



23rd November 2023

Term 4 Week 7

From the desk of Ms O' and Mrs A-T

The weeks are flying by and we only have three and a bit weeks until the end of term. What a busy term!

Things are a bit different with the newsletter this week, as Bernie is of course unable to collate information and adverts for our weekly bulletin. We would like to wish Bernie well and hope that his surgery goes ahead this week and his recovery is fast and smooth.

Profound thanks to those who have answered our call for assistance with the ground-keeping. We do appreciate how busy everyone is at this time of year. Since we don't know how long Bernie will be out of action, so please ring if you are willing and able to help with current and future lawn mowing or line trimming. This is a huge and on-going task. Thank you

In the meantime, please contact Kathryn on her mobile phone if you have any urgent questions.

Here's a run-down of what's been going on:

Local history

Room 1 have been awarded their **Southland Social Sciences Heritage Award badges**.

Lloyd Esler came to interview the children about their presentations, which included a wide range of interesting topics – such as posters about local historic buildings, reports from the “Ask an Elder morning tea”, and their Family Tree work.

All children who attended the Awards Day achieved their cloth badge. Well done!
(If you haven't seen it yet, ask your child – it may be their bag!)



Interschool Sports

The Interschool Sports at Mossburn was a great success.

Our Room 1 students joined with Mossburn school Year 4-6 students to play football, cricket, Blazepods and tapa ae.

They tried their hardest and did Garston school proud.

Thanks to all the parents who provided transport and stayed to support the matches. If you'd like to send feedback, there is an online survey from Heron, at Active Southland – click [here](#).

Please send the sports uniforms back if you haven't already.

School Camp

Room 1 (Year 5-8) have returned from a fantastic camp at Borland Lodge, where they hiked, kayaked, climbed, swam and learnt how to orienteer.

Thanks to:

- Ms O' for organising the venue and making all the plans
- Haylee Trusler and Rodney Baker for being great parent helpers
- Annabelle and a team of amazing chefs and bakers for providing dinners and snacks.

We will publish some camp photos on our Garston school Facebook (please Like/Follow if you have not done so already). Please contact me if you'd like any copies.



Scholastic Book Club

This is only for those wish to make a personal order. Make your orders directly, as per the instructions on the order booklet which you have already been given. School no longer handle these purchases.

“Keeping ourselves safe” Health Education Programme

Room 2 have been enjoying some amazing learning from the NZ Police “Keeping ourselves Safe” programme. Miss Willmot has presented the preventative strategies through games and role plays. We encourage families to discuss the concepts again at home. Room 1 are starting the middle and senior years programme this week.



Christmas Concert, Secret Santa and School Photos

Thanks to all those who have already sent in the **Secret Santa gifts** for our traditional gift swapping on the last day of school 14th December. Ask if you have any questions regarding organisation for the gifts, concert or school photos.

Now we begin with serious rehearsals for the end of year **Christmas Concert!** This year we have something special planned to utilise the large indoor space of the wharenui.

Please keep your diary free on **Tuesday 12th December** from 1:30pm and invite your family, friends and neighbours for some seasonal fun. The concert also includes the annual **Prize Giving**.

We are looking for some items to help with:

- **The staging** - black sheets/curtains/drop sheets etc to cover the windows, and fairy lights.

- **Costumes** for the juniors - cowboy/girl outfits.



- **Costumes** for the seniors - Christmas colour clothing (red, white, green, silver and gold).

- **Everyone** – Santa hat!



Please don't feel you have to buy anything special, but have a look what you might have at home.

Thanks to Amy Baker and Jo Evans who are already working on some ideas.