



GeraldinePrimary

Phone: (03) 693 8208

Email: office@geraldine.school.nz

Web: www.geraldineprimary.school.nz

Newsletter

Week 2, Term 2
Thursday 12 May 2016

From our Principal....

Welcome back to the start of Term 2. I trust that all families have had an enjoyable break. The last two days of the holidays saw a large contingent of the teaching staff and myself attend the **Energise Conference** for teachers and school leaders in Ashburton. We attended workshops focused on writing, maths, digital learning and leadership. Our two international keynote speakers Kevin Honeycutt (USA) and Khao Do (Vietnam/Australia) shared their stories and provided much inspiration for those in attendance.

Earlier this week I wrote to parents of students in Rooms 6, 7, 8 and 9 about the **redevelopment of the junior block**. Key aspects that are planned for this upgrade in the junior block include:

- New / repainted display spaces
- Sliding doors between each room, allowing for better interclass access when required
- New and extended bench areas
- Teacher storage units
- Heat pumps to replace existing heating provisions
- New external access sliding doors
- Widescreen 50" TVs (these will also be placed in all classrooms that are currently used)

As well as the upgrade to the classrooms, we also plan to address the junior toilet block. This will be remodelled throughout to include:

- Breakout / work / resource spaces where the boys' toilets are currently located
- New boys' and girls' toilet areas where the girls' toilets are currently located

- Covered accessway / bag storage between the girls' toilet and Room 7

This upgrade is currently at the tendering stage. Once a preferred construction company has been selected and a start date confirmed, we will need to rehouse each of the four junior classes during the building phase. Classes will be temporarily housed as follows:

- Room 6 and 9 will move to Rooms 15 and 16
- Room 7 and 8 will move to the Library
- Room 15 will move to the Meeting Room inside the administration area. Please note that access to the Meeting Room for Room 15 students / parents will be through the door leading from the lunch area, not the main office or staffroom door by Room 1.

All junior classes will use the Room 3 toilets during the building phase. Room 3 will use the Room 4 and 5 toilets. While junior students will do their learning in different spaces during construction, classroom programmes will continue as normal. While a start date for construction is yet to be confirmed it will hopefully be around the middle of the term. Movement into temporary classes will take place around a week before construction commences.

While there will be some changes and inconvenience during the construction period, this is an exciting time for our school and once the project is completed, the junior classes will have some fresh newly remodelled areas in which to work and learn.

Some members of our school community will soon be moving into the **dairy changeover** period. If you expect to be leaving GPS, or know of any new arrivals, please contact the school office as soon as possible, or encourage those who intend to join our school to do so at their earliest convenience.

Please note that we have an enrolment zone in place, which we adhere to in order to manage student numbers. If the dairy changeover, or other change in circumstance sees a current GPS family move out of our enrolment zone, they will still be entitled to attend GPS, but bus entitlement may be affected depending on where they live. Please contact our school office for clarification on this matter.

Geraldine Primary now has a **Facebook** page. This will run alongside our established Twitter page (@geraldineps1) as a way of sharing information with our community. We also share information in regular newsletters, which come fortnightly. Newsletters are posted on our web page – www.geraldineprimary.school.nz. We will aim to post a link to the newsletter on Facebook and Twitter as well.

We are now into the nomination period for the **Board of Trustees election**. Nomination forms can be collected from the school office. The nomination period closes on Friday 20 May at noon – all forms must be in by this time. If you would like to know more about the workings of the Board, please feel free to contact any Board member or myself.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the **John Parsons cyber safety evening** on Monday. John provided some thought-provoking discussion which I'm sure parents will find useful in order to keep their children safe when using digital devices.

Until next time,

Andrew Leverton
Principal

School Notices

Safer Journeys for Children

A part of our road safety education around schools and the community we are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGING** all students who regularly ride bikes and scooters or who walk to school to wear High vis fluro vests.

We encourage all parents/caregivers to model safe road use and support this initiative.

With the days becoming shorter and darker in the mornings we want to promote safe passage to school.

