



Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

NEWSLETTER/PĀNU I

Thursday 2 April 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 2 20 April - 3 July Term 3 20 July - 25 September Term 4 12 October - 15 December	
<u>Important Dates:</u> 25 April – ANZAC Day 27 April – ANZAC Day observed 29 June – Teacher only Day 1 June – Kings Birthday Friday 3 rd – End of Term			

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau,

Living Our School Values and vision

This term, we have worked intentionally to bring our school values and vision together as one, ensuring they are clearly understood and consistently used across our kura. It has been wonderful to see our tamariki leading by example and confidently using this shared language in their daily interactions.

We encourage you to take some time over the holidays to revisit these values as a whānau. When school and home are aligned, we strengthen our collective impact and support our children to grow and flourish.

Our values are grounded in powerful whakataukī that guide how we learn, connect, and behave:

- **Be Caring and Have Heart – Mā te ngākau aroha koe e ārahi**
- **Be an Achiever and Thrive – Pai tū, pai hinga**
- **Be Respectful Together – He aroha atu, he aroha mai**
- **Be Responsible to Strengthen Community – He waka eke noa**

Together, these values help us build a strong, connected community where everyone feels supported to succeed. When we are united in our vision, our tamariki truly thrive.

What Has Happened in Term 1?

Term 1 has been a busy and exciting time at Geraldine Primary School, with a wide range of opportunities for our tamariki to challenge themselves, build relationships, and celebrate success.

Highlights from the term include:

- What Now's Mat Challenge
- Year 6 Camp – Lindisfarne
- Tangaroa Triathlon
- Width Swimming Carnival
- Length Swim Sports
- Year 5 Camp – Raincliff
- Year 5 and 6 South Canterbury Rippa Tournament
- Junior School Triathlon
- Middle School Triathlon
- South Canterbury Primary Schools Triathlon

These experiences have provided our tamariki with opportunities to demonstrate resilience, teamwork, and a strong sense of manaakitanga, while embracing new challenges and celebrating their achievements.

A Busy Finish to the Term

The past two weeks have been particularly busy, with many opportunities for our tamariki to demonstrate **kotahitanga (unity and togetherness)**.

Our Head Students and Whānau Leaders did an outstanding job organising, managing, and leading three successful Rippa Rugby tournaments across the school.

Tāne Mahuta Syndicate (Monday)

It was wonderful to see our younger tamariki showing great energy and emerging talent. After three games each, the results were:

1st: Kōwhai | 2nd: Whero | 3rd: Kakariki & Kahurangi

Tangaroa Syndicate (Thursday)

The level of competitiveness and grit was outstanding, with every game played with determination and commitment. Results were:

1st: Kōwhai & Whero | 3rd: Kahurangi | 4th: Kakariki

Tāwhirimātea Syndicate (Friday)

This wrapped up a fantastic week of sport. It was great to see the progression across year levels and the strength of our whānau system in action. Results were:

1st: Kōwhai | 2nd: Whero | 3rd: Kakariki | 4th: Kahurangi

Sporting and Academic Success

Rippa Rugby Subway Cup

Despite grey skies, wet grass, and light rain, our Year 5 and 6 team showed great determination at the Subway Cup Finals after winning their regional competition. They finished with two wins and two losses, placing **3rd in their pool**. Many games were closely contested, and we are incredibly proud of how they represented our school, their whānau, and themselves.

South Canterbury Primary Schools Swimming

Well done to our team of swimmers who competed at Caroline Bay. They showed great effort, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the event.

Kids Lit Quiz

This year we entered two teams in the Kids Lit Quiz at Grantlea Downs. Both teams performed exceptionally well, with one team achieving an impressive **3rd place**. A fantastic result and a great celebration of our learners' knowledge and love of reading.

These opportunities highlight the strength of our school community and the many ways our tamariki continue to grow, connect, and thrive together.

It is through these shared experiences that we truly see our vision come to life — *“the heart of our community, together we thrive.”*

Our end-of-term celebration assembly was proudly organised and presented by our Tangaroa syndicate. They took us on a journey through the highlights of Term 1, sharing a timeline of the many experiences and opportunities our tamariki have been involved in.

It was a special moment for the school to view the *What Now* edited clip for the first time, followed by a range of student performances including singing and magic tricks. The assembly concluded with a group waiata, bringing everyone together in a wonderful celebration of our learning and achievements.

Students were recognised for their efforts, receiving Principal's Certificates, triathlon certificates, and swimming trophies. Congratulations to our swimming champions: **Year 5 Overall Champion – Isabel Pridham; Year 6 Boys Champion – Ollie Hudson; and Year 6 Girls Champion – Ada Necklen.**

This term's winning whānau was **Whero** — a fantastic achievement and a reflection of their teamwork and commitment throughout the term.

Thanks to Siobhan Hayward for stepping into Mrs Whyte's shoes and delivering a fantastic teaching programme for children in Room 13. Next term we welcome Ms Andrea Shaw who will be Room 13's teacher for the remainder of the year.

From next term we welcome Debbie Scott back to Geraldine Primary School. She will be working alongside Room 6 and 9, our New Entrant cohort and from week 4 Debbie will be teaching in Room 15 (New Entrant classroom).

At the end of last year, the Geraldine School Board made a significant investment in new interactive screens for every classroom, along with the employment of additional learning assistants (kaiāwhina).

I am pleased to report that all classrooms are now equipped with modern interactive screens, supporting a more cohesive and engaging whole-class teaching approach. We have also allocated a kaiāwhina to each syndicate, strengthening our ability to support learners across the school.

Geraldine Primary School Staff would like to thank our whanau for your continued support.

Please have a restful Easter break and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 20th April

Stu Wilcox

Whero Whānau Leaders	Year 6 Girls Swimming Champion – Ada Necklen	Year 6 Boys Swimming Champion – Ollie Hudson
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Year 5 Swimming Champion – Isabel Pridham

Kowhai rippa rugby team

Whānau rippa rugby

End of Term Gotcha Draw

Theadora, R3; Samuel, R4; Eesha, R13; Charlotte, R10; Matthew, R4; Florence, R8

Principal Awards Certificates

PRINCIPAL AWARDS TRACKER

At the end of each term please add the student (first & surnames) from your class who received the Principal's Award

Term 1 2026

Room 1	Daniv Gatchalian
Room 2	Wren Oishi
Room 3	Vinnie McDonald
Room 4	Casper Newton
Room 5	Ryan Wood
Room 6	Ted Pagan
Room 7	Sophia Perez

Room 8	Jackson Zvirgzdins-Scott
Room 9	Alex Poole
Room 10	Sean Gaspar
Room 11	Ayla Cooper
Room 12	Ben Peterson
Room 13	Harper Copland
Room 15	

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.

Community Notices

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



Looking for a Tutor?

Our schedules have opened up new spaces from next term.

We provide online and one-on-one tutoring,

recognizing the individual needs of students for reading, spelling and comprehension
using a multisensory approach.

Often children can be good readers(and not always) yet are not able to spell

what they can read,

We are happy to chat about 'why'.

Robyn van den Berg

DYSLEXIA TUTORING LTD

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