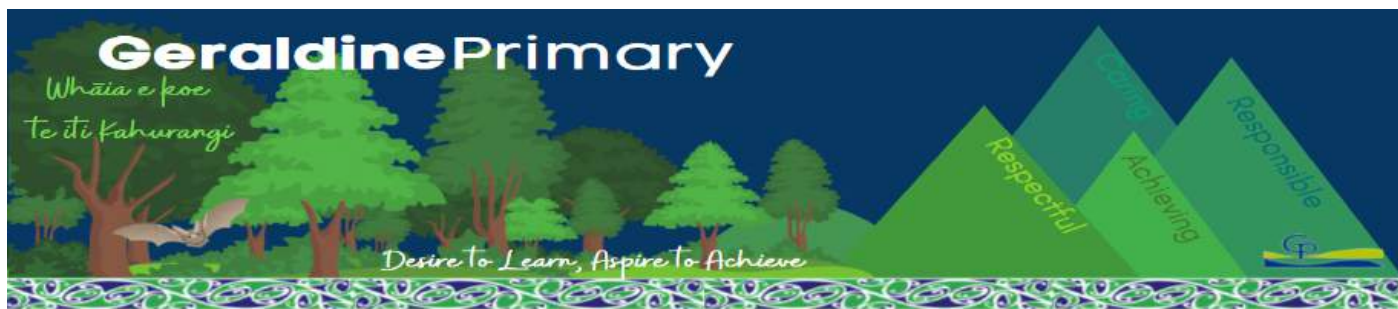




NEWSLETTER/PĀNUI

29 August 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:</u> Term 3 14 July - 19 September Term 4 6 October - 12 December
 Dates to Remember • Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th September – 🎭 <i>School Production</i> Curtains up! Two magical evening shows plus a Thursday matinee filled with talent, teamwork and creativity. • Saturday 13th September – <i>Kāhui Ako Kapa Haka Flava Festival, Timaru</i> • Monday 15th September – <i>Kapa Haka GHS Festival – 4:30pm–6:00pm</i> • Friday 19th September – <i>Principal's Assembly (2.00pm) & End of Term</i>	

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau and welcome to our Pānui.

🌟 Busy Times at Geraldine Primary

Since our last newsletter, Geraldine Primary has been buzzing with activity, with lots of exciting opportunities for our tamariki. We've enjoyed squash sessions, visits from the Men's Shed, time with residents at Waihi Lodge, and the Lions Reading programme.

On **Monday 18th August**, our Tangaroa (senior) syndicate held their **speech finals**. Twelve talented students competed for the chance to represent our school in the **Lions Reading Speech Finals in Timaru**.

Speech topics ranged from "Children Under 13 Having Smartphones" and "E-Sports Should Be Part of the Curriculum" to the very popular "The Secret Life of Teachers". Every Year 5 and 6 student should be proud of their creative, individual speeches, and a special congratulations goes to our twelve finalists.

Our judges – Deana Averill, Doug Bruce, and Bill Westwood – had a tough job selecting the top three. The results were:

- 🥉 3rd Place – Violet Talbot
- 🥈 2nd Place – Lulu Mowat
- 🥇 1st Place – Lucy Avery

We are incredibly proud of all the speakers and wish Lucy the very best of luck as she heads to the **Timaru finals!**

School Production: *What Lies Between Light and Dark*

Our school production has really taken shape, and we are so excited to share it with you next week! After weeks of preparation, the stage is set for an incredible performance on Wednesday and Thursday.

This production has been a true community effort. We are so grateful to the many parents, whānau, and local groups who have supported us. The set looks spectacular, the props have been crafted with care, and the costumes will bring the story to life in vibrant detail.

Behind the scenes, our team has worked hard to create the right lighting and sound to make sure the audience is fully immersed in every scene.

A huge thank you goes to our kaiako, tamariki, and whānau for their creativity, time, and energy in bringing *What Lies Between Light and Dark* to life. We can't wait to see you all in the audience next week!

