Greetings,
The students have had some fantastic learning experiences over the last two weeks. Last Wednesday we all piled onto our buses and travelled to Coonalpyn for a great day of fun to celebrate book week, with the Coonalpyn and Raukken students. It was lovely to stand back and watch all of the students interacting together – chatting, playing football, playing on the equipment and generally enjoying getting to know each other. This was a great fore-runner for our camp, because it now means that our students have people that they are looking forward to meeting up with again. On the Friday we joined in with Lameroo and Pinnaroo for the Highway 12 Sports Day, all of our students giving their best. I was extremely proud of our students’ enthusiasm and good sportsmanship, even though they were outnumbered. On Wednesday of this week, all the students and teachers piled on the buses again, to visit Old Tailem Town and learn about aspects of our history in an entertaining and hands-on way. At all events I have been so impressed with our students, in the way they conducted themselves and participated. They can be very proud of themselves too!
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Joe Howard for his fine performance at the Highway 12 Sports Day, in which he came runner-up in the 11 year old boys division – a fantastic effort Joe – congratulations!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!
We are all enjoying the beautiful sunny weather, but it has meant lots of jumpers are being peeled off at lunch time. Please ensure all of your child/ren’s jumpers are named, so that we can return them to the right owners! While it is not compulsory to wear hats until term 4, you might like to consider sending along your child/ren’s hats, as the weather during the day is now starting to warm up.

SCHOOL CONCERT
Plans are well underway for our school concert, to be held on Thursday 30th October at the Parrakie Hall. There’s a buzz of excitement around the school as the students learn lines, discuss backdrops and props, dream about costumes and begin to Practise items. Please keep this date free in your calendars – it promises to be a night to remember!
As I’ve watched our students interact in unfamiliar settings over the past couple of weeks, I’ve seen them being encouraged out of their comfort zones to interact with students they didn’t know, practise and then perform skills they didn’t previously have or feel confident with, and learn new things in a new environment. The word that has come to mind is courage — our students have shown courage to step beyond what they know to something new. Such an important skill for life and learning. And as Dr Seuss once said: “You’ll miss the best things if you keep your eyes shut.”

Regards,

Ruth

It’s time for the Premier’s Reading Challenge forms to come back in to school, so that we can log each student’s results. If you have lost your form, please let the classroom teacher know, and we can start a new one here at school. Don’t worry if the form is not completed — we can finish off the last few books here at school too.

The final date for return of the forms is Thursday September 4th, but it would be really helpful if you could have them back in by the end of week 6 – Friday 29th August.

SCHOOL CAMP
Please remember to get your child/ren’s forms back to school as quickly as you can. While this camp is more costly than some in the past, the programme is fully catered for, and is delivered by trained personnel, providing some great opportunities for physical challenge and social networking. If the cost is a difficulty for you, please contact either Sue or myself, as in no way do we want the cost to prevent your child/ren from attending.

HIGHWAY 12 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
11 Year Old Boys Runner-up
JOE HOWARD
Congratulations!

Upper Primary Class Update.
On Monday afternoon this week we were lucky to spend time outside in the lovely weather when Mr Harry Beauchamp from the NRM Board at Murray Bridge visited us again. Our second Young Environment Leaders session focussed on talking about threats to our native flora and fauna, and the students impressed Harry with their knowledge of this topic after our studies in Science last term. Harry brought along some samples of bridal creeper that were infested with a rust fungus and most of the students were quick to recognise this plant which was introduced from South Africa as a hardy garden plant but has become a pest throughout mallee areas. By soaking the infected foliage in water we were able to make up spray bottles of water containing the rust fungus which the students then sprayed onto bridal creeper plants on the northern side of the school grounds. This simple method is an effective way of spreading the fungus and hopefully we should eventually see an orange tinge to our bridal creeper. We also released some bags of foliage that were hosting a number of bridal creeper leaf hoppers to another infested area and we will be monitoring these sites in the months to come to see how well these biological control methods are working.

