



GeraldinePrimary

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Newsletter

Week 7, Term 1

Thursday 16 March 2016

From our Principal....

The Home and School group held their AGM on Monday night. News from the Home and School will be covered later in this newsletter, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank some long-serving members who resigned at the meeting for their input over a number of years. Many thanks to Sarah Wilson, who has been President for the past five years, outgoing Secretary Pip Goldsbury, Jolene Sowden, Michelle Robertson and Peg Wood. On behalf of the school community, many thanks to you all for the time and service you have given to GPS. Your dedication and input has been appreciated by us all.

Last week our Year 6 students ventured out to Lindisfarne for their annual camp. Mr Davidson, Whaea Ange and Mrs Waldron were ably supported by close to 20 parents throughout the week - help that was much appreciated. It was rewarding to see so many families travel out to attend the BBQ and concert on Thursday night. It was also good to see some of GPS's past students and younger siblings at camp - no doubt reliving many happy memories of past camps as well as expectations of camps to come. Well done to everyone involved.

Our survey of Religious Education (RE) / Bible in Schools closed last Friday. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the online survey. Due to the results of this survey, Religious Education will now be taking place during lunch time in Terms 2 and 3, day to be confirmed. This decision has been ratified by the Board of Trustees.

Parents who wish their children to be involved in RE will therefore be able to access this at lunchtimes. There is an **opt in** return form later in this

newsletter, which is due back to the school office by Wednesday 23 March. If you wish your child to take part in lunchtime RE, please return the form to school by this time. RE classes will be based on this information and numbers passed to the co-ordinators so that materials can be organised.

The Board of Trustee election process takes place in the first half of next term. We will be calling for nominations in the first week of next term and nominations will close on Friday 20th May. Board members are elected by our parents to represent their views and to provide overall governance and stewardship to the school. They aren't involved in the day to day running of the school – this lies with myself as Principal and the staff.

The Board, which includes the Principal and Staff Rep, sets the direction for the school. Among other tasks, they should positively represent the school, and act as good employers. Board members bring a variety of skills and come from a range of backgrounds. Being a Board member isn't an arduous task. Meetings are typically held ten times a year on a monthly basis. Occasionally there will be training and planning sessions. Being a Board member gives you a special insight into the school. Much of the learning is done on the job.

If you are interested in finding out a bit more about being a Trustee, please feel free to contact me or any of the following Board members: Rob Wilson, Glen Smith, Joe Wyborn, John Hayhoe, Ingrid Hanrahan or Jo Drake (Staff Rep).

Finally, a reminder that school activity fees have been set at \$80 for the year. If these are paid by the end of Term 1, the fee is reduced to \$70. As such, we would encourage parents to pay the activity fee in the next four weeks. Alternatively, a regular automatic payment can be set up. Please contact the school office for our account details.

Until next time,

Andrew Leverton,
Principal / Tumuaki

School Notices

Room 7

Kia ora. This term we have been very busy in Room 7. We are learning our alphabet and star words and counting to twenty.

We have been working hard learning to swim, typing stories on the computer, drawing pictures of our school and learning about the people who help us at school.

We made vegetable creations for the Winchester Geraldine A&P Show and they turned out really well.

Room 10

We have had a busy start to the year. We have had the Middle Syndicate triathlon. All children participated and enjoyed the event. It was great to see so many parents there. Our Flat Stanleys will be ready to be sent out this week. We are looking forward to seeing the Flat Stanley adventure photos, and learning about new countries and places. We are learning to use interesting words in our writing. It is the first time we have been involved in NZ Readaloud with many other schools in New Zealand. Our book we are reading is A handful of Blue. We are learning many new things, how to use Edmodo, be active listeners and to work collaboratively with other New Zealand children to complete tasks set for the story.

Room 4

At camp the weather varied from wet, mucky and cold, to hot sticky and bothered and even to gusty howling wind. The day we did Gutbuster it was pouring with rain which made it so much fun and a big adventure. A few of the tents got soaked and flooded with the drizzle and some had to move all their gear.

