Greetings

Welcome to the new school year! I trust you enjoyed a relaxing and rewarding holiday with family and friends and you are ready for the term ahead. It was lovely to greet all of the excited students as they arrived Tuesday morning. The Staff have been busy planning and preparing, and I know there are some fantastic opportunities and possibilities in store for 2015.

WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES
I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome our new students: Lucas, Claire and CJ, and to welcome our two new families, the Litchfields and Piggots to the GPS community.

FAREWELL
Unfortunately, it’s also time to farewell two parents who have made a huge contribution to the GPS community over many years – Michelle Hensel and Elise Wilson-Barrett. We are very sad to see them go, and thank them for all of the work they have put in to make GPS a great place for the children of this community.

GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM
Elections for Governing Council will occur on Wednesday the 18th February, at 7pm in the library. Please consider being involved in our Governing Council – it’s a great way to contribute to the school. We will have 7 parent positions open, so please give it some thought!

GOVERNING COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING
Our new Governing Council will have its first general meeting on the same night, following on from the AGM.

ACQUANTANCE NIGHT
Our Acquaintance night is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday 10th February, starting at 5.30 pm. This is a great opportunity to catch up with the other families and staff, and hear about what is planned in your child/ren’s classrooms and what the routines and expectations are.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
We will be joining again with Coonalpyn this year for our swimming carnival, and welcoming Raukken as a new addition. The Carnival will be on Thursday 12th February, at Coonalpyn Swimming Pool. As we did last year, all of the students will be divided into two teams, so that the competition is not between schools, but between teams made up from the three schools. This worked extremely well last year. As we did last year, it would be really helpful if parents could volunteer to help out with timing, judging, marshalling etc. We have included a tear off slip in this newsletter if you would like to help. We will send information about the student teams and the day schedule home next week. There will be a BBQ lunch available for purchase, as well as

Diary Dates Term 1
- Thurs 5th Feb: P&F AGM
- Tues 10th Feb: Acquaintance Night
- Thurs 12th Feb: Swimming Carnival Coonalpyn
- Wed 18th Feb: Governing Council AGM
- 2nd April: Student Free Day
- 3rd – 6th April: Easter

For more dates please refer to term plan attached
the normal items from the canteen. The school will cover the entry fee for the students, but spectators will need to pay the $3.00 fee. Season tickets do not apply. Please contact us if you have any questions.
We assume that most students will travel with their families to and from the pool. If you are unable to transport your child/ren, then it is particularly important for you to let us know if your child/ren will need to travel by bus to Coonalpyn. Please do this by Tuesday 11th February.
Remember, we invite you to join us not only for special events; the welcome mat is always ready and a phone call or note is all that’s needed to arrange a visit or chat with a staff member.

Ruth
Ruth Clothier
Principal

After School Swimming
Arlette Beelitz is willing to do after school swimming again, if there is the interest. This would be available either Wednesday or Friday, depending on the majority of parent preference, at 5.30pm. A minimum of 8 swimmers would be required to make this time viable.
Arlette has kindly volunteered her time and so there would be no cost to the lessons other than pool subscriptions or fees.
OHS&W requires at least one parent to assist with supervision. A health form must be completed for each swimmer. For those swimmers who may be interested in club competitions, they are eligible to join Mallee Swimming Club, even if they train at Geranium. That involves some cost.

GPS Governing Council
Have you ever wondered why a decision was made about a certain issue at school? Do you ever think there could be a better way of doing things? Well… don’t wonder any longer. Join us on Governing Council and you’ll discover how satisfying it is to be part of the discussions about our school, contributing to the shape of its future.

Governing Council makes it possible for parents and the community to:
- contribute to school based decision making at many levels
- be involved in establishing the shared values and expectations that guide the direction of the school
- work towards a shared responsibility and joint action for the education and care of all students.

**Wednesday 18th March** is an important date for parent participation in our school with the **Annual General Meeting of Governing Council** at 7.00pm in the Library.

The Geranium Primary School Governing Council comprises 11 elected and non-elected members. Non-elected members include the Principal (ex officio), plus co-opted representatives.

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 18th March**. We will have 7 parent positions vacant. Please consider either asking someone else to nominate you, or nominating someone else who you think would be great!

A nomination form for Governing Council is included in this newsletter. **We value your input and need your help!** It’s always the right time to become involved in your child’s schooling!

