



# Geraldine Primary

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

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## Newsletter

**Week 6, Term 4**  
**19 November 2020**

**From the Principal...**

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

We are now just under four weeks away from the end of the school year. Time is certainly flying by; it's definitely not "winding down" for the end of the year and in this regard schools are perhaps similar to other sectors in our community with lots to do, within a decreasing timeframe! While this may be the case and it is easy to get caught up in the busyness of this time of the year, it is also important to recognise the importance of each day, whether it's with work colleagues, friends or family members.

Over the second half of this year we have completed two significant curriculum reviews. These have been in Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) and Te Ao Maori. These are done on a cyclical basis, normally every three years and provide the school with useful feedback on our programmes and direction for the future. Parents, staff and a sample of students have input into each review. Many thanks to everyone who provided feedback - this is really valuable as we look to refine and improve our practices. A summary of each of these reviews has been included later in the newsletter, as compiled by the staff review teams. Many thanks to them for their efforts in what has been a massive undertaking.

We have been fortunate to have had the expertise of Mrs Margaretha Cambridge working with groups of students since school reopened after the Covid lockdown. This intervention, which was funded by the Board of Trustees to provide additional support for the various groups has now finished as we approach the end of the year. I would like to thank Margaretha for the work that she has done and for the progress that has been made by individuals under her guidance.

We have been hosting two first year teacher trainees from the University of Canterbury. Grace O'Sullivan-Munro has been in Room 2 and Chyvanna Wereta-Sheriff in Room 12. Their placements at GPS finished last Friday (Grace) and this Friday (Chyvanna). I thank Grace and Chyvanna for the work they have done with our students and wish them all the best for their future studies as they progress towards graduation over the next two years.

Our Arts Festival commences on Tuesday 24 November and runs through until Friday 27 November. Classes have been busy creating a variety of pieces for display in the hall next

week, which parents and whanau are welcome to view. It has been wonderful to see the engagement and creativity of the students over the past few weeks, in preparation for the Arts Festival. Please do pop into the hall from Tuesday next week to see what the classes have created.

At the end of next week, on Friday 27 November, we will have our annual Breakfast BBQ. This will start at 8.00am and is normally over around 9am. This is being run by our Year 6 students and helps to raise money for our sponsored child Mohosina Akter who lives in Pirganj in Bangladesh and is 5 years old.

The Year 6 students organise and run a variety of stalls and games for the children to participate in. Most games are 50c or \$1 so please bring plenty of change to make it easier for the students to handle.

The Lions Club of Geraldine will be cooking free sausages and there will also be tea and coffee provided by the Home and School. We would appreciate offers of baking - please bring to Room 14 either on Thursday 26th or early on Friday morning and any unwanted toys or books (also bring to Room 14). Parents, families and ex GPS students are most welcome to attend this event.

Lastly, with our Athletic Sports postponed due to the weather today, they will now be on Wednesday 25 November. I'm sure the day will be much brighter then!

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

Andrew Leverton  
Principal | Tumuaki

## **School notices:**

### **Summary of Te Ao Maori review**

Dear Whanau,

In Term 3 we conducted a Curriculum review of the Maori Curriculum. We had a record number of respondents across our school community who engaged with the online Google form to do this. We have enjoyed reading your thoughts, thank you!

The key outcomes from the Whanau review across the school showed us that the majority of families valued this curriculum area, agreed that GPS taught Te Reo and tikanga Maori effectively and that their children also felt positively about this subject. Evidence was with children coming home and using the vocabulary they have been learning at school and knowing their mihi. Many commented how it is being integrated into everyday life at GPS. A very small minority of whanau feel that this subject should be optional.

Whanau were given an option to make suggestions to improve the teaching and learning of te reo and tikanga Maori. Some of these included informing home of what children are learning each week so they can practise at home, learning things such as songs, actions, poi or a Marae visit, learning specific whakapapa for each child.

The top ideas for things to learn in Te Reo and tikanga Maori were Maori history, culture and customs.

The key outcomes from the student review showed us that student enjoyment of learning in Te Reo and tikanga Maori is strong in the Juniors but does taper off somewhat as the children move through the school. The majority of students can see the importance of this curriculum area. Preferred activities are: waiata and learning their mihi. The Juniors enjoy the Kupu o te Wiki (word of the week) and Seniors enjoy learning about Maori legends. Student suggestions for improvements include: learning songs with actions, a big wall with lots of words, trips, board games, traditional Maori games, teachers who speak to them in Te Reo and taniwhas!

The key outcomes from the staff review show us that they have definite areas they are confident in, and areas that they feel they still need some support. Much of this is centred around gaining knowledge of words, phrases and pronunciation. As a school we need to focus on weaving Te Ao Maori (the Maori World) into our unit planning where relevant. Staff feel that GPS teaches this curriculum area effectively and enjoys the support of a fortnightly kupu or phrase focus, e.g. greetings, weather, feelings. The staff would like some more professional development in this area.

