



Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

NEWSLETTER/PĀNUI

Contact information:

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Term Dates:

Term 4 6 October - 12 December 1pm

Important Dates:

South Canterbury Athletics – Tuesday 25th November

December

Non-Uniform Day – Monday 1st December

Breakfast BBQ – Friday 5th December – 8am- 9am

New Class Transitions – Tuesday 9th December – 10am – 10.40am

School reports sent home – Tuesday 9th December

Principal's Assembly – Wednesday 10th December – 1.30pm

School Prize Giving – Thursday 11th December 9.15am

Carols in the Domain – Thursday 11th December 11.45am

End of term – Friday 12th December 1pm finish

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau and welcome to our Pānui.

Over the past few newsletters, I've shared my journey with an ADHD diagnosis and why celebrating our differences is so important. This week our lunchtime whānau competitions have reminded me again of the power of sport — not just physically, but socially and emotionally too.

Years 5–6 have been playing cricket at the Domain, Years 3–4 have taken on Ki ō Rahi, and Years 1–2 have enjoyed fun relays. I've been helping with the cricket games, and it's been wonderful seeing so many tamariki step outside their comfort zone and challenge themselves.

One moment really stood out.

Alilia Hansen took a brilliant catch while keeping wicket — her face lit up with pride, her teammates cheered, and later I overheard her excitedly telling her mum, "Today in cricket I caught someone out."

Another special moment was In Ki O Rahi where Jack Jones demonstrated his understanding of a brand new game. Jack received the ball and knew that he had to run to hit the pou before he scored his try. When his position changed he knew that he could only run within his zone to avoid giving the ball away to the other team.

That simple moment of joy, pride, and connection is why we do sport. It's not about certificates or external rewards — it's the intrinsic feeling of success, the sense of "I did it," that shapes confidence and helps build strong, resilient young people.

These moments matter. They stay with us. And they help our tamariki grow into capable, connected, and confident citizens of our community.

Our whānau leaders and head students have driven this week's lunchtime games. Their passion and initiative made these competitions possible. When I asked them what legacy they wanted to leave, they said, "more competitions for all year groups." They are a pleasure to work with and always have GPS at heart.

On Tuesday I took four Year 5–6 teams to Timaru for the Caroline Bay Relay. Sixteen students represented our kura with pride, showing determination and teamwork in 27-degree heat. A special mention to our girls team — Krystal, Hosana, Bethany and Chloe — who placed second overall, just behind Woodbury. Their sportsmanship stood out as they cheered and celebrated alongside Woodbury during the trophy presentation.

On Wednesday we hosted our final mix and mingle for the term. I was blown away by the number of whānau who came along. The afternoon began with fun relay races organised by Lilah, Ella and Lucy, followed by a lively whānau tug of war. The chance for families to connect afterwards was a real highlight. A huge thank you to Renee, Mel, Suzi and Sheree, parent members of our community engagement group, for their energy and creativity. If you'd like to join the group next year, please get in touch with me by email, phone or in person.

On Monday we will be having a Christmas Spirit non uniform day. This is to support our Geraldine Social Workers Trust. Please dress to impress and bring along a gold coin donation.

We are hoping to have the school pool open by Monday 1st December. I will send a message via Facebook when whānau are able to purchase a key and the process we are asking everyone to adhere to. The price of each key is \$75 which includes \$10 refundable bond.

We have set our term dates for 2026:

Term 1

Monday 2nd February - Thursday 2nd Apr

School closed: Waitangi Day - Friday 6 Feb
 Staff Development day - Thursday 2nd Apr (MOE)

Term 2

Mon 20 Apr - Fri 3 July

School closed: ANZAC - Monday 27th April
 Staff Development Day - Friday 29th May
 King's Birthday - Mon 1 June

Term 3

Mon 20 July - Fri 25 Sept

School closed: Staff Development Day - Friday 21st August (MOE)

Term 4

Mon 12 Oct - Monday 14th Dec

School closed: Labour Day - Mon 26 Oct
 Staff Development Day - Tuesday 27th Oct

Last day for students Monday 14th December

Breakfast BBQ - Friday 5 December (8am - 8:50am)

Y6 will be hosting the annual Breakfast BBQ this year on the above date.

They have designed and created games and stalls where you can win prizes or dunk a teacher!

