



Geraldine Primary

Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve

Whāia e koe te iti Kahurangi

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Newsletter

**Week 1, Term 4
22 October 2021**

From the Principal...

Kia ora Whānau.

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

Welcome back to term 4 everyone! I hope all GPS families had an enjoyable term break. The term ahead is a short one - just over 8 weeks long, so time will go by quickly I suspect. As always, there is much to do and look forward to in Term 4.

This week our Year 5 and 6 classes have visited Peel Forest to take part in bush walks and learn about the environment in that area. The day was run by trainee outdoor education instructors from Ara, as part of their coursework. By all accounts, it was a wonderful experience for our students and we are grateful to Ara for allowing us to work with their instructors. Many thanks to all the parents who provided transport and supervision on the day - much appreciated!

Inter school basketball has restarted this week and we have three teams competing in Timaru each Monday (Year 4) and Tuesday (Year 5 and 6) nights. While the initial organisation has been done by school, we are grateful to the parents who have stepped in as coaches and managers to enable our teams to participate in this competition. We hope to be able to update you with some results as they come in.

Over the holidays the senior toilets have been upgraded and are looking much better than what was in place previously! This project was funded by the School Board, who are committed to ensuring that our students have up to date and modern facilities throughout the school. For the time being, our

building work is complete, but next year we will consider the next steps for further property modernisation.

The current Covid alert levels are providing additional challenges to schools. We are receiving regular updates and guidance from the Ministry of Education and we respond to these as relevant to our situation at Level 2. At GPS we are planning for Term 4 events and how these can still occur at Level 2 as well as normal operations should we move to Level 1. Events at Level 2 will mean that there will be amendments to what we would normally do. We will keep you updated as to what these changes are. Our inaugural Year 5 and 6 sports exchange with Methven Primary has been cancelled due to the current situation.

We are planning an alternative to our athletic sports that was scheduled for 10 November should we still be at Level 2. Classes are currently practising the different skills as part of their PE sessions. If we are at Level 2, the measurement of heights / distances etc will occur during class time, i.e. no normal athletics day event will take place at Level 2. From here, we will be able to gauge placings in each age group. If we are at Level 1 on 10 November, we will continue our normal athletics event and for this, we will be requiring parent helpers to assist with the various events. If you are able to assist at Level 1, please contact your child's teacher.

As signalled previously, Level 2 does require parents / whānau on school premises to wear a face mask, that drop off and pick up is done promptly in an outdoor environment (i.e. not in classrooms) and only being on site if necessary. Social distancing also needs to be observed. Parents / whānau can collect their children from 2:30pm, to avoid congestion around the gates at 2:45pm. We do appreciate the support that we have had to date from parents thus far in this regard.

There has been a lot of information in the media about vaccinations and what is required and by when. A legislated Health Order is expected to come out very soon, which will provide further guidance for schools around vaccination requirements.

We will soon begin the process of forming classes for 2022. 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 as

soon as possible or by Monday 15 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 2022 (other than Year 6's), please let me know in writing as soon as possible.

We are currently undergoing a review of our school curriculum. Part of this involves surveying our parents about various aspects of what our local curriculum could look like in the future. A survey link will be emailed out to parents tonight and we would really appreciate it if you could take 10 minutes to complete the survey. We ask that this is done by Monday 1 November please. The survey link is also here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oxOKUcb2U-1H0T7gT9P-PLR35nKzXdX4LqkmFComHJA/prefill>

We welcome two University of Canterbury students who are on a four week teaching placement at GPS.
Olivia Chittock is in Room 9/Year 1, and
Emily Newell is in Room 12/Year 3.
Welcome to you both!

This coming Monday is Labour Day and all schools will be closed on this day. As noted in newsletters last term, Friday 12 November has been set as a teacher only day. 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 | Tumuaki

School notices:

Cox Street Crossing Yellow no parking lines

From time to time we notice, or have reported to us that cars are being parked on the yellow lines adjacent to the Cox Street crossing. This restricts the view of the student road patrol monitors, as well as being illegal. We respectfully ask that cars are parked in the designated spaces and not on the yellow lines.

Early departure from school

Parents or other family members will on occasions, need to collect their child(ren) from school for legitimate reasons during the school day. We ask that parents / whānau phone the office prior with a time they expect to be at school. We can then arrange for the child(ren) to be at the office waiting.

School closed: TOD - Fri 3 June
Queen's Birthday Day - Mon 6 June
Matariki - Fri 24 June

Term 3 Mon 25 July - Fri 30 Sept

School closed: South Canterbury Anniversary - Mon 26
Sept

Term 4 Mon 17 Oct – Wed 14 Dec

School closed: Labour Day - Mon 24 Oct

Home & School

We would really love to see some new faces join us! Please contact gphomeandschool@gmail.com for more information on how you can help.

Sausage Roster:

To keep this service going we really need 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 once a term please email gphomeandschool@gmail.com

Sausage Sizzle: SUSPENDED DURING LEVEL 2

If you have paid through Kindo for the Term, refunds will be issued once we know how many weeks to refund.

We would like to thank those families that have continued to support this every Friday, especially those that are new to using Kindo. It's so easy to use, we would encourage more Whanau to give it a go.

The easiest way to get started is to download the app, search for Geraldine Primary and go from there.

There is also a link on the school website. Click on the School Info tab, Kindo Shop then Geraldine Primary Shop.

Any issues, Kindo have an excellent helpdesk and can be contacted on:

0508 4 KINDO (0508 454 636)

hello@mykindo.co.nz

support.mykindo.co.nz

Community Notices

Before school care and after school care has started for the term. Kids Alive run the Before school at the primary school in conjunction with the breakfast club. We run from 7.15 till 8.40. Also from 8 we are happy for children to pop in for a Milo. After school care is run at the Pavilion till 5.30 and the children are picked up from school and walked over. To book go to kidsalive.aimyplus.com or contact Kids Alive on 0274038126 or email lorraine@kidsalive.co.nz

Hilton-Geraldine Tennis Club Junior Open day this Friday 22nd Geraldine Domain 3:30-5pm. Fun games with our coach, Connor, free BBQ. New players welcome.



Timaru Altrusa Scholarship

In memory of Olwen Norton

This scholarship is intended for:

- **undertaking vocational study in order to return to the workplace**
- **training for a new vocational career**
- **anyone who as a result of circumstance has been unable to take up study until now.**
- **payment of tuition fees**
- **South Canterbury residents**

Further Information:

- **\$1500 will be available for distribution**
- **More than one recipient may share this award**

For application forms and further information please contact

**[Robyn Brien](#)
robynbrien@gmail.com
0211525088**

Closing Date: Friday, 19 November 2021

**ALTRUSA International of Timaru supports our local
community**



Swim Squad

Our club's summer swimming season commences in the Geraldine Pool when it opens in early November.

We welcome early enquiries about joining our club and the prerequisite skills that are required.

Contact - secretarygasc@gmail.com

Learn to Swim

We will endeavour to provide 'Learn To Swim' lessons again this coming season for children 5 years and older in 2 Blocks- Tuesday/Thursday afternoons later in Term 4 and Term 1 2022.

Very limited spaces available!

If you are interested in helping provide this valuable skill to children in our community please get in touch ASAP about supporting roles.

Contact - geraldinelearn2swim@gmail.com

Checkout our Club Website and Facebook:

<https://geraldineswimclub.swimming.org.nz>

Geraldine Amateur Swimming Club (PM available)
