Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

Newsletter/Pānui

Friday 27th 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:

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.

As we come to the end of an incredible year, I'd like to share the progress we've made towards our 2026 annual plan goals. It's been a privilege to be part of this mahi and to see what we can achieve together for our tamariki.

Below, you'll read how our tamariki helped shape a new electives programme, how our teachers developed a shared approach to teaching, and how we've strengthened support for wellbeing and found more ways to reflect the cultures of our learners in everyday school life.

Electives shaped by our tamariki

Students chose their top three activities, with cooking, animal care, craft and science among the favourites. Their choices helped us design two trial sessions on Thursday 26 November and Thursday 3 December, with support from staff, parents, local specialists and high school students. We'll use feedback from tamariki, staff and whānau to shape the 2027 programme.

Think, Teach, Thrive

This year one of our key strategic focuses was accelerated learning. After lots of professional development and collaboration, our teachers co-constructed the Geraldine Teaching Cycle. Think means making it clear what students are learning and why. Teach means explaining and modelling new learning, then giving

students the support they need to practise. Thrive means checking progress and deciding what to teach next. We'll begin using this cycle to enhance our planning across the curriculum in 2027.

Wellbeing and school values

We updated our school-wide behaviour expectations and taught our values through classroom lessons, hui and positive recognition such as Gotchas. Our November Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) review found that staff reinforce these expectations consistently and students can explain how they learn and show our values. Next year, we'll strengthen how we teach tamariki to manage emotions and ask students and whānau what helps them feel safe and connected.

Growing our cultural capability

This year we invested 82% of our professional learning and development budget in cultural capability. Staff attended wānanga at Arowhenua, explored Te Tiriti o Waitangi and built confidence in everyday te reo Māori. We celebrated Matariki and Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, and a record 58 tamariki took part in kapa haka at Flava Festival. In 2027, we'll build on this learning in classrooms and continue strengthening our relationships with Māori whānau and mana whenua.

The Heart of Our Community – Together We Thrive.

As I have always said, one of Geraldine Primary's main aims is he tangata, he tangata, he tangata. We know that if we invest in good people, we will achieve great outcomes. Therefore, our board will continue to invest in kaiako (teachers). This enables us to keep our class sizes down and to give our tamariki specialised music lessons. The board will also continue to invest in our kaiawhina (teacher aides).

Therefore,Geraldine Primary will look like this in 2027

Tane Mahuta

Teacher	Year group	Room
Andrea Bathgate	New Entrants	6
Larissa Gray	New Entrants term 2	9
Rochelle Fisher	Year 1	8
Bridget Patrick	Year 1	7
Anne - Maree Reith	Year 2	15
Claire Lovelock	Year 2	3

Tawhirimatea

Teacher	Year group	Room
Elizabeth Marray	3	12
Andrea Shaw	3	13
Amy Wynn	4	11

Cathy Taiaroa	4	10

Tangaroa

Teacher	Year group	Room
Ben Robertson	5	5
Ingrid Hanrahan	5	4
Chelley Leov	6	2
Fiona Wilcox	6	1

Deputy Principal: Jo Drake

Learning Support Co-ordinator: Sarah Dunkley

Specialist music teacher: Annalise Robertson

Our classroom release teachers will be:

Georgia McCarthy
Sarah Winchester
Sheralyn Scott
Nicky Taylor
Natalie Bergami

Kaiawhina
Leah, Sue, Sally, Vanessa, Mandy N, Mandy H, Kylie, Rochelle and Jasmine

Our Senior Leadership Team has been busy carefully planning class placements for 2027, taking time to consider the learning, social and wellbeing needs of all our tamariki.

On **Thursday 10 December at 10am**, we will hold our class transition morning. This is a lovely opportunity for children to meet their new teacher, explore their new classroom and see some of the familiar faces they will be learning alongside next year.

We know that class placements can bring a mixture of excitement and nerves, and that children may not always find themselves with all the friends they had hoped for. With only two classes at each year level, there are some limitations to how groups can be arranged, but please be assured that a great deal of thought and care goes into every placement.

We encourage whānau to help us make this a positive experience by approaching the transition with an open mind, a growth mindset and a sense of excitement about the new friendships and opportunities ahead.

Together, we can help our tamariki feel confident, supported and ready to thrive in 2027!

Our First Electives Afternoon!

Thursday marked an exciting milestone as we launched our very first electives afternoon. We are incredibly proud to offer such a diverse range of activities, made possible by the generosity and support of our wonderful whānau and wider community.

Each elective was designed to provide hands-on experiences, nurture passions, challenge learning and bring children of different ages together. I hope your tamariki came home buzzing with excitement and sharing stories about their experiences.

Next Thursday is the final afternoon of our pilot programme, after which we will gather feedback to help strengthen and develop our electives programme for 2027.

What a wonderful example of our school vision in action – The Heart of Our Community – Together We Thrive.

Our school pool will be open from Monday 30th November. Please ensure all children come to school with togs and a towel. Whānau can purchase a pool key for the season. This costs $75, which includes a $10 bond, refundable with the return of the key. Please pop into the office after 1st December to complete a pool key agreement form and pay the $75.

At the end of this term, we sadly farewell Mrs Debbie Scott as she takes a well-earned break from education in 2027. Throughout her time at Geraldine Primary School, Debbie has worn many hats, bringing a genuinely caring, nurturing, and special touch to everything she does. The many tamariki who have been in her care have been truly fortunate. We thank Debbie sincerely for her enthusiasm, dedication, and service to our kura, and wish her all the very best for a restful year ahead.

Lastly, I would like to have a shout out to our very own Mr Wonderful, Malcolm Campbell. Malcolm is talented, kind, caring and very creative. I asked Malcolm to try and make a globe for the Geraldine Santa Parade. My vision was totally smashed, please have a look at the construction phase in the photos!

Thanks once again for your ongoing support.

Stu Wilcox

The framing 	Trailing the wallpaper 	Covering the whole sphere – watch this space 
Mountain bike elective	Art Elective 	Squash Elective 

		

Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following tamariki who won a Gotcha Draw:

Zoe, R9; Felicity, R1; Harlow, R9; Benji, R6; Austin, R4; Zora, R10.

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:	Lucas Myles Richie Alex Aurora	Leo Ted Sophia Joshua Evie
Tāwhirimātea	Room 10: Room 11: Room 12: Room 13:	Kenuth Samantha Annabelle Kaiah	Sonny Ysabella Mila Rylan
Tangaroa	Room 1: Room 2: Room 4: Room 5:	Lucas R Casper	Felicity M Yara

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.

Home and School News

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





