



Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

NEWSLETTER/PĀNUI

Friday 20th February 2026

Contact information:	Term Dates: 2026
Stuart Wilcox – Principal principal@geraldine.school.nz	Term 1 2 nd February - 1st April
Office – Ph 03 693 8208 office@geraldine.school.nz	Term 2 20 April - 3 July
Website: https://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz/	Term 3 20 July - 25 September
	Term 4 12 October - 15 December

Important Dates:
Thursday 26 th February – Tangaroa Triathlon 10am – 12pm
Tuesday 3 rd March – Year 4 – 6 Swimming width carnival 12pm (PP Friday 6 th)
Wednesday 4 th March – Year 4 – 6 swimming length carnival 12pm (PP Thursday 5 th)
Tuesday 10 th March – Year 5 & 6 Ripa Tournament, Timaru 8.30 - 2 (Teams to be confirmed)
Wednesday 11 th March – Junior and Middle School Triathlon (Times to be confirmed)
Thursday 12 – Friday 13 th – Year 5 camp Raincliff

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau,

Back to School Hui – Thank You

A huge thank you to our whānau for attending our Back to School Hui last Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many families connecting and enjoying time together.

We began with a sausage sizzle, followed by a short welcome from Mr Wilcox. Families then moved into classrooms to meet our kaiako and spend time building connections with other whānau. These opportunities to strengthen relationships are incredibly important to us as a kura.

During my welcome, I spoke about our school values and vision, and the work we are doing to intentionally integrate these into everyday learning. We are explicitly teaching expectations and tikanga so our tamariki understand not just what we stand for, but how to live these values.

I also shared ways you can support this powerful philosophy at home. Please take some time to read these ideas and consider displaying them at home so you can work together as a whānau.

Our Values in Action – At Home

Be Caring and Have Heart

Mā te ngākau aroha koe e ārahi

Let a loving heart guide your decisions.

This whakataukī reminds us to lead with compassion, kindness, and empathy in all that we do.

At Home:

- Help with chores without being asked
- Listen carefully and show you care
- Share toys, games, or food
- Offer comfort to someone who is upset
- Care for pets or plants
- Help a family member who is struggling
- Notice when someone needs help and offer support

Be an Achiever and Thrive

Pai tū, pai hinga

Through standing and falling, in time the work will be completed.

This speaks to perseverance — encouraging our tamariki to keep going. Effort, resilience, and learning from mistakes lead to success.

At Home:

- Complete homework and learning tasks on time
- Set small goals and celebrate achievements
- Ask questions to understand things better
- Read or practise learning every day
- Share successes and learning with family
- Help plan and organise activities
- Reflect on learning and how to improve next time

Be Respectful Together

He aroha atu, he aroha mai

Love given, love received.

When we show care and respect to others, it is returned, helping create harmony in our community.

At Home:

- Listen when others are speaking
- Use polite words
- Take turns and share
- Follow household routines
- Apologise when you make a mistake
- Speak kindly, even when upset
- Respect others' space and privacy

Be Responsible to Strengthen Community

He waka eke noa

We are all in the same canoe.

We share responsibility to support one another so everyone can succeed.

At Home:

- Take care of personal belongings and shared spaces
- Show honesty in words and actions
- Help family members when needed
- Consider others' feelings and opinions
- Be polite and cooperative
- Offer help to neighbours or friends when appropriate

Thank you for continuing to walk alongside us as we nurture these values together. When we are united in our vision and actions, our children flourish

On Tuesday, we were thrilled to welcome the TV programme **What Now** to GPS. They filmed our two Year 6 classes taking part in the game **What Now's Mat Challenge**.

It was a fantastic experience and lots of fun, and our tamariki represented our kura with pride, enthusiasm, and great sportsmanship.

I will receive the YouTube link to the clips once they are available, and the episodes will also air on television later in the year. We look forward to sharing this exciting opportunity with our wider community.

Attendance at Geraldine Primary School

This is just a reminder:

Regular attendance plays a vital role in learning, wellbeing, and success. Every day at school helps our tamariki access learning opportunities and reach their full potential.

We work closely with whānau to promote positive attendance habits and understand that challenges can arise. Please keep in touch with the school if your child is absent or if you need support. We are committed to working together to remove barriers and support regular attendance.

Clear information about our Attendance Management Plan and the STAR (Stepped Attendance Response) framework can be found on our school website.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping our tamariki thrive.

As many of you are aware, Mrs Jodi White is expecting a baby. To ensure a healthy and successful remainder of her pregnancy, she will be taking the rest of this term to rest, recuperate, and maintain her strength. Therefore, she will not be returning to GPS this term.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs Debbie Scott for the way she has stepped into this class at very short notice over the past two weeks. She has already established strong routines and purposeful learning programmes, ensuring continuity and stability for our tamariki.

