
- I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner as all it was doing was gathering dust.
- I've just written a song about tortillas; actually, it's more of a rap.
- The first computer dates back to Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with limited memory, just one byte. And then everything crashed.
- "Doctor, there's a patient on line 1 that says he's invisible" "Well, tell him I can't see him right now."
- I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off.
- Entered what I ate today into my new fitness app and it just sent an ambulance to my house.