Harry awarded badges to our Year Six students for their involvement with the Young Environment Leaders program, which has included conducting a lesson on ‘connecting with nature’ for the Junior Primary class. We also received a very smart sign to display at the front of the school which acknowledges our involvement with this worthwhile program.

Kathryn Roberts

Olivia and Amy doing their bit to rid our scrub of bridal creeper

Trent, Joe, Beau and Tyson with Mr Harry Beauchamp and our new school sign.
Junior Primary News Update

We have been extremely busy the last few weeks and have enjoyed many special activities like Book Week activities, Sports Day and our excursion to Old Tailem Town. I have been extremely impressed with the way students have participated in these activities; it is yet another reminder of how much of a team they all are.

In Maths the last two weeks, we have begun our work on Measurement. Our inquiry question this week was ‘How tall is the Junior Primary Class?’ Students used their prior knowledge of how we could measure (handprint lengths, unifix cube lengths, and ruler lengths etc.) to come up with a way they could find the answer to this question. By the end of the investigation, students had used metre rulers and measuring tape to record the height of each other and then measured out these lengths on frieze tape. Students decided that in our next lesson, we should connect all our heights together to make one long length and possibly even measure the rest of the school to see how tall we all are together. I love watching students engage in their Maths learning whether it is in investigations or during their mental routines. The mathematical discussions between the students and their creative approaches to their learning are fantastic!

In Science we have been learning all about the weather and water. Over the last week we have reviewed what we have been learning about the water cycle and created our own water stories and versions of ‘Mr. Drippy’s Journey’. We have these works on display, so please feel free to come in and see their fabulous creations.

Next week (Tuesday 2/9/14) as a part of our Health curriculum, we will be having a ‘soft toy day’. A separate note will be coming with more information about this tomorrow. It has been wonderful to see more faces back in class after a couple weeks of sicknesses. I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the lovely sunshine.

Lorelle Barton

CPSW CORNER

Last week was a big one with Book Week at Coonalpyn and Athletics Day at Lameroo. Well done to parents for embracing these “extra-curricular” days and encouraging your children to be involved. The Book week characters were fantastic and I was so impressed with the way all of the children mixed and played together. It made me feel proud to be a part of Geranium Primary School!

Making Club is up and running on a weekly basis. Thanks to Georgie Morgan and Jessica Broadbent for organizing this activity! The origami dogs were very cute.

On Thursday 11th September, there will be a Pancake Breakfast for all students and staff of Geranium Primary School and Kindy provided by the CPSW support group. More details in this Newsletter.

On the same day, Thursday 11th September, there will be a Complimentary “Ultimate Big Brunch” for parents of Geranium Primary School and Kindy children. This will be in the Home Ec. Room from 10:00am-11:30 am, provided again by the CPSW programme. More details in this Newsletter.

Some people have asked me, “What and Who is the CPSW support group?” In essence, it is a group of people representing the local churches who support CPSW, Margaret Smith at Geranium Primary School; financially, practically and with prayer.

- Bonnie Pfeiffer ~ Parrakie Lutheran Church
- Gay Glynn~ Lameroo Catholic Church
- Deb Lock~ Geranium Uniting Church
- Pam Morgan and Bronwyn Barney~ Peake Baptist Church

This great group meet with me at least once a term to assist me with things like Pancake Breakfast, cupcake cooking, making year 7 farewell packs, fundraising (e.g. Farm Fair, Clearing Sale & Clothing Swap Night) so that I have the funds to run programs, buy ingredients, craft supplies, prizes etc. It is all about Teamwork (one of our school values!) and I could never get as much done if I didn’t have the support of this great bunch!

I hope to see some of you at the “Ultimate Big Brunch” in two weeks time- if not before!

I keep all families and staff of Geranium Primary School in my prayers.

