



# Geraldine Primary

*Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve*  
*Whaia e koe te iti Kahurangi*

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## Newsletter

Week 7, Term 2  
Thursday 14 March 2019

From our Principal

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

We are now over half way through what has been a very busy and fast-paced term so far. There have been a number of events that students have been involved in, alongside classroom programmes, and I acknowledge the support that parents and whanau have provided for these.

In last week's flyer I discussed the **union meetings for teachers and principals** that are occurring next week. Negotiations around primary school teacher and principal employment agreements with the Ministry of Education are ongoing. These negotiations have been taking place over a number of months, with no settlement yet in place. There will be a meeting for all primary teachers in South Canterbury to discuss the most recent offer from the MOE during school time on Thursday 21 March. Most of the teachers at GPS will be attending an early afternoon meeting, thus enabling the school to remain open for the full day.

How this will work for us is as follows:

Normal classes will operate until 12.15pm. There will be 3 - 4 teachers remaining at school in the afternoon until the end of the school day, along with some teacher aides. Normal classroom programmes will stop at 12.15pm, with an alternative programme in place after the lunch break. At 12.15pm, parents are welcome to collect their children from school if they don't want them to remain at school for the afternoon's alternative programme, which will occur with the above reduced staffing. Buses will still depart at the normal time of 2.45pm.

Should you wish to collect your child at 12.15pm on 21 March, please wait outside their classroom at this time. This organisation enables teachers to attend the meeting and minimise disruption for families.

In March each year schools are required to submit their **Charter and Strategic Plan** to the Ministry of Education, along with analysis of **student achievement**. The Charter and Strategic Plan are available for viewing in the school office. Broadly speaking, our 2018

student achievement data indicated that 79% of our students achieved at or above the curriculum expectation in reading and writing, along with 72% in mathematics. Each year as a school we always look for ways to raise achievement, both at a school-wide level and at an individual class or syndicate level. This could be through existing learner support programmes, professional discussions and development or by introducing new programmes.

Geraldine Primary School is part of our local CoL (**Community of Learning**). The name of the CoL is Ka Awa Whiria or 'braided river,' which connects to our unique locality nearby our own braided river, the Rangitata. It also alludes to the purpose of a Community of Learning - a group of education providers that form around children and young people's learning pathways, and work together to help them achieve their full potential.

Along with Geraldine Primary School, Ka Awa Whiria Community of Learning is made up of our five early childhood centres: Clandeboye Preschool, Geraldine Kindergarten, Geraldine Preschool, Haywood Montessori Nursery School, Peel Forest Preschool, three other primary schools: Carew Peel Forest School, Winchester Rural School, Woodbury School, Geraldine High School and Ara Institute of Canterbury.

To strengthen our collaboration between schools we have staff who have the responsibility of a 'Within School Teacher' for our CoL. These teachers are focusing on the wellbeing of all students, and transitioning between schools. At Geraldine Primary School we have two Within School Teachers: wellbeing – Sarah Strowger, and transition – Andrea Bathgate.

I have been the Lead Principal of the CoL since the start of term 2, 2018 and Jason Shaw (Geraldine High School) works alongside me as the 'Across Schools Teacher' working with each partner in CoL.

Along with these appointments at the end of last year, we were also successful in gaining funding for professional development that will explore how oral language can assist student achievement. Over the next 18 months we will be working with Ms Del Costello, an oral language specialist. Along with her work with teachers in each school, we look forward to giving parents and the community the opportunity to hear her share some of her ideas later this year.

We look forward to seeing how this closer connection between all education providers in the area strengthens the learning experience for children and young people over the coming years. If you have any queries about the CoL, please feel free to see me at school or email me – [principal@geraldine.school.nz](mailto:principal@geraldine.school.nz).

Next week we will be visited by reviewers from the Education Review Office (ERO). ERO visit all education providers in New Zealand on a cyclical basis. Our last external review was in Term 4, 2015 and much has been developed and strengthened at GPS over this time, due to the hard work of our staff, Board of Trustees, Home and School group, parents and students. We look forward to welcoming the review team to school and working alongside them over the week. Their findings are typically made public six – eight weeks after the review team has been on site.

