Greetings,
It’s hard to believe we are already over half way through the first term! Lots of great activities and good learning has been happening, and classes have settled into routines really well.

EXTREME READING
Reading remains a priority for us here at GPS, and we’ve had a great contribution to our ‘extreme reading’ photo exhibition. Come and have a look, and think about a photo you could take!

WORKING BEE
One of the things I really appreciate about the GPS School community is the way people pitch in and help out. We are having a working bee on Sat 22nd, starting at 9.00am, and it would be great if you could give us some time to help get things ship-shape. Being a small school, sometimes keeping facilities this size looking good is quite difficult, so our focus will be cleaning up the secondary block. We’d love to see you!

HOW ARE YOUR MATHS MENTAL STRATEGIES?
Numeracy is also a focus, and our teachers are fortunate to be able to participate in training by Ann Baker throughout the year, to build their skills in teaching students to be powerful maths learners. A part of Ann’s philosophy is the explicit teaching of mental strategies for quickly and accurately solving problems. These are strategies that you can also foster and encourage at home, so over the next few newsletters we will promote one strategy, and give you some ideas as to how to practise it at home. The first strategy, and probably the most basic, is the subitise strategy – the ability to look at a small group of objects and instantly know how many, without counting each one.

- Start with groups of 2 and 3, then gradually build the number to no more than 10.
- Hide a small selection of things under a tea towel, show it to your child for a few seconds then hide it again – can they tell you how many?
- Quickly re-arrange groups of things, asking how many now? See how fast they can go!
- Use playing cards as flashcards – hold them up quickly then hide and ask ‘how many?’
- Play dominoes and see how quickly you can name the number on the tile

Diary Dates
MARCH
Friday 14th Assembly
Monday 17th Governing Council AGM
Saturday 22nd Working Bee

Re-election of School Captains, results to be announced at assembly tomorrow.
ICAS
Attached to the newsletter is a letter outlining the ICAS testing that we will make available here at the school. There is a fee involved, and your child’s participation is entirely your choice. If you would like your child to participate, fill in the form and return it to the school by Monday the 7th April, so that we can register.
Thankyou all, for your support of our school. Together, we are building a strong safe community in which children can thrive.

Regards
Ruth

Here are some German words to add to your vocabulary!

- eins – one
- zwei – two
- Drei – three
- Vier – four
- Fünf – five

KIDS CLUB
Friday 14th March
Meet at the school playground after school (to be walked to the church)
Games, singing, food, bible story and craft
Cost $2.50
Finishes at 5.00pm at the Uniting Church
ALL WELCOME
For more info
Deb Lock 85 762058
Marg Smith 85 762021
All Primary school aged children WELCOME
Could Parents/caregivers please return consents/health forms in the next month.

Mallee & Coorong NRM Group, Coomandook Ag Bureau and Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan
Invite you to attend an Interactive and informative Natural Resources Management
Sustainable Ag Forum
Coomandook Hall
Friday 28th March 2014
1.30 pm onwards
Evening meal to be provided
- Herbicide Resistance (Peter Boutsalis)
- Farm Biosecurity (landowner Jason Schulz)
- Coomandook Ag Bureau Sandy Soils project
- New Horizons project – The next revolution in Agricultural Production
- NRM explained!
- Increasing economic returns using precision agriculture (Michael Wells)
- Harvest code of practice (Darren Arney)
- Understanding burning permits (Graham Gates)

Please RSVP by 20th March for catering purposes to
Helane Norman P: 8578 1493 or E: helane.norman@sa.gov.au
or Coomandook Ag Bureau
Ph: 0427 710 053 or E: brytan@internode.on.net

Peake Bus
Currently the Peake bus has only limited spare seats. To be fair to all families, if students wish to use this bus to go to Netball/Football practice, parents will need to contact the school Thursday morning to check that there are available seats.

Peake & Districts Football Club
Senior and Junior Football training starting 20/3/14 @ 4:30pm
Damien Heym 85743048

School Mural
Parents and Community members:
Stephanie and Bryan Michell will be at the school on Friday 23rd March to start grouting the new school mural between 11am -1 pm. If you are interested in helping with this process you are very welcome.
Parents of students enrolled at Geranium Primary School are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting On Tuesday 17th March 2014, at 7.00pm in the Library

PROGRAM

6.45pm Welcome & introduction of GPS staff in the Library
7.00pm Annual General Meeting
1. Welcome & apologies
2. Minutes of 2013 AGM
3. Reports
   • Principal
   • Chairperson
   • Parents & Friends
   • Finance
   • School Development
   • Grounds, Facilities & Pool
   • Pedal Prix
4. Elections
5. Any Other Business
6. Close

~Tea and Coffee in the Staff Room~

7.45pm GPS Governing Council General Meeting
9.00pm Close

Composition of Geranium Primary School Governing Council

The composition of the GPS Governing Council is 11 Councillors
• 10 open representatives elected by parents or co-opted
• Principal (ex-officio)

Governing Councillors are usually elected for a two-year term

Of our current Council the following hold office until 2015:
   Richard Howard
   Denise Stephenson
   Sonia Broadbent
   Penny Temby

Retiring Councillors who have made valuable contributions to our school are:
   Matt Harvey
   Adam Morgan
   Michelle Hensel
   Elise Wilson-Barrett
   Sandy Small (community rep)
   Kay Selth (ex-officio)

• Retiring Councillors are eligible to re-nominate for Governing Council
• Nomination forms are included with this newsletter, and are available at the Front Office
• Nominations can be received at the AGM

We value your input and need your help!
It’s always the right time to become involved in your child's schooling!

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# Nomination and Appointment Form

**GERANIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING COUNCIL**  
**NOMINATION FOR ELECTION FORM**

| I…………………………………………………………………………………..(full name) |
| of…………………………………………………………………………………..(address) |

**Nominate**  
…………………………………………………………………………………..(full name)  
of…………………………………………………………………………………..(Address)

**To be elected as a member of Geranium Primary School Governing Council.**

| I…………………………………………………………………………………..(full name) |
| of…………………………………………………………………………………..(Address) |

accept the nomination and hereby declare that:

- I have not been declared bankrupt and do not receive a benefit of a law for the relief of insolvent debtors
- I have not been convicted of any offence of dishonesty, or of a sexual nature involving a minor, or of violence against a person

I understand that should I be declared bankrupt, receive a benefit of law for the relief of insolvent debtors or be convicted of any of the offences listed my membership of Geranium Primary School Governing / School Council will cease.

Signed…………………………………………………………………………….Date……………………
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
- removal of BER sign from front garden
- 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?