**Current Council Members are**
- Adam Morgan (chairperson)
- Elise Wilson-Barrett (Treasurer) retiring
- Denise Stephenson (Secretary) end of term
- Michelle Hensel retiring
- Richard Howard end of term
- Penny Temby end of term
- Sonia Broadbent end of term
- Ruth Clothier (Principal: ex-officio)
- Sandy Small (community representative)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Michelle Hensel and Elise Wilson-Barrett for the huge contribution they have made to both the Governing Council and Parents and Friends Group.
Aqua Aerobics comes to Geranium

Are you interested in signing up for aqua aerobics? We have a great opportunity for an instructor to visit Geranium for 5 weeks.

Mon 9th Feb 9am  
Mon 16th Feb 9am  
Mon 23rd Feb 9am  
Mon 2nd Mar 9am  
Wed 11th Mar 9am (Mon Public Hol)

Sessions will run for 45 minutes.

Cost is $37.50 for the 5 week block and fees will need to be paid upfront preferably with cash. Fees can be left in the gym marked with your name and marked ‘Aqua Aerobics’. Cost of swimming pool is $5 per session if you don’t have a subscription.

Please contact Tanja Morgan to book your spot. There is a minimum of 6 paid members for the sessions to proceed.

Contact Tanja on:
Home Phone: 8577 1651  
Mobile: 0429 395 918  
Email: northside5@bigpond.com

Materials and Services Charges 2015

Please Note: 2015 invoices were sent out yesterday. These charges can be paid either by cash, cheque or by direct credit to our bank account.

School card

The school card scheme provides financial relief for eligible low-income families in relation to school education costs. Parents and students can access school card information and forms at sa.gov.au or by contacting the school on 85772277 or School Card Section-1800672 758

As a guide the approval for school card will be dependent upon proof of family income 2013-2014 not exceeding the limits as indicated in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Children</th>
<th>Gross Annual Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$36576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$37574</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$38572</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>$39570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$40568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional child</td>
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</table>

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. Dental care is FREE for most children.

SA Dental Service participates in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

All dental care provided is FREE for preschool children.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, please visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

Peake & District Netball Club

Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 4th February @ 730 pm  
Agenda: Coaches Selection Assoc Info  
All welcome  
Apologies:  
Amanda Leibich 0439733171  
Hope Piggott: 0418480788
GPS NEWS IN BRIEF

Student numbers on 30.1.15
Junior Primary (Rec-2) 12
Primary (Yr 3-7) 15
TOTAL 27 students

Principal
Ruth Clothier

Teachers
Reception-Year 2 Lorelle Barton
Years 3-7 Kathryn Roberts
NIT: Arts Margie Smith
NIT: humanities Ruth Clothier
NIT: German Renate Lauterbach

SSO’s
Finance/FO/Admin Sue Jacob
School Support Anne Bond
Grounds Greg Turner
Community Library Bonnie Pfieffer
PCW Margie Smith
Swimming Cass Lutze
Pool Operators Tony Martin
Mark Dunn
Cleaner Trudie Colthorpe

HATS - SCHOOL SUN SMART POLICY
Exposure to the sun can be potentially dangerous. The GPS Sun Smart Policy has been developed to meet the safety and welfare needs of students and staff and encourages members of the school community to also wear protective hats in Terms 1 and 4 and appropriate clothing.

- Hats must provide protection to the sides of the face, nose, back of the neck and ears. Hats can be purchased at the Front Office.

2015 Term Dates
Term 1 27th Jan – 10th April – 11 weeks
Term 2 27th April – 3rd July – 10 weeks
Term 3 20th July - 25th Sept – 11 weeks
Term 4 12th Oct - 11th Dec – 9 weeks

PARENTS’ BBQ AND ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT
This will be held on Tuesday 10th February, beginning with a barbecue tea at 5.30pm. Families are asked to please bring a salad to share. For catering purposes please indicate on the reply form, included in this newsletter, if attending the BBQ. The BBQ will take place on the veranda between the two sections of the school.

Meet the Teachers
This is a great opportunity to meet the teachers, and other parents of students in your child’s class. During the classroom visit you will find out a little about how the classroom runs, ie expectations, routines and plans for the year, and how you can best support your child’s teacher in ensuring good learning outcomes.

The evening will conclude at 8.30pm so children can get home to bed ready and refreshed for a new day of learning and activity!

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

School Day
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>First bus arrives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>Students in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Healthy snack and recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Class resumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Supervised lunch eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:55</td>
<td>Class resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>Students dismissed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:55</td>
<td>Last bus departs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Students and staff are to wear protective hats and appropriate clothing when outdoors or stay in the shade.
- The type of hats to be worn is a broad brimmed or bucket style hat.
I ___________________________ am happy to help out at the swimming carnival on Thursday 12th February.

Signed: ..........................................................