



Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

NEWSLETTER/PĀNUI

Friday 7 November 2025

Contact information:

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Website: <https://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz/>

Term Dates:

Term 4 14 October - 12 December

Important Dates:

November

Mix and mingle – Wednesday 19th November – 2.45 - 4pm

School Disco – Friday 21st November

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.

The Science of Sport: Why Physical Activity Matters for Children

Sport isn't just fun — it's also **science in action**! When tamariki (children) participate in physical activity, their bodies and brains are working hard in ways that support growth, learning, and wellbeing.

1. Physical Benefits

- **Muscle and bone development:** Running, jumping, and throwing strengthen muscles and bones, supporting healthy growth.
- **Coordination and motor skills:** Sports teach children how to control their bodies, improving balance, agility, and hand-eye coordination.
- **Cardiovascular health:** Activities that get the heart pumping improve heart and lung function, increasing stamina for school and play.

2. Cognitive Benefits

- **Brain development:** Physical activity increases blood flow to the brain, which helps improve focus, memory, and problem-solving.
- **Executive function:** Sports help children plan, make decisions quickly, and adapt strategies in games — skills they use in the classroom and everyday life.

3. Emotional and Social Benefits

- **Confidence and resilience:** Overcoming challenges in sport teaches children to try their best and bounce back from setbacks.
- **Teamwork and communication:** Playing in teams encourages cooperation, leadership, and empathy for others.
- **Stress reduction:** Exercise releases endorphins, which improve mood and help children feel calm and happy.

4. Lifelong Habits

- Introducing tamariki to sport early helps them **develop healthy routines**, a love of movement, and skills that last a lifetime.

Our **School Athletics Day** was a wonderful example of this in action. It was a day where every child was encouraged to **try their best, support their friends, and take pride in their efforts**. Whether running a race, throwing, or cheering from the sideline, every tamaiti (child) played a part in the spirit of the day.

Events like Athletics Day also help strengthen our **whānau connections**, as families come together to celebrate participation, encouragement, and shared achievement.

Most importantly, sport reminds us that success looks different for everyone — it's not always about coming first, but about giving your best, showing great attitude, and having fun along the way.

The fun continues during **Week 7 (17th–21st November)** with our **Whānau Lunchtime Competitions!**

Year 5–6: Whānau Cricket (Domain)

Fletcher, Flynn, and Lachie will lead a cricket competition during lunchtimes for those who have signed up.

- **Monday:** Coaching game
- **Tuesday:** Kowhai v Kahurangi | Whero v Kakariki
- **Wednesday:** Kowhai v Whero | Kahurangi v Kakariki
- **Thursday:** Whero v Kahurangi | Kakariki v Kowhai
- **Friday:** Finals — 3rd & 4th place | 1st & 2nd place

Year 3–4: Ki O Rahi Tournament (School Field, 12.45–1.15pm)

Run by Lucy, Bethany, Anaia, Lottie, and Mrs Wilcox.

- Monday: Coaching
- Tuesday–Friday: Round-robin matches between whānau

Year 0–2: Fun Relay Games (School Field, 12.45–1.15pm)

Run by Eva, Daphne, Lilah, and Krystal.

- Monday: Coaching
- Tuesday–Friday: Round-robin matches between whānau

Attendance

As you are aware one of our roles within school is to ensure that all tamariki at Geraldine Primary School attend regularly, supporting their right to access education and reach their full potential. Our goals align with the government's national target; 80% of students attend more than 90% of the time. Please have a look at some of our proactive and responsive strategies to improve and sustain student attendance.

Clear expectations for attendance

- Attendance expectation: Tamariki are expected to attend school every day that they are able to.

Attendance expectations will be communicated:

- At enrolment.
- At the beginning of each year and term.
- Via newsletters, websites, and social media updates.
- Through individual conversations when necessary.

Roles and Responsibilities

Parents/whānau

- Ensure tamariki attend school daily unless sick or otherwise excused.
- Reinforce positive attendance habits.
- Maintain communication with the school regarding any absence.
- Engage in school attendance processes and support when attendance issues arise.

School

- Communicate clearly and regularly about attendance expectations and processes.
- Monitor and record attendance daily.
- Notify parents of all absences promptly (via text, phone call, or email).
- Provide attendance updates to parents regularly.
- Support tamariki to overcome barriers to attendance (e.g. uniform, food, counselling).
- Report attendance patterns to the board.
- Use a tiered response system aligned with the STAR framework.
- Provide daily absence reports to the principal for follow-up
- To meet weekly to discuss, assess and action attendance concerns.

Last night, Thursday 6th November, we held a new entrants 2026 parent evening. One of our strategic goals is to strengthen community connections, so that we build authentic partnerships to support student learning, wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging. Therefore, last night was a perfect opportunity to do just that. It was a great success and a real pleasure to meet parents in a relaxed, chilled out environment.

On Thursday 6th November the school emailed each whānau our new information booklet. The booklet contains lots of useful and practical details about Geraldine Primary School. It is designed to be a one stop shop and allow you to have a deeper understanding of our vision and direction. We want our families to connect with this, so your feedback will be gratefully appreciated.

