



# Geraldine Primary

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

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## Newsletter

**Week 4, Term 4**  
**5 November 2020**

**From the Principal...**

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

Teachers have recently started to write student reports, which will be sent home later in the term. The end of year report format has been changed from previous years and parents will notice the difference when they are brought home. Key changes of the revised report format include: a teacher assessment of student effort in the core areas of Reading, Writing and Maths, broader overall assessments in other areas of the curriculum, acknowledgement of how a child uses our school values, as well as student voice through their own comments about the year.

There will also be a reference to attendance levels. 95% or more is classed as excellent, 90 - 94% - good, 85 - 90% - marginal and less than 85% - of concern. This will be based on data across the school year, when school has been open. Teachers will continue to share with parents and comment about the achievement levels of their child in the core areas of learning, as well as an overall comment. Students who have recently started school in Room 6 will have an amended report that acknowledges the age and time at school of these children.

You may have noticed the new signs that have recently been put up adjacent to the four entrances to the school - the office, swimming pool, Cox St and Huffey St gates. These note how the grounds are to be used outside of normal school hours and when they are closed to the public, allowing for seasonal variations in the evenings.

We will soon begin the process of forming classes for 2021. If you have a 5 year old New Entrant child who will start with us next year, or know of someone who this applies to, it is important that the office is informed as soon as possible and an enrolment form completed, if this hasn't been done already. This also applies to children in other year groups who will be attending GPS from 2021. Having an accurate



understanding about new enrolments is important as it assists within the composition of classes.

As part of the class formation process, if parents have any factors that they would like senior staff to consider regarding their child(ren), please put these in writing to me, by way of a letter or email – [principal@geraldine.school.nz](mailto:principal@geraldine.school.nz) as soon as possible or by Friday 20 November at the latest. Whilst we will take these factors into consideration, we are unable to guarantee each request. Please note that this is not an opportunity to request a particular teacher or being placed with particular friends. If you know now that your child is not going to be attending GPS in 2021 (other than Year 6's), please let me know in writing as soon as possible.

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

Andrew Leverton  
Principal | Tumuaki

## Board of Trustees Profile

### **DANIEL STACK – Parent Representative (Finance/School Transport Network)**

***Favourite quote: “You must be the change you want to see in the world.” — Mahatma Gandhi***

Daniel and his wife, Marja, have been involved with Geraldine Primary for some time, with three daughters having been students at the school. While Emily is now at Geraldine High School, Siobhan and Adele are still at GPS.

Having grown up locally in Arundel, Daniel hasn't wandered from his original career plan at age 10 – and is farming ... at Arundel! However, he has also spent some time involved with banking in the past – which might explain how he landed the finance portfolio upon joining the BOT. He is also responsible for representing Geraldine Primary on the Geraldine Schools Transport Network.



When asked what he loves about Geraldine, Daniel replies, “It’s a great place close to so many things, and the good people here.”

He says “getting involved” is his proudest achievement with the BOT, and it's clearly an ethos he lives by as he has been involved with other local groups, including the Geraldine Squash Club.

In his spare time, Daniel enjoys spending time with his family, playing squash, and getting into the great outdoors biking or boating.

His bucket list includes climbing Mt Peel with the family, doing the Motatapu bike race in good time, and taking the family overseas. Based on the current state of travel, though,

it might be just as well his favourite holiday destination is Northland – a road trip long enough to enjoy a fair few of his favourite Pearl Jam songs along the way!

## **ANDREW LEVERTON – Principal**

***Favourite quote – “We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”***

Andrew has been Principal of Geraldine Primary since mid-2014. Married to Gaye (who is also a teacher), he is father to Harriet (17) and Ruby (14).

Andrew grew up alongside the beautiful white sand of Ohope Beach in the Bay of Plenty – a place he and his family return to as it is one of their favourite holiday spots – along with Rarotonga.

While his childhood pastime of playing ‘cops and robbers’ with friends on their bikes around the streets of Ohope didn’t eventuate into a career in a blue uniform, he is happy with his choice of vocation, saying he enjoys being able to lead a successful school, working with vibrant and engaging people on the staff, Board, Home & School group, students and wider school community.

“Most importantly the students of GPS are great and a joy to be around!” he adds.

As Principal, Andrew is involved with all facets of the Board of Trustees’ work and has a raft of achievements during his time that he’s proud of – including continuing to develop the school, two successful ERO reviews in the past six years, three major property projects completed, and employing great staff throughout.

When asked what he enjoys about Geraldine, he is quick to mention the community’s supportiveness of each other and their positive, vested interest in the school.

“The town is vibrant and appeals to many.”

In his spare time Andrew enjoys spending quality time with family and friends, supporting his daughters’ sport or reading a good book. He also has varied musical taste, with favourite artists ranging from Six60, to Def Leppard, Spandau Ballet and Jimmy Barnes.

“I love music from the 80’s, which kind of shows my age!” he jokes.

### **School notices:**

#### **WAVE and Whanau Group Afternoons**

##### **Week 5 - 10th November**

The WAVE team alongside our Whanau Group Leaders are hosting the second afternoon of activities set out for the whole school to participate in to promote healthy well-being. As part of this children are able to bring their wheels (scooters, skateboards, roller blades). All children must have a helmet. If siblings are sharing a scooter please let



their teacher know so they can be put in different groups. Each whanau group will be split in half.

The following Whanau Groups can bring their wheels in **Week 5 on Tuesday 10 November**: Kowhai and Kahurangi (Yellow and Blue).

Children can wear their school t-shirt to school and bring along their Whanau Group colour t-shirt to get changed into at lunchtime.

### **New Students**

A special welcome to Kaiden, R3, Japneet, Laura and Dante who have all started in Room 6 recently. We hope you enjoy your time at Geraldine Primary.

### **Gotcha Draw**

Congratulations to the following students who received a prize in the recent Gotcha draw: Sam, R4; Eva, R2; Finn, R11; Nirvana, R3; Isla, R2; Grace, R3.

### **PB4L Certificates - Week 2 Term 4**

R1	Regan	R2	Zac	R3	Charlie	R4	Kyle
R5	Harvey	R6	Mila	R7	Aoife	R8	Neave
R9	Lottie	R10	Sequoia	R11	Zac	R12	Tamatea
R13	James	R14	Akacia	R15	Matt		

### **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.

### **Breakfast BBQ**

The Breakfast BBQ will be held before school on Friday 27 November starting at 8.00am. 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 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

Pet Day 23 October 2020





## Calendar - Term 4

### Week 5

Tuesday 10 November

WAVE activity day 2 (pm)

Pp Thursday 12 November

### Week 6

Thursday 19 November

GPS Athletics day – Domain

Pp Wednesday 25 November

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

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
	<b>No buses this afternoon</b>

## Home & School

The Home and School have a busy Term 4 ahead.

Our Fairlie Bakehouse Pies fundraiser is underway, thank you to those families that are selling! If your child did not receive a fundraising form they are available on the school website under the newsletter tab.

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 [gpshomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:gpshomeandschool@gmail.com). All welcome, we would love to see some new faces!