Dear parents and caregivers,

Greetings

The end of the term seems to be racing towards us! We have been very busy, and a huge amount has been achieved. We’ve enjoyed our swimming lessons with Cass Lutze, and had a very successful swimming carnival. We settled into routine quickly, and completed our baseline assessments, which have become an integral part of the teacher’s planning. We’ve enjoyed our German lessons with Mrs Lauterbach, and the Active After Schools programme with Mrs Wait. And there’s still more to come before the end of term!

Working Bee

An enormous thankyou goes out to all those who helped at the working bee. To Sue and Michael Jacob, Amy and Corey Epiha and their children, Elise Wilson-Barrett and Tom and Will, Sandy Small, Pam Morgan, Richard Howard and Joe and Amy, Greg Stephenson, Adam Morgan, Adam and Sonia Broadbent and their children, Margaret Smith, Joy Przibilla, and Lorelle Barton. Thankyou for all your hard work both in the week prior, and on Saturday – we got a huge amount of work done, and the students are loving their new sandpit sand!

Assembly

Our final assembly for the term will be run by year 6, and is on Friday 4 th April. At this assembly we will present the new school captains with their badges, although they have been acting in their roles for several weeks now.

Diary Dates

MARCH
Friday 28 th  Mural grouting

APRIL
Thursday 3 rd  3 way conferences
Friday 4 th  Assembly led by Year 6 Students
Friday 11 th  Possibility of joining Lameroo for an Easter Seminar
Friday 11 th  Last day of term 1
EARLY DEPARTURE
2.20pm
Monday 28 th  First day of term 2

MAY
13 th -15th  NAPLAN testing

Newsletter No 5 27 th March 2014
3 WAY CONFERENCES
Our 3 way conferences will be occurring on Thursday 3rd April, from 3.30 pm. Different than the traditional parent/teacher interview, a three-way conference allows students to take the lead as they talk with their teacher and parents about their progress. It encourages students to take responsibility for their learning and to share their work. Please call the school to book a three-way conference with your child’s teacher. We recognize that there may be some issues to be discussed with the teacher that should not involve the child. If parents are wishing a separate meeting with just the teacher, please mention this to the teacher when you are speaking with them.

EASTER SEMINAR
We are hopefully joining with Lameroo for an Easter Seminar on the last day of term, Friday 11th April, followed by lunch with the Lameroo students. The Seminar is titled ‘A Hero’s Dream’. Further information will be made available as the booking becomes more certain.

EARLY CLOSING
Please take note that on the last day of term, Friday 11th April, students will be dismissed at 2.20 pm, in line with the bus from Lameroo.

MATHS MENTAL STRATEGY
Last week I explained the strategy of subitising – being able to look at a small group of things and instantly know what the number was. This week, the strategy builds on from subitising – the ability to count on. That means, looking at two groups of objects, subitising one group, then counting on from there the remaining objects. For young children this can be difficult and they tend to go back and recount every object.

Some ways you can play with this strategy with your children is to:
- Put a number of objects under a tea-towel, and then have some more outside. Tell them how many under, then ask them to count on those outside.
- Draw a sheep yard in the sand, and tell them there are five in that yard. Then draw some sheep in a second yard and ask them to count on. How many altogether?
- Put some spoons in a saucepan and tell them how many, then have them drop more spoons in a second saucepan, counting them as they go.

Play hopscotch: jump to a certain number, then count on jumps from there.

GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM
At the AGM on Monday 17th March, our new Governing Council was elected. The councillors are:

- Adam Morgan - Chairperson
- Richard Howard - Vice Chairperson
- Elise Wilson-Barrett - Treasurer
- Denise Stephenson - Secretary
- Michelle Hensel
- Sonia Broadbent
- Penny Temby
- Sonia Broadbent
- Sandy Small - Community Rep

The Governing Council has several committees which take on oversight of various areas of the schools’ operation. These committees are:

- **Grounds, Facilities and Pool** – convenor Richard Howard,
- **School Development** – convenor Penny Temby,
- **Bus** - Adam Morgan,
- **Pedal Prix** (for Yr 6 students).

We would love people to become a part of any of the committees that they may be interested in. If there is an area in which you would like to be involved, please fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the front office, and the convenor of that committee will be in touch.
PARENTS AND FRIENDS
The Parents and Friends have also held their AGM, and the following appointments were made:

President   Penny Howard  
Vice President   Penny Temby  
Secretary   Elise Wilson-Barrett  
Assistant Secretary   Fiona Woolfit  
Treasurer   Michelle Hensel  
Governing Council Rep   Sonia Broadbent

Congratulations to office bearers, Governing Councillors and members of the Parents and Friends on your appointments. We appreciate your commitment to Geranium Primary School, and value the time and energy you invest in the school and all of its students.

GRAMMAR
Earlier in the term at our acquaintance night, a request was made for some information about English grammar. Attached to this newsletter is a brief and very basic outline of how English grammar works. At times it can feel overwhelming, but English really is a fascinating and complex language! If you’d like to dig deeper into how English grammar works, let me know and I can provide you with some more resources.

It is with sadness that I let you know that Joy Przibilla will finish up her SSO role here at GPS at the end of this term. I have greatly appreciated and valued Joy’s contributions to our school and the students, and wish her all the best. Hannah Lucas will take up the student support SSO position from the beginning of next term.

One of the great strengths of Geranium Primary School is its strong sense of community – the support given and received by students, staff, families and the wider community of Geranium itself. I value the opportunity to be a part of that!

Some Questions about 3 Way Conferences

What are they?
- A 3-Way Conference actively involves parents, students and teachers in reflecting on student achievement, discussing work samples and setting future targets.
- A 3-Way Conference acknowledges the most important participants in the learning process (student, teacher and parent).