We are very grateful that Mrs Siobhan Hayward has come out of a very short retirement to take over as Room 13's teacher for the remainder of the term.

Mrs Dunckley will be on sick leave for the rest of Term 1. In the meantime, Mr Wilcox will be the first point of contact if you have any concerns regarding learning support or related matters.

We have lots of exciting events coming up over the next few weeks, so please keep an eye on our school calendar to stay up to date.

Some important dates to note:

- **Three-Way Conferences** will be held on **Tuesday 24th March (3.00–7.30pm)** and **Wednesday 25th March (3.00–5.00pm)**. This is a valuable opportunity for tamariki, whānau, and kaiako to come together to discuss learning progress and next steps.
- **Term 1 finishes for students on Wednesday 1st April** (not an April Fool's joke!).
- **Thursday 2nd April** is a **Ministry of Education Teacher Only Day**, and the school will be closed for instruction on this day.

We appreciate your support in planning ahead for these important dates.

As I am writing this our year 6 students are at Lindisfarne having a wonderful time in the sun.

Finally, we are looking for more of our wonderful whānau to join our **Community Engagement Group**. This group includes our two Head Students, staff members, and of course parents. The aim is to help organise whole-school events and act as a positive, fun link between school and home. It's a great opportunity to share ideas, strengthen connections, and contribute to the vibrant culture of our kura. Our first meeting for the year will be held on **Wednesday 11th March** in the school meeting room. I can't wait to see you there and hear your many awesome community ideas!

Ngā mihi

Stu Wilcox

Getting ready for What Now filming



The winner of the Matt Challenge - Franco



Investigating Maori Rock Art at Rock Farm



River studies on the Year 6 camp



Playing group games at camp



A very tidy tent that scored 5 out of 5



Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following tamariki who won a prize in the Gotcha Draw:
Lucas, R1; Lucy, R9; Hezekiah, R13; Jazeen, R8; Nevaeh, R8; Minh, R7.

PB4L Certificates

		PB4L	Desire/Aspire to Achieve
Tāne Mahuta	Room 3: Room 6: Room 7: Room 8: Room 9:	Hazel L-K Maymay Tazana Nevaeh Alex	Vinnie M Liam Harry R
Tāwhirimātea	Room 10: Room 11: Room 12: Room 13:	Mason Logan Uno	Eden Liam Hezekiah
Tangaroa	Room 1: Room 2: Room 4: Room 5:	Lydia B-R Carlos S Cohen	Mazean Flynn B Ariella

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

Committee Meeting - NEXT MONDAY @ 7pm

Our first meeting for the year is Monday 23rd February at 7:00pm in the school staff room.

We're a friendly bunch, so please come along if you'd like to learn more about what we do with no pressure to join the committee — everyone is welcome!

🌟 Major Fundraiser Approaching - Beautiful Valley Trail Ride

Our first major fundraiser for the year, the Beautiful Valley Trail Ride, is quickly approaching and will be held on Sunday 29th March (weather permitting).

Planning is already underway, and we will be looking for **BBQ helpers on the day** to ensure the event runs smoothly.

We have a request.....is there anyone in our wider GPS Community that can supply and operate a side- by-side on the day for any help on the track??? If so we would love to hear from you!!!

If anyone has a **GPS student riding in the event**, please get in touch or come and see us at the BBQ tent on the day so we can **acknowledge them for taking part** - we want to showcase our GPS riders.

🍔 Volunteers Needed - Sausage Sizzle

We are currently seeking a few additional volunteers to help with our **Friday sausage sizzles**, as several helpers finished up at the end of 2025 when their children left GPS. With enough volunteers, this commitment is only **once per term**, so if you can spare a little time on a Friday every few months, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact our **Sausage Sizzle Coordinator, Paige McDonald** (email gpshomeandschool@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

17 Reminder

Home & School Meeting
Monday 23rd February, 7:00pm
School Staff Room

We'd love to see some new faces — hope you can join us!

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 northaorakicommitee@stjohn.org.nz

Location St John Geraldine, 124 Talbot Street, Geraldine

Registrations Now OPEN Seniors close, March 5th (contact Shaun)
Junior/Youth registrations close March 25th
2025 players will be contacted New players email the club

PLAY FOOTBALL 2026

Girls & Boys 7- 18
First Kicks 4-6
Seniors—Male 15+
Competitive & Social teams for Men

Geraldine Football Club
geraldinefootballclub@gmail.com
Paula 027 637 4775 Shaun 027 654 0658

 **Anglican Advocacy
South Canterbury**
Christchurch City Mission

**Timaru
Grief Cafe**

**1.30pm
Third Friday of the Month**

Located on the 1st Floor of Cantec House (Tower Building) 22-24 George Street, Timaru.

Grief cafes are a non-judgemental, confidential cafe style peer support. Supported by experienced facilitators these cafes offer a time to share our personal journey of loss and be with others. Come and join the conversation.

Please contact me for any questions or programme requests.

Contact: Alexia on 0274 623 267

LEARN TO SPEEDSKATE
INLINE SPEED SKATING BEGINNERS COURSE

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026

Where: SC Roller Sports Club on Marine Parade.
When: Sundays at 10am
Cost: \$3 per session (first session free)
Who: Anyone 5 and up
You can use your own skates or borrow a pair of ours. Bring long socks, a helmet and a drink bottle



 **SOUTH CANTERBURY
Roller Sports Club**

Weather permitting - If it's wet, we will start on the 22nd
For more information - Contact Cheryl on 021 026 26277



Four Peaks Geraldine Seido Karate

Beginners classes start on THURSDAY 12th of February 2026 at 5-50pm and runs for 12 weeks. Cost is \$2 per session. It is recommended that children are at least 6 years old and must be accompanied by a parent.

Venue: Geraldine Bowling Club rooms, 45 Wright Street, Geraldine, 7930

Four Peaks Geraldine Seido Karate is a well established club and has been running classes in Geraldine since 2006.

Seido Karate is a martial art that develops the following :

- ❖ Great Fitness Training developing stamina, strength and co-ordination skills.
- ❖ Builds up confidence and self-esteem as well as resilience in a supportive environment.
- ❖ Great Self Defence & Martial Art that will give you the skills and confidence to cope in any situation.
- ❖ Ideal for families as parents and children can train together in the same classes.
- ❖ Quality coaching from time served martial artists.

Contact Sensei Gisell on 02102287049 for more information or come down when we train and see what we do.

NOTE: ALL GAMES WILL BE PLAYED DURING THE WEEK IN TIMARU
WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR PREM, PREM 1 & PREM 2 GRADES
THURSDAY NIGHT FOR WOMENS A & SOCIAL GRADES



CLICK ON THE QR CODE TO GET THE LINK TO REGISTER
AND GET INFORMATION, OR CONTACT ZOE 0279251088
OR EMAIL geraldineoldgirlsnetball@gmail.com



On **Wednesday 18 March**, Timaru District Council is supporting **#EYESUPNZ Driving and the Teenage Brain**, an engaging evening session designed for **young drivers and their caregivers**, hosted by **motorsport legend Greg Murphy** and **neuroscience educator Nathan Wallis**.

This practical, highly relatable session helps families better understand what's happening in the teenage brain when young people are behind the wheel — and how that impacts driving decisions and risk.

The session will cover:

- How the brain works
- How the brain works when driving
- Fatigue and driving
- Distraction and driving
- Speed, alcohol and drugs, and mobile phones
- Key driving and car safety tips

Event details

- **When:** Wednesday 18 March | 6:30 – 8:00pm
- **Where:** Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru
- **Who:** Young drivers and their caregivers
- **Cost:** This is a FREE event

Registration is required to help us manage numbers.

Please register at www.eyesupnz.co.nz/young-drivers



Timaru Suburban Lions
TIMARU KIDS TRYATHLON
For Kids 7-14 years

Sunday 22 February 2026
Caroline Bay & C Bay Outdoor Pool, Timaru
Open For All Abilities- Come And Give It A Go!

Registrations: open now
Event starts at 10 am
facebook.com/TimaruKidsTRYathlon
email: entries@timarukidstriathlon.nz

Scan to Register

Sponsors: Be part of the action/ become a TRIATHLON sponsor
Support our kids, support our community/ Help make magic happen
Put your logo where the action is — become a TRIATHLON sponsor!



8th March 2026 Great Spot prizes

Temuka Swim Club Triathlon

Mini Tri- Swim 2 widths, Bike 900m, 500m Run (approx 10am)
Try a Tri- 50m Swim, 1.5km Bike, 500m Run (approx 9:30am)
Short Course- 150m Swim, 4.5km Bike, 1.5km Run (approx 9am)
3 9 3 - 300m Swim, 9km Bike, 3km Run (approx 8:30am)

Note- All bike courses are on grass and tracks. Start times will be finalized once online entries close.
Cost- Primary \$10, 13-17 years \$15, Adults \$20, Teams \$30

If numbers allow, late registrations may be taken on the day at an extra cost

REGISTER ONLINE Before 6th March

Temuka Swim Club Website or Facebook



Molloy Agriculture Adventure Race

Sunday 15th March 2026

**3 and 6 hour rogaine options available for teams
Plus new 2km dash and 5km cross country run!**

This event is a fundraiser for the Methven Community Pool Committee. Held at Mt Alford Station expect hills, farmland, pockets of native bush, rocky outcrops, and awesome views over the plains!