All games are 50c for one go or 3 goes for \$1 - prizes to be won!

Please bring your pocket money!

There will also be -

FREE sausage sizzle run by the Lions

Coffee Cart

Guess the Lollies in the Jar

Grocery Raffle hamper donated by the staff

A baking stall

We would love any donations of cakes and baking to help raise as much money as we can. These can be brought to school the day before or morning off the Breakfast BBQ.

Proceeds go towards supporting our sponsored child - Anna - from the Solomon Islands and other local charities. It also helps to subsidise the cost of Senior Syndicate events such as ski trip transport and E Pro 8.

Please remember to keep up to date with all the events that are taking place over the next few weeks.

Ngā mihi

Stu Wilcox

Mix and Mingle obstacle course



Mix and Mingle tug of war



Beautiful Geraldine Primary School



Our incredible Caroline Bay Relay teams



Whānau cricket in action at the domain



Having fun at the whānau cricket tournament



Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following tamariki who won a Gotcha Draw:

Aila, R3; Harper, R113; Hendrix, R3; Mnveer, R12; Xavier, R11; Johnnie, R5

PB4L Certificates

		PB4L	Desire/Aspire to Achieve
Tāne Mahuta	Room 6: Room 8: Room 9:	Tessa Iannah Tommy M	Lily Oliver Tessa P
Tāwhirimātea	Room 10: Room 12: Room 13:	Grayson Caleb Hawes Elora	Jaxon Aurora G Billy P
Tangaroa	Room 1: Room 2: Room 3: Room 4: Room 5	Reed B James Harper C Lucas R Dahlia N	Ava M Hayden Leonard L Emily A Melody N

School Notices

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS

Please update us. We need to be able to contact parents/caregivers in case your child is unwell or injured.

SCHOOL HOURS

A reminder that school starts at 8.50am and finishes at 2.45pm. Please note that there is no teacher supervision for children who arrive at school before 8.20am.

Home and School News

Geraldine Primary Home and School Committee

We are excited to let you know our annual Trail Ride fundraising event is coming up! We are also having our AGM soon and would love to see some new faces. Give as much or little time as you have to help raise funds for our school. Meetings are usually once a month on a Monday evening.

AGM: Monday 8th April, 7pm in the staff room. Bring a friend and come and check out what we do. All are welcome!

Follow us on Facebook

Did you know we have a Facebook page? Find us at Geraldine Primary Home & School Committee.

Geraldine Primary School

Christmas Spirit Non Uniform Day

Monday 1st December

It's time to find your Christmas spirit. Dig out your best Christmas outfit to join the fun at Geraldine Primary for a day!

**Please bring a coin donation to support our wonderful
Geraldine Children Social Work Trust!**

Community Notices

The **Eco Echo Youth Music Festival** is an exciting new event that celebrates the musical talents of young people across the South Canterbury region. This festival brings together primary and secondary school bands to perform, connect, and showcase their music in a supportive and vibrant community space.

Not only is this a celebration of music, but it's also a fundraiser for the South Canterbury Eco Youth – a youth led initiative established last year to amplify the voices of youth in the environmental, biodiversity, and sustainability space. Eco Youth provides opportunities for young people to engage in environmental projects, build a deeper connection with nature, and take action that benefits both the community and the planet. All profit from this festival will go directly toward supporting these initiatives. We invite you to come along and watch our young local bands perform! Bring your friends and family along on the 30th November from 4pm to 9pm.

Tickets:

- \$10.00
- Under 13 \$5.00

Food and Drinks will also be available for purchase onsite. See You There!!



Be Part of the Magic – Geraldine Santa Parade 2025!



The jingle bells are warming up and Santa's sleigh is on its way — and we'd love *you* to be part of the fun!

Registrations are now open for the **2025 Geraldine Santa Parade**, happening on Friday 5th December. Whether you're a business, club, school, family, or group of friends, this is your chance to join in the festive spirit and help make Geraldine shine.

Floats can be as simple or as spectacular as you like — think music, costumes, tinsel, laughter, and plenty of Christmas cheer! It's a wonderful day for the whole community and a great way to celebrate the year that's been.



Sign up today: <https://lynnriverresources.com/geraldine-christmas-parade-entry-form/>

Let's make this year's parade the biggest and brightest yet!