The vests will be handed out to students in due course at no charge. Replacement vests cost \$5.00.

Room 1

In Room One we have had a busy start to the term. We spent the first week making sure we had something to make our mothers feel special on Mothers' Day. We drew awesome pictures of flowers, dyed them and added them to a card with a letter to our mums. We have also been practising our running everyday with Room 10, ready for the Cross Country. This week John Parsons taught us how to keep ourselves safe on the internet. He told us things like:

- Don't use our pictures when signing up to games, use an Avatar and a made up name.
- Ask permission before you put someone else's picture online.
- Don't put personal information on anything you put online.

Also this week we have had a show called The Land Far Far Away. This was put on by the Playhouse Theatre, it was about internet safety as well. They

were amazing! For fun today our class are going to Waihi School to see how they use Lego Robots in their classrooms. We can't wait.

Written by Tasman, Mackenzie, Sophie

Room 8

Welcome to Term 2. We have been enjoying the warm weather. It was interesting listening to John Parsons teach us all about being safe on the computer. Don't talk to strangers or tell them where you live or anything about yourself.

Yesterday the whole Junior Syndicate went for an Autumn walk to the Domain. We looked at all the signs of Autumn and spotted all the different coloured leaves. We collected things to bring back to the classroom to share.

Here we are having fun.

Advance Notice Middle Syndicate Trip (June 8/9th)

The Middle Syndicate is planning a trip to the Air Force Museum in Christchurch in Term 2. We will be travelling by bus, due to seatbelt restrictions for this age group. The dates are Wednesday 8th June (Rooms 1,17,13) and Thursday 9th June (Rooms 10,11,12). We will need parent help to support these trips. Sorry – no pre-schoolers will be able to come on the day. There will be more information to come soon.

Thanking you

Middle Syndicate Teachers

Geraldine Primary School Cross Country Tuesday 17th May.

Children have been practising for our school cross country during school time. They will get to go around the course so they know where to run on the day. Please make sure your child has appropriate footwear during this time.

Our cross country will be held at the Domain, starting at 1pm. If postponed then Wednesday 18th May, this will be on our phone messages, Twitter, notice on the front page of our Website and on Facebook.

Lunch will be at school from 12:00 to 12:40. We will then walk over to the Domain.

All children take part in this activity unless they have a medical reason for not participating, in which case a letter needs to be written to the Principal or Deputy Principal. We see this activity as being the same as Reading or Maths and that all children should try to do their best.

The race programme will start with the juniors and go through to the senior classes.

Junior Syndicate classes are run by age group. Middle and Senior Syndicates are run by year group.

Children who are in Years 0 – 2 may leave after the completion of their race if their parent is there to take them. Please let the teacher know.

A team will be selected from Y3 upwards to attend the Geraldine District Cross Country, which is being run by Carew-Peel Forest School on Tuesday 24th May, with a postponement on the 26th. There will be more information for the selected team after our Cross Country.

New students

A special welcome to our new students: Myka, Ryan, Jordan, Lance and Nina who have all started in Room 9 this term and Jade (R2), Kalan (R4), Eva (R12) and Hershel (R5).

Subway orders

Due to Subway relocating we will advise students through the daily notices and families via Twitter and Facebook if there will be Subway orders next week (Week 3).

Mufti Day for Pink Shirt Day- 20th May 2015

On the 20th of May the school is going to take part in a nationwide 'Pink Shirt Day' to show that we are in support of schools stamping out bullying and making schools safe and enjoyable places to be. This day links closely to our school values of being respectful and caring to all. On 'Pink Shirt Day' your child is able to wear pink mufti clothing to show they are in support of this cause (they do not have to have every single item in pink). We will not ask for a gold coin donation on this day but if you wish to donate to this cause run by the Mental Health Foundation you can visit the website below and make a \$3 donation. <http://www.pinkshirtday.org.nz>

If your child does not wish to take part they should wear normal school uniform on this day.

