Greetings,
The term is fast coming to a close, and things are speeding up. The teachers are busy assessing and writing reports, and the students are busy doing their assessments! We have found time however, to do some other things.

SAPSASA
Congratulations to Trent Stephenson, Luke Stephenson and Tom Barrett who participated in the cross country championship in Oakbank, and completed the course. Well done boys!

PUPIL FREE DAY
Our students live in, and are moving towards an increasingly complex world, where teaching them content is simply not enough. Our task, as people who care for children, is to teach them skills that they can use in any new learning situation they find themselves in.

The skills you can learn when you’re at school will be obsolete by the time you get into the workplace—except one: the skill of making the right response to situations for which you have not been specifically prepared.
Prof Seymour Papert, Co-founder, MIT