



Geraldine Primary

Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve
Whāia e koe te iti kahurangi

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Newsletter

Week 4, Term 1
24 February 2023

Kia ora Whānau,

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

Since the start of the term, all classes have been taking part in **swimming lessons**, mostly with external swim tutors. We are very fortunate to have our own school pool, where our junior classes and Room 13 have their swimming lessons. As well as swimming at the Community Pool, our Year 4 - 6 students are getting additional exercise through their daily walk to and from the pool! All swimming lessons for our children are provided free of charge and these, along with Community Pool hire, are generously funded by our Home and School group.

Yesterday Year 4 - 6 had their width carnival, to mark the end of their lessons and on Monday the length swimmers will have their carnival. Having separate events allows all our Year 4 - 6 children to shine at their own level, as well as being more manageable to organise. Many thanks to the parents who were able to join us yesterday. Parents and whānau are most welcome to attend the event on Monday as well, starting at 10am.

Many of you will be aware of our **Skool Loop app**. Alongside Facebook, this is a social media platform that allows us to keep in touch with our community and get key information out to you all. If you aren't already on the Skool Loop app, I'd encourage you to sign up through the Apple App Store, or through Google Play (Android). On the app you can also send absence notes, which are then emailed to the school office, view the school newsletter or access Kindo Shop for Friday sausage orders. Our Skool Loop app is also kindly

sponsored by a number of local businesses, for which we are extremely grateful.

We have recently sent out statements to families as a gentle reminder about **school activity fees and donations**. These are currently set at \$20 per student per year for the activity fee and \$60 per student per year for the donation - a total of \$80. For students who join our school during the year, this is applied pro-rata, e.g \$15 for the activity fee and \$45 for the donation for three terms.

The activity fee helps toward the cost of having visiting performers at school throughout the year. The donation, which is voluntary, helps toward the cost of learning resources within the school. The fees and donations have been kept the same for a number of years now, in an effort to keep costs down for our school families.

The Board is working through the process of the appointment of the **next Principal for GPS**, which takes some time. Further into this newsletter our Board Presiding Member (Chairperson), Alicia Pridham has provided an update about the current phase of the appointment process. From an in-school perspective, our Deputy Principal Jo Drake will be Acting Principal for Term 2, to allow the Board the time it needs to make an appointment and for the successful applicant to give sufficient notice to their current school. For the duration of Term 2, Jo will be fully released from her Thursday and Friday teaching duties in Room 11. We are extremely fortunate to have Sarah Wilson agreeing to teach in Room 11 in addition to the three days she is in the room earlier in the week. This will provide the tamariki in Room 11 the best possible continuity in their learning while Jo is Acting Principal. Many thanks, Jo and Sarah!

In other staffing news, **Louise Ward**, who works in our school office, has tendered her resignation effective as of the end of March. Louise has been at GPS for five years and has provided a wealth of experience in the area of school finances and general school operations, as well as being a professional, welcoming and caring person on the front desk. We have all appreciated what she has done for the GPS community and we will continue to see her around school as a parent. I wish Louise all the best for her new position and other future endeavours.

Next Friday (3 March) we will be having a non-uniform day to raise money for the **Cyclone Gabrielle appeal**. We are asking children to bring a gold coin on this day to support the massive recovery effort that is underway throughout much of the North Island.

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

Andrew Leverton
Principal | Tumuaki

School Notices

Board News - Principal Appointment process

The process to find our new Principal is well underway. Since our last update, the Board has appointed Chris Murphy, an Educational Consultant to help guide us through the appointment process. Chris will be running the community consultation on our behalf. This will be your opportunity to have your say. Your opinion is important; we would like to know what you think makes a great Principal/ Leader for our School. This will directly feed into our application and interview process. We will run the community consultation as a survey, that you can complete in your own time. There are no right or wrong answers and it is completely anonymous. We will have some teacher-led discussions for the students and staff next week to hear their thoughts also. The community and whānau survey will be emailed out to you through the school office email, office@geraldine.school.nz over the weekend. The closing date to have your say is Friday 3rd March . We look forward to hearing from you.

Alicia Pridham
School Board Presiding Member

Digital Safety and Wellbeing

On Monday 27th March Digital Waitaha (<https://www.digitalwaitaha.org.nz>) will be offering one hour workshops in the hall for parents and whānau on digital safety and wellbeing (see flyer later in this newsletter for more information on what will be covered). Each session is identical, with one being held at 1.30pm and another at 6.00pm. All students at school will be involved in in-class sessions, these sessions will naturally link in with our own digital citizenship expectations. Staff will be at school during the evening session to look after children, so that their parents can attend. All schools in the wider Geraldine area are having a focus on digital safety this year, through Digital Waitaha.

Teacher Union Meetings

Teachers and principals throughout New Zealand are currently in negotiations through their unions, with the Ministry of Education about their collective agreements. Teacher union meetings in our region will take place over the afternoons of 28 February and 1 March, with staff attending one of these meetings. Our school will remain open on these days, with buses running at the same time. Parents will have the option to take their children home at 12.30 if they wish on these days. Please let your child's teacher know if you will be collecting your child at 12.30 on either/both of these days.

