Greetings:

Harmony Day, 21 March, celebrated Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. This year, the Harmony Day theme was ‘our diversity is our strength’.

As I reflected on this, I realised that this is something our students are working on all the time. It is in recognising and understanding that every person is different, and needs different levels and kinds of support, that we become strong.

In such a small community, we need to always be respecting each other, not just tolerating but celebrating our diversity and differences, and in doing this, our students become more resilient, and hopefully grow into strong, community minded individuals.

EQUALITY
EQUITY

I came across this picture that that I think clearly illustrates that what we are really striving for is equity, not necessarily equality. True equity is when every student is able to get what they need, enabling them to be on a level playing field with every other child.

SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our site improvement plan is complete, and has been approved by the Governing Council. A copy for each family has been included with this newsletter. As part of our plan, we have three documents for parents that help with supporting us in our literacy and numeracy targets. They are our English and Maths Agreements, and a new document: a guide to English Grammar and Punctuation, which outlines the grammar and punctuation skills in the Australian Curriculum. If you would like a copy of any of these documents, they are available in the front office.

Have a wonderful Easter break!

Regards,
Ruth
**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Our parent teacher interviews will be occurring on Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 11, the 12th and 13th of April. These are an important way for you to have some time with your child/ren’s teacher and discuss important issues and concerns. Students can be a part of these interviews if the parents would like them to be. **Please call Sue in the front office to book a time.**

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**P&F FUNDRAISING**

Our families have been fantastic in supporting the P&F fundraising activities this year – so much so that we sometimes get swamped with money! To make things easier and more streamlined, we are asking that if you are sending in a cheque or cash with your children, that you clearly label who the money is from, and for what project. You can also now make deposits online! The details are:

BSB 105-104
Account 384180140

After direct deposit, please send an email or SMS details of what the payment was for to Tanja Morgan, P&F Treasurer.
Email: northside5@bigpond.com
Mobile: 0429395918

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**HAESE MATHS BOOKS**

We have a number of year 5, 6 and 7 Haese Maths text books that we no longer require. These books can be very helpful in explaining various math concepts and strategies. If you would like to purchase one, simply let Sue know in the front office. They will be $10 each.

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**WANTED: HEADPHONES**

Do you have any over ear headphones that you no longer need? We need some extra pairs, so if you have some you don’t want, we would gladly give them a new home!
The wonder and awe on the children’s faces as the butterfly was released!!!!!!

This week the students would like to give you a summary of some of the great learning they have been doing.

In History I learnt that bushfires are nasty. In Western Australia their bushfires destroyed farmland and houses and machinery. After the fire they had to clean up. Sophie

In writing the Year 3’s and 4’s have been writing an adventure story on the computer. My story is about a girl that gets powers and becomes a super hero and saves eight people in one day. Jade

In History this term we have been learning what life would have been like in different countries. We have learnt about Ancient China and now we are going to be learning about Ancient Egypt. The Ancient Chinese invented the most modern inventions that are still used today, such as icecream. Luke

In Music I am learning the clarinet and it is really challenging. We have learned E, F and G and we are learning C and D. It is really cool. Matthew

In History this term we have been learning about floods. Floods destroy lots of houses, buildings and cars. Floods are very dangerous and people can lose their lives. A flood is when there is lots of rain and the water level creeps up higher and higher every day. A flood is a natural disaster. Hayden

In Literacy with Miss Clothier we have been reading a Narnia book called The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. We have been writing narratives in the same layout CS Lewis used. It has been really fun writing my narrative about a boy that gets into a war with a person called Evil Pacman. Harrison

A chrysalis is like a sleeping bag. The caterpillar makes this sleeping bag when it is ready to turn into a butterfly. When the butterfly comes out of its chrysalis its wings will be crinkled and very small. The sun warms its wings and makes them grow. Shianne

In History and Geography we have been learning about Australian money. We chose a person from a note and found out about them. We have also done some projects on sailors. This week we did some Harmony Day activities. We painted everyone’s hands and we are going to make them into a map of Australia. Jasmine and Lilly

