



# Geraldine Primary

*Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve*

Phone: (03) 693 8208

Email: [office@geraldine.school.nz](mailto:office@geraldine.school.nz)

Web: [www.geraldineprimary.school.nz](http://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz)

## Newsletter

**Week 2, Term 1**

**Thursday 9 February 2017**

### **From our Principal....**

*Kia ora Whanau. Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou - greetings to you all.*

We had a large number of people attending our **Parent Information Sessions and Family BBQ** last Wednesday. The format of the Information Sessions varied from past years in the middle and senior schools, who adopted a slightly different approach, encouraging parents to pop in between 5 and 5.30pm before the BBQ. By having the two events on the same night we hoped that this would encourage higher attendance by asking parents in to school on one night rather than two.

The staff have evaluated this approach at a recent meeting. If parents have any comments about having the two events on the one night, or comments about the evening in general, please feel free to email me – [principal@geraldine.school.nz](mailto:principal@geraldine.school.nz) .

The start of the year presents a good opportunity to mention our **Complaints and Concerns Procedures**. Generally if a concern has arisen, parents are best to speak to their child's classroom teacher if it is an in class matter. This could involve their child's learning, homework or social relationships. For more of a schoolwide issue, please see a member of the management team or myself. If

matters are brought to the attention of the correct person sooner rather than later, a better outcome is easier to reach.

Our school website has a link to our **School Docs policy portal**, where details of all policies and procedures are clearly stated. Click on the School Information tab on our website and go to the School Policies section.

High levels of **student attendance** is one contributing factor to overall progress and success at school. An attendance rate of at least 90% will increase the chances of this success. Where attendance levels drop below 90%, gaps in learning will inevitably start to appear – missed group reading lessons, or key elements of topic work for example.

Most of the students at GPS are supported to have high levels of attendance. The 90% rate allows for some sickness, or other justified reasons for absence. A rate of 80% represents one day off a week, ten days a term or approximately 40 school days a year. If this level is sustained, the likelihood of underachievement increases.

Closely aligned to attendance is punctuality, which I will discuss in the next newsletter.

In last week's newsletter we mentioned that from Term 2 we are aiming to **share the newsletter with our school community via email**, as well as on the school website. In order to be able to have the fortnightly newsletter emailed, please provide your email address to the office: **office@geraldine.school.nz** . We would appreciate this contact being through email in order to get accurate email details.

We will continue to mention this throughout the term in order to have a smooth transition to this new system in Term 2. If you don't have an email address, you or your child will be able to collect a paper copy through the office throughout Term 2. We will continue to let parents who are signed up to our Twitter and Facebook posts know when a newsletter is available on the website.

Last week parents of Room 2 students were made aware of the **resignation of Rosie Ulrich**, effective as of the end of this term. Rosie and her partner Chris will be moving to the Eastern Bay of Plenty where Chris has been awarded a position on a dairy farm. Rosie has been appointed to a teaching position at Otamarakau School, which is 20 minutes east of Te Puke.

We will be sorry to lose a teacher of Rosie's calibre on our staff. We thank her for her contributions over the past year, both as a teacher in Room 2 and for her co-ordination of PE and Physical Activity Leaders. We wish both her and Chris all the very best in their new ventures in the North Island. They have exciting and busy times ahead of them!

The appointment process for a new teacher in Room 2 for terms 2 – 4 has commenced and I will inform you all when we have made an appointment.

*Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui – be strong, be bold, be steadfast*

*Ngā mihi nui,*

Andrew Leverton  
Principal / Tumūaki

## **School notices:**

### **Mufti Day**

Tomorrow, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February the school will be holding a mufti day to help support Joanne, Kitty and James through the unexpected passing of a husband and father.

Wear mufti and bring a gold coin donation that will go towards supporting a member of our school family at this sad time.

If families wish to donate an additional amount a bank account has been set up at BNZ 02 0840 0054095 001.