3 Way Conferences

We will be holding 3 Way Conferences on 29 and 30 March from 3pm to 7pm. At the 3WCs, parents / whānau, children and teachers meet to discuss how

the child is going at school and learning goals. Children are expected to attend as they are an important part of the learning discussion! A 3WC time can be booked through www.schoolinterviews.co.nz . Use our school code - v8gw5. If you experience any difficulties with the booking process, please contact the school office.

PB4L Certificates

Well done to the following students who received a PB4L certificate at assembly this week:

R1	Molly	R2	Archer	R3	Kate	R4	Lilia
R6	Stanley	R7	Austin	R8	Charlie	R9	Mason
R10	Agata	R11	Michaela	R13	Sarah		

The following children received a Desire to Learn/Aspire to Achieve certificate:

R1	Miles	R2	Lauren	R3	Charlotte	R4	Levi
R7	Valentina	R8	Ariella	R9	Sai	R10	Jackson
R11	Sasha	R13	Riley				

Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following children who won a prize in the Gotcha draw: Matilda, R4; Michaela, R11; Mackenzie, R11; Blair, R1, Abigail, R1 and Ava, R9

GPS Uniforms

GPS uniforms can be purchased from the Warehouse, Timaru, or locally from High Street Stitch and Print, in Geraldine. Please click on the link below for more information:

<http://gps.hssp.co.nz/>

The green polo shirts can only be purchased from The Warehouse, Timaru.

Second hand uniforms can be purchased from the school office for a donation which will go to the Home and School

Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly named.

Student Achievement Outside School

We regularly hear about the achievements of our students in their out of school activities. We would like to be able to further recognise these achievements in our newsletters and / or on our school Facebook page. If your child or a GPS student you know of has done well in an out of school pursuit, please let us know! A written explanation of their achievement, along with a photo would be appreciated. Please send details to - principal@geraldine.school.nz .

Southern Regional Tennis Tournament

In the weekend, Abigail, Ashlee, Kohei & Tamatea represented South Canterbury, in the Southern Regional tennis tournament in Dunedin. They played Southern Lakes, Southland & Otago.

They all played really well & improved lots over the weekend.

Their 10 and under team beat Otago & Lakes but lost to Southland.

Well done to these GPS Students!



Term 1 Calendar

Week 5

Monday 27 February
Tuesday 28 February

Wednesday 1 March

Thursday 2 March
Friday 3 March

Length Swimming Carnival, 10am
postponement Length Swimming
Teachers Union Meeting, afternoon
Final swim Y4-6
Teachers Union Meeting, afternoon
Tangaroa Syndicate Triathlon Y5 & 6
Last day swimming Y1-3
Non Uniform Day, gold coin donation

Week 6

Monday 6 March
Tuesday 7 March

Tāwhirimātea triathlon, 1.30pm Y3 & 4
Y6 Camp – Lindisfarne
pp Tāwhirimātea triathlon, 1.30pm Y3 & 4

Week 7

Monday 13 March
Thursday 16 March
Friday 17 March

Home and School meeting, 7pm - staffroom
Y5 Camp - Raincliff
SC Triathlon

Week 8

Week 9

Monday 27 March

Digital Waitaha parent information session,
1.30pm and 6pm (repeated sessions)

Wednesday 29 March

3 Way Conferences 3-7pm

Thursday 30 March

3 Way Conferences 3-7pm

Friday 31 March

SC Swimming

Week 10

Wednesday 5 April

Home and School Fun Run event

Board Meeting, 6pm

Thursday 6 April

Term 1 Ends, 2.45pm

Term dates 2023

Term 1

Monday 30 January - Thursday 6 April

School closed: Waitangi Day - Mon 6 February

During April term break: Good Friday - Friday 7 April
Easter Monday - Monday 10 April
Easter Tuesday - Tuesday 11 April

Term 2

Wednesday 26 April - Friday 30 June

School closed: Staff Development Day - Monday 24 April
Anzac Day - Tuesday 25 April
Staff Development Day - Tuesday 16 May
King's Birthday - Monday 5 June
Staff Development Day - Thursday 29 June

During July term break: Matariki - Friday 14 July

Term 3

Monday 17 July - Friday 22 September

During September term break:
South Canterbury Anniversary - Monday 25
September

Term 4

Monday 9 October – Thursday 14 December

School closed: Labour Day - Monday 23 October
Staff Development Day - Friday 17 November

Community Notices



Before School and After School Programmes

Kia ora Geraldine Primary Whanau. Are you finding yourself stuck for childcare before and/or After school? This is just a quick reminder that Kids Alive programs are available to those in our local area. Below is a brief explanation of our two programs currently running. Holiday programs are also available during the term breaks, we will update these closer to the time.

-The before School programme starts at 7.00 am and runs until school starts. This is for those Families that need childcare before school opens and includes Breakfast. Once school is open at 8.20, we open the doors to all Children attending Geraldine Primary school and offer breakfast and/or a Milo as part of the nationwide Kickstart breakfast club. This is located in the school hall.

