



Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

NEWSLETTER/PĀNU I

Friday 20th March

<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 - 1 st April		
Term 2	20 April - 3 July		
Term 3	20 July - 25 September		
Term 4	12 October - 15 December		
<u>Important Dates:</u> Tuesday 24 th Wednesday 25 th March – 3 way conferences (see below) Wednesday 1 st April – Tangaroa Celebration and Principal's assembly 1.30 - 2.30pm Wednesday 1 st April – Term 1 finishes Thursday 2 nd April – Ministry of Education Teacher Only Day – School closed for instruction			

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau,

Thriving at Geraldine Primary School

Our tamariki at Geraldine Primary School have continued to thrive since our last newsletter. The school has been a busy and vibrant place, full of opportunities for students to challenge themselves, work together, and celebrate their successes. From outdoor experiences to sporting events, our tamariki have embraced each opportunity with enthusiasm, resilience, and a strong sense of manaakitanga.

Year 5 Camp – Raincliff (Thursday 12th – Friday 13th March)

Blessed with fantastic weather and lots of excited tamariki and whānau, the group embarked on a one-night, two-day adventure. Activities included Pioneer Park, campfires, the waterslide, the confidence course, and the hotly contested battle balls. It was a wonderful opportunity for our tamariki to build relationships and develop their independence.

Year 5 and 6 South Canterbury Rippa Tournament – Tuesday 10th March

Thirty students (three teams of ten) travelled to Fraser Park to represent Geraldine Primary School. All three teams performed exceptionally well, demonstrating positive teamwork and giving their best in every game. Our Green and Blue teams both had wins and losses across the day. Our Black team, however, won their pool with three convincing victories and then went on to win the top-of-the-pool clash against Gleniti. They will now progress to the next round in Ashburton on the 25th of March.

Junior School Triathlon – Wednesday 11th March

This was the first ever Junior School Triathlon, and we were extremely proud of all those who participated. Our tamariki demonstrated how capable they are as they completed the three disciplines — swimming three lengths, scooting, and running. It was also wonderful to see our Year 6 students step up as marshals and buddy runners, which added to the fun and reflected the strong sense of togetherness within our school culture.

Middle School Triathlon – Wednesday 11th March

The middle school tamariki showed great grit and determination throughout the event. Their course is slightly longer than the junior course, including a five-length swim, a longer scooter track, and double the running distance. One of the things I enjoy most about GPS is that everyone gives it a go — exactly the attitude we encourage in all of our tamariki.

South Canterbury Primary Schools Triathlon – Friday 13th March

Six Year 6 students (three wahine and three tāne) travelled to Caroline Bay in Timaru to take part in this fantastic event. The course consisted of a 50m swim, a 2.5km run, and a 3km bike ride. Our tāne (boys) team of Ollie H, Judah C, and Roman B achieved an outstanding result, finishing **1st overall as a team**, with individual placings of 2nd, 7th, and 12th. Our wahine (girls) team of Ada N, Elise P, and Zoe F also performed extremely well, gaining valuable experience and learning important skills through the event.

All of these events would not have been possible without the support of our teachers and parents. Our teachers work tirelessly to organise and run these opportunities so that our children can experience a wide range of activities. Our parents are also incredible in the way they generously volunteer their time and support, helping ensure our tamariki can participate in these experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

Our Values and Vision in Action

Over the next few newsletters we will spend time unpacking what each value and vision mean to all of us, whether we are at school, at home or in the community.

Be an Achiever and Thrive – *Pai tū, pai hinga*

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

This whakataukī encourages teams and individuals to **keep going**, recognising that effort, perseverance, and learning from mistakes eventually lead to accomplishment. It reminds our tamariki that setbacks are part of the learning journey, and that resilience and determination help them achieve their goals and thrive.

Together, the values of **Be Respectful Together – *He aroha atu, he aroha mai*** and **Be an Achiever and Thrive – *Pai tū, pai hinga*** reinforce the Geraldine Primary School vision: by **showing respect and care for others while persevering through challenges**, our tamariki learn, grow, and thrive in a supportive and connected community.

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.**
- **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.

On **Wednesday 11th March**, our Community Engagement Group met to plan events for Term 2. Please save the following dates in your diaries:

- **Wednesday 6th May – 2:00pm to 3:00pm**
Whānau Drinks and Kai – Staff Room
An opportunity to connect with other whānau, ask questions, and share stories in an informal setting.
- **Thursday 11th June – 8:00am to 9:00am**
Whānau and Tamariki Breakfast
Pop into school before work or drop-off to enjoy breakfast with other whānau and your tamariki's friends.

We look forward to seeing you at these events!

As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and positive spirit. We are incredibly proud of our kura, and it is wonderful to have you all on the waka with us as we work towards **living and breathing our school vision**: *"The heart of our community, together we thrive."*

This term has been full of learning, growth, and exciting opportunities for our tamariki, and none of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff and the support of our whānau. Together, we are creating a nurturing and inspiring environment where every child can flourish, feel valued, and experience the joy of learning.

Ngā mihi

Stu Wilcox

Our Rippa Students at Fraser Park 	Mr Robertson coaching Geraldine Black 	Our whānau leaders coaching Rippa skills to the Juniors 
The excited finish line at the Junior and Middle School Triathlon 	Our students supporting their peers 	Watching the cool cars going past from the Rock and Hop event. 

Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following tamariki who won a Gotcha Draw:
Ryan, R5; Auben, R3; Liam, R13; Kaelo, R8; Blake, R11

PB4L Certificates

		PB4L	Desire/Aspire to Achieve
Tāne Mahuta	Room 3: Room 6: Room 7: Room 8: Room 9:	Violet Ted Jet Jackson Harlow	Porter Hendrix Harry M
Tāwhirimātea	Room 10: Room 11: Room 12: Room 13:	Osian Lucas S Elina O Leonard	Quinton Grace James B Kriztyana
Tangaroa	Room 1: Room 2:	Alilia Gunnar	Roman B Lena D

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.

School Pool Closed 15 March 2026

The School pool closed last weekend for this season. Thank you to all families that have returned their pool key. If you have not done so, please return your pool key to the office and collect your \$10.00 refund.

Home and School News

Committee AGM - All Welcome

A reminder that our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held on:

 **Tuesday, 31st March**

 **7:00pm in school staff room**

The **Committee Meeting** will follow immediately after the AGM.

We warmly invite all members of our school community to attend—your support and involvement make a meaningful difference.

🌟 Major Fundraiser Approaching 🌟 Beautiful Valley Trail Ride

 **Sunday, 29th March**

Our first major fundraiser of the year, the **Beautiful Valley Trail Ride**, is fast approaching and will be held on **Sunday 29th March, weather permitting**. Fingers crossed for good conditions in the lead up and on the day!

Planning is well underway, and we'd like to **thank everyone who has already volunteered their time to help** — your support is hugely appreciated and plays a big part in making this event a success.

If you have 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're keen to showcase and celebrate our GPS riders and their involvement.

Thanks again to our amazing community for the ongoing support — we're really looking forward to a great day out.

Get in Touch

As always, if you want to contact us, please email gpshomeandschool@gmail.com or send us a message via our **Facebook page**.

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

Southern Football

We are aware that a number of girls currently only play football through school and are not involved with local clubs.

Our aim is to help bridge that gap by providing additional development opportunities and creating clear, supportive pathways within the women's and girls' game for players of all capabilities. Players of any experience are welcome.

This squad is designed to be an inclusive environment where players can grow their skills, confidence, and enjoyment of football.

Initial planning – we would be looking at the following age groups which is subject to change: 10 to 12, 13 to 15, and 16+. Players who may be younger or older than the listed groups can still fill out the EOI and given the interest we receive we can make suitable changes.

<https://forms.gle/wjEekgoYn1yJKJhDA>



Family Works
SOUTH CANTERBURY

Community Open Day

Tuesday 31st March 2026
10am – 1pm

Drop in any time to meet our staff and find out all about our services & programmes

JOIN US FOR A CUPPA AND A CHAT!

Visit us at:
26 North Street, Tmaru
www.pssc.co.nz/familyworks
03 688 5029

The poster features a green background with a white logo at the top left. The text is in white and yellow. On the right side, there are five circular images showing people interacting: a group of people, a person reading, a child playing, a person working at a table, and a person walking.



SOUTH CANTERBURY
NEW ZEALAND

OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2026
2 TURNBULL STREET
TIMARU
11AM – 2PM
ALL WELCOME

The poster features a dark green background with a red and white plaid pattern on the right side. The text is in white. At the bottom, there are two images of band members: one playing a bagpipe and another playing a drum.

Mood Hygiene and Regulation in Children

DR PIP REIHANA

APRIL 28TH AT 7:00 PM

GRANTLEA DOWNS SCHOOL HALL

\$15 per person

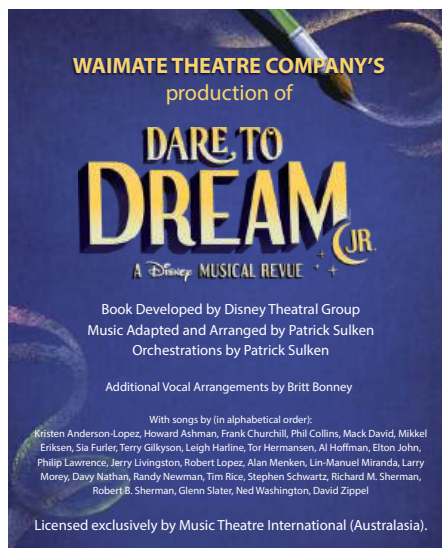
All proceeds to go towards the junior playground

Email office@grantleadowns.school.nz for tickets

OR scan the QR code or click the link below to purchase a ticket through Trybooking.



[Click here to
purchase a ticket](#)



Director
Sharon Stace

Musical Director
Claire Luckman

Choreographer
Macey Guyton



Join us for an evening with

Dr Lucy Hone

Resilience Researcher. Grief educator. Real-life practitioner.

Grief isn't just about death, but about any unwanted change we're forced to endure. Internationally recognised resilience expert sharing real-world tools to help you face grief, move forward and feel like you can breathe again.

26th March 2026

Fraser Park Timaru | 7.30pm

Light supper will be served and the bar will be open following Dr Lucy's presentation

Get your tickets now
\$15

<https://events.humanitix.com/an-evening-with-dr-lucy-hone>



This event is proudly bought to you by:

Rural Support
SOUTH CANTERBURY



Calling all keen Y4-6 hockey players!

We are now taking registrations for Winter 2026 Primary Grade players to enter the Timaru competition.

Practice will be after school at the Geraldine Turf, day to be confirmed.

Games are half an hour long & played on a Tuesday (4.00pm - 6.00pm).

They are played on a half turf in Timaru.

Please head to our Facebook page 'Geraldine Combined Hockey Club' & fill out the google form

<https://forms.gle/ncJj2WhF4BYr62jt8>

Registrations deadline: 4pm Friday 27th March

Email any queries to: geraldinehockeyclub@gmail.com