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On the 18th of March I went to the Adelaide Aquatic Centre for SAPSASA swimming. I was in the 12 year old girls relay and I was the third swimmer. The other team members were Elli Jenzen, Britt Baks and Tess Huxtable. Our team came second in our heat and overall we came 4th by a fingernail! It was that close. The day was great and I was very lucky to get the opportunity. Olivia

Congratulations to Olivia for competing as a member of the Murray Mallee SAPSASA swimming team at the Country Championships in Adelaide. Our district convenor, Krystina Durdin, complimented the team on their performance, placing 11th out of 19 teams, which was the best result achieved for some time, and also on their excellent conduct throughout the day. Olivia’s freestyle relay team finished a very creditable 4th place.
I hope you all have an enjoyable time over the Easter break and get the opportunity to relax with family and friends and enjoy the lovely Autumn weather.

Regards,

Kathryn Roberts

Wishing Students and their families a Happy Easter. We’ve had fun this week with Easter activities

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**Easter foil recycling challenge**

Did you know that you can recycle aluminium foil sheets in your recycling bin? If you collect sheets of foil and make them into balls about the size of a baseball they can be recycled successfully, whereas single sheets of foil clog up the recycling machine!

This Easter please save all of your foil chocolate wrappers and send them into school. The Lower Murray Natural Resources Centre in Murray Bridge has set local schools a challenge to see who can collect the largest ball of foil after Easter, with a prize for the winning school. Just send your sheets of Easter foil to school and we will add them to our ball! We can accept foil up until Wednesday 13th April (Week 11).

Thankyou.

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**Health**

In Health this term our learning has been focussed on ‘Who am I?’ and ‘Friendships’. We have spent a great deal of time talking about thankfulness and positive mindsets. Over the last two weeks we began recording our thankfulness in our own ‘Gratitude Journals’. Our aim is to start making it a daily occurrence. It has been lovely to see students consider things they are lucky to have in their lives and really consider making a positive change or use positive words when working with partners and when they are feeling stuck or “gloomy”.

An important part of our classroom is our “Partnerships”. Each week students are randomly placed together with a new partner for the week. This is their partner for everything that occurs during the week: discussions, partner work activities, lining up, classroom jobs and sitting together. I use this as a way to show that in our world, we will have to work and co-operate with lots of different people and need to work positively and work through problems with whomever. This has been a great way to see students develop teamwork and friendship skills during our Health focus.

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An exciting Easter activity with Mrs Lauterbach, colouring in, making and hanging Easter eggs on our tree.

Happy Easter

In German this week we have learnt about Easter associated words and we have also learnt about numbers. We made paper eggs to hang on the Osterbow (Easter Tree). We coloured in the patterns on the eggs and cut them out. In numbers we learnt to count to 100 in German, we also learnt that they say the units before the tens (24 - “4 & 20”).

-Emelia & Amy

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**Junior Primary Class Update**

Frohe Oster!
Easter

Easter has reached us quickly and we have had many exciting Easter themed activities happening throughout this week. Students have made chickens, learnt about “Frohe Ostern!” in German, participated in Easter themed fitness relays, picked carrots from the Vegetable Garden, completed a creative writing activity about the Easter Bunny, painted watercolour bunnies, made Easter bonnets and went on a parade AND we have gone on an Easter egg hunt. But, did you know that the Easter Bunny also gave us a surprise visit at school? We were thrilled that the Easter Bunny visited us in our classroom and made an egg hunt for us at school today. How lucky are we!

For our creative writing task we were asked to think about... What does the Easter Bunny do for the rest of the year, when it is not Easter? We had a very funny discussion about what the Easter Bunny must get up to on his time off. You can see our writing responses and bunny paintings outside our classroom. However, here are our responses below:

- I think the Easter Bunny gets baby bunnies to make eggs. – Claire

- I think the Easter bunny would help the other Easter Bunnies make the Easter eggs. But, when it is Easter the other Easter Bunnies do the Easter eggs by themselves. I think the Easter Bunny would make 100 eggs. – Matilda
• I think the Easter Bunny plays 3DS and has a drink. – C.J.