-The after-school programme runs from 2.45 pm (we meet the children at school) till 5.30 pm at the Geraldine Pavilion, where we play games, run around outside and have fun. Afternoon tea is provided to all attending.

For all of those that are interested in what we are all about, please feel free to contact us, come down and have a look around.

* WINZ subsidies may be available to some families, just ask before you book, and we will support you as best we can. *

For more information, please visit our website www.kidsalive.co.nz or contact Scotty Nelson on 027 2413226.

About Me



Neysa has over 20 years of experience in IT and has extensively researched digital safety and wellbeing. She is passionate about empowering individuals to be safe responsible digital citizens. In addition to her work with Digital Waitaha, she is a CORE Education facilitator.

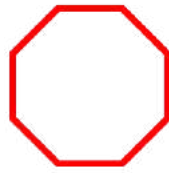
STOP, BLOCK & TALK®
is offered through

**DIGITAL
WAITAHA**

neysa@
digitalwaitaha.org.nz
digitalwaitaha.org.nz
021 072 5979

  Digital Waitaha

supported by



STOP



BLOCK



TALK

Digital Safety and Wellbeing Workshop for Parents and Whānau

Raising children in the digital age comes with additional challenges. How do we keep our children safe and well online? What do we need to be on the lookout for when using digital devices? What are the benefits and negatives of our children's interactions that we need to be paying attention to when they are online?

In this one-hour workshop, we discuss these challenges and learn strategies to build confidence in parenting in the digital age.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES

- Confidently talk about digital safety
- Be able to create easy yet strong passwords
- Become knowledgeable about popular apps and games and their benefits and dangers
- Understand how to guide tamariki to be safe and well online
- Understand the BEST techniques for parenting digital citizens
- Confidently use the STOP, BLOCK & TALK® digital safety strategy
- Know what a digital footprint is and how it will affect future opportunities for all children

Family members and whānau will receive a flyer with handy information.

*Saturday, 25th February -
4pm - 7pm*

GERALDINE COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Fun, Games and Giveaways



Geraldine Playground Cox Street



PLEASE BRING SOME FOOD TO SHARE

For more information please contact Multicultural Aoraki on 03 687 7332





Geraldine JAB Registrations 2023

Calling all 5-13-year-old girls and boys for the 2023 season, please come along to our sign-up day

Friday 3 March

At GRFC Clubrooms on George Street
3pm-5.30pm

\$60.00 sub | EFTPOS available

If you are unable to make it on the day please go to www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/209283 to register and pay online

or email geraldinejabrugby@gmail.com for more info

BOOT SWAP/DONATE

Bring your old boots, make them go another season

Registrations Now OPEN ,close March 12th

2022 players have been contacted

New players email the club

**PLAY FOOTBALL
2023**

Girls & Boys 7-18

First Kicks 4-6

Seniors—Male 15+ & Female 14+

Geraldine Football Club

geraldinefootballclub@gmail.com

Paula 027 637 4775

Shaun 027 654 0658

Off Centre

Off Centre
Festival
3-5 March

One weekend
50+ events
250 artists

Loads of free and family-friendly fun.
Market, buskers, music, theatre & more

Celebrating The Arts Centre's restoration



**Off Centre Kick
Off Parade** Family
Show



**Dinosaur Bingo
with Keith
Preene** Family



Learn to Juggle
Workshop



**Tusk Puppets -
The Lost Sock**
Family



**Fiesta
Marionette**
Workshop



**The Messy
Magic Adventure
- Rollicking
Entertainment**
Family

Principal Sponsor



Book now
artscentre.org.nz



Te Matariki Tai Oro

**FREE
FUN**

**CELEBRATE
CHILDREN'S DAY
2023**

AT CAROLINE BAY HALL

**5
March**

**BRING A PICNIC AND THE WHOLE
WHANAU FOR A FREE FUN DAY**

#ChildrensDayNZ



**TE RĀ O NGĀ
TAMARIKI**
CHILDREN'S DAY

MAYFIELD A&P SHOW

SATURDAY 11 MARCH
Mayfield A&P Showgrounds, from 8am

See our
WORLD FAMOUS
Racing Pigs!!

TRACTOR PULL, PET TENT, RIDES, SHEEP,
HORSES, SHEARING, CRAFT, FOOD, TRADE STALLS,
KIDS SCAVENGER HUNT, HELI FLIGHTS & MORE!

Live Entertainment All Day

Have a great day in the country at our Community Show!

Adults \$15, School Age Kids **FREE**
Cash at entry, eftpos inside grounds

A yellow school bus is shown as if it has just burst through a hole in a sheet of lined paper. The background is filled with various school-related icons: a paper airplane, an open book, a question mark, a star, a pencil, a ruler, a lightbulb, a pencil sharpener, a star, a pencil, a ruler, a pencil sharpener, a star, a pencil, a ruler, a pencil sharpener.

Don't miss the bus!

Download Skool Loop →

Simple free download:
In Google Play & App Store
search 'Skool Loop' &
choose our school once installed.

The logo for Skool Loop, featuring a blue infinity symbol above the text "SKOOL LOOP" in blue capital letters.