



# Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

## Newsletter/Pānui

Friday 16 October 2026

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| <u>Contact information:</u><br>Stuart Wilcox – Principal <a href="mailto:principal@geraldine.school.nz">principal@geraldine.school.nz</a><br>Office – Ph 03 693 8208 <a href="mailto:office@geraldine.school.nz">office@geraldine.school.nz</a><br>Website: <a href="https://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz/">https://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <u>Term Dates: 2026</u><br>Term 4 12 October - 15 December |
| <u>Important Dates:</u><br>Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October – Year 5 Flag Football<br>Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October – Labour Day (school closed)<br>Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> October – TOD (school closed)<br>Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October – Pet Day<br>Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November – Athletics Day<br>Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November – Elective 1<br>Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December – Elective 2<br>Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December – Breakfast BBQ<br>Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December – Principal's Assembly<br>Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December – Prize Giving/Leaver's Assembly/Carols<br>Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December – End of Term 4 |                                                            |

### Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora,

A warm welcome back to our final term of the year! We all know Term 4 is always fast-paced and packed with exciting learning, events, and opportunities. To help you stay ahead, please take a moment to note key dates on your family calendar.

A huge thank you to all our talented students who have created outfits for the upcoming 'Fusion of Food and Fashion' show on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October at Barkers. It promises to be a fantastic evening supporting a wonderful local cause—the Geraldine Social Workers Trust. It is not too late to grab your tickets and join in on this awesome community event! *Please check the poster below for full details.*

Thank you to everyone who has completed our strategic direction Google Form so far. Reading your constructive, positive feedback and ideas for our school's future has been incredibly insightful. If you haven't had a chance to share your thoughts yet, the form is still open—we would love to hear from you!

It was fantastic to see such a vibrant array of loud shirts across the school today! Thank you to all our tamariki and staff for getting involved and bringing so much colour to our day to raise awareness for a great cause. Please see a selection of photographs below.

## Year 3–6 SMART Testing (Weeks 2–4)

This is a quick heads-up for our whānau that all Year 3–6 students will be completing our annual SMART assessments in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics over Weeks 2, 3, and 4 of this term.

These assessments provide valuable insights to help our teachers tailor learning to your child's individual needs and track their growth across the year.

What you need to know:

- **Dates:** Spread across Weeks 2, 3, and 4 to ensure a relaxed, low-stress environment for students.
- **Preparation:** There is no need for extra study or preparation at home! Our teachers will ensure every student feels prepped, supported, and ready to put their best foot forward.
- **Our Approach:** We frame these assessments positively as an opportunity for students to showcase what they know and can do.

If you have any questions about the testing process, please feel free to reach out to your child's classroom teacher!

## Pet Day – Friday 30th October

We are excited for our upcoming Pet Day! Please see below for key information and the timetable for the day.

### Key Information for Students & Families

- **Uniform:** All students are required to wear their standard school uniform.
- **Students Without Pets:** Arrive at school at the normal time.
- **Pets Arriving:** Parents and children bringing pets should arrive between **10:00 am and 10:30 am**.
- **Community Welcome:** Parents, whānau, and community members are very welcome to come along, watch the events, and enjoy the day with us!

### Schedule of Events

- **10:00 am – 10:30 am:** Pets and parents arrive at school
- **10:45 am:** Judging, Leading, and Handling events begin
- **12:00 pm – 12:45 pm:** School Lunch
  - **Sausage Sizzle:** Hosted by Home & School (\$2 per sausage)
  - **Coffee Cart:** Casey's Coffee Cart will be on site from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
- **1:00 pm:** Grand Parade & Pet Fancy Dress *(All classes will participate and view the parade!)*

We look forward to seeing a fantastic variety of pets and celebrating with our school community!

## Term 3 Attendance Update

Please take some time to read our attendance data for Term 3 below. I am really proud of our school community and how well we all understand the importance of ensuring our children attend school regularly. Every day in the classroom counts towards your child's learning and social connection, and your support in prioritising attendance makes a huge difference!

## Term 3 Summary

### How many students regularly attended school this term?



### What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

1. (M) Illness / Medical Absence 50%
2. (J) Explained and Approved 19%
3. (G) Holiday 14%
4. (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 13%
5. (T) Unexplained / Trivial 3%

### How many students were on time to class?

**100%** of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time)

## Electives Update & Final Offerings

Thank you to all of our students for completing the recent electives survey! We are now carefully working through every child's individual choice, and we are excited to share how our upcoming Electives Programme is taking shape.

### How We Crafted the Final Electives

To ensure a high-quality experience for our students, we analysed all choices and streamlined our offerings down to 19 fantastic final electives:

- **Combining Popular Themes:** Where student interests were similar, such as *EPro8*, *Brainbox*, *Exploration & Discovery*, and *Science*, we merged them into exciting, multi-faceted STEM activities to maximize resources and teacher expertise.
- **Differentiating for Age Groups:** Popular choices like **Farming**, **Craft**, and **Running** received huge interest! To make sure activities are age-appropriate, we have created separate junior and senior groups for these streams.
- **Prioritising Safety & Logistics:** Due to staffing needs, transport logistics, and keeping health and safety at the forefront, a few off-site options (such as the museum) won't run this term. Keeping a strong range of on-site options ensures proper teacher supervision ratios for all off-site trips.