I would like to acknowledge several members of the Home and School who have recently stepped aside from their roles on the committee – Helen England (President), Jane Harmon (Secretary) and Paula Campbell (Treasurer) have all been on the Home and School for many years and have led the committee admirably. On behalf of the

staff, Board and members of the GPS community, I thank them for their tireless efforts. We welcome existing members Lou Ochsner (President), Angela Milne (Treasurer) and Jolie Mockford (Secretary) into these roles. Helen, Jane and Paula will remain on the committee.

Lastly, a reminder that voluntary school donations (\$60 per child per year) and activity fees (\$20 per child per year) are now due. The donations contribute to the cost of providing curriculum resources and the activity fees cover the cost of the various performers that we have at school throughout the year. If you haven't paid these already, please make arrangements to do so soon. Regular automatic payments can be set up to spread the cost over the year. The donation can also be claimed back through tax returns. Please note that additional activity costs, e.g. camps and class trips are over and above these two items and are payable accordingly.

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

*Ngā mihi nui,*

Andrew Leverton  
Principal / Tumukaki

### **School Notices**

#### **Rooms 1 and 2 internal construction work**

The internal construction work on Rooms 1 and 2 will commence on Monday 18th. It is anticipated that this will be completed before the end of the term. There will be some security fencing erected on the north side of the classrooms.

#### **Staff Carpark**

Please note that the carpark on Huffey Street on the school grounds is for staff only. Please respect this as it is a health and safety issue. There is a space that has been allocated within this carpark, to specific parents who have permission from The Board of Trustees to park here.

#### **New Students**

A special welcome to Vincent Guilford and Levi Tuibb who both started in Room 1 and Dillan Sami who started in Room 4.

#### **Gotcha Draw**

Congratulations to the following students who received a prize in the Gotcha draw at assembly: Marko R6; Jaedyn, R3; Sam C, R3; Lucy, R8; Terrilee, R3 and Zec, R4.

#### **PB4L Certificates**

The following students received PB4L Certificates at assembly recently:

R1	Ivan Orbase	R2	Sophie Johnson	R3	Lilly-Rose Meehan
R4	Mia Pierson	R5	Alexis Banks	R6	Matilda England
R7	Chania Woods	R8	Olive McCullough	R9	Liken Inon
R10	Zana Graham	R11	Ollie Barnett	R12	Sophia Cisneros
R17	Olivia Marsden				

**Save the Date - Breakfast BBQ Friday 5 April, 8am**

**Measles Information** Please refer to the separate note on our webpage under the newsletter tab

## **Tāwhirimātea Syndicate Book Fair**

Thank you to everyone who has donated books for us to sell on the **23<sup>rd</sup> March from 10am – 2pm**. We have an amazing range of books for all ages. Great prices! Cash only.

## **Online Payments**

For those who wish to pay school donations and activity fees online, our account number is: ANZ 01-0841-0024832-10

## **Emergency Contact details**

If you have had a change of address or phone number recently, please make sure that the office has up to date details.

Please feel free to ask at the office to check the information we currently hold for you.

## **Leaving after School from Wilson Street**

We would ask that after school parents leaving the school grounds with their children on the Wilson Street side, please use the Pool gate entrance by Room 14. This is a request for safety to avoid confusion for children getting on the buses and also to ensure that no one crosses the road between the buses.

## **Bus Students**

A reminder that all bus students must wear a bus vest.

Lastly parents/caregivers should not remove their Primary School children at Geraldine High School. There are complicated processes and systems in place to ensure the safety of all bus students. Once our Primary School children are on the bus they go over to the High School where some of them move one bus forwards or backwards to their "home" bus before the High School Students arrive. Parents/caregivers removing children at this time can cause confusion and delays.

## **Lost**

Silver bracelet/bangle – if found, please return to GPS Office

## **Calendar**

### **Term 1**

#### **Week 8**

Saturday 23 March

Middle Syndicate Second Hand Book Stall

#### **Week 10**

Wednesday 3 April

Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30pm

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Breakfast BBQ

#### **Week 11**

Friday 12 April

Open Assembly – time to be confirmed

## **2019 Term Dates**

**Term 1** 31 January – 12 April

**Term 2** 29 April – 5 July

**Term 3** 22 July – 27 September

**Term 4** 14 October – 18 December

Queen's Birthday Monday 3 June

Teacher Only Day Tuesday 4 June

South Canterbury Anniversary Monday 23 September

Labour Day Monday 28 October

## Home & School

**Helping Opportunities:** We are fortunate to have a supportive community to assist GPS in many different ways. If you would like to become involved with the school support network, there are many different ways and levels of involvement. We are currently seeking a couple more volunteers to assist with our sausage sizzle on a Friday, as we have lost several helpers as their children have left GPS at the end of 2018. If we have sufficient volunteers, this only involves helping once per term, so if you are able to spare a little time on a Friday every few months, please contact our Sausage Sizzle Coordinator, Emma Burnside on 027 635-7012.

We are also looking for a couple of helpers for our forthcoming fundraising efforts:

1. Assisting at the **Geraldine Lions Mountain Bike Race on Sunday 17 March** – we will be supervising the children's play area and are hoping to get four volunteers to supervise for an hour each. Please contact Jane Harmon on 027 637-6313 if you are able to spare an hour on this day.
2. Assisting with the **sausage sizzle at the Trail Bike Ride on Sunday 14 April**. This is a very lucrative fundraiser for us (fingers crossed for favourable weather) in exchange for selling sausages and burgers. Please contact Marissa Grant on 021 422-326 if you are able to help.

**Sausage Sizzle:** A reminder to our existing families that sausages now cost \$2 per sausage, our first price increase for many years. Existing sausage cards will be honoured. Sausages are available for our children every Friday lunchtime. Orders are taken on Friday mornings prior to school starting 0820 – 0850. Sausages cost \$2.00 each. Payment is by cash (correct amount please) or by purchasing a card for 10 sausages (\$20.00) from the Office. Gluten free sausages are available for purchase for \$2.00. Please assist your children to ask for a gluten free sausage when they place their order, **and** when they collect their cooked sausage. Gluten free sausages will be served in a serviette.

**Second Hand Uniform:** A reminder that donations of second hand GPS uniform are to be handed in to the School Office.

For Sale small bales **Pea Straw** \$7 each. Contact Julie Copland-Batty 027 6262897 or 03 615 9240.

## Community Notices

### Justice of the Peace Services - Geraldine

Each Saturday a Justice of the Peace (JP) will be on duty at a desk in the Geraldine Library/Service Centre, 78 Talbot Street, Geraldine. Hours 10am – 12pm. The location of this JP signing desk is in the Plunket Rooms within the Library, so offers a private area for consultation.

Guitar lessons starting at the Geraldine Academy on Wed afternoons for beginners and intermediate levels. Phone Dylan 0273446630

Want to learn a martial art in a friendly and supportive environment? This is a great way to get fit and build confidence. Learn new skills and meet new people. Ideal for all ages. Students and their parents are invited to come and try out the Seido Karate beginners class on Thursday's at the Geraldine Bowling club rooms on the Domain at 5 pm-6 pm. The cost is just \$2 per person. You can contact Lizzy on 020 4176 4403 for any other information.



## Bridge Lessons

- ★ King of all card games
- ★ Activate your brain
- ★ Make new friends

### Learn to Play Bridge

10 week course - \$20

Lessons start:

**Temuka - Wednesday, 1  
May**

Ph Robyn 03 615 9081

Ph Shona 03 615 8178



## JUNIOR NETBALL REGISTRATION

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - 2.45pm – 3.45pm  
Netball Courts, Geraldine Domain

Mother Earth Future Ferns  
NNZ Year 3-8 Program  
Friday Afternoons  
(Starting Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May)

Fees Due 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
\$60.00 Year 3 & 4  
\$65.00 Year 5 & 6

Marissa Grant  
Home – 03 693 9724      Cell – 027 422 326

Registration forms also available by emailing [geraldinenetball@gmail.com](mailto:geraldinenetball@gmail.com)

**PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN TO  
BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY**

Any volunteers that are available to help at the courts on a  
Friday Afternoon are most welcome

Follow us on



Geraldine Netball Centre

Looking for a day of Fun then enter the.....



**GERALDINE ROGAINE**  
AUTUMN MUSTER

[www.gram.org.nz](http://www.gram.org.nz)

**SUNDAY 31 March 2019**

This awesome event is being held on Waihi Station near Woodbury.

There is a 3 hour or 6 hour option.

All the details that you need can be found on our website [www.gram.org.nz](http://www.gram.org.nz) Check it out.

Entries close midnight Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019.