## Sun Hats

Please ensure that your child has the correct sunhat for term 1. A reminder that navy bucket style or rimmed small sunhats are a compulsory part of our school uniform from the start of term 4 until the end of term 1. These can be purchased from The Warehouse, or from A Little House Embroidery, Winchester phone 03 615 6004 (cost \$12.50 with the option of 2 embroidered initials for an extra \$4 or 3 initials for \$4.50).

## New Students

A special welcome to our new students: Rune, R4; Aria, R12; Tyler, R6; Anton, R8; Kori, R11; Rubie-Rose, James, Lucas, William, Samuel, Paris, Tyler, Leo, Molly, and Cruze who all started in R9 recently.

## Dental Clinic

To make an appointment at any time please phone 0800 846 983.

## School Calendar -

### 2017 Term Dates

|               |                      |               |                        |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| <b>Term 1</b> | 30 January–13 April  | <b>Term 2</b> | 1 May–7 July           |
| <b>Term 3</b> | 24 July–29 September | <b>Term 4</b> | 16 October–15 December |

### Term 1

#### Week 3

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday 13 February    | Home & School Meeting, 7pm    |
| Tuesday 14 February   | Y5 & 6 Triathlon              |
| Wednesday 15 February | BOT meeting, 5.30pm           |
| Thursday 16 February  | postponement Y5 & 6 Triathlon |

#### Week 4

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Tuesday 21 February | Swimming Sports              |
| Friday 24 February  | postponement Swimming Sports |
|                     | Last Day Y5 & 6 Swimming     |

## **Week 5**

Tuesday 28 February

Thursday 2 March

Friday 3 March

Middle Syndicate Triathlon, 1.30pm

pp Middle Syndicate Triathlon

Last Day Y1-3 swimming

## **Geraldine Primary School Swimming Success**

One GPS pupil has qualified for the newly introduced Makos Zone Junior Festival to be held for the first time ever in Timaru from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of February.

Charlotte Orange will participate in the meet which is the highest level meet that a junior swimmer (12 years and under) can participate in within New Zealand.

Charlotte has her 100 IM, 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly times.

This is a significant achievement for Charlotte who trains regularly with the Geraldine Swim Club squad and we wish her well.

Congratulations are also due to Lydia Rae, Carlos Johnson and Maelle Rossignol who have all qualified for the South Island Country and Town event in Dunedin in early April.

The photo shows the junior swimmers from Geraldine who competed in the Swim Canterbury/West Coast Championships at Rolleston recently.



## Home & School Facebook Page

Welcome back to the school community for 2017. It was great to see so many families at the school BBQ last week.

The Geraldine Home and School Committee are delighted to share with you their new **Facebook** page. Please search for us (Geraldine Primary Home & School Committee) and 'Like' to keep up to date with events and information. Currently, we have 72 followers so it would be great to get as many of the school community on board in this social media age. Please share the page with other families too. We have decided to make this a public page as we view the Primary School to be integral in the Geraldine community.

Ideally, this will be the forum to share information from the Home & School to the entire parent/caregiver community and keep you up-to-date with social, networking and fundraising ideas. We would love to streamline all family communication through this page regarding sausage sizzles, road patrol, second hand uniforms etc. We know many of you are not able to commit to attending meetings or being on sub-committees but can help in other ways - a 'friend' of the Home & School - if you like. This Facebook page is the ideal forum for that.

Please contact the Home & School via this page (private message or comment) should you have any questions or ideas. We value your support!

**"Frocks and Flicks" Ladies Mystery Movie Night:** our first event for 2017. Book the date Thursday 23 February, tickets will be available soon. See flyer in this newsletter for details or on our Facebook page.

**Helpers Please!** Our valuable **morning road crossing** and **sausage sizzle** services need more volunteers. If you are able to help in any capacity, please contact Fe Wilcox (road crossing) or Michelle Howell (sausages, 027 693 7367) or via our Facebook page.

**Second Hand Uniform Sale:** First sale for 2017 is Friday 3 March, 0850 - 0915 in office block meeting room. Any donations of clean uniform in good condition appreciated.