 **Daffodil Day Success!** 
A huge thank you to everyone who supported Daffodil Day – an event that is close to all of our hearts. Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful school community, we raised an incredible **\$524.30!** What a fantastic effort, showing the power of kindness and giving when we all come together.

Literacy Snapshots

Please take some time to look through the **literacy snapshots** below. These snapshots provide helpful guidance, practical strategies, and a few great tips to support your child's learning at home.

By working together, we can help strengthen your child's reading, writing, and overall literacy skills.

Ngā mihi

Stu Wilcox

Year 1

Kia ora whānau,

This week we are sharing a snapshot from the [Parent Portal about English learning in Year 1](#). At this stage, children are beginning their journey with oral language, reading and writing. Children are learning to listen, talk about their ideas, recognise sounds and letters, and start creating their own words and stories. You'll also find below practical tips to support your child at home as they grow in confidence with these early foundations.

Ideas to support reading at home

Expand your reading activities to:

- last for 10 minutes at least without interruption
- be an enjoyable, interesting and special time.

With your child, you could:

- share the reading or see whether your child wants to be read to
- talk about how pictures in picture books can add extra details that aren't in the words
- visit the library and let your child choose books to share
- read aloud messages from family
- point out words on signs, shops and labels.

If your child gets stuck when reading a word:

- wait a few seconds, ask them to sound out the word – help them to break the word up into individual sounds and blend the sounds together to make the word, for example, p-ai-n-t – paint
- check – does the word now makes sense in the sentence
- support them to try again if they miss a sound – if they don't know what the word means, talk to them about the meaning.

Year 2

Kia ora whānau,

This week's [Parent Portal snapshot focuses on Year 2](#) English learning. At this stage, children are building on their early reading and writing skills. They are developing stronger word recognition, expanding their vocabulary, and beginning to write with more detail. Here are some simple ideas you can try at home to help your child practise and enjoy using language in different ways.

Ideas to support writing at home

With your child, you could:

- encourage them to practise writing by having felt pens, pencils, crayons, and paper available
- help them to go back and check what they have written
- write letters, cards, and messages to friends and family
- keep a diary, especially if you are doing something different and exciting
- write lists – "things I need from the shop", "games that I enjoy", or "things I want to do in the holidays".

If your child writes letters backwards or misses sounds in words, praise them for trying and encourage them to have another look at it. If the letters are backwards, you can write the correct letter for them to copy.

Parent tip

Practice is important when learning sounds and letters.

Practising the sounds your child has learned, for up to 10 minutes a day, will help them to remember what has been taught at school.

Year 3

Kia ora whānau,

Our focus this week is on [Year 3 English learning from the Parent Portal](#). By this stage, children are becoming more independent readers and writers. They are learning to use strategies to understand new words, read longer texts, and organise their ideas in writing. The ideas below suggest ways you can support oral language development – for example, by encouraging discussions about what your child reads and supporting them to write for different purposes. Oral language is the foundation for strong reading comprehension and effective writing.

Ideas to support oral language at home

With your child, you could:

- retell favourite stories or parts of stories in your own words
- make up a story and act it out with costumes for a made-up story or traditional dress, and music
- play games or complete activities that involve following instructions
- play word games and talk about the meaning of interesting new words
- talk about how things are grouped and the differences between these groups
 - for example, mammals versus amphibians or fiction versus non-fiction
- talk about activities they have completed at school, describing what they find easy and hard.

Year 4

Kia ora whānau,

This week we are sharing the [Parent Portal snapshot for Year 4 English](#). At this level, children are beginning to read with greater fluency and write in more detail. They are learning to use paragraphs, expand their ideas, and adapt their writing for different audiences. In reading, they are working on comprehension strategies to make sense of longer texts. The clips highlight these skills and give helpful tips for ways you can support your child's growing independence at home.