A huge well done to Felicity Marsden who had a great day on Friday 31st October at the South Canterbury Primary Schools Tournament.

There were eight Year 5/6 girls entered. Felicity won her first two matches convincingly and had a tough match in the final, losing in a third set tiebreak. Making her the runner up for year 5/6 girls.

She has now been selected to play in the Southern Region Primary Schools Tournament in Dunedin on Friday.

Felicity will also be representing South Canterbury on Saturday and Sunday in Dunedin. Good luck Felicity.

As we begin the final 5 weeks of term 4, please ensure you keep track of all the events and news that comes up. This will help you and your children to keep calm, process information in a timely manner and not miss anything.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Stu Wilcox

<p>100m sprint final during athletic sports</p> 	<p>Students fiercely competing during the hurdles</p> 	<p>Our Year 6 working with Woodbury students during the high school transition day</p> 
<p>The junior school preparing to throw the foam javelin during athletics day</p> 	<p>Juniors working together at athletic sports</p> 	<p>Well done Felicity and good luck in Dunedin</p> 

Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following tamariki who won a Gotcha Draw:
Reed, R1; Ryan, R10; Ruby, R2; Josh, R5; Maximo R6; Klaus, R4.

PB4L Certificates

		PB4L	Desire/Aspire to Achieve
Tāne Mahuta	Room 6: Room 7: Room 8: Room 9:	Nevaeh Ezra Ayaana Tazana	Liam Lizzie P Tilda Kaelo
Tāwhirimātea	Room 10: Room 11: Room 12 Room 13	Ryan Charlie M Ryleigh Harper	Megan Charlie T Caden Brianna
Tangaroa	Room 1: Room 2: Room 3: Room 4: Room 5:	Mia P - Olivia F Manreet Mila S	Ryder W - Ryder N Jackson Ollie W

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.

School Disco

Friday 21st November

Years 0 -3 6.00 – 7.15pm

Years 4 -6 7.15 – 8.45pm

Parents will need to drop their children off and pick them up again at the end of the sessions. For safety and organisation reasons can children please be dropped off and picked up from the school playground side of the hall. Please note this disco is for Geraldine Primary School children only. The disco will be supervised by staff.

Thank you to the Home and School for providing us with the money to purchase food and drink.

If the children would like to purchase a glow stick, they need to bring \$2 on the morning of the disco to the table we will have set up outside Room 9. They will then get a stamp on their hand which they will show to a staff member when they come to the disco in the evening and they will receive their glow stick.



Mix and Mingle Wednesday 19th November 2.45 - 4pm



WHĀNAU FUN MIX & MINGLE

**You are invited to an afternoon of fun games
on WEDNESDAY 19TH NOV 2.45pm – 4pm**



This is a chance for parents to come and meet and/or catch up with other parents from the school community and some of the school staff. Even if your child has been at the school for a while or has just started, please come along and enjoy some afternoon tea and games

- Afternoon tea will be supplied
- Outside games will be set up for both kids and parents to enjoy
- Students and family members could earn points for their whānau group by joining in with the games

**PRIZES TO
BE WON!!!**

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

WEDNESDAY 19th NOV

2.45PM – 4PM

THE FIELD AND HALL

Home and School News

Athletics Day Sausages - Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased sausages on Athletics Day! Your support helped us raise valuable funds for our school.

Special thanks to **Paige and the team** for organising everything and making the day run smoothly, and to **Mr Campbell** for his continued support with transporting equipment. We couldn't have done it without you!

🍪 Christmas Cookies 🍪

Our annual Cookie Time fundraiser is underway. Your child should have come home with their order form, please share it far and wide and get all the family & friends to support this great fundraiser.

FLAVOURS:

- 🍪 Candy Cane Birthday
- 🍪 Brandy Snap White Chocolate (VERY popular last year)
- 🍪 Chocolate Chip
- 🍪 Apricot Chocolate
- 🍪 Cranberry White Chocolate
- 🍪 Salted Caramel (My Fav!)
- 🍪 Bumper Brownie
- 🍪 Gluten Free Chocolate Chip (smaller tub)

👉 All orders and payments need to be done by
📅 Tuesday 18th November

★ PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT TO HOME & SCHOOL ACCOUNT ★

Ref: Childs Name & Class Room.

**Orders will be ready for collection early December 🍪



Keep Up To Date

Follow us on Facebook - find us at Geraldine Primary Home & School Committee.

 Facebook: [Geraldine Primary Home & School Committee](#)

Contact The committee?

 Email: gpshomeandschool@gmail.com

Community Notices



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!



LEVEL UP  **the Y**
Central South Island
Resourcing to Help Your Organisation
Realise Its Potential

Transition to High School

Parents and Caregivers Information Evening

Date: Thursday 6th November 2025
Time: 6pm - 8pm
Where: The Y on Sophia, 7-9 Sophia St, Timaru
RSVP: jo@ymcasc.org.nz

 **Topics:**

- Support for your students while at high school
- The school day
- Buses
- Differences between primary and high school
- BYOD

