Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

Newsletter/Pānui

Friday 8 May 2026

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

Important Dates:

Friday 15th May – Pink Shirt Day
Monday 18th May – Whole School Cross Country
Friday 29th May – Teacher Only Day (school closed)
Monday 1st June – King's Birthday (school closed)

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau,

The end of Week 3 is already upon us, and our kura has been humming with the sound of students learning, playing, and embracing the many wonderful opportunities on offer.

Over the past few weeks, our tamariki have been involved in a wide range of activities, including football skills, miniball, EPro8, kapa haka, whānau afternoons, Food for Thought, and our Anzac Day commemorations. It has been fantastic to see such high levels of engagement and enthusiasm across the school.

On Wednesday 29th April, we welcomed future and current New Entrant whānau, along with our pre-school and kindergarten colleagues, for an evening focused on connection and sharing information. It was wonderful to meet so many families, and I always feel a great sense of pride when I have the opportunity to speak about our kura. It was equally pleasing to hear our staff share their expertise, supporting parents with how to prepare their children for school and what learning looks like in their first year.

I am fortunate to spend one day a fortnight in Room 9 (Mrs Smith's class), and I continue to be impressed by the progress our youngest learners are making. Their growth, confidence, and enthusiasm for learning are a real credit to the strong foundations being built.

Beautiful Valley Trail Ride – Community in Action

On Sunday, our Home and School group took part in the annual *Beautiful Valley Trail Ride*—a truly outstanding community event.
Their role is significant and begins months in advance. Planning includes meeting with landowners, working alongside the course organisers, and organising food and logistics. On the day, the team arrives just before 7.00am to set up, transport safety wardens to their positions around the 40km course, and begin preparing food for riders. Throughout the event, they manage the BBQ, support safety operations—including coordinating side-by-sides for any fallen or injured riders—and ensure everything runs smoothly. While helpers come and go, many stay for the full day, finishing with pack-down at the end.
This incredible effort raises over **$10,000** for our kura—an outstanding contribution that directly benefits our students.

A special thank you to **Danni Fraser** for her dedication, energy, and organisation in leading this event. We would also like to acknowledge the generous farmers and landowners who allow riders to use and enjoy their land—your support makes this event possible.
Finally, to our Home and School team—thank you. We are incredibly grateful for all that you do for our kura.

On Tuesday a group of Junior Syndicate students took part in mini ball, small sided version of basketball. This was run by Kim Andrews, one of our parents. The children looked like they were having so much fun and a big thanks to Kim for coaching our youngest tamariki.

Every 5 weeks we analyse our student behaviour data. This helps the school to know what value/vision to focus on. This term we are looking at responsible/community and teaching our children the skills that they need to be successful. This is just a reminder of what we are talking about at school.

Be Responsible to Strengthen Community – He waka eke noa

We are all in the same canoe

This whakataukī reminds us that we are all in this together, and that each of us has a role to play in supporting one another. When we take responsibility for our actions and contribute positively, we help create a strong and connected community where everyone can succeed.

At Geraldine Primary School, we encourage our tamariki to look out for one another, work together, and take pride in being part of a team. By supporting each other, we strengthen our kura and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Attendance Update – Term 1, 2026

Our whole school attendance rate for Term 1, 2026 was **76% of students attending regularly**.
I would like to acknowledge and thank our whānau for the positive communication between home and the school office. This partnership is key to ensuring attendance is recorded accurately, while also supporting open, respectful relationships and a shared understanding of what is happening for our tamariki.
Thank you for your ongoing support—working together makes a real difference.

Geraldine Primary Teacher Only Day

Just to note that Geraldine Primary School's teacher only day on Friday 29th May is very much on. We are combining with Woodbury and Carew School staff and focusing on the new maths curriculum. Thank you in advance for your support.