Ideas to support reading at home

With your child, you could expand on what they are reading. For example:

- chat about their favourite character
- who is like that in your family or school
- work out what you have learned from this book
- think about their own experiences.

Help them understand difficult words – look for smaller words or word parts in longer words. Look up meanings in a dictionary if you need to.

You could:

- read recipes, instructions, maps, diagrams, signs, junk mail, and text messages
- visit the library and let them choose books related to their interests and things they are learning about at school
- encourage them to read books aloud to family members (siblings, aunts, grandma and cousins)
- read to them no matter how old they are – they can understand more challenging information than they can read.

Year 5

Kia ora whānau,

Our *Parent Portal* spotlight this week is on [Year 5 English learning](#). At this stage, children are reading a wide range of texts, thinking more deeply about what they read, and sharing their opinions with others. In writing, they are learning to plan, revise, and edit their work to make it clear and engaging. The ideas below suggest ways you can encourage discussion, critical thinking, and creativity in your child's use of language at home. Writing at home also builds stamina for writing longer texts in the future.

Ideas to support writing at home

With your child, you could:

- help them write about their heroes, pets, sports events, ancestors, hobbies, and interests
- help them to check what they have written, suggest ideas for improving their writing, and encourage them to share their work with family members
- play word games and do puzzles together to help them learn more about words and spelling
- help them to make a special book to write in or create a digital book of special events
- write and send messages, invitations, thank you letters, or postcards to friends and family, as well as writing poems or stories for them
- encourage them to write about their feelings and experiences in a diary, journal, or online blog.

If your child misses sounds in words, praise them for trying and encourage them to have another look at their writing.

Year 6

Kia ora whānau,

This week we are highlighting the [Parent Portal guide for Year 6 English](#).. By this stage, children are becoming confident, independent users of oral language, reading, and writing. They are learning to think critically about texts, express themselves clearly, and write for a range of purposes. The ideas below share practical ways you can continue to support and extend your child's language learning at home as they prepare for the transition into Year 7.

Ideas to support reading at home

With your child, you could:

- have discussions about books they are reading
- encourage research about topics of interest
- have plenty of books and magazines that everyone can read at home
- share your thoughts and feelings about what you are reading so they see you as a reader
- help them to read and understand difficult words – look for smaller words or word parts in longer words, and look up meanings in a dictionary if you need to
- help your child to identify an author, character, or series of books they like and find more titles in the series or by the author
- find books that have been made into movies or TV programmes – this can help them to discover different ways to tell the same story if they read the stories they have watched
- read to them no matter how old they are – they can understand more challenging information than they can read.

At the Men's Shed working together painting the cave for the school production



Painting all the trees for the school production



Our winners and the judges



Our winners from left to right – Lucy, Lulu and Violet



Our lead's costumes



Some of the beautiful middle school masks



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

HOME & SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

Best of Luck to Our Tamariki for “What Lies Between Light and Dark”!

The committee would like to send all our best wishes to the incredible tamariki involved in next week's production of “What Lies Between Light and Dark.”

We know how much heart, energy, and creativity you've poured into rehearsals and we couldn't be prouder of each and every one of you.

This show promises to be a magical journey and we're absolutely buzzing with excitement to come along and watch your talents shine on stage, you are what makes this production truly special.

We can't wait to see the curtain rise and celebrate your hard work. You've got this!

Ngā mihi nui,
The Committee

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: gpshehomeandschool@gmail.com

Community Notices

FAIRLIE PRIMARY SCHOOL
SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY - DISCOVERING THE POTENTIAL

SKI RACE

SEPTEMBER 5TH 2025

Entry Fee \$20

(BOYS & GIRLS)
•YEAR 3/4
•YEAR 5/6
•YEAR 7/8

Sausage sizzle
Please bring cash

FOR ENTRY FORM AND FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE VISIT
www.fairlie.school.nz

MT DOUGLAS SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB
SKI SHACK
SKI & SNOWBOARD HIRE
RETAIL SALES

TENNIS SOUTH CANTERBURY

Free! hot shots tennis

Beginners Tennis Coaching Sessions

7th - 20th September
Starting Sunday's from 9:00am (30 Minute sessions)

4 weeks of fully subsidised coaching sessions for beginner players.
At the Trust Aoraki Tennis Centre (27 Seaview Ave)

Sessions times are dependent on the number of participants.
Please register online by Friday 29th August.

Register Now!

www.tennissouthcanterbury.co.nz

GERALDINE Swimming CLUB

2025/2026 SEASON

SWIM SQUAD

Our squad swimming season commences in the Geraldine Pool when it opens in early November.

If you are interested in joining our club for fitness, skills or competitive swimming then please contact us at:
secretarygasc@gmail.com

LEARN TO SWIM

We offer 'Learn To Swim' lessons in the Geraldine Pool for children 5 years and older -
Tuesday/Thursday afternoons in Term 4 and Term 1.

VERY LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!
Contact: learn2swimgeraldine@gmail.com

GUIDING OUR TAMARIKI - A PARENT RESOURCE EVENING

WHEN: 1st SEPTEMBER 6-7PM
WHERE: GERALDINE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

TE KURA TUARUA O RAUKAPUKA
GERALDINE HIGH SCHOOL

Have a cup of tea and a snack while you mingle with other parents/caregivers and explore what support services our region has to offer.
Find out what they do, how they can help and who you can contact when you need support.

Ministry of Education - YMCA - Multicultural Aoraki - ComCol - Ara - Timaru District Council - Family Works - Southern Health School - FAMHS - GAMHS - School Counsellor - SENCO - Social Worker - Adventure Development - & others

MTFJ
Māori Trusts Federation of New Zealand

comcol
NEW ZEALAND

FAMHS
Family Mental Health Support Unit

the Y

Family Works
TE KURA TUARUA O RAUKAPUKA

Southern Health School
Te Kura Whakarewa o Te Aoraki

Multicultural Aoraki

COME & TRY Fast 5

GERALDINE NETBALL

TERM 3 1 st GAME	WEDNESDAY 10 th SEPTEMBER
	NO GAMES PLAYED SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
TERM 4	WEDNESDAY 8 th OCTOBER
LAST GAME	WEDNESDAY 26 th NOVEMBER
6.00PM	MIXED TEAMS, ONLY TWO MEN ALLOWED ON THE COURT AT A TIME.

GERALDINE NETBALL CENTRE
GERALDINE DOMAIN COURTS

ALL PLAYER LEVELS WELCOME!

Ready. Set. Go!

\$250 A TEAM OR EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$225
TEAM NEEDS TO BE ENTERED AND PAID BY FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

CONTACT TRUDY TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM 027 330 9381

It's time to DISCO

GERALDINE SCOUTS FUNDRAISER

Where: Geraldine Scouts Den.
When: 12th September 2025
Time: 6-7.30pm
Age: 5-12.

Chips, drinks and glowsticks available for purchase

\$2 ENTRY

Featuring DJ Sparkles

Logos for Fresh Juice Geraldine, Geraldine District Council, and Geraldine Scouts are at the bottom.

2026 Enrolments

Enrolments are now open for 2026!
We are currently accepting In Zone enrolments for 2026.

Enrol

Here: <https://geraldinehs.school.kiwi/enrolment>

If you are out of zone but don't want to miss when these applications to enrol open on the 15th September, complete the form linked below to register for a notification.

<https://forms.gle/mYjyYW3zvYob38hb7>

OUT OF ZONE APPLICATIONS
REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

TE KURA TUARUA O RAUKAPUKA
GERALDINE HIGH SCHOOL

Geraldine High School out of zone applications will open for our 2026 intake on the 15th September 2025.

If you would like to receive an email notification when applications open, please register your interest at the QR code below, or email office@geraldinehs.school.nz