**Sausage Sizzle:** Sausages are available for our children every Friday lunchtime. Orders are taken on Friday mornings prior to school starting 0820 - 0850. Sausages cost \$1.50 each. Payment is by cash (correct amount please) or by purchasing a card for 10 sausages (\$15.00) from the office. Gluten free is an option but the procedure for this should be discussed prior with Michelle Howell 027 693 7367.

We are looking forward to a successful year with some new events planned. We would welcome some new faces to our friendly and supportive committee. Our first meeting is next Monday, 7pm, in the Staff Room. If you are new to the school, it is a great way to meet other parents and be involved with school activities. It is not onerous or time-consuming. If you are at all interested, come and "check us out" at our meeting.



*Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve*

## **Keeping up to date through social media and online information**

As well as our regular fortnightly newsletter, parents and friends of the school are able to obtain online information about Geraldine Primary in several ways:

### **Our school website...**

[www.geraldineprimary.school.nz](http://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz)

This contains general information about the school, including enrolments, policies, key events and term dates. Our fortnightly newsletter is also posted on the website. On our website you will also find information posted on our Twitter site.

### **Twitter...**

There will be times when it is important for us to be able to communicate with families as quickly as possible, for instance in the case of emergencies or school closures. Twitter is one way to do this. We can also post reminders, photos or news stories about school events.

Our Twitter page is: **[twitter.com/geraldineps1](https://twitter.com/geraldineps1)** . To follow us on Twitter through your mobile phone text: **follow geraldineps1 to 8987** . You will now receive GPS Tweets. Please note that Vodafone does not support Twitter – if you are with this provider you won't be able to receive GPS Tweets.

### **Facebook...**

This runs alongside our Twitter page as a way of communicating with our community about events that are occurring at school or if we need to get important information out to families as quickly as possible. Information posted on our Facebook site is similar to what is posted on Twitter.

To find our page, go to **[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)** and search for Geraldine Primary School.



## Community Notices

JAB REGISTRATION DAY Friday 17 February 3.30-6.30pm Geraldine Rugby Club Rooms, George Street Subs \$60, eftpos available. On payment, kids will receive a boot bag, and for those new to the club - a hoodie. Fire brigade will be there to cool the kids off, and there'll be a lolly scramble. Registrations also taken on Wednesday 22 February 3.30 – 5.30pm. Players must be registered by a parent/guardian to be eligible to play. If new to club, please bring a copy of birth certificate. COACHES/MANAGERS NEEDED  
Enquiries contact Mel - 027 749 3338 or 03 614 8845

## **OCEANS Grief and Loss Peer Support Programme**

Oceans is a peer support programme for children and youth who have experienced loss in their life. The losses covered may come from the death of a close relative or friend, or the separation/divorce of parents. The focus of this programme is providing a safe environment for participants to talk about their loss/es and the resulting change/s in their lives. We attempt to run a programme each term and it runs for nine weeks. We have seen many children go through the programme and have numerous success stories of how it has helped.

## **The Incredible Years**

Family Works South Canterbury will again present the Incredible Years free parenting programmes in early 2017, with day and night programmes starting in February and March.

More positive, rewarding parenting...

“The Incredible Years” programme acknowledges that parenting is one of the most important jobs we can ever do, empowering parents with valuable skills and resources including:

- practical step-by-step suggestions for everyday family situations
- strategies for challenging behaviours
- building the parent / child bond
- problem solving
- social, emotional & brain development in children

- positive communication & discipline
- increasing support networks

In an encouraging and supportive learning environment, parents learn skills for more positive, rewarding, parenting - and have lots of fun along the way!

Tuesdays

**28 February - 11 April 2017**

**9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Weekly three-hour sessions  
(excluding school holidays)

Thursday Nights

**2 March - 13 April 2017**

**6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

Weekly three-hour sessions  
(excluding school holidays)

**Timaru Venue: Family Works, 26 North St.**

**Register today to secure this programme in your area.**

**To find out more, contact Liz at Family Works South Canterbury on 03 688 5029 or 0274 688 200.**