



NEWSLETTER/PĀNUI

Friday 10th October 2025

<p><u>Contact information:</u> Stuart Wilcox – Principal principal@geraldine.school.nz Office – Ph 03 693 8208 office@geraldine.school.nz Website: https://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz/</p>	<p><u>Term Dates:</u> Term 4 14 October - 12 December</p>
<p><u>Important Dates:</u></p> <p>National Teacher Strike Day – Thursday 23 October School closed</p> <p>Teacher Only Day – Friday 24 October (MOE Maths focus – school closed)</p> <p>Labour Day – Monday 27 October Public holiday – school closed</p> <p>School Photos – Tuesday 28 October</p> <p>Whole School Athletics Day – Monday 3 November Postponement Day: Tuesday 4 November</p> <p>New Entrant Parent Information Evening – Thursday 6 November - 7pm</p>	

Principal's Kōrero

Geraldine Primary School Newsletter – Term 4 Update

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful break and is ready for another exciting term ahead. This term is packed with learning, leadership, and sporting opportunities — and we're looking forward to finishing the year strong.

Class Placements for 2026

As part of our class formation process, if parents have any factors 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) by **Friday 31 October**.

While we will take these factors into consideration, we are unable to guarantee every request. Please note this is **not an opportunity to request a specific teacher or friendship placement**.

If you already know that your child will **not be attending Geraldine Primary in 2026** (other than our Year 6 leavers), please let me know in writing as soon as possible.

Year 3 and 4

Team Tāwhirimātea have been busy this week learning all about Flight for their Curiosity Unit. Russell Brodie and Henry Bolt visited on Monday, with Russell talking to the tamariki about how he grown up with planes, and his and his family's life as pilots. Henry talked about the process of building his own plane from start to finish, resulting with him winning best home build award this year.

On Thursday, Chris from the Airforce Museum in Christchurch came and spoke to the tamariki about the forces of flight and the different rolls of each part of a plane.

On Monday they are off to visit both Russell and Henry at the Rangitata Island Aerodrome where they will see actual planes, and weather permitted watch them take off and land.



School Closures – Strike Action & Teacher Only Day

Geraldine Primary has a **Maths Ministry of Education Teacher Only Day** on **Friday 24 October**, set earlier this year in conjunction with Woodbury, Carew Peel Forest, and Winchester Schools.

Unfortunately, the **NZEI (teachers' union)** has called a **strike day on Thursday 23 October**, meaning school will also be **closed on that day**.

We understand this creates a long weekend for whānau and appreciate your understanding. Please also note that **Monday 27 October is Labour Day**, a public holiday.

Staff news

We're thrilled to announce two new kaiako (teachers) joining our team next year — **Ben Robertson** and **Anne-Maree Reith**.

Ben is already well known within our school community, and Anne-Maree is a proud local, currently teaching at Waihi School. Both bring enthusiasm, creativity, and a commitment to helping tamariki thrive.

Mrs Debbie Scott and Mrs Siobhan Hayward have made the tough decision to take a break from teaching, and I would like to say a huge thank you for their incredible dedication over the years. However, I am still trying to encourage them to return in some capacity next year!

Mrs Annalise Robertson will be taking maternity leave next year and Mrs Amy Wynn has kindly stepped into her role for 2026.

This means that our school staff and school structure 2026 looks like this:

School year level	Rooms	Teachers
0	6	Andrea Bathgate
0	9	Kirsty Smith - Sheralyn Scott release Thursday
1	8	Rochelle Fisher
2	7	Anne Marie Reith
2	3	Claire Lovelock
3	13	Jodi Gardner
3	12	Elizabeth Murray
4	11	Amy Wynn
4	10	Cathy Taiaroa
5	4	Ingrid Hanrahan
5	5	Ben Robertson - Bridget Patrick release teacher Thursday
6	2	Chelley Leov
6	1	Fiona Wilcox - Georgia McCarthy release Thursday
		Stuart Wilcox - Principal Jo Drake – DP and middle school release Sarah Dunckley Learning Support Co-ordinator Georgia McCarthy – senior school release Sheralyn Scott - junior school release Sarah Winchester – release teacher

PB4L Focus – Being Responsible

This term, our **PB4L focus** is *Being Responsible*. Tamariki will explore what responsibility looks like in the classroom, playground, and at home. A great first step is remembering sun hats each day and taking care of personal belongings.

We're also continuing our work on **self-regulation** — recognising feelings and responding calmly and positively when things don't go to plan.

Student Leadership

Our **Year 6 Playground Champions** are working alongside a group of **Year 5 students** who are keen to take on leadership roles next year. This *train-on-the-job* approach was designed and led by the students themselves — a wonderful example of initiative, teamwork, and responsibility in action!

Sporting Opportunities – Term 4

Term 4 is filled with exciting sporting events for our tamariki:

- 🏆 **Top Team (Y3–6):** Wednesday 16 October (afternoon)
- 🏃 **Athletics:** Monday 3 November (PP Tuesday 4 November)
- 🚴 **Y5–6 SC Mountain Bike Race:** Wednesday 22 October
- ⚽ **Y3–6 Futsal (Timaru):** Wednesday afternoons
- 🏈 **Y5–6 Touch (GHS):** Starts Monday 20 October – four teams entered
- 🏀 **Y3–6 Basketball (Roncalli):** Ongoing – four teams competing; practices Thursdays after school
- 🎾 **Y5–6 SC Tennis (Timaru):** Friday 31 October
- 🏊 **Y5–6 Caroline Bay Relay (Timaru):** Tuesday 18 November

A Final Word

As always, thank you for your continued support of our kura and community.

Ngā mihi nui,

Stu Wilcox

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.

Scholastic Book Club orders:

Just a wee reminder that Scholastic Bookclub orders close 28th October 2025.

You can order online or the manual paper orders can be given to Mrs Leov in Room 2 please
Many thanks

Home and School News

Committee Meeting

We're holding our next Home & School meeting on **Tuesday, 14th October at 7:00 PM** in the **school staff room**.

Whether you're curious about what we do or interested in joining the team, we'd love to have you there!

Come along to learn more about our current projects and exciting future plans.

Everyone is welcome!

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: gpsheandschool@gmail.com