### When?

Week 7 - 8,  
Thursday November 26th - 1.30 - 2.40  
Thursday December 3rd - 1.30 - 2.40

### Whānau & Community Help Needed!

To make our off-site and specialised electives a success, we would love assistance from parents or community experts in the following areas:

- **Fitness & Sports:** Four Peaks Fitness, Squash, Mountain Biking, Running and Skate Park,

- **Animal Care:** Caring for animals / Vet visits
- **Farming:** Specialised farming knowledge or equipment support
- **Languages:** Anyone keen to introduce a new language to a small group!

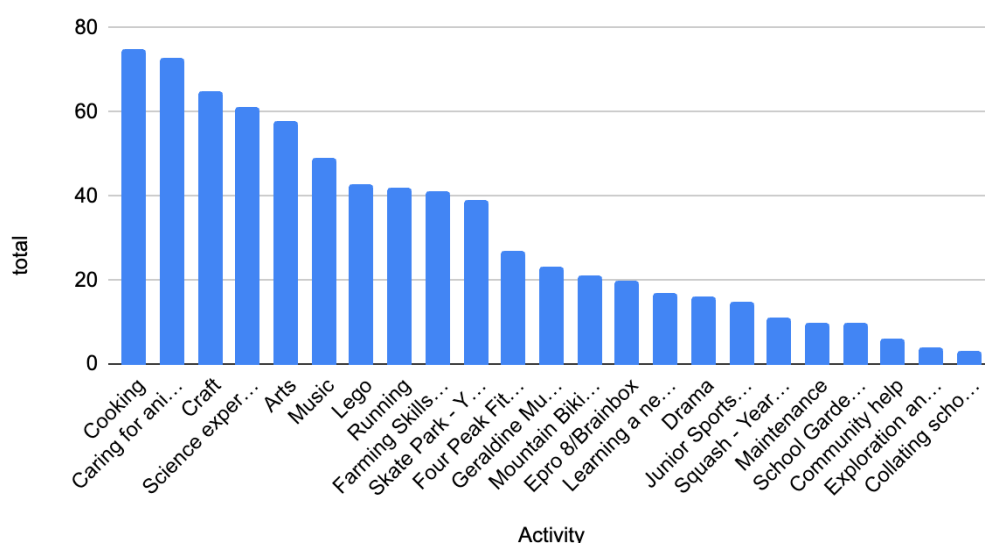
Our onsite electives are: Drama, music, art, craft, cooking, Lego/construction, junior sports, STEM and gardening

If you have expertise, equipment, or time to lend a hand with any of these groups, please get in touch with Mr Wilcox or your child's classroom teacher!

We look forward to an amazing time of learning, discovery, and fun!

## Our Results

total vs. Activity



Please remember that my door is always open for a korero

**Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui**

**Be strong, be brave, be steadfast**

Stu Wilcox





## Gotcha Draw

Congratulations to the following tamariki who won a Gotcha Draw:

Joshua, R6; Benji, R6; Aylah, R9; Bjorn, R7; Mariella, R15; Avi, R9.

Congratulations also to the following tamariki who received a certificate for 120 Gotchas:

James, Eloisa, Elina, Logan, Ayla M & Greer all R12; Alexis R4

## Our values and Vision Certificates

|              |                                                         | Heart of our Community                     | Together we Thrive                                  |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Tāne Mahuta  | Room 3:<br>Room 6:<br>Room 7:<br>Room 8:<br>Room 9:     | Arlie<br>Flo<br>Rhaikko<br>Kaelo<br>Harlow | Tessa<br>Navy<br>Kylie<br>Honor<br>Bodhi            |
| Tāwhirimātea | Room 10:<br>Room 11:<br>Room 12:<br>Room 13:<br>Room 15 | Harper<br>Mila<br>Eloisa<br>Freida<br>Lucy | Ryleigh<br>Ted<br>Ayla M<br>Olivia Fraser<br>Lucy D |
| Tangaroa     | Room 1:<br>Room 2:<br>Room 4:<br>Room 5:                | Mila<br>Kyzah<br>Isabelle T<br>Eloise      | Franco<br>Sarah H<br>Alexis<br>Emma                 |

# 2027 Complete School Calendar

## Term 1

- **Dates:** Monday, 1 February – Friday, 9 April (10 Weeks)
- **School Closed / Public Holidays:**
  - **Waitangi Day (Observed):** Monday, 8 February
  - **Easter Break:** Friday, 26 March – Tuesday, 30 March (*Good Friday to Easter Tuesday*)

## Term 2

- **Dates:** Tuesday, 27 April – Friday, 2 July (10 Weeks)
- **School Closed / Public Holidays / TOD:**
  - **ANZAC Day (Observed):** Monday, 26 April (*Day before Term 2 starts*)
  - **MOE Teacher Only Day:** Friday, 4 June
  - **King's Birthday:** Monday, 7 June
  - **Matariki:** Friday, 25 June

