Greetings:

The end of year is fast approaching! I am pleased to announce that my contract with Geranium Primary School has been renewed, and I look forward to another exciting and productive three years.

Over the past few weeks the staff, students and families have had an opportunity to reflect on our year as a school community. Have we achieved what we set out to achieve?

In our parent workshop last week, we looked at the five priority areas in our Site Improvement Plan: literacy and numeracy, student and staff wellbeing, ICT, overcoming isolation and distance, and building lifelong learners. In discussion with the two classroom teachers and the Year 6 and 7 students, we identified possible new strategies to help us to continue to work towards our priorities in 2017. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend – your viewpoint is vital to making sure our planning is relevant and effective.

A draft 2017 Site Improvement Plan will be made available towards the end of this year for your information. Please give us feedback!

Next year we will also be writing a new 3 year strategic plan which will involve reviewing our priorities – are they still relevant? Is there something else that has become more important? Something for you to ponder over the holidays!

While I recognise that this is an incredibly busy time of year for everyone, and that sometimes this planning process can feel like just more paperwork, it is actually really important to make sure that we have goals and targets in place, so that all planning and activities are focused on what we want and need to achieve. As the saying goes, if you aim at nothing you’ll hit it every time! (Zig Ziglar).

Regards,
Ruth
Firstly, a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Ruth Clothier on securing her position here as Principal of Geranium Primary School. We are lucky to have Ruth as the “Cap’n of our ship” and she navigates with wisdom and determination.

I have started on the “CARS” Transition Program with students who are moving on. This programme covers: CHANGE, ANXIETY, RESILIENCE & STRENGTHS. It will be good to spend time with the students and allow them the space and place to talk about how they’re feeling.

CHRISTMAS ELECTIVES (craft and cooking) will be happening on Monday 12th December with the whole school. The PCW Support Group will be running the electives with me and I really appreciate their willingness to help and be involved with your children here at Geranium.

“What’s the Buzz?” Party will happen on Tuesday 13th Dec with all students!

We’re on the downhill slope toward Christmas and the end of year (can’t stop now!) and I can feel the excitement and anticipation growing in the children. In the busy days and weeks ahead of parties, presents and pandemonium, it can be easy to “throw the baby out with the bath water”. Hopefully we can take time to stop and be still and reflect on the lasting, important things.

I leave you with these wise words:

“There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.”

Matthew 6: 26

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

Margaret Smith  (Pastoral Care Worker)

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**PCW CORNER**

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**Point to Ponder**

The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals.

Melody Beattie

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**LOST PROPERTY**

We have a large number of unnamed school jumpers in the lost property. Please ask at the front desk if you would like to check the lost property.
Another busy term has almost come to a close and before we know it the end of the year will be here. It has been fascinating to watch the students of the middle and upper primary class all grow and develop throughout this year. With 23 students squeezed into our classroom now it is a bigger class than we have had for many years, but the students never cease to amaze me with their ability to adapt, get along and co-exist so well as a diverse but cohesive group.

Congratulations to Luke who spent last week in Adelaide representing the Murray Mallee District in the SAPSASA Country Cricket Championships. I am sure he also represented our school with pride and that he displayed not only his great cricketing skills but also good sportsmanship. I know he told me that he particularly enjoyed the camaraderie of meeting and playing sport with so many new friends, and this is what SAPSASA is really all about. Well done Luke.

Last week we had a visit from Harry Beauchamp from the NRM Board at Murray Bridge, to facilitate another one of our highly engaging and successful Young Environment Leader forums. Not only was this our last YEL forum for the year, but also our final one with Harry, as he looks forward to retirement in 2017. I would like to thank Harry for the fantastic learning experiences he has given our students over the last two years. When we were the only school in our region that applied to be part of this program, Harry kindly offered to visit Geranium each term and present these sessions exclusively to our class. So instead of three or four students having to travel to Murray Bridge to attend forums we have been lucky enough to have the whole class involved and experience some great hands-on learning about the environment right here at school.

Last week’s YEL forum started with an interesting discussion about gardening by the phases of the moon. This tied in really well with our recent investigations into the moon in Science as well as our work on the school vegetable garden. Harry is keen to test out these theories when he has more time in his retirement and will let us know how successful it is. We then had fun with an Art from Nature exercise, which supports the program’s aim of connecting children with nature. The students created mandala artworks from natural items found in the schoolyard as well as a few manmade items, and came up with some very original creations.

