



Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

NEWSLETTER/PĀNUI

Friday 12th December 2025

<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/		<u>Term Dates: 2026</u>	
	Term 1	2 nd February - 2nd April	
	Term 2	20 April - 3 July	
	Term 3	20 July - 25 September	
	Term 4	12 October - 15 December	
<u>Important Dates:</u> Thursday 29 th January – Chromebook Setup 10.30 – 12.30 Monday 2 nd February – Start of Term 1 - Whole School Wednesday 11 th – Back to school hui and meet the teacher			

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2025

As we finish the year, Geraldine Primary School has so much to be proud of. 2025 has been an outstanding year filled with learning, connection, achievement and community.

A school is not only measured on its academic and sporting achievements, but also on its culture. In other words, what feeling do you get when you walk through the front door, the playground or a classroom? Over this year our school community has reflected on this feeling, and we have collected and collated lots of data. While we know that academic progress and achievement is important, a school needs to be more than that - wholesome, natural and holistic. To learn to recognise, support, and celebrate differences, and to give every child what they need to thrive. Therefore, our new vision and logo capture the essence of our kura. Our 3-year strategic plan works side by side with our vision and it has been designed to grow student outcomes, strengthen teacher capabilities and build authentic partnerships between students, whānau and community.

'The heart of our community, together we thrive'

Below is just a snapshot of the many experiences and successes our tamariki have enjoyed.

Term 1 Highlights

- Community Evening – showcasing opportunities for tamariki
- Student Leadership Day
- Opening of Rooms 4 and 5
- School swimming programme
- Whānau picnic
- Year 5 Camp – Raincliff
- Year 6 Camp – Lindisfarne
- Tangaroa (senior) & Tāwhirimātea (middle) Triathlons
- Woodbury School Ripa

- Pipe Band
- Year 5–6 Rippa Tournament – 4th place (Oamaru)
- Mix and Mingle event
- RDA horse riding
- Kids Lit Quiz – **1st place**
- South Canterbury Triathlon & Swimming Sports
- AgriKids

Term 2 Highlights

- Te Aitarakihi (Junior, Middle & Senior)
- Whānau activities
- Leaders' Waihi Lodge experience
- Kids Lit Quiz National Final – Wellington
- Mohio programme
- Men's Shed
- Dog safety visits (Years 0–3)
- South Canterbury Museum (Junior trip)
- Middle School high ropes
- EPro8 Interschool Challenge & Regional Finals
- Pink Shirt Day
- School & South Canterbury Cross Country (many placings)
- Rakapuka Waiata Festival
- Jump Jam Extravaganza
- Year 5–6 Football Festival (lost on penalties in final)
- Matariki Mix and Mingle

Term 3 Highlights

- Life Education
- Production preparations: costumes, props & rehearsals
- Whānau Basketball
- KiwiSport Golf & Squash
- Bill Westwood Speaker
- Men's Shed
- Lions Reading
- Waihi Lodge
- Year 6 PE with Geraldine High School
- Open School Day
- Tangaroa (senior) Ski Trip
- Tangaroa (senior) Speech Final
- Otago Medical Students visit
- Daffodil Day
- Lions Speech Final – **Lucy Avery 1st place**
- Production Week
- Flava Festival
- Kapa Haka GHS Showcase
- PALS lunchtime activities
- Mohio Drama

Term 4 Highlights

- Year 6 ropes course & Transition Day
- Air Force Museum & Rangitata Aerodrome visits
- School of Music
- School Athletics
- Caroline Bay Relay (placings)
- Men's Shed
- Basketball & Futsal
- Trees for Survival potting day
- Junior Whānau obstacle race
- Middle Whānau Ki-o-Rahi
- Senior Whānau cricket
- Transition – Big Choosing
- St John sessions
- Breakfast BBQ
- School Disco
- South Canterbury Athletics (many placings)
- Waihi Lodge
- Leaders' lunch
- GHS Touch Rugby – one team reached the final
- Geraldine Christmas Parade
- Year 6 Pool Party
- Mix and Mingle
- Top Team
- Playground Champions
- Middle School poetry

This incredible list reflects the passion, dedication and collective effort of our staff, students, whānau and wider community. Thank you for being part of such a vibrant and supportive school whānau.

What a year it has been — together, we thrive.

This is now the perfect time to celebrate some beautiful news. Jodi Gardner, now Mrs Whyte, is expecting a baby. Jodi will be working during term 1 and then take her maternity leave from the start of term 2. We are so thrilled for her, and we can't wait to meet the new member of her family.

Please put the following dates into your calendar for next year.

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 - Tuesday 15th Dec

School closed: Labour Day - Mon 26 Oct
Staff Development Day - Tuesday 27th Oct
Last day for students Monday 14th December

Celebration

Geraldine Primary School proudly acknowledges the following students for their Prize Giving awards and leadership roles. We celebrate their achievements, commitment, and the values they bring to our kura.

Prize Giving Awards

- **Wilson Family Award – Achievement (Year 6):** Hosanna Woods
- **Hayward Family Award – Caring (Year 6):** Chloe Overcomer
- **Strowger Family Award – Respect (Year 6):** Ownerdeep Warraich
- **Leov Family Award – Responsibility (Year 6):** Levi Davey
- **GPS Citizenship Award (Years 5–6):** Eva Pridham
- **Drake Family Award – Citizenship (Years 3–4):** Cohen Ward
- **Lovelock Family Award – Citizenship (Years 0–2):** Harper Copland
- **Grant Family Perseverance Cup (Year 6):** Millie Newton
- **Wilcox Whānau Athletics Trophy:** Charlie and Lachie Trevathon
- **Robertson Family Award – Performing Arts:** Flynn Cummings

Student Leaders for 2026

- **Head Students:** Felicity Marsden and Ollie Hudson
- **Rangatahi Leader:** Ada Necklen

Whānau Group Leaders

- **Kahurangi:** Wren Oishi and Japneet Bhatia
- **Kōwhai:** Lena Dautermann and Ollie Walkinshaw
- **Kākāriki:** Elise Parish and Roman Beertsen
- **Whero:** Ada Necklen and Josh Scott

We are incredibly proud of each of these students and look forward to all they will contribute to our school community in 2026.

Our Board will continue to invest strongly in our school to ensure our three strategic goals are achieved:

- **Empowering learners to thrive**
- **Strengthening community connection**
- **Deepening our skills together to enrich learning outcomes**

To support these priorities, at the start of 2026 all classrooms will be equipped with new interactive screens. We will also increase teacher aide hours, employ two additional teacher aides, and fund an extra teacher position to help keep class sizes smaller.

These investments reflect our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible learning environment and support for every child at Geraldine Primary School.

Finally, as a little Christmas gift to our wonderful whānau, we have included links to all of the school production photographs and the full production film. We hope you enjoy revisiting these special moments with your children.

We kindly ask that these links are shared only within your family and are not posted on social media.

Please have the most restful and relaxing family Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2026

Te oranga o te tangata he whenua

Flourishing is when my moko can come back to the whenua and know that the land is healthy, that they are healthy...then opportunity is unbound

Stu Wilcox

Our touch team finalists



Celebrating Christmas



Our Year 4 and Year 3 poetry winners



Our Student leaders enjoying their celebration lunch



Our successful breakfast Year 6 BBQ



Santa's Little Helpers aboard the GPS float



Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following tamariki who won a Gotcha Draw:
Cohen, R10; Mackenzie, R10; Sean, R12; Mackenzie, R10; Harper, R3; Xavier R11.
Tommie R 9, Joss R6, Ayla R3, Taiga R13, Kaiah R8, Abhijot R4

PB4L Certificates

		PB4L	Desire/Aspire to Achieve
Tāne Mahuta	Room 3: Room 6: Room 7: Room 8: Room 9:	Kriztyana Hendrix Milly Kyra Harry Mc	Greer Myles Eleanor Louie Rio
Tāwhirimātea	Room 10: Room 11: Room 12: Room 13:	Matthew C Isaac Mason Taiga O	Cohen George Valentina
Tangaroa	Room 1: Room 2: Room 5: Room 4:	Eric Mackenzie Lena Aki	Alexis Sasha Roman Josh S

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.

GPS Boys Basketball 2025

Basketball was great this season. We had a great time playing and all teams were very successful. Basketball made our school year better than we thought it would.

We want to thank our talented and enthusiastic basketball coaches from Geraldine High School for making our practices worthwhile and fun. We loved doing drills and learning new skills to help us improve our basketball games.

The Geraldine Chicago Bulls started off with a few rough games but we didn't give up and we kept on improving because our coaches were doing a great job. The Geraldine LA Lakers and Geraldine Hornets had some great games as well and they improved a lot.

Our experience playing Basketball was truly amazing and we look forward to the season next year.

Roman and Judah



GPS Bouncers 2025

Timaru Girls Basketball 2025 has been very successful this year.

The girls Geraldine Primary School team has really enjoyed playing teams from other schools. It was a great and successful year for the GPS Bouncers, all though at times it has been really close and tough but we kept going .

We have all improved from the start of the year thanks to Rachel, for managing us and Felix from Geraldine High, our coach. Our team has learnt how to work with others and also encourage everyone to keep going.

I really hope all of them keep playing basketball for the following years.

By Felicity and Elise.



Touch Rugby Flames

Touch rugby this year has been very successful for Geraldine Flames, plus the other teams called GPS Warriors, GPS Storm and GPS Titans. The Flames won all of their games and it was very tough. We have had a lot of fun playing other teams, such as Woodbury and Waihi. We are hoping to verse another Geraldine Primary team or Mayfield.

The games were played every Monday afternoon at Geraldine High School. There are some amazing High School students who give up their time to ref the games and get the draw ready. There were twelve or so refs all around the fields. We would like to thank them and the parents who have helped manage a team.

There are some other teams that we have played against us and had fun with. There are four different schools that competed in the league Waihi, Woodbury, Geraldine and Mayfield.

By Ollie H and Nikau



Community Notice

SJ Café
Social Joining
Every Wednesday 10am – 12 noon

What to expect – a perfect time to work on a puzzle, play cards, or a board game, bring your own activity/craft, or just turn up for a chat.
Be in the company of others in a relaxed and casual atmosphere.
No need to register -just turn up!

Tea and coffee provided

Transport by arrangement

Contact 027 432 2518 or northaorakicommittee@stjohn.org.nz

Location St John Geraldine, 124 Talbot Street, Geraldine



**EPIC
HOLIDAY WORKSHOP**

IS YOUR CHILD OR TEEN
INTERESTED
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JANUARY 2026
For beginner & advanced coders
Ages 9&10, 11&12, 13&14, 15 to adult
Fun, Free & Educational!

Sign up at codingnz.com/holidays



**A HOLLY JOLLY
GOOD TIME**

Christmas Lights Display
@ St Andrews Hall



DECEMBER 22-24
6:30-9:30PM
(Xmas Eve
5:30-10:30PM)

Entrance via double doors
on Wilson Street



Introduction to Music Class

Have your child discover music by experiencing and playing it.

Timaru School of Music runs government funded music tuition for primary-school-aged and homeschooled children who live in South Canterbury.

The Introduction to Music Class is for year one and two primary-schooled-aged children. There are a limited number of spaces available in these classes for students who are new to our school.

These 20 minute classes run on Wednesdays between 4 till 5pm during term time.

Apply through our website and select "Introduction to Music" as an instrument:

<https://timaruschoolofmusic.com>

Lessons are held in the Waimataitai School library.

\$40 administration fee applies.



GERALDINE GYMNASTICS



Gym classes for ages 5-13 years, Monday afternoons in Term one at GHS gymnasium

Spaces are limited and we're looking for more volunteer coaches (training and support provided).

To register a gymnast please use the following click on the following link or copy it into your browser

<https://forms.gle/cjhy5hHzLepHCmjw7>

To enquire about volunteering please email geraldinegymnastics@gmail.com

Become a Trees for Survival Landowner

Your local school are excited to join the
Trees for Survival programme.

We are looking for a local landowner to host the
school's yearly planting day and help support
students to make a positive difference to their
local environment.

Are you keen to revegetate your land with New
Zealand native plants raised and nurtured by a
local school? Do you have an environmentally at-
risk stream, erosion prone slopes or land to
retire?

Find out more and register your interest by filling
in our Landowner Expression of Interest Form!

www.tfsnz.org.nz - Get Involved



WATER SAFETY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

MONDAY 12 JANUARY - FRIDAY 16 JANUARY 2026

LIFEJACKET SAFETY | SURVIVAL STROKES | FLOATING
BEACH SAFETY | BYSTANDER RESCUES | RIVER SAFETY | BOAT SAFETY

\$45.00 PER CHILD

40 MIN LESSONS

AGES 5+

Help Your Tamariki Develop the Skills
They Need to Stay Safe & Survive!

Scan to Enroll!



12PM - 3PM

Sessions Run in Age
Groups & Ability

 swim.school@cbaytimaru.co.nz

 Caroline Bay Trust Aoraki Centre



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