Cross Country

Monday 18th May (postponement Tuesday 19th May)
Venue Kennedy Park, Geraldine. **There will be no parking for parents within Kennedy Park.**

Race Times - as **a guide only.**

Race 1:	12.30 pm - First race starts (Year 0-2) Juniors will run in age groups, starting at 5 Yrs.
Race 2:	12.50 pm - Year 3 race
Race 3:	1.05 pm - Year 4 race
Race 4:	1.20 pm - Year 5 competitive runners first and non-competitive second
Race 5:	1.40 pm - Year 6 competitive runners first and non-competitive second

🎀Pink Shirt Day – May 15, 2026! 🎀

Get ready to think pink! On Friday, May 15, we're celebrating Pink Shirt Day to spread kindness and stand up to bullying. Wear a pink shirt if you have one — the brighter, the better! 🌸If you don't have pink, no worries — just wear your normal school uniform. Let's fill our school with smiles, kindness, and a whole lot of pink power!

Ngā mihi

Stu Wilcox

Our supportive Home and School at the Beautiful Valley Trail Ride 	Our Juniors listening very intently to the task during mini ball 	The Juniors getting excited to start their first mini ball session 
Room 5 playing a warmup game before their football skills session 	Room 5 learning to understand the importance of getting your heart rate up 	The winners of the May the 4th be with you Star Wars quiz - Taiga, Blake and Leon 

Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following tamariki who won a Gotcha Draw:
Moosa, R11; Camilo, R8; Krztyana, R13; Roman, R1; Mason, R10,, Leo, R3

PB4L Certificates

		PB4L	Desire/Aspire to Achieve
Tāne Mahuta	Room 3: Room 6: Room 7: Room 8: Room 9:	Leo RJ Laura Veer Ethan	Archie Connor Björn Camilo Kalleah
Tāwhirimātea	Room 10: Room 11: Room 12: Room 13:	Arlo Siya Eloisa Rylan	Māia Liam Avie Olivia
Tangaroa	Room 1: Room 2: Room 5: Room 4:	Ada Lewis Leo Alexis	Nikau Sarah Archie Mack

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 Uniform

We have no smaller sized school polo shirts or fleeces at the moment. If you have any that you no longer require, the school would appreciate them for our second hand uniform cupboard.

New Trustees Needed

Geraldine Children Social Work Trust has been raising funds to employ two social workers in local schools since 2012.

Children and youth grow up in a complex world these days, and sometimes they need a helping hand when things go wrong, for all sorts of reasons. GCSWT provides free local support for children, youth and whanau in the wider Geraldine area, as and when this support is needed.

If specialist services are needed from agencies based in Timaru or beyond, our social workers will liaise with the family and the agency to get the help they need. No judgement, just the right support, as and when it's needed.

The social workers are based at Geraldine High School and Geraldine Primary School but they respond to referrals from Carew Peel Forest School, Woodbury School, Geraldine Kindergarten and Geraldine Preschool. So it's a district-wide support service.

Brittany Jordan (GHS) and Anna Clubb (GPS) are the two local social workers who are currently employed with funds provided by Geraldine Children Social Work Trust.



Brittany Jordan



Anna Clubb

Two long-serving Trustees, Kerry Stevens and Mark Hayward, are retiring soon at the Trust's AGM on 18 May 2026. Both have contributed much to the Trust over many years, so we thank them and wish them well for the future.

Two or three new Trustees are now needed to help run the Trust to ensure local children and youth continue to get the support they need. A Trustee's commitment is not onerous, but the rewards for Geraldine's children and youth are great.

If you're interested in helping to make sure Geraldine's children and youth are supported, please contact any of the existing Trustees to discuss details of what is involved and how you could help to sustain the Trust.

Current GCSWT Trustees are:

- Ali Bowan 027 648 4423
- Kerry Stevens 021 043 6651



Home and School News

SUCCESS

Beautiful Valley Trail Ride

The annual Beautiful Valley Trail Ride was held on Sunday 3rd May, with spectacular weather contributing to a highly successful day both on the track and at the food stations. It was fantastic to see riders of all ages out enjoying the trails and making the most of the event. The BBQ was fired up and busy throughout, keeping everyone well fed.

A huge thank you goes to the generous landowners who make this event possible: Hamish & Sue Sheed, Kim Christie, Barry Wells, Kevin O'Reilly, and Kris & Cathie Orange.

