



10 November 2023

From the desk of Ms 'O':

SHOW DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Kia Ora Whanau,

Please enjoy this week's 'bits and pieces' newsletter as we are pushed for time at the moment with all the extra activities going on.

A HUGE thank you for all the community support to make our Garston School Show Day happen! I was deeply proud of how everybody stepped up and of course of how impeccably our wonderful children behaved. The Garston School SPIRIT was definitely in evidence.

Here are some key points from my address at yesterday's opening ceremony:

- Garston School values and continues to enjoy a deep connection with many of its present and past students and their families as well as other members of our three communities of Athol, Garston and Kingston.
- The two waiata which the children performed invited all of us, whatever our backgrounds and whatever place we hail from, to join as one group. It asked us to come together in the spirit of mutual respect, in the pursuit of knowledge. It finished by encouraging us to THINK as one, ACT as one and lastly to remain STEADFAST.
- The new building which we call Te Wharenuī (meaning large house) is a much welcome addition to our existing school. So far it has been used for science, food technology, music, drama, dance, gymnastics and for several school-based community celebrations.
- Special thanks to Bernie who has supported me throughout the last 3 years by working tirelessly to co-ordinate a huge number of groups involved in the building project, each of which has been responsible for their own area of expertise.
- Special thanks to the children, friends and neighbours who over the last 2 weeks have helped me beautify the area around the building. Once again, the SPIRIT of Garston was in evidence.
- Rod Trainer led us through a Maori blessing of Te Wharenuī to remove the tapu associated with any difficulties experienced during its building process and to offer a karakia for the food shared by all.
- In his official capacity the Southland District Council Mayor, Rod Scott, cut the ribbon, ably assisted by Prue Tayler and Jamie Edmonds.



Our tamariki in action performing the opening waiata.



S.D.C. mayor, Rob Scott, Prue and Jamie cutting the ribbon.



Rod Trainer explaining the reason for the Maori blessing.

Self-assured

Productive

Independent

Respectful

Innovative

Thinking smart

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Sincere thanks to the following people who deserve to be recognised for their generous contribution of time and effort that resulted in a successful and enjoyable Show Day for all. Apologies to anyone who has inadvertently been left out:

- ❖ Annabelle for an extraordinary amount of support for students so they could take pride in their exhibits on Show Day. We are very grateful to Annabelle for sharing her talent in artfully displaying the students' exhibits.
- ❖ To Mrs A-T and Mrs Willmot for their passion and the extra time they spent ensuring the children's build-up to Show Day was a constructive and happy experience.
- ❖ The Evans family for 2 lambs – Dino and Muzzle, weekend 'lamb-sitting' and a bag of lamb food. Also, to Jo for leading the Room 1 baking and cake decorating sessions. To Ben Evans for bringing down his tractor and shifting the water race.
- ❖ Simon Wright for digging the holes for the 2 wagon wheels and positioning them in the ground and also digging the hole for the Whanau sculpture. To Lou Wright for judging the Art exhibits.
- ❖ The Tayler family for providing prattley gates for the lambs and long weekend 'lamb-sitting'.
- ❖ The Hore family for the loan of lamb coats, weekend 'lamb-sitting' and a bag of lamb food.
- ❖ The five superb judges: arts and craft – Bonnie and Lou, animals – Beth, Sandra and Macaela.
- ❖ Aaron Abernethy, Peter Naylor, Bernie, Gavin and Ms O for the repositioning of the Abernethy Sculpture (Whanau). To Bonnie Abernethy for judging the Art exhibits.
- ❖ Jono Edmonds for levelling the front driveway.
- ❖ Rebecca Sutherland for her vibrant playground artwork to celebrate our birds that represent our whanau group manu (house groups).
- ❖ Home and school for organising the afternoon tea for adults and children and Liv and Shona for serving and cleaning up.
- ❖ To Beth, Macaela and Sandra for judging the pets and animals.
- ❖ Pam Naylor for donating the stove and frying pan for Te Wharenuī. Also, thanks, Pam for co-ordinating the 5 judges and their programmes.
- ❖ Mescha who has continued to provide and organise each Spring the sunflower initiative. The children really love it and we appreciate her generosity. Also, we wish to acknowledge the many years that Mescha has been a faithful sponsor of the SKOOL Loop app.
- ❖ Macaela for taking fabulous photographs of all of the action on Show Day.
- ❖ Everyone who helped put away the gear at the end of Show Day.