Another Art project we worked on over the last couple of weeks was producing entries for an art competition run by Landcare, with the theme of Healthy People, Healthy Food, Healthy Country. This encompassed many topics we have worked on throughout the year from areas including Health, Science, and Design and Technology. The students completed some great work and a number of these have been posted off to Landcare, with the hope of winning some book vouchers for the artists.

As this is our last full newsletter for the year I would like to thank everyone who has put in another year of hard work and commitment in supporting our school and helping to make it a place of such great opportunities for our students. As the harvest and Christmas craziness cranks into full gear I hope you are all able to enjoy some wonderful times with your families over the coming couple of months.

Kind regards,

Kathryn Roberts and the MUP Class.
Junior Primary Class Update

I cannot believe this is going to be my last official newsletter report for 2016. I know we say this all the time but honestly, where has the time gone?

This year has been fast paced and jam packed but full of so much quality learning. I am extremely proud to see the progress of each student in our class from the beginning of the year to now and I have been very fortunate to see and experience, the development of their wonderful personalities. We often enjoy a great giggle!

For our last newsletter report, I wanted to capture some of the hands-on experiences we have been having during our learning times. It is a great snapshot to see how well our students collaborate and work with ANYONE throughout our school. It truly is like one big family!

We have enjoyed a lot of problem solving this term in Maths. We have been putting all the knowledge we have been building over the year and applying it for practical situations relating to numbers and money. It has been exciting watching students collaborate; supporting each other and offering new ways to solve problems if others are stuck. I’ve loved the struggled look on some student’s faces too because as we say: “a challenge is stretching our brain and making it stronger”.

For the last two weeks we have welcomed Axel, Jack and William into our classroom for transition sessions on Wednesdays. They have slotted right into our classroom already and the rest of the students have been so kind and caring to them. Last Thursday afternoon, we also invited the Kindy students over for our Shared Learning session. We did so much collaborating as we practised maths, physical activity and literacy skills through a Board Game Bonanza.

Thank you to all students for sharing about their favourite game in Daily News and to those we left their game to play – we had a ball of fun and gave Mrs. Piggott lots of laughs during our twister games.
Slightly aside from our class, this year I have loved teaching Digital Technologies to the MUP class. In the second semester we have enjoyed lots of practical learning and discovering the use of iPad’s in the curriculum. This term, the MUP students were sent to investigate movie-making opportunities on the iPad’s. Although they have still been in filming stages, the collaboration and creativity of the students is awesome. I can’t wait to see their finished products. While I have been taking the MUP class, the JP students have loved designing Pageant Floats with Mrs. Roberts.

I could go on forever about our amazing students but I will leave it at that. Some beautiful images of our students do what they often do best – get along.

Thank you to everyone who has made this year amazing for our Junior Primary students. Whether it has been supporting your child at home with their learning, volunteers coming in to read with our students, driving us to excursions, teaching us in our specialist teacher subjects, listening to us at assemblies, supplying us with recycled materials for craft, volunteering to clean out craft areas for us, maintaining our garden areas and playground equipment, running lunch orders and hot lunches days... whatever contribution you have made to our school and class this year, we cannot thank you enough.

Wishing you all a magical Christmas and I am looking forward to reporting to you again in our first 2017 newsletter report as I continue my time with the ‘Geranium Family’. And since “SEUSS” has been the theme of lots of things this term, I’ll leave you with my most favourite Christmas quote...

Until next year,

Miss. Lorelle Barton
Call for VACSWIM instructors

Are you an accredited swimming instructor? Are you available from 3-17 January? VACSWIM needs you! VACSWIM is seeking applications from eligible instructors for its regional water safety programs, running from 3-17 January. VACSWIM has been providing water awareness and skills to SA primary school children for more than 50 years, at more than 130 beach and pool locations statewide. And they can’t do it without you!

Find out more and sign up today at http://www.vacswimsa.com.au/employment/

Don’t miss out! VACSWIM enrolments closing soon!

Registrations for SA Water’s summer school holiday VACSWIM program are closing fast and families are reminded to book now before it’s too late! More than 13,000 primary school aged children are expected to take part in the summer water safety program at more than 130 pool and beach locations this January. Described as the best value-for-money holiday program with enrolment starting at $30/child, VACSWIM provides children with the opportunity to develop skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures. Enrolments close December 19 (which is very soon!). Don’t miss out, visit www.vacswimsa.com.au to register your child today!
Geranium Primary School
End of Year BBQ
and Year 7 Graduation

Tuesday 13th December 2016
6.30pm
All families are asked to bring a salad &
sweet to share. Meat provided for a gold
coin donation

A note will come home next week: please
RSVP via tear off slip by December 9th for
catering purposes
P&F will have drinks and chips for
sale $2.