Wednesday was the spookiest night of all. It was the night it was the dark and scary Night Hike. I enjoyed strolling along a path with my friends. We were carefully looking at each side and then Elsie crept up slowly and steadily in front of us and scared the heck out of us

Then came Thursday and it had a big howling gusty nor'wester wind. We went for a swim and it was so windy that all our clothes and towels went flying into the river and got absolutely drenched with the water. Most of us giggled out heads off as hats flew everywhere.

Camp Lindisfarne was so much fun we had a fantastic time.

By Kristin Schoneveld

Crunch, the snapping logs are the loudest sounds as everyone carefully treks around in the silent un revealing dark.

The torches reveal the world one tiny circle at a time. Within the beam of one torch a bone can be seen dangling from a tree, in the dark its pale figure is as clear as the moon.

Cautiously the snake of lights keeps moving, a slight breeze rustles amongst the shrubbery. There's someone or something hiding in them. Whispers pass down the line of stories that older students have passed on through the years.

Somewhere a piercing scream erupts things have started happening now. "Something has got my leg," cries someone in front of me. Torches are flashing everywhere trying to detect the cause of this mayhem. All is silent. Up ahead someone announces that the walk is over. All hearts are pounding, recovering from the fright fest as we make our way back to camp. The night hike was a thriller.

By Olivia Chapman.

Gustbusting for some
Umbrellas might have been helpful
Tired at the end
Beaten up by the rain
Underestimated what it was like
Sliding and slipping is sort of fun
Terribly high
Easy for some not so for others
Really slippery and rocky land
That is what people thought of the
2016 Gutbuster.

By Ryan Chambers

Yelling and screaming.
Exciting food
Awesome water games
Running wild wind
Super big gutbuster
Interesting bug hunt
Excellent yummy desserts
Compelling concert entertainment
Amazing view from the top of Gutbuster!
Making marvellous memories

Perfect water mostly. *By Nicole Rayner*

Cold creep scary, Windy roads that lead to traps

Mice that look weary Children scared out of their hats

So there you have it the night hike. *By Angus Flannery*

Cold drenched and sticky
We've climbed the gutbuster hill
Wet miserable

Pitch black skulls hanging
Scared to death on the night hike
Owls hooting children screaming. Frightened and quiet
By Rebekah Skinner.

Yelling children
Eating food
Action packed camp
Running around a lot
Smiling kids
Injuries, bumps, bruises and band aids
Exremely exciting camp
Concert performances fantastic clapping
Amazing cooperative games
Memories of camp to last forever
Positively perfect year 6 camp. *By Ben Wyborn*

Many thanks to those parents that helped with transport and those that helped on the camp.
Thank you for your food donations and wonderful baking.
Without parents continued support we would find it difficult to run this camp and keep it so cost efficient.

Also a big thank you to McCains Foods, Talley's and Barkers of Geraldine who each year generously sponsor us with food.
Murray Davidson, Bronwyn Waldron, Whaea Ange

Breakfast BBQ

The Breakfast BBQ is being held on Thursday 24th March from 8.00 – 9.00am.
Our Year 6 students will have various stalls to raise money for our sponsored child Htet Wai Yan Oo who lives in Myanmar. Games at the stalls will cost 50c, \$1 or \$2, so bring plenty of change.

There will also be a second hand stall so any unwanted books, toys, puzzles or games that you don't want can be sent along to Mrs Scott (in Room 14). The ever popular cake stall will also be run and we would love any baking and home made sweets for this stall. Please also send to Mrs Scott.

Swimming Pool

The **school pool** closed on Sunday 6th March. Please return all pool keys to the school office as soon as possible, to get your bond back.

New students

A special welcome to our new student Mason Carter Payne who started in Room 6 this week.

Relay for Life mufti

Thank you to everyone who supported our Relay for Life Mufti Day last week. A total of \$635.30 was raised for the Cancer Society.

