



Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve
Whāia e koe te iti kahurangi

Phone: (03) 693 8208

Email: office@geraldine.school.nz Web: www.geraldine.school.nz

Newsletter

Week 2, Term 1
10 February 2023

From the Principal...

Kia ora Whānau,

Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou - greetings to you all.

In the early stages of the school year, it is good to be thinking about the importance of attending school on a regular basis. High levels of attendance allows our children to experience consistency in their development and this in turn reduces the likelihood of gaps appearing in their learning over the course of a week, term or year. Good attendance also allows children to develop all-important relationships with their peers and staff, particularly their classroom teacher. The Ministry of Education sets a benchmark of 90% attendance for students, as does Geraldine Primary. In a typical 10-week term, this equates to a maximum five days absence. Anything less than 85% we deem to be of concern, with 80% attendance equating to a day off a week, or just under a term away from school over the course of a year. We understand that children will be sick or away from school for justifiable reasons. All absences along with a reason must be notified through the school office - 693 8208 / office@geraldine.school.nz or through the Skool Loop app, which forwards the notification to the office email.

Each year we collect student achievement data for individual students, cohorts, e.g. year groups, gender and across the whole school. It has been pleasing to see the positive impact of new initiatives on both student achievement and engagement. In 2020 we embarked on new journeys in how reading, spelling and maths programmes were being delivered. You may have

heard the terms Structured Literacy, iDeal, The Code, Numicon Maths, or Prime Maths being mentioned by your children and / or their teachers. These programmes have been game changers for both staff and students and it shows in our achievement data over this time. I congratulate the staff for the way they have positively embraced these new initiatives, especially during three years of Covid interruptions.

In 2022 we had 88% of our students achieving at or above the NZ Curriculum expectations in reading. This figure was 82% for writing and 88% for maths. This high level of achievement is something that I commend our school community on - the teachers, teacher aides, and whānau, who collectively work together to bring out the potential in our tamariki.

We also recognise that learning takes on various forms for children and that student achievement as noted above is just one measurement of success. Some children may find maths challenging, but will thrive in other situations where things like communication and teamwork are important. Other students will be wonderful role models at showing empathy - it's great to see these talents shine through. Progress will look differently for different students as well and it's this progress at an individual level that is just as important as achievement.

Some future dates that I bring to your attention are:

Teachers and principals throughout New Zealand are currently in negotiations through their unions, with the Ministry of Education about their collective agreements. Teacher union meetings in our region will take place over the afternoons of 28 February and 1 March, with staff attending one of these meetings. Our school will remain open on these days, with buses running at the same time. Parents will have the option to take their children home at lunchtime if they wish on these days. More information will come out closer to the time.

We will be holding 3 Way Conferences on 29 and 30 March from 3pm to 7pm. At the 3WCs, parents / whānau, children and teachers meet to discuss how the child is going at school and learning goals. Children are expected to attend as they are an important part of the learning discussion! A 3WC time can be booked through www.schoolinterviews.co.nz . Use our school code - v8gw5. If you experience any difficulties with the booking process, please contact the school office.

Finally, here are some neat photos of some of our new students with their Year 5 Big Buddies!



Taig and Stanley



Lucah and Flynn



Tate and Quinton

Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui - be strong, be bold, be steadfast.

Andrew Leverton
Principal | Tumuaki

School Notices

Board News - Principal Appointment process

The School Board has started the Principal recruitment process. In the coming weeks we will be opening up a community consultation where we would love to hear what qualities you are looking for in our new Principal. We will let you know when and how you can be involved through the school newsletter on the 24th February.

Alicia Pridham
School Board Presiding Member

Student Achievement Outside School

We regularly hear about the achievements of our students in their out of school activities. We would like to be able to further recognise these achievements in

our newsletters and / or on our school Facebook page. If your child or a GPS student you know of has done well in an out of school pursuit, please let us know! A written explanation of their achievement, along with a photo would be appreciated. Please send details to - principal@geraldine.school.nz .

GPS Uniforms

GPS uniforms can be purchased from the Warehouse, Timaru, or locally from High Street Stitch and Print, in Geraldine. Please click on the link below for more information:

<http://gps.hssp.co.nz/>

The green polo shirts can only be purchased from The Warehouse, Timaru.

Second hand uniforms can be purchased from the school office for a donation which will go to the Home and School

Term 1 Calendar

Week 3

Monday 13 February

Home and School meeting, 7pm – all welcome

Week 4

Wednesday 22 February

School Board Meeting, 6pm – Staffroom

Thursday 23 February

Width Swimming Carnival, Y4-6

Friday 24 February

Final Swimming Lesson

pp Width Swimming Carnival

Week 5

Monday 27 February

Length Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 28 February

postponement Length Swimming

Wednesday 1 March

Final swim Y4-6

Thursday 2 March

Tangaroa Syndicate Triathlon Y5 & 6

Friday 3 March

Last day swimming Y1-3

Week 6

Monday 6 March

Tāwhirimātea triathlon, Y3 & 4

Tuesday 7 March

Y6 Camp – Lindisfarne

Week 7

Thursday 16 March

Y5 Camp - Raincliff

Friday 17 March

SC Triathlon

Term dates 2023

Term 1

Monday 30 January - Thursday 6 April

School closed: Waitangi Day - Mon 6 February

During April term break: Good Friday - Friday 7 April
Easter Monday - Monday 10 April
Easter Tuesday - Tuesday 11 April

Term 2

Wednesday 26 April - Friday 30 June

School closed: Staff Development Day - Monday 24 April
Anzac Day - Tuesday 25 April
Staff Development Day - Tuesday 16 May
King's Birthday - Monday 5 June
Staff Development Day - Thursday 29 June

During July term break: Matariki - Friday 14 July

Term 3

Monday 17 July - Friday 22 September

During September term break:
South Canterbury Anniversary - Monday 25
September

Term 4

Monday 9 October – Thursday 14 December

School closed: Labour Day - Monday 23 October
Staff Development Day - Friday 17 November

Community Notices

Tots to Teens Magazine

Please click on the following link if you wish to read the Tots to Teens Magazine: <https://issue2302.totstoteens.co.nz/>



Before School and After School Programmes

Kia ora Geraldine Primary Whanau. Are you finding yourself stuck for childcare before and/or After school? This is just a quick reminder that Kids Alive programs are available to those in our local area. Below is a brief explanation of our two programs currently running. Holiday programs are also available during the term breaks, we will update these closer to the time.

