Greetings,

We have had a very busy but great start to the year! Miss Barton is now comfortably settled into the JP room, swimming lessons are well underway, and our joint swimming carnival with Coonalpyn yesterday was a huge success. We will report more results from the swimming carnival in next week’s newsletter.

Dates to Remember:

**Acquaintance Night** - Tuesday 18th February
This is a great opportunity to come and meet your child’s teacher, and the other families in their class. Each teacher will give a brief rundown of how their classroom works, and their will be an opportunity for you to ask questions. I strongly encourage you to make the effort to come!

5.30pm  BBQ (Please bring a salad)
7.00pm  Welcome
7.30pm  Classroom visits
7.30-8.00pm  Rec-2  Miss Barton
8.00-8.30pm  Yrs 3-6  Mrs Roberts
8.30pm  Close

**Governing Council AGM**  
**Monday 17th March**
Join us on Governing Council and you’ll discover how satisfying it is to be part of the discussions about our school and contribute to the shape of its future. Governing Councillors are elected by parents/guardians of children enrolled at the school and are usually elected for a two year term and retiring Councillors are eligible to re-nominate. Elections will take place for Governing Council on **Monday 17th March**. Be assured that there will be nominations for almost all of the positions, so you shouldn’t feel pressured in any way to take on something you don't want. It would just be great for you to come and learn more about our school.

Please remember that we invite you to join us not just for special events, but at other times as well. A phone call or note is all that's needed to arrange a visit or chat with a staff member. We welcome your interest and involvement!

**Ruth Clothier**  
**Principal**

Geranium Primary School welcomes Miss Lorelle Barton, R-2 teacher, to our school community
READING
Reading remains a key priority for us here at GPS. We have a range of strategies that encourage the students to develop their reading skills and enjoyment, both at school and home.

Reading Cup
Parents are asked to encourage children to read aloud every night of the week either to a parent or an older student. The student will have a sticker placed into their diaries every week (see below)

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(Junior Primary students will not have a reading diary this year)

Once a child has read you are then asked to sign that particular night on the sticker.
Every Monday the class teacher will count up how many times the student has read.

The school will be divided into two teams, and their tallies will be added together.

Premier's Reading Challenge
Read and record each book read on the reading record sent home last week, and in term 2 we will ask you to send them back in, and your child's reading will be logged online.

Reading photo displays
Last year we had some great photos taken of students reading to their pets. In term 1 of this year, we are looking for photos of children reading in interesting places! How creative can you be?!

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all. —Jacqueline Kennedy

Pedal Prix
We are considering the involvement of the year 6 students in Pedal Prix this year, in collaboration with Coomandook Area School. More details about how this would work will be included in the newsletter next week.

Medical Alert
We have been notified that a family in our school community has been diagnosed with Hand, foot and mouth disease. Hand, foot and mouth disease is a viral illness common in children. Symptoms are usually mild, but can include high temperature and small blister-like lesions on the inside of the mouth, palms of hands, soles of feet, and the nappy area. The infection is spread by direct contact with fluid from skin blisters, nose and throat discharges, droplets, and faeces. Good hygiene is important in preventing spread of the disease. There is no connection between this disease and the foot and mouth disease that affects cattle and some other animals. MFMD is a mild illness that resolves within a few days. There is no specific treatment and usually none is required. Please be alert to symptoms and students should be excluded from school until all blisters have dried.

For further information please go to http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Public+Content/SA+Health+Internet/Health/topics/Health+conditions+prevention+and+treatment/Infectious+diseases/Hand+Foot+and+Mouth+Disease/

Farewell
All those who know Carolyn, Tom, Lachlan, Jack & Georgia are welcome to join us in wishing them all the best for their move to the big smoke.

On: Sunday March 9th
From: 4.00pm
At: Gregurkes, The Pines, 786 Badman Rd.
BYO: chairs, salad, drinks
Jayne: 0428762020  85762063
Penny: 0429772292  85772294