A big thank you also to all who helped out on the day - your support is truly appreciated. A special mention to Dani Fraser for organising another seamless event.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our amazing sponsors: Geraldine Butchery, Temuka Transport, O'H Yes Coffee and Barker's of Geraldine - your support plays a vital role in making this event such a success.

This event is run by Adventure Trailrides, and the Home & School are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be involved and to use it as a valuable fundraiser for Geraldine Primary School.

















Was fantastic to see GPS riders and helpers
thank you for your support and help!!!







Get Involved, Stay Connected

We warmly invite any new parents or caregivers to come along and join the committee. It's a great way to get involved in the school community, meet other families and have a positive impact - without a big time commitment. Our meetings are relaxed, friendly and even fun, so there's no pressure at all.

Our next committee meeting will be held on **Monday 11th May at 7:15pm** in the school staff room—we'd love to see you there!

🥧 Luv It Pies & Savouries Fundraiser ON NOW! 🥧

The perfect way to stock the freezer for the colder months while supporting our school community. Easy dinners, tasty lunches, and a great cause all in one.

How to sign up and fundraise online:

✅ Create your own fundraising page

✅ Share it with friends, family, and workmates

✅ Collect orders online with ease

👉 Sign up here:

https://geraldineprimarypies.raiseit.co.nz/

Easy ways to boost your sales:

- Share your page around your workplace and let colleagues know when orders will arrive
- Post your link on social media or send it directly to family and friends
- Have out-of-town supporters donate their order to a local charity

What happens next?

Keep an eye on your fundraising page for the final sales date and pickup details.

You'll also receive a summary email of all your orders before collection day.

🍪 And don't forget — our popular Cookie Dough Fundraiser is coming up in June!

Another delicious way to support the school and keep the freezer stocked.

Thank you for getting behind our fundraiser and helping make a difference for our school. 🤍

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 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



Geraldine District Lioness Lions Club presents a

Garden & Home EXPO





11th July, 2026

Geraldine Primary School Hall

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Garden & home themed stalls, workshops, face painting, children's activities, demonstrations.

Limited stalls still available.



For more details ring Elizabeth 03 303 7241 or 0273083538 Or email elizabeth_wilson1149@hotmail.com

Entry fees - $10 per person – Children free

All profits to Geraldine Bus Trust and Westpac Helicopter







SPELD NZ

INTRODUCTION TO SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES





Are you a teacher or teacher aide working with a child who is bright but not achieving?
Are you working with a child who is not progressing as you would expect?
Are you a parent struggling to support a child or adult with dyslexia?
SPELD NZ'S two-day introductory course is for you!

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- Gain great insights into what it is like to have Specific Learning Disabilities (such as dyslexia; SLD and writing; or SLD and mathematics).
- Practical strategies, tools and tips for helping learners in the classroom and at home.
- Journey into the brain and see how it impacts on learning and motivation for these learners.

FEE
$250 /SPELD NZ members
$350 /non-members

SUBSIDIES MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR TEACHER AIDES AND LOW FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF SPELD NZ.
Please enquire about the availability of and your eligibility for a subsidy here.

REGISTER HERE!

"This was brilliant – touched on so many areas."
"It gave me so much insight and encouragement."
"Presented in a format that was easy to understand. The resources provided will ensure I can have more confidence to help."
"Awesome ideas, games and resources."

ENQUIRE NOW! adminsupport@speld.og.nz https://www.speld.org.nz/


Cheap As Meal
Idea's 2026
Saturday 23rd May 2-3.30pm
In association with Geraldine
– St Andrews Foodbank
Come join us for a fun afternoon of tastings.
Learn easy recipes and share ideas.
Families and individuals invited.
@St Andrew's Church Hall, Wilson Street
A tin donation for the Geraldine Foodbank is much appreciated.
Bring a friend. Everyone welcome.


OPIHI COLLEGE
Te Kareti o Opihi
OPEN DAY
Sunday, 10 May | 11 am - 1pm
Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka
Opihi College News
www.opihicollege.school.nz
opihicollege