-The before School programme starts at 7.00 am and runs until school starts. This is for those Families that need childcare before school opens and includes Breakfast. Once school is open at 8.20, we open the doors to all Children attending Geraldine Primary school and offer breakfast and/or a Milo as part of the nationwide Kickstart breakfast club. This is located in the school hall.

-The after-school programme runs from 2.45 pm (we meet the children at school) till 5.30 pm at the Geraldine Pavilion, where we play games, run around outside and have fun. Afternoon tea is provided to all attending.

For all of those that are interested in what we are all about, please feel free to contact us, come down and have a look around.

* WINZ subsidies may be available to some families, just ask before you book, and we will support you as best we can. *

For more information, please visit our website www.kidsalive.co.nz or contact Scotty Nelson on 027 2413226.

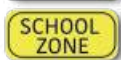
Do You Know Your School Signs?

Be prepared when our children go back to school.



Speed limit change within school zone:

Reason: Reduce speed to the number displayed on sign. Higher risk period due to increased activity at or around schools. Police have a lower tolerance on speeding in this zone.



Driver Action: Reduce speed to the limit or below displayed on the sign.



Active school zone signs:

Reason: Higher risk period due to increased activity at or around schools. Police have a lower tolerance on speeding in this zone.

Driver Action: Reduce speed be ready to stop.



P5 time limit parking signs:

Reason: A stop-drop-go point to keep traffic flowing and reduce double parking.

Driver Action: Drivers must not park and leave to take kids to class. If you need to take your child to class park at another spot where it is legal to park for longer.



Pedestrian crossing point ahead signs:

Reason: Alert drivers about a pedestrian crossing ahead.

Driver Action: Reduce speed be ready to stop for all pedestrians waiting to cross, not just school children.



School bus signs:

Reason: Bus carries school children. When the bus stops and school bus signs flash, the speed limit past both directions of the bus is 20km/h.

Driver Action: Reduce speed to 20km/h or less and be ready to stop.



www.scrs.org.nz

 @scrsnz

**DRIVE LIKE
THEIR LIVES
DEPEND ON IT.**

LAZINESS, LIES, ARGUMENTS, WORRY, ANXIETY, ANGER, SELF SABOTAGE, LACK OF MOTIVATION

Sound like familiar struggles that happen in your home with your child?

Motov8 and Savage Angel events are about inspiring, informing & instructing teenagers and their parents to make smarter, more informed decisions in life.

Stop wasting time hoping for things to magically change, become the change your family needs - The Rev

See what others are saying:

Thank you. Your words are empowering for our teenagers, as I saw in my own boys tonight. The reflection that I saw in them was astounding, and the little changes that started as soon as we walked in the door were proof of the way that you captured their attention. I myself found it very inspiring to hear the way that you have learned how to be a parent - truly inspiring for people like me who have to teach themselves as they weren't taught from an early age. You have given me some steps to further this journey. Your stories and anecdotes really engaged us all. Thanks Rev. **Sarah Verheyen**

My boy really didn't want to go to the workshop. I dragged him there with the attitude that it was going to be boring and so on. He couldn't believe that we would have to sit there for 2hrs but at the end of it he couldn't believe how quickly the time went. The comment was also "that wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be". A win win situation for me and I really think he'll get something out of it. I know that I learnt some things myself. Thanks for teaching us some great strategies to help with the anger. So much to take away from this workshop. **Seona Maybery**



**John McMahon aka 'The Rev' is on tour in New Zealand Feb and May
Tickets on sale now - scan the QR code below or visit at [eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au)**

North Island: Auckland 13th & 14th Feb, Whangarei 15th Feb, Hamilton 16th Feb, Tauranga 17th Feb, Palmerston North 20th Feb, Wellington 21st & 22nd Feb

South Island: Nelson 28th April, Christchurch 1st & 2nd May, Dunedin 4th May, Invercargill 5th May



Scan here for Savage Angel tickets



Scan here for Motov8 boys tickets



MOTOV8

Register
TODAY
to secure your placement

2023 Timaru Parenting Programme

The Incredible Years Parents, teachers, and children training series

The Incredible Years

Family Works will deliver the Incredible Years Programme in Timaru dependent on sufficient enrolments.

20 parents committed to attending is essential to ensure delivery of this incredible programme!

For Parents of: Children 3 - 8 years:

Tuesdays:

28th February to 13th June 2023
9:30am to 12:30 pm

Wednesday nights:

1st March to 14th June 2023
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Tuesdays ONLY:
Childcare provided
if required.
(by pre-arrangement only)



These 14 week programmes will focus on practical step-by-step suggestions and support to help in handling the every day situations parents face.

Sessions are held once a week for 3 hours, *(excluding school holidays)*.



To enrol or for further information call

Liz Munro **NOW** at Family Works

03 688 5029 / 0274 688200

email: liz.munro@pssc.co.nz

VENUE: Family Works,
26 North Street, Timaru

Free

www.pssc.org.nz/family-works

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