How are 3 Way conferences different from parent teacher interviews?
- 3 Way conferences involve the child in the discussion - they can provide information to clarify what they have learnt, how they learnt it and what challenges they faced.

Why 3 Way Conferences?
- They provide a student voice to discussions about performance and targets.
- They place the student at the heart of what we do.
- They strengthen the home-school partnership and allow children to see their parents and teacher listening to them and working with together.

How do 3 Way conferences work?
- The teacher will lead the conference and guide the student through the process.
- The student will begin by talking through their portfolio, discussing their work samples and highlighting what they think are their areas of strength and areas for future development.
- Throughout the conference parents are encouraged to ask questions, provide feedback and encouragement to the student and to share their thoughts and ideas on what is being presented and on what goals or targets they think are appropriate.

Parents and Community Members
Stephanie and Bryan Michell will be at the school on Friday 28th March to continue grouting the new school mural between 11am – 1 pm. If you are interested in helping with this process you are very welcome.
Every student with asthma should have a written Asthma Action / Care Plan completed in consultation with the student’s doctor. A copy of this should be provided to your child’s school. An Asthma Action / Care Plan is important for the school in caring for your child as it provides up-to-date, detailed information on how to manage your child’s asthma.

The plan should include:

- Frequency and severity of asthma
- Usual symptoms
- Known triggers
- Medication plan, if needed
- Asthma Emergency plan
- Preventative measures for exercise-induced asthma

Asthma Action / Care Plans should be updated annually or when a student’s asthma management changes.

If an Asthma Action / Care Plan is not provided, school staff will follow the nationally recognized Asthma First Aid standard protocol.

For a copy of a School Asthma Action / Care Plan or further information, please call the Asthma Foundation of SA’s Asthma Assist Line on 1800 278462.

Does your child have an Asthma Action Plan?

KIDS CLUB
April 11th
(last day of term)

MOVIE TIME!

2.30pm – 5.30pm
$2.50
Drinks, snacks & popcorn!
All Primary School Aged children
Welcome
Details from Deb Lock 85 762058
Marg Smith 85772216

Thankyou to parents for returning consent forms to Marg Smith. If you haven’t returned yours could you get them back before the end of term One. I have copies of forms if more are needed.
Marg Smith

LW Ried order

Denise Stephenson will be doing an LW Ried order on the 4th April, if anybody would like to place an order please do so by the 3rd April.

Rural Care Survey

There is the possibility of being able to run a rural care service from the Kindy 5 days a week. The service would be open to provide non-school age children with long day care and would also offer school aged children care before and after school care and vacation care in the school holidays. At any time Rural Care can accommodate up to seven children with no more than four non-school age children.

Attached to the newsletter is a survey asking parents to fill in what they think their future child care needs are to find out whether this service would be viable. Please return to the Kindy by Thursday the 3rd of April.
March has been a busy, fun-filled month of cup cake cooking at Geranium!
I have been cooking with small groups of students at recess and lunch times. I've really enjoyed the one-on-one time with students and chatting with them whilst decorating the cakes. Hopefully parents got to enjoy the cakes! Already the children are giving me suggestions of things we can cook next term.
I have also met with the Minister of Activities: Tyson Stewart and he has some exciting stuff planned for lunchtimes. Next Tuesday April 1st, Tyson will be running a "Minute-to-Win-It" session for students.
I will be taking Personal Leave from Week 11, Term 1 to Week 3, Term 2.
I wish all staff and families of Geranium Primary School, happy holidays!

Choose being kind over being right,
And you'll be right every time.
Richard Carlson

I will be keeping all families and staff in my prayers over the coming weeks.
Margaret Smith
Christian Pastoral Support Worker
What is Grammar?
Grammar is a way of describing how a language works, to make meaning.
It helps us describe what jobs words and phrases are doing.
There are a number of levels of grammar, beginning with a whole text, down to individual words.

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<th>Text (a whole piece of writing)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paragraph (groups of sentences)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sentence (one idea)</td>
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<td>Clause (groups of words)</td>
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We have labels for the words and groups of words to describe their function.

**Those two big dogs** were barking **loudly last night**.

- **Those**: article – which one is being written about
- **two big**: adjectives – add information about the noun ie how many, what kind, to what degree
- **dogs**: nouns – who or what is being written about
- **were barking**: verbs – what they are doing
- **loudly last night**: adverbs – add information about the verb ie where, when, how, why

Within each of these large groups of words, there are smaller subgroups. For example, nouns can be divided into proper nouns: specific names of people, places or things that require a capital, common nouns: common words that identify people, places or things, and pronouns: the small words used in place of proper or common nouns ie he, she, they.

At times, words can do different jobs in different sentences. When thinking about what kind of word it is, always ask yourself, what job is it doing in this sentence? It is not so important to be able to label words correctly, as it is to be able to describe the purpose of that word or group of words in a sentence. The more confident we become at understanding how words make meaning, the more powerful our use of language becomes.

Most children will learn how to use grammar naturally, simply by being involved in lots of purposeful talking, listening, reading and writing. Children usually come to school with a highly developed ability to use language in rich and complex ways. Teachers then play a deliberate role in helping them become more aware of what they are already doing naturally, building their vocabulary and enhancing their ability to use language in a powerful way.

**English is a fascinating and complex language!** If you’d like to dig deeper into how English grammar works, let me know and I can provide you with some more resources.
GOVERNING COUNCIL COMMITTEE NOMINATION

I ______________________ would like to nominate myself as a member of the following committee/s:

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My contact details are: _____________________________