



Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve

Whaia e koe te iti Kahurangi

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Newsletter

Week 7, Term 2

Thursday 28 May 2020

From the Principal...

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

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

We have been back at school for almost two weeks now under **Level 2 restrictions** and I have to say how pleased the staff and I have been with the way that the students have resettled after their time away from school. While classroom programmes have resumed, we have had to cancel or postpone a number of events that were planned for the second half of the term. We have received notification that the South Canterbury Schools Cross Country and Swimming has been postponed until Term 4. Thank you for your messages of support to our school staff and for the way you have supported both us and your children over this unprecedented time.

Level 2 doesn't mean business as usual in all aspects of school life. It brings with it some restrictions and to this end we have decided to cancel school or syndicate gatherings for the time being, as well as our tuakana teina (buddies) programme. We will continue to ask parents and caregivers to sign the contact tracing registers outside classes when you are on site. If you have more than one child at GPS, you only need to sign it at one class each time.

If you are collecting your child(ren) by coming onto the grounds, please do so at 2.30pm. We are organising bus students from 2.35pm and all other students will leave at the normal time of 2.45pm. This is to avoid congestion at the end of the day. Our grounds will also be closed between 3pm and 8.20am and over the weekends. If you are dropping your child(ren) at school, we ask that this is after 8.30am.

We have recently posted information about **3 Way Conferences** on our Facebook page. Bookings can now be made online for 3WCs, which will take place on Wednesday 24 June from 12.45 - 6.00 pm and Thursday 25 June from 3.00 – 5.30pm. The website to book your child's 3WC is **www.schoolinterviews.co.nz**. Use the **event code saad6** to access our school portal. If you need assistance with this, please contact the school office and we will book an interview for you. Please note that bookings will close on Friday 19th June and it is important that bookings are made by this day.

Teachers will be involved in 3WCs all afternoon on Wednesday 24th June and classes will stop at 12.15pm on this day. Non bus students will be sent home at this time. Please ensure you either collect your child from school or are at home to receive them. Buses will leave GPS at 12.15pm and the High School at 12.30pm. Please make sure someone is at the bus stop to meet children as the buses will arrive early because there will be no High School students on board.

We have recently received our fifth TV from Southfuels, as part of their **Fuel for School programme**. This has been placed in Room 17. Over the years we have accumulated many points as a result of Southfuel customers nominating our school and for this, we are most grateful. All learning spaces through Southfuels, the Board of Trustees and Home and School, now have TVs, including the library and these assist with teaching and learning across the curriculum. Please see below for families and companies that have nominated our school through their involvement in Southfuels.

There have been some **staffing appointments** over the last month. These are in addition to the ones mentioned in a newsletter at the end of April. Margaretha Cambridge has been appointed as a Learning Support teacher for Terms 2 and 3. She will be working with small groups of Year 3 - 6 students in Room 17 in the areas of Reading, Writing and Maths. Margaretha has most recently worked at Big Rock Primary School in Dunedin. Leonie Chapman has been appointed to teach in Room 15 for Terms 3 and 4. Leonie has had a long association with GPS and has been a regular relief teacher for us. Sarah Dunckley (Room 9) has recently started maternity leave and this will see Claire Lovelock, whom Sarah has job-shared with this year, working fulltime to the end of the year in Room 9. We wish the above staff all the best in their new roles and Sarah and James for the pending addition to their family.

Prior to the Covid lockdown GPS was selected to be a **Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) Lighthouse School** by the Ministry of Education. This is a new MOE initiative and we are one of four schools in the wider Canterbury region to be selected for this programme. The other three are in the Selwyn / Christchurch area. Being a Lighthouse School is recognition of the work that has been done to implement PB4L over the past seven years. It will provide us with additional training as well as hosting and supporting other schools who might be starting PB4L. We look forward to this next part of our PB4L journey.

A reminder that school will be closed on Monday 1st June for Queens Birthday. I wish all GPS families a safe and enjoyable long weekend.

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

Andrew Leverton
Principal

Board of Trustees Update

We would firstly like to acknowledge and thank all the school staff, in particular the senior management team, for their commitment and work during the period the school was closed. The implementation of distance learning, and the later preparations for the re-opening of the school required a lot of co-ordination and work by all involved. There was a lot of information to manage with daily updates from the Ministry of Education, and various other communications over this period, and these are ongoing to a lesser extent. Thank you for your commitment to the school during what was an unprecedented time for us all.

To increase the awareness of the Board and the Board's role within the school, we will include periodic updates from the Board within the school newsletter. While the Board has the overall responsibility and accountability for the school which includes staff, finances, property, planning, legal obligations, and reporting, the overarching role of the Board is to promote and enable student achievement. With regard to supporting student achievement we welcome Margaretha Cambridge to our school. Margaretha will be providing additional learning support over terms two and three.

On the property front, with the completion of the upgrade to Room 10, and the new Room 11 (ex. Room 13), we have started planning for our next property project. This will be the upgrade of Rooms 3, 4 & 5, and the adjacent office rooms and amenities. Rushton Architects have been engaged to prepare a concept plan for the upgrade of this block. (Rushton's were the architects for the junior block upgrade, and the Rooms 10 & 11 project).

The upgrade would likely be a staged upgrade as funds and operational requirements allowed. The additional Ministry property funding received at the end of last year along with current property funding allocated for this block, will be used to initiate this upgrade. It is intended that (at least) the first stage of this upgrade will commence at the beginning of next year.

School News

New Students

A special welcome to Maddison and Sophie, R1; Alice and Sophia, R10; Jack, R8; Lilah and Jackson, R6; Lilia, R2; Elise and Cardia, R4; and William, R3. We hope you enjoy your time at Geraldine Primary.



A big Thank you to:
Belrori Farm Ltd,
HJB & SJ Sheed,
Fisher Family Partnership,
Thompson Precast Ltd,
Rawhiti House,
Clay Downs Farming Company,
Earthworks Aoraki Ltd,
B.R. Hammond,
B.C. & T.E. Brown,
K.R.Christie, and
S.R. & L.M. Geary
who have all nominated Geraldine Primary School under the SouthFuels Fuel for Schools programme.

Louis, Maddi and Eleanor receiving our new television.

Calendar

Please check each newsletter for further updates.

Term 2

Week 8

Monday 1 June Queens Birthday – school closed

Week 11

Wednesday 24 June 3 Way Conferences from 12.45pm. Classes stop 12.15pm

Thursday 25 June 3 Way Conferences from 3pm

Friday 26 June Mufti Day for Geraldine Social Worker Trust

Week 12

Friday 3 July Term 2 ends

Term 3

Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

Term 4

Monday 12 October – Tuesday 15 December

Teacher Development Day Tuesday 27 October

Squash - Come along and “Have a Go”

Have you ever thought about giving squash a go – here’s your opportunity. We are lucky enough to have Nick Mita, current Squash NZ World Juniors Coach in our district getting on court with juniors.

When: Monday 1st June (Queen’s Birthday)

Where: Timaru Squash Club, Brunswick Street, Timaru

Time: 10am-11.30am

Cost: FREE of charge

Register on the day

Enquiries to: squashmidlands@hotmail.co.nz