3 Way Conferences

Three Way Conferences are on Friday 8th April from 8.15am – 5.15pm

Bookings can be made online now. Bookings will **close on Wednesday 6th April at 2pm.**

1. The website address www.schoolinterviews.co.nz
2. The event code **v2r9a**

Dental Clinic

The Geraldine Primary School Dental Clinic is now open on Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during term time. To make an appointment at any time please phone 0800 846 983.

Family Works Counsellor at the Community Resource Centre every Thursday

She is Jo Blakemore. Jo works with adults, children families and couples and can be contracted by phoning Family Works on 03 688 5029 to self refer or speak to Deana at school who has application forms (for the service) available.

School Calendar -

Week 7

Friday 18 March Room 4 & 5 kayaking

Week 8

Thursday 24 March Breakfast BBQ

Friday 25 March Good Friday – School Closed

Week 9

Monday 28 March Easter Monday – School Closed

Tuesday 29 March Easter Tuesday – School Closed

Thursday 31 March –

Friday 1 April Room 4 & 5 rock climbing
SC Swimming

Week 10

Friday 8 April 3 Way Conferences all day

Week 11

Friday 15 April Open Assembly 1.30pm
Term 1 ends 2.45pm

2016 Term Dates

Term 1

Monday 1 February – Friday 15 April 11 weeks

Includes:

Good Friday – Fri 25 March (school closed)

Easter Monday – Mon 28 March (school closed)

Easter Tuesday – Tues 29 March (school closed)

Term 2

Monday 2 May – Friday 8 July 10 weeks

Includes:

Teacher Development Day – Fri 3 June (school closed)

Queen's Birthday – Mon 6 June (school closed)

Term 3

Monday 25 July – Friday 23 September 9 weeks

Term 4

Monday 10 October – Thursday 15 December 10 weeks

Includes: - Labour Day – Mon 24 October (school closed)

Home & School

AGM 2016

Wow, what another stella year for our Home and School. We have a positive healthy committee, an excellent reciprocal relationship with our school staff and BOT and we have a great balance of service and fundraising activities aimed to benefit all the children of Geraldine Primary

School. The past year has seen the committee actively involved in many activities as well as donate \$27,000 to our school for the benefit of all our children. Wahoo!

Our AGM saw a number of changes of personnel this year and it is exciting to see our evolving committee include several new, enthusiastic, and capable people join the team.

New appointments include:

President: Helen England

Treasurer: Paula Campbell

Secretary: Jane Harmon

Aaron Sheed will continue in the role of Vice President.

Committee

Meg Catherwood, Claire Chapman, Robyn Skinner, Fiona Wilcox, Helen Stamps, Marie Moore, Sarah Bennett, Marissa Grant, Anna Coleman, Ingrid Hanrahan BOT rep, Rochelle Fisher/Andrea Bathgate Staff rep, Murray Davidson, Andrew Leverton.

Our most sincere thanks go to the following members who have resigned following a significant contribution over a number of years:

Sarah Wilson, our retiring President, who has led our committee for the last five years with unwavering professionalism and enthusiasm and willingness to be involved in so many of our various activities,

Pip Goldsbury, our retiring Secretary, who has provided the committee with her winning way with words and media/marketing skills over several years, Michelle Robertson, for many years of service, fun, and invaluable catering advice and assistance,

Jolenne Sowden, for assisting in many different areas over several years with outstanding cheerfulness, and willingness to step in when required, including a stint as Treasurer.

Thank you also to Marissa Grant for fulfilling the role of Treasurer so admirably for the previous year.

We are looking forward to another productive year ahead. Thank you and congratulations to all new appointments and several recent new members.

Easter Art Extravaganza

Plans are well underway for the 10th Anniversary of this popular event. We urgently require parental support to volunteer to sit on the entrance desk to collect the gold coin entry and sell raffle tickets. It is an excellent opportunity to view the exhibition. Please contact the office if you are able to assist. Shifts requiring volunteers include:

Thurs 24th March:	10am - 12pm 1 person	12pm - 2pm 1 person
	4pm - 5pm 2 people	
Fri 25th March	12pm - 2pm 1 person	2pm - 4pm 2 people
	4pm - 5pm 2 people	
Sat 26th March	10 am - 12pm 2 people	2pm - 4pm 2 people
	4pm - 5pm 2 people	
Sun 27th March	10 am - 12pm 2 people	12pm - 2pm 2 people

We also require parent support to help with our clean up on Sunday 27 March from 4pm. This is not an arduous task....but is definitely made easier with many hands!

Thank you for your support and please take the opportunity to visit the exhibition and promote it within your community, particularly any visitors to the area over Easter.

Upcoming Events:

Trail Bike Ride: Sunday 17 April. More details next newsletter.

Next Meeting: Monday 14 April, 7pm in the school staffroom

Policy Review

How to review a GPS policy on School Docs

School Docs is an online portal that houses all our school policies and procedures.

This term we are due to review our policies on:

- ✓ Alcohol, Drugs and Other Harmful Substances
- ✓ Swimming Pool

We would like your help with this. This will only take you a short while.

Go to: **gps.schooldocs.co.nz**

If you are asked for a user name, enter **gps**

If you are asked for a password, enter **geraldine**

This will take you to our School Docs home page.

In the search bar (top left), type in the name of the policy to be reviewed and click search.

With the policies that now come up, click on the policy you wish to review. There are often additional procedures which can be read alongside the policy.

Read through the policy and to comment, go to the **Red Policy Review** button (top right)

Click the parent / caregiver option and type in your name if you wish. Click the **Login** button. A new window will appear – you can now review this policy. You will be asked to rate the content and implementation of this policy. You can provide a comment if you wish. Click **Submit** when you're done.

This is how our policies are reviewed by parents / caregivers, staff and Board of Trustees members. Please feel free to look at any other policies. All policies are reviewed over a 3-year cycle.

You can send feedback on any policy at any time to the Principal via email by clicking the **Blue Send Feedback** button at the top right.

If you have any queries, please feel free to see our Principal - Andrew Leverton.

Religious Education Opt In Form

Please return this form to the school office by 9am on 23rd March

I _____ wish to opt my child/ren into Religious Education at lunchtimes.

.....Year

..... Year

..... Year

Signed :

We have noticed an increase in requests from parents of children who are not eligible to access bus transport, wanting to use the bus service on an occasional basis for after school care/social arrangements.

We have sought clarification from the Geraldine Schools Transport Network who advise the following:

- Only registered bus students who normally use the bus are able to change their normal bus arrangements by filling in a yellow bus pass. These are issued on a case by case basis and as space permits, but will not be approved for changes for sporting arrangements, play dates, birthday parties or sleepovers.
- The yellow bus passes for eligible bus students must be handed to the school office at least 24 hours prior to the bus departure.
- Bus drivers are instructed to drop off and pick up students at the designated point, unless a yellow bus form has been completed and approved within the above timeframe.
- Children who are not eligible for bus transportation will only be permitted access on a bus on a case by case basis and this will typically be in the event of an emergency or extenuating family circumstances. Events such as changes for sporting arrangements, play dates, birthday parties or sleepovers are excluded from the above circumstances.

For safety reasons we request that parents do not remove their children from buses at the High School. A roll check is done at the Geraldine Primary School Prior to Departure for the High School. A second roll check is completed at the High School once the primary children have transferred onto their home buses. Safety is paramount.

Reminder Emergency Bus Evacuation starts with the Police Educators at Geraldine High School. Please be aware that Buses may run a few minutes late. The timetable is as follows:

30 th March –	Hilton Express, Raincliff, Peel Forest.
1 st April –	Geraldine Flat, Ruapuna
5 th April –	Carew & Orari
6 th April –	Te Moana & Woodbury
8 th April –	Waihi & Hinds
12 th April –	Orari Extension & Rangitata