Fundraising for Hospice (Staff wearing jeans)

Friday 20th May, you will notice some of the staff wearing their favourite jeans to school. Staff are supporting the SC Hospice fundraiser by donating \$5 to wear jeans to work. If you wish to contribute, please feel free to give a donation at the office and we will send it along with our contribution for the appeal.

Dental Clinic

The Geraldine Primary School Dental Clinic is now open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 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

Jo Blakemore 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.

Lost Property

Polar Fleece, size 4 named Adele Stack. If found please return to R9 or office.

Polar Fleece, size 12 named Tilly Davies. If found please return to R2.

School Calendar -

Term 2

Week 3

Tuesday 17 May

School Cross Country at Domain

Postponement Wednesday 18 May

Wednesday 18 May

Board of Trustees meeting 5pm – all welcome

Friday 20 May

Pink Shirt Mufti Day

Week 4

Tuesday 24 May

District Cross Country

Postponement Thursday 26 May

Week 5

Friday 3 June

Teacher Only Day – School Closed

Week 6

Monday 6 June

Queens Birthday – School Closed

Wednesday 8 June

Rooms 1, 13 & 17 visit to Airforce Museum, Christchurch

Thursday 9 June

Rooms 10,11 & 12 visit to Airforce Museum, Christchurch

2016 Term Dates

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

Trail Bike Ride

This was a highly successful event with numbers participating up on the previous year. Participants were highly complimentary about the course and there was a great atmosphere on the day. This event would not be possible without the cooperation of local landowners to generously allow the course to take place on their farmland. This committee is extremely grateful to the landowners and appreciate that it takes some organisation to prepare a route and shift stock, fences etc. Thanks are also due to Grenville Button for being the organiser of this popular series of rides and to the committee helpers on the sausage sizzle on the day, namely to the Grant family for undertaking the majority of the organisation, and to the Slater family and Jane Harmon.

Stock Scheme Thank You Dinner

Thanks to Sarah and Rob Wilson for hosting the stock scheme dinner last weekend as a chance to thank the families who donated calves and lambs for the benefit of GPS last year. This dinner also serves as an opportunity to award the coveted trophy for the heaviest calf. And the award for 2015, goes to the Wells Family, with the top calf weight of a staggering 195 kilograms. Second place went to the Wood family and third place to the Sherriff family. Many thanks to all who participated.

Easter Art

The Home and School Committee would like to inform our school community of the decision to no longer run the Easter Art fundraiser in conjunction with John and Kaye Jackson.

We feel like it was a great time to conclude as it was the 10 year anniversary which we celebrated with the Jacksons at the opening night.

This was not a decision made lightly. The exhibition being held over a very busy time when families often went away or had other activities on made it difficult to get willing helpers for the duration of the exhibition.

It was suggested to John and Kaye that another local organisation may want to take up the fundraiser but they have decided to not continue with the event at all.

Nevertheless we'd like to take the opportunity to thank John and Kaye for a job well done over the last 10 years with many thousands being turned into experiences and resources for our children.

We are a new committee with fresh ideas coming through so watch this space. We are always looking to welcome new members and new ideas so please come along to a meeting, we would love to see you there. Our next meeting is in the staffroom Monday 16th May 7pm.

Second Hand Uniform

For families new to Geraldine Primary School this term, one of our parents, Trudy Banks, kindly volunteers her time every second Friday (the Friday following this newsletter) to sell donated items of second hand uniform in the Meeting Room, School Office Block, from 0850 – 0915. For parents currently reviewing whether last years long sleeves and trouser legs still fit, donations of clean tidy uniform are always appreciated.

Term 2 Sale Dates:

Friday 13 May

Friday 27 May

Friday 10 June

Friday 24 June

Friday 8 July TBC

Next Meeting

Monday 16 May, 7pm, Staff Room. New members most welcome.

COFFEE HOUR

FRIDAY 13 MAY FROM 9.00 – 10AM

Geraldine Primary School staffroom

Speakers:

Margaret Bruce and Kristina Wilson from Family Works to talk about programmes for children and families in our area.

Look forward to seeing you there.

CRECHE AVAILABLE.

Deana