Key changes will be to look at our professional development calendar and find a way we can further upskill the staff to help our tamariki learn and enjoy te reo and tikanga Maori, more. In 2021, we can inform our whanau of what we are learning at school so this can be practised at home if people wish to. This could be via the newsletter or social media/app. We would also value and appreciate an experienced and knowledgeable person to help drive our Kapa Haka group forward.

We are very proud of our efforts with Te Reo and tikanga Maori in the Geraldine community. Many visitors to the school comment on the presence of these areas in the school. We value this learning area strongly and believe it to be an intrinsic part of growing up in New Zealand.

### **Summary of PB4L review**

In Term 3 of this year we consulted with parents, staff and students regarding PB4L. Thank you to those who took part in this review, your feedback is always appreciated and valuable in guiding us forward.

The key outcomes from the survey were positive and indicated that students, staff and whanau had a clear understanding of our values, reward system and behaviour management system. The children were enthusiastic about receiving Gotchas and enjoyed choosing a reward. We have taken on board earlier feedback that not all children could be drawn from the prize draw in assembly so we revised our system to include postcards and extra plays to acknowledge as many children as possible. We have recently purchased flags with our PB4L values printed on them which you will hopefully see at as many school events as possible.

A key area to work on was ensuring the parent and wider school community were kept up to date about PB4L and that new parents have a clear understanding of how PB4L works in our school. We have updated our brochure for new parents and will endeavour to include updates and information in the newsletter or on Facebook as and when it is appropriate.

### **Gotcha Draw**

Congratulations to the following students who received a prize in the recent Gotcha draw: Ryan, R11; Daisha, R1; Shanae, R11; Manaia, R5; Oakley, R8; Kori, R5.

## PB4L Certificates - Week 2 Term 4

R1	Ben	R2	Meila	R3	George	R4	Lenny
R5	Drew	R6	Josh	R7	Nassi	R8	Charlii
R9	Ashton	R10	Alice	R11	Myra	R12	Tom
R13	Miles	R14	Braxton	R15	William		

## School Disco - Tuesday 8th December

Years 0-3 6.00 – 7.15pm

Years 4 -6 7.15 – 8.45pm

More details to follow.

## Sunhats

A reminder that during Terms 1 and 4 a navy sunhat must be worn when children are outside. If they forget their sunhat they will have to stay under the shade of the big tree at morning tea and lunch play.

## Calendar - Term 4

### Week 6

Friday 20 November

Last day for Fairlie Bakehouse pie orders

### Week 7

Monday 23 November

SC Swimming Sports

Tuesday 24 November

GPS Arts Festival – Display in the hall

Wednesday 25 November

Athletics Sports - Domain

Friday 27 November

Breakfast BBQ 8am

Fairlie Bakehouse pie collection from the hall 2-3pm

### Week 8

Tuesday 1 December

SC Athletics

Wednesday 2 December

Board of Trustees meeting, 6pm

Thursday 3 December

Y6 Orientation visit to Geraldine High School

### Week 9

Tuesday 8 December

School Disco

Thursday 10 December

Principal's Assembly, 1.30pm

Friday 11 December

Y6 BBQ and Pool Party

### Week 10

Tuesday 15 December

Final School Assembly, 9am

Christmas Songs on the Village Green, 11.15

Family Picnic at school

School year ends 2.45pm

**No buses this afternoon**

## Home & School

Our **Fairlie Pies fundraiser** is coming to a close. Thank you to all those families that have been selling. Your support is appreciated!

**Forms and payment due on Friday 20th November please.**McC

The Home and School are looking forward to the Breakfast BBQ next week. We will have our sales table of second hand uniform set up so bring some cash if you are in need of anything.

We will also have samples of our specially designed tea towels and tote bags. These all feature GPS students artwork and would make great Christmas presents!

Sausage Sizzle: Thank you to all those families that are using our new Kindo app to order your sausages on Friday. The Home and School appreciate the support and encourage all parents to give it a try! You can order for 1 week or multiple weeks to save you time and no more searching for coins on Friday morning. We are still taking cash sales this term. Just a reminder that orders through Kindo close at 8.30am on Friday morning.

**To order your sausages online please:** [Click here](#) to go to the registration / login page of our Kindo school shop and create your **myKindo** family account.

**myKindo** app is also available to download for both android and iPhone.  
Need assistance? Our Kindo helpdesk is open 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday.  
Freephone: 0508 4 KINDO (0508 454 636)      **Email:** [hello@myKindo.co.nz](mailto:hello@myKindo.co.nz)      Online support: [support.myKindo.co.nz](http://support.myKindo.co.nz)

### **SAVE TIME – PAY ONLINE**

We would also appreciate more volunteers to assist with our sausage sizzle on Fridays. 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.

Second Hand Uniform: Donations of second hand GPS uniform can be handed in to the School Office.

Next Home and School meeting Monday 23 Nov at 7pm in the Staff room. Any enquiries to [gphomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:gphomeandschool@gmail.com). All welcome, we would love to see some new faces!