## Term 3

- **Dates:** Monday, 19 July – Friday, 24 September (10 Weeks)
- **School Closed / Staff Days:**
  - **MOE Staff Development Day:** Monday, 16 August

## Term 4

- **Dates:** Monday, 11 October – Tuesday, 14 December (10 Weeks)
- **School Closed / Public Holidays / Events:**
  - **Teacher Only Day:** Friday, 22 October
  - **Labour Day:** Monday, 25 October
  - **Prize Giving and Carols:** Monday, 13 December
  - **Last Day for Students:** Tuesday, 14 December

## 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](mailto:northaorakicommittee@stjohn.org.nz)  
Location St John Geraldine, 124 Talbot Street, Geraldine

## A Fusion of Fashion & Food

A special evening showcasing the very best of our local community, featuring summer fashion, delicious food tastings, inspiring student creations and more!  
All proceeds to support the Geraldine Social Workers Trust.

**Friday 30th  
October  
6.00pm**  
Barker's Foodstore  
& Eatery

**\$50pp**

Scan the QR code to the event/for tickets

Supporting our event:

Ticket includes:  
Tinkup fashion show  
Fashion tips  
Discounted shopping  
Food and Beverages

## Dr Ross Greene

Is coming back to Timaru!

### Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS) - Whānau

A **FREE** workshop for parents, whānau  
and caregivers

**Dr Ross Greene**, clinical psychologist and bestselling author is back to share his globally renowned framework, **Collaborative & Proactive Solutions**.

**You're invited...**

to join **Dr Ross Greene** for a practical session that helps families shift their lens on behaviour and learn collaborative problem-solving strategies at home.

**What you'll take away:**

- A new way to understand behaviour
- Practical strategies you can use at home
- Greater connection and reduced conflict
- Hope and reassurance for everyday challenges

*Kids do well if they can.*  
— Dr Ross Greene

**Life Church Timaru**  
134 Morgans Road, Timaru

**Open to all parents, whānau and caregivers (Up to 400 places)**

**REGISTER HERE**  
[bit.ly/AorakiCPS4parents](http://bit.ly/AorakiCPS4parents)

**Sunday  
24 January 2027  
3:30pm – 5:30pm**

Hosted by Aoraki RTLB Cluster 37 in partnership with Family and Mental Health Services

AORAKI RTLB CLUSTER 37 | [www.rtlbaoraki.co.nz/events](http://www.rtlbaoraki.co.nz/events)

## NOTRICKSLOTSOF TREATS!

**31 OCTOBER 5.00-7.30PM**  
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH GROUNDS WILSON ST

**SPECIAL TREAT!** THE LIGHT PARTY WILL BE OPEN TO PRESCHOOL & KINDY AGED KIDS FROM 3:30-4:30PM - A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO BRING THEM ALONG TO THE BOUNCY CASTLES WITHOUT THE BIG KIDS IN THE WAY!

# LIGHT PARTY

A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE TO HALLOWEEN  
SUPPORTED BY THE TDC

**FREE!**  
OR BY DONATION

TUG O WAR  
DRESS UP (OPTIONAL)  
BOUNCY CASTLES!  
LOLLY SCRAMBLE  
Sideshows  
FOOD! GAMES! CRAFTS!

Please no scary or spooky masks or costumes.

THIS EVENT IS RUN BY ST ANDREW'S GERALDINE • CHECK [LIGHTPARTYGERALDINE](http://LIGHTPARTYGERALDINE) ON FACEBOOK FOR CANCELLATION IF WET

Property Brokers  
Makdhi  
Tip Top gnews  
St Andrew's  
TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REGISTRATIONS OPEN! JOIN THE CLUB

### GERALDINE Swimming CLUB

Building confidence, skills and safety

**LEARN TO SWIM**  
Skills for life – for primary aged children  
Follows the Cbay Learn to Swim programme.  
Experienced and supportive instructors.

**SQUAD PROGRAMMES**  
Great, skilled coaches

**DEVELOPMENT SQUAD**  
The bridge between Learn to Swim and Squad.  
• Swim 100 metres confidently  
• Progress your PBs  
• Build endurance  
• Focus on technique  
• Jelly Bean race nights

**SWIM SQUAD**  
For children/teens already capable and confident.  
• Improve technique  
• Build fitness and strength  
• Develop racing confidence  
• Squad meets & competitions  
• For a range of ages and abilities

**TRAINING TIMES**  
4:45 – 6:00 pm | MON, WED & THURS  
FLEXIBILITY – attend the days that suit you!

**SEASON DATES**  
Mid November – Mid March

**CONTACT: LEARN TO SWIM**  
[learn2swimgeraldine@gmail.com](mailto:learn2swimgeraldine@gmail.com)

**CONTACT: SQUAD PROGRAMMES**  
[secretarygasc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarygasc@gmail.com)

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**  
Geraldine Amateur Swimming Club

**WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE INSTRUCTORS/VOLUNTEERS!**  
Whether you can spare time poolside, in the water, or behind the scenes – any support makes a big difference and helps our club (and tamariki) thrive.  
Get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!