Diary Dates

MARCH
Fri 7th  Student Free Day
Mon 10th  Adelaide Cup Public
         Holiday
Fri 14    Assembly
Mon 17th  Governing Council AGM

Greetings,
We are settling into a productive term. Swimming is finished, and now classrooms are in full swing. The teachers have been very busy assessing and planning to ensure your children receive the best support for their learning needs. If you have any questions about what is happening in the classrooms, please don’t hesitate to call either myself or your child’s teacher. Clear communication is the key to achieving great outcomes. At the end of term 1, we will be conducting Parent/Teacher interviews, another opportunity to talk with your child’s teacher about their progress. We will let you know further details in our next newsletter.

“Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing.”
Rollo May

Swimming
Thankyou for your patience in dealing with wet bathers for the past few weeks! It’s so important that our students feel comfortable and safe in the water.

A huge thankyou goes to Miss Emily Schulz and Mrs Cass Lutze for the amazing amount of work they put into making swimming a success this year! As you would have observed at the swimming carnival, these two ladies were in the water all the time with the students encouraging them and keeping them safe, ensuring they had a great time.

Swimming is now finished for term 1, but we are looking at scheduling some further time in term 4, weather and time permitting. Cass left a note for all staff and students on Friday, which I would like to share with you:

“Thankyou students and staff of GPS! I hope we share the carnival opportunity again in the future. I have been inspired by your confidence and progress during swimming lessons. Keep it up! Cass”

Student Free Day
A reminder that there is a student free day next Friday, 7th March. On this day the staff will be at Karoonda Area School, building their knowledge and skills in the Australian Curriculum. This is a great opportunity for our teachers and SSO’s to collaborate with their peers in our region.

Literacy
What interesting places do you read in? Have you taken any photos yet? We are eagerly awaiting the first contributions to our ‘Extreme Reading’ display board.

Renate Lauterbach began her German lessons with all students this week. Here are some German words to add to your vocabulary!

Frau = Mrs
Herr = Mr
Schwester = sister
Bruder = brother

And the most important of all, Schokolade = chocolate!

Ruth
Congratulations to Beau and Abydhel on your election as our school captains for 2014! I know you will be ably supported by your cabinet: Joe as the minister for sport, Tyson as the minister for activities and Trent as the minister of food.

Coonalpyn and Geranium Swimming Carnival
A fantastic day was had by all, and we were very proud of our students in the way they competed and interacted with the other students in their teams. Thankyou and well done! Thankyou too to all the family members who came and supported your children, creating a great atmosphere of fun and encouragement. At the end of the day, it was McCracken who won over Tolmer, but only by a slim 31 points!

Upper South East Swimming Carnival
Following on from our joint swimming carnival, we were fortunate to have 7 of our students nominated to participate in the Upper South East Swimming Carnival, which involves schools from Keith through to Karoonda. Unfortunately two were not well enough to compete, but the others did a sterling job! Coonalpyn and Geranium joined forces again, and we came home with the Sub Juniors handicap pennant - well done! The pennant will soon be hanging proudly in our foyer. Tom Barrett also won the silver medal for the Sub Juniors - Congratulations Tom.
Here we are into Week 5 already!
Well done to all the Geranium Primary Students who joined with Coonalpyn Primary School for the swimming carnival. It was a great day of friendly competition and I felt very proud of the way our students joined in and did their best! Congratulations also to our newly elected School Captains; Abydhel and Beau. I look forward to seeing you grow and develop as young leaders.

I have just completed training for a social skills enrichment programme for primary students called “What’s the Buzz?” (details in this Newsletter)

Last week I ran sessions with all of the students to “re-introduce” my role of CPSW and what I do here at Geranium Primary School. We read a book, Only One You by Linda Kranz which is a great reminder of how unique each of us are. After this, we created named shell people!

“There’s only one you in this great big world—
Make it a better place.” Linda Kranz

I keep all families and staff of Geranium Primary School in my prayers,  
Margaret Smith  
Christian Pastoral Support Worker

What’s the Buzz?

CPSW Margaret Smith will be running the programme over two terms

It is a social skills programme designed to explicitly teach children
• to think socially and improve their ability to interact socially
• It is a 16 lesson role-play and play based programme for children aged between 8-12 years

Some of the topics covered are;
• Meeting People and Exiting
• Being Friendly
• Competition, Winning and Losing
• Identifying Feelings
• Feelings and Thinking Positively
• Empathy, Responding to Others
• Handling Worry
• Dealing with Disappointment
• The Connecting Art of Conversation
• Giving and Receiving Compliments

More information will be coming! If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at school
We have some great creative writers!
“The explorer crept through the hot, steamy jungle. As his torch shone a beam through the trees, a pair of sparkling eyes shone back at him, like stars in the night sky. Its long tail waved like a flag. Its black and yellow coat looked like a swarm of bees. It was a tiger.”

Just a thought
"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.' "
C.S. Lewis

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

KIDS CLUB
Friday the 14th March
Meet at school playground after school (to be walked to the church)
Games, singing, food, bible story and craft
Cost $2.50
Finishes at 5pm at the Uniting Church

ALL WELCOME
For more info
Deb Lock  85762058
Marg Smith 85 772216

All Primary school aged children welcome!

Peake Netball Club
Senior Training
6pm Thursday nights
D & E grades
start training 20th March 4.30pm
F1 & F2 training
Start training 27th March @ 4.30

Contact Kellie 04 12168762
or Corelle
A grade Coach on 0408 834251

ac.care
How much is too much?
How to steer clear of overindulgence and raise likeable, responsible and respectful children
Workshop
Presented by
Adrienne Martin Psychologist
When: Friday 21st March
10.00am – 2.00pm
Where: Uniting Church Hall
Narooma Blvd.
Murray Bridge
Cost Free
Limited Spaces
To register phone 85326303

Or email
communitiesforchildren@accare.org.au
Working Bee Saturday 22nd March from 9.00am
We have a very large school to maintain, with funding for a small group of students. This means that the old secondary block in particular is not cleaned and maintained regularly. It’s time the secondary block had a good **spring clean**, so we will be having a Working Bee at the school, to clean out the **SECONDARY BLOCK** and do some other much needed maintenance work. We would really appreciate your help with the following:

- clean out storage rooms – remove furniture and junk
- clean out science store room
- move art materials into science lab
- move and re-attach wall mural
- sweep out spider webs then spray
- tidy/organise props/costume room
- cleanup store room at Pool
- spray around exterior of school for spiders
- dig out sand in sand pit to allow new sand to be brought in
- mount blackboard on wall in lunch shed
- trailers to take away rubbish
- rotary hoe?

If you are able to help, could you please tear off this slip, tick the jobs you will be able to help us with, and return it with your name by Wednesday 19th March?

Name: .................................................................