A total of \$78 was raised from the sale of decorations.



Fantastic performance of our tamariki's favourite waiata.



Rebecca, Kaia and Amara proudly showing off the beautifully painted pavers for the gardens.

The results of the animal/pet competition were:

Junior:

- 1st Frank Hore
- 2nd Prue Tayler
- 3rd Hazel Evans

Senior:

- 1st June Baker
- 2nd Juno Fallon
- 3rd Taegan Evans

Supreme Champion: Aiden Pradeep

Violet has written a fabulous poem celebrating the arrival of Spring:

Sunlight gazes upon the vibrant, blossoming flowers of Spring.

The nights are longer and the grass is brighter.

The birds are singing and the lambs have arrived.

The rivers are rising and the water is warmer.

People clean their houses and birds make nests.

New life has formed and growth has begun.

Reminders

There is a Teacher/Staff Only Day on Monday, 20th November. This is when the children do not attend school, while administration and curriculum work continues, in keeping with MoE requirements.

To all the Year 4 – 8 parents to send the:

- Washed sports uniforms back to school as soon as possible.
- Children back to school **with their sunhats.**

Time for a laugh:

What's the difference between:

- A cat and a comma?
 - One has claws attached to its paw, the other has a pause attached to its clause.
- A pencil and an argumentative colleague?
 - A pencil usually has a point.
- A hippo and a zippo?
 - One is really heavy, and the other is a little lighter.
- A female ant and a male ant?
 - A girl ant sinks and a buoyant floats.



I NEED HELP

to line trim/mow the stone bank at the front of the school and the sledging track/Liam's Hill in the playground area.

Also, the grass around the trees on the east and south boundaries need cutting as the ride-on mower can't access it.

The grass is getting longer by the day so it would be much easier using a line trimmer and much quicker if there were 2/3 people working together.

I have one line trimmer and hand mower in the garage that can be used.

I will be out of action for some time with my back/leg problem.

If you can help, please call:

Hop-Along-Bernie on 027 221 8374.

Many thanks.

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IMPORTANT FUNDRAISING NOTICE:

The Garston Home and School once again will be catering for the Fairlight Foundation Lunch on Friday 15th December. This very generous fundraiser will contribute towards School Swimming lessons in Term 1. We will need the help of 3-4 people on the day from 10.30-2pm, and donations of salads from other families. All help is hugely appreciated. Thank you to Fairlight Foundation for this wonderful opportunity again!

IMPORTANT - IMPORTANT - IMPORTANT

Your children have brought home an extremely important envelope containing information about end of year organisation including stationery bill, Secret Santa and personal Lucky Book Club order for those who wish to make a purchase. **Please check their bags for it.**



Tehila, Mabel and June ready for action at the Mossburn games.

Southland's summer just got brighter 🌞 Hospice Southland's Family Summer Holiday Raffle is here, and it's our biggest raffle to date with fantastic prizes worth over \$6000!

The prizes include a four-burner gas BBQ, a family-sized tent, a paddleboard, a trip to the Glow Worm caves, and so much more 🎁

📺 Get your tickets at any Hospice shop or on our website.
Your \$5 ticket or a book of five for \$20 makes a real difference

The raffle starts on Monday, 6 November 2023.

- It closes on Friday, 19 January 2024.
- The winner will be announced on 3 February in the Southland Times and the Otago Daily Times.
- The prize is to be claimed by 19 April 2024, otherwise the raffle will be redrawn.



Online ticket link: <https://www.hospicesouthland.org.nz/pages/summer-holiday-raffle/>



Dates for your Diary



Friday, 10th November

Year 7 Technology at NSC – last session.



13th – 15th November (Monday-Wednesday)

Borland Lodge senior camp (Yr 5-8).



Monday, 20th November

TEACHER ONLY DAY – students stay at home



Tuesday, 21st November

Book bus – for members



Monday, 4th December

Home and School meeting



Wednesday, 6th December (waiting for confirmation)

Board meeting at 7pm



Tuesday, 12th December

School Concert and Prizegiving 1.30pm



Thursday, 14th December

Last School Day, finish at midday



School restarts in 2024 on Tuesday, 30th January