Geranium Community
Christmas Tree

Please join us for the
Geranium Community Christmas Tree
Friday 16th December
Geranium Swimming Pool
At 6:00pm
Schnitzel & Salad Tea $6.00
Sausages in Bread $1.00
Strawberries & Ice cream $2.00
Swimming Carols Games & Lucky Dips
BYO Chairs & Drinks
Any questions Kelli 0412168762

KAROONDA
FARM FAIR
LIFE IN THE MURRAYLANDS
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

A COMPETITION FOR
PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL
THINGS MURRAYLANDS...
weather, people, animals,
Flora, architecture etc.

ENTRIES CLOSE 17TH MARCH 2017
ENTRIES CAN BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL OR POST

For entry form and more information:
Website: www.fairfarm.com.au
Email: shaneandsonmarcho@hotmail.com
Phone: 0400 284 468
Geranium Primary School Site Improvement Plan 2017

Learning for All, Learning for Life

I'm gutsy  |  I get along  |  I go for it  |  I'm creative  |  I'm curious
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### Targets

**Priority 1: LITERACY AND NUMERACY**
- All Year 1-7 students will work towards or achieve stanine 6 in PAT-R Comprehension and PAT Maths assessments by the end of 2017
- All students will work towards or achieve Running Records level 27 by the end of Year 3
- All students will meet DECD Standards of Educational Achievement in both English and Mathematics

**Key Strategies**
- Analysis of student data at least once a term, resulting in identification of all students with learning needs and appropriate support provided through the use of ILP’s and One Plans
- Whole school focus on quarantining literacy and numeracy time, allowing for minimal interruptions

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**Priority 2: STUDENT AND STAFF WELL BEING**
- The need for staff intervention in student friendship issues will noticeably reduce by the end of 2017
- Students will have opportunity to voice their opinions, concerns and ideas for the future at least once a term.
- Staff morale and satisfaction will be monitored each term, with appropriate actions taken

**Key Strategies**
- Provide learning opportunities to develop resilience and problem solving skills
- School wide whole year focus on respect – for each other and for resources

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**Priority 3: ICT**
- Technology will be maintained and repaired on a regular and needs basis
- Digital Technologies will be developed as a subject for all students, including skill assessment
- Teachers will confidently use ipads in many learning areas by the end of the year

**Key Strategies**
- Source an onsite IT person to provide support for ongoing difficulties with ICT network
- Ongoing PD for staff in use of smartboards, ipads and related technologies

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**Priority 4: ISOLATION AND DISTANCE**
- All students will participate in inter-school activities at least twice per year
- Staff will plan for at least 2 experiences/learning programmes in 2017 from outside the local community and not usually accessible
- Staff will collaborate with like staff from neighbouring sites, sharing skills and knowledge

**Key Strategies**
- Interschool activities between neighbouring schools and destination schools for both students and staff
- Excursions and incursions

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**Priority 5: LIFE LONG LEARNERS**
- The Learning Toolbox will be embedded in the curriculum and school dialogue, by the end of the year
- At least once a term, opportunities will be planned for students to work with community members in activities that contribute to the community

**Key Strategies**
- Develop an assessment tool to track student progress in the development of learning skills and resilience
- Investigate ways in which students can be involved in and contribute to the local and wider community
The Junior Primary Shop Day

Love shopping?  
Tired of all that loose change?  
Want a treat or a handmade craft item?  
Looking to support a good cause?

Well...

The Junior Primary Class students have created a class shop and are looking to work in it! We have been busy making biscuits, cupcakes, games and a variety of craft items to sell in our shop for your loose change. We have been very lucky to have support from community members and MUP students too. If you were planning on making/cooking something that we could sell – please speak to Miss. Barton ASAP!

When? **Wednesday** Week 8 (7th of December)

Time? During Recess and Lunch Times

What? If you wish, bring along **$2 or less to spend** on items in our class shop. Nothing costs over $2!

What are we doing with the money we raise, you ask?

We will be calculating how much money we have raised in our Maths lessons and donating it ALL to **Variety SA**!