Margaret Smith
Christian Pastoral Support worker

Tea party with Mrs Small, Kiara and Matilda
OLD TAILEM TOWN EXCURSION

On Wednesday the 27th of August, the whole school enjoyed a journey into the past as we ventured to Old Tailem Town for the day. We were met by Mr. Squires who welcomed us to Old Tailem Town and led us in our very own session at the State School. Students saluted the flag, sang ‘God Save the Queen’ and had their hands and uniform inspected by Mrs. Roberts before they marched into class to the beat of the drum. Miss Barton played the role of school inspector for the session and observed students behaviour and Mr. Squires’ teaching skills.

Students were extremely engaged listening to stories of school life in the past and were shown many different objects and teaching equipment, quite different to what we have now. We found out that readers used to be called Primers, girls and boys had little book cases or satchels to use at school, slate and ink were used instead of chalk, pencils and pens and teachers used to have canes to discipline students.

After our lesson at the State School we spent the rest of our day exploring the many buildings and streets of Old Tailem Town. It was wonderful to see how engaged and enthusiastic students were while looking around the town, looking at old banks, railway offices, police stations, greengrocers, modes of transport and homes. The experience looking around at the old buildings and discussions between the students and adults were invaluable to learning and knowledge of our History curriculum.

A big thank you to our helpers, bus drivers, ice-cream givers and tour guides for the day - Sue Evans, Penny Howard and Heather Wait.

Mrs Kathryn Roberts and Miss Lorelle Barton

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
As Buses Arrive
For all students and staff of Geranium Primary School
Hot Pancakes with a choice of
- Cream
- Maple Syrup
- Lemon & Sugar
- Strawberries
- Bananas

NO CHARGE: Supplied by CPSW
Programme for the wellbeing of your children.
More info from CPSW, Margaret Smith
Thank You!
Geranium Primary School would like to thank Pam Morgan for donating the pots and pans for the children to use in the sand pit. The students are enjoying them.

Remember when you believed in anything and everything?
Researchers from the University of Western Australia are investigating children’s ability to detect and avoid potentially harmful social interactions. We are looking to see how this develops in children, and when children outgrow this vulnerability. We are looking for parents of Kindergarten – Year 6 children across Australia to complete an online survey (15 – 20 minutes). Participants will go into a draw to win one of 10 $50 gift certificates to Coles/Myers. To participate go to: http://tinyurl.com/childsvq4 Or for more information please contact Rebecca Seward at (08) 6488 4652

61 CIRCUS ACTS IN 60 MINUTES
Roll up, roll up, the circus is coming! Witness an astounding range of acts as acrobats race against the clock, juggling, balancing and tumbling with touches of magic, humour and surprise. You'll laugh, cheer and be amazed by what the human body can do in 61 Circus Acts in 60 Minutes. 61 Circus Acts in 60 Minutes will be touring the Mallee in September. The circus performance will be visiting Lameroo Memorial Hall on September 15 at 7pm. To book tickets drop into IGA Traders, 48 Railway Terrace North. Ticket prices are adults $25, group (6+) $22 and under 17 $15.

****KIDS CLUB****
The next Kids club will be on Friday 12th September

**KIDS CLUB CAMP**
Saturday October 11th - 12th @ Berling’s Carriage
24 hours of fun!!
More details coming.
Contact person: David Smith 85772216
Georgie
I met Alicia from Coonalpyn. I learnt that her favourite book is Sleeping Beauty and she likes Disney princesses.

Sophie T
I met Summer from Coonalpyn. Her favourite colour is blue.

Charlie
I met Toby from Coonalpyn. We made chickens together when we read the book.

Shianne
I met Blake. We played together at lunch time. He is funny!

I talked to Lachlan, and he’s cool and funny. Matthew

Hamish plays football. He is nine and is in Year 4. Luke

Kasey does dance, Sarah was one month exactly older than me, Cherifa has two brothers and one sister and Lucy was 11 years old. Lilly