

Newsletter/Pānui

Friday 13th November 2026

Contact information:	Term Dates:
Stuart Wilcox – Principal principal@geraldine.school.nz Office – Ph 03 693 8208 office@geraldine.school.nz Website: https://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz/	Term 4 12 October – 15 December

Important Dates:

Thursday 26th November – Elective 1
Friday 27th November – School Disco – 6.00pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 3rd December – Elective 2
Friday 4th December – Breakfast BBQ
Friday 11th December – Principal's Assembly
Monday 14th December – Prize Giving/Leaver's Assembly/Carols
Tuesday 15th December – End of Term 4

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau and welcome to our Pānui.

I would like to start by thanking everyone for your patience, resilience, and flexibility. At times, we are completely at the mercy of the weather, and this year our planned events have certainly been put to the test. Cancelling or postponing events is never a decision we take lightly—especially knowing how many hours our staff and students invest in preparing and organising them. However, because our school calendar is booked up a year in advance, finding alternative dates can be very challenging. Thank you so much for your ongoing support and understanding.

What's Been Happening Around Our School!

Year 3 Rocky Shore Trip

Rooms 12 and 13 finally headed off to the Rocky Shore on Wednesday morning. We had a beautiful day for the trip. We met the museum educators, Andrea and Keely and walked down to explore the rock pools at Washdyke Lagoon/Waitarakao. We were excited to find lots of different animals, including some more unusual ones such as a sea slug, and a flatworm. We found plenty of crabs, sea stars, and cat's eye snails. One or two people discovered the crabs **do** nip and it hurts! We learnt some interesting facts about these sea creatures. We collected them in ice cream containers and then carefully returned them to the rock pools. Everyone had a great day and we were impressed by the way the children displayed all the school values. The only things we brought back were some empty, clean shells and some wonderful memories.

Elizabeth Murray

Game, Set, Match: School Tennis Ladder!

Over the past three weeks, our school courts have been buzzing with action as **28 pairs** battled it out in our lunchtime Tennis Ladder competition! Played across three lunchtimes each week for three weeks, the tournament wrapped up this week with thrilling semi-finals and a hard-fought grand final.

A massive congratulations to our overall ladder champions, **Felicity and Ada**! 2nd place went to **Flynn and Thorin.** 3rd place: **Flynn and Lewis**. 4th place going to **Judah and Josh**. To top off the tournament, our champions even went head-to-head in an exciting exhibition match against three special guest tennis supporters, Mr Wilcox and Mr and Mrs Robertson.

Events like this wouldn't happen without incredible student leadership—a huge thank you to our **PALs leaders** who generously gave up their lunchtimes over the last three weeks to organise, play, and umpire the matches. Ka pai to everyone who signed up, cheered from the sidelines, and made it such a fantastic competition!

School-Wide St John First Aid Awareness

Our students recently took part in the St John First Aid Awareness program! Through interactive, age-appropriate sessions, students across the school learned essential emergency response skills, basic first aid techniques, and how to stay calm and helpful in a crisis. It was a fantastic opportunity for our young learners to build practical life skills, confidence, and a strong sense of community responsibility. A huge thank you to the St John instructors for visiting us!

Supporting Diabetes Awareness

We were also proud to come together as a school community to support Diabetes Awareness. Through our activities and discussions, students and staff learned more about living with diabetes, recognizing its signs, and how we can support classmates and family members affected by the condition. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped foster a supportive, informed, and inclusive environment for all our students!

Super Busy and Super Proud Friday

Friday saw the opening of the 2026 Harcourts Geraldine Festival, giving our Kapa Haka group the opportunity to perform on the main stage—and believe me, they did not disappoint! In front of a packed Village Inn Green and beyond, our incredible tamariki showcased their talent, culture, and *whanaungatanga* to a crowd made up of both our school whānau and visitors from far and wide. I was once again mesmerised by their timing and confidence. A huge mihi to Mr Robertson for the countless hours he invests in helping this group truly believe in themselves.

Following the performance, our two Head Students, Felicity and Ollie, spent their afternoon selling raffle tickets for the Social Workers Trust. I was so impressed by how they approached people, using a strong and kind voice to encourage the crowd to buy tickets. They worked seamlessly as a pair, with one asking and the other handling the money and giving the correct change. Friday was yet another example of how our students are at the heart of our community—and together, we thrive!

Geraldine Primary School Strategic Plan 2027–2028

Geraldine Primary School has been busy finalising our strategic goals for 2027–2028. This plan was developed using valuable insights from our recent community consultation, as well as the feedback gathered from our Vision and Values Google Forms. Together with student and staff voice, we have crafted a strategic direction focused on improving student achievement and engagement, while continuing to build and strengthen our staff capabilities. Please see below:

Geraldine Primary School Strategic Plan 2027 - 2028

Strategic Goals	Initiatives	Overall Outcomes
Grow curriculum knowledge and think intentionally about learning	1a. Launch the science and social science curriculum 1b. To embed the maths curriculum	Teachers deeply understand curriculum, using this knowledge to plan and deliver engaging, high-impact lessons that improve learning outcomes for all students.
Build staff capability to teach responsively and meet the needs of all learners	2a. Build a system where teachers work together and learn from each other to improve their teaching 2b. Embed cultural responsiveness	All teachers regularly collaborate and share feedback with peers, leading to stronger teaching practices and improved student learning across every classroom.
Empowering learners to thrive	3a. To lift student engagement 3b. To lift student achievement	Empowered learners who are confident, connected, actively involved, and lifelong learners, equipped to thrive in a changing world

SchoolDocs has recently changed the way users log in to SchoolDocs sites

Our school works with SchoolDocs to provide a website for maintaining, updating, and reviewing our school policies. SchoolDocs has recently changed the way users log in to SchoolDocs sites. All community users can now access our SchoolDocs site by entering their email address, which sends them a one-time code. Google users can also use their Google account to access the site.
You can create an account and then view our school's policies by visiting
https://policies.schooldocs.co.nz/gps
If you have any questions, please contact the principal

2027 Class Placements

Thank you to our whānau for providing input regarding class placements for 2027. Our leadership team is currently using this information to carefully organise students into their new classes. Please keep in mind that with only two classes per year level, placement options are limited.

School Uniform Update

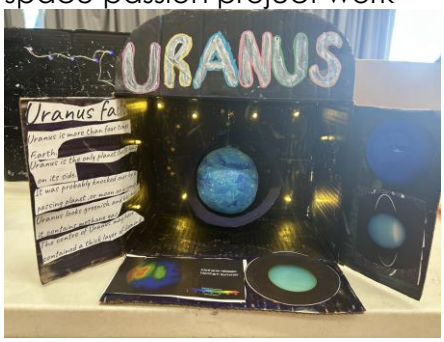
We have been in regular contact with NZ Uniforms regarding current stock levels, and we completely understand how frustrating the delays have been for many of our families. Unfortunately, supply chain disruptions remain out of everyone's control due to global transport pressures. We have been informed that a container carrying our uniform stock has arrived in Auckland; however, NZ Uniforms is unable to provide an exact date for when it will reach us. We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience.

Principal News
Looking Ahead: Term 3 Sabbatical 2027

I am thrilled to share that I have been awarded a sabbatical for Term 3 next year. This means I will be away from Geraldine Primary School from **Monday 19 July through to Sunday 10 October 2027**. While I am away, the school will be in very capable hands with Mrs Drake stepping in as Acting Principal.

Thanks once again for your ongoing support.

Stu Wilcox

Room 13 Rocky Shore Artwork 	Our Kapa Haka team performing at the Geraldine Festival 	Felicity and Ollie helping to sell raffle tickets for the Social Workers Trust 
Year 3 at the Rocky Shore 	Examples of Year 5 and 6 space passion project work 	Examples of passion project work from our Year 5 and 6 tamariki 

Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following tamariki who won a Gotcha Draw: Richie, Grace, Isabella, Scarlett, Jack, Flynn,

Our Values and Vision Certificates

		Heart of our Community	Together we Thrive
Tāne Mahuta	Room 3: Room 6: Room 7: Room 8: Room 9: Room 15:	Eleanor River Björn Jackson Paisley-Rae Hunter	Violet Conor Laura Noah Benjamin Theon
Tāwhirimātea	Room 10: Room 11: Room 12: Room 13:	Sean Grace Analu Kaiah	Leon Aurora Lizzy Leonard

Tangaroa	Room 1: Room 2: Room 4: Room 5:	Aren Japneet Megane Cameron	Oliver M Gunnar Flynn B Oscar

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 Disco

Friday 27th November
Years 0 -3 6.00 – 7.15pm
Years 4 -6 7.15 – 8.30pm

Parents will need to drop their children off and pick them up again at the end of the sessions. For safety and organisation reasons can children please be dropped off and picked up from the school playground side of the hall. Please note this disco is for Geraldine Primary School children only. The disco will be supervised by staff.

Thank you to the Home and School for providing us with the money to purchase food and drink.

If the children would like to purchase a glow stick, they need to bring $2 on the morning of the disco to the table we will have set up outside Room 9. They will then get a stamp on their hand which they will show to a staff member when they come to the disco in the evening and they will receive their glow stick.



Home and School News

Geraldine Primary Home and School Committee

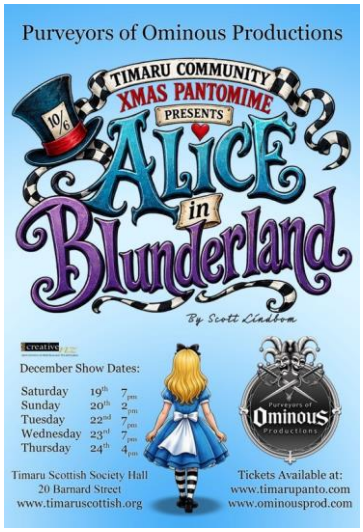
Follow us on Facebook
Did you know we have a Facebook page? Find us at Geraldine Primary Home & School Committee.

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 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, so happy to chat about 'why'.

Robyn van den Berg
Dyslexia Tutoring Ltd



021 02230664