• I think the Easter Bunny shoots foxes. – Lucas

• I think the Easter Bunny gets to go to his grandpa’s. Ezra

• He plays Mickey Mouse games at home. – Henry W

• The Easter Bunny has a sleep. – Henry P

• I think the Easter Bunny has a coffee. – Declan

• I think he plays his D.S. – Brayden

• I think that Easter Bunny goes to the scrub and relaxes. – Tom

• I think the Easter Bunny watches the movie Frozen. – Ruby

• I think the Easter Bunny is watching us if we are good and makes the eggs and keeps safe and does an Easter hunt and plays in puddles. – Kiara

• I think the Easter Bunny stays at his home and watches channel 99. – Charlie

• The Easter Bunny jumps in puddles. I think the Easter Bunny runs around in circles. – Sophie

• I think that the Easter Bunny makes all the eggs. – Bonnie
Our Science learning was perfectly timed around Easter as we talked this week about life cycles. Focussing on our new topic “Minibeasts”, we learnt about butterflies this week, made butterfly life cycles and created our own fancy butterflies. We were also fortunate enough to view a butterfly in its chrysalis on Tuesday and see it when it hatched on Wednesday and then on Thursday we all went out and saw it be released. Thank you to everyone who has brought in some insect related items to share already. We were very excited to have a live stick insect and some beetles come into our class for observations.

Have a safe and relaxing Easter weekend, hopefully spent with family and loved ones.

Until next time,

Miss. Lorelle Barton

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What beautiful Autumn weather we are having - and after such good rains too! I love this “mellow” season: one for taking time to listen to the magpies, soak in some sun and enjoy cooler evenings.

Finally, the Middle Upper Primary Class, Pea pod has arrived and it will be good to see it being used in the classroom. The Junior Primary class has already been using theirs. Pea pods look like inflatable canoes (they are in the shape of a pea pod) and are a tool for teachers to use with students who need deep pressure and “centering” their energy. In Term 2, I hope to do a presentation for parents and interested community members on: The Alert Programme: How does your engine run? (which promotes the use of pea pods!)

I need to apologise for the Pancake Breakfast that didn’t happen last Friday. There were a series of circumstances which prevented it from happening and I thank Ruth, Kathryn and Lorelle for stepping in and making vegemite toast! We are all very lucky/blessed (whichever word you prefer) to have such fantastic teachers and support staff. The care and commitment that our staff demonstrates is fantastic.

My health hasn’t been so good in the last month which has meant that I have missed a couple of weeks of school. It’s also meant that I have had to step back and simplify some of what I do at Geranium in order to conserve energy. Something that I’m learning is that when you are in a caring/ compassionate role (that covers all parents, grand- parents and anyone involved with children) it’s easy for your “tank” (energy) to run quite low or empty. This is when we need to do a bit of self care to “re-fill the tank”. If you are feeling like your ‘tank is getting low”, I urge you also, to take time for yourselves. It’s not being selfish. It’s caring for you, so that you can care for others. This Easter weekend, do the things that make you smile and feel alive. Allow your tanks to be refilled.

Winnie the Pooh and Piglet have some wisdom to share on being present:
“What day is it?”
“It’s today” squeaked Piglet.
“My favourite day” said Pooh.

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

Margaret Smith,
(Pastoral Care Worker)

P.S Thank you to those people in the community who have donated crafty things and a tea set for the PCW room! 😊
Induction of Class Captains and Ministers for 2016

**Pancake Breakfast**

Tuesday 12th April
As buses arrive at school, all students and staff will be given a delicious pancake breakfast, supplied by the PCW Support Group.

‘MOTHER’S DAY’ movie fundraiser

PEAKE & DISTRICT NETBALL CLUB

Friday APRIL 29 6:45pm
MT BARKER Wallis Cinema

tickets $20, please book and pay, by Sat April 23

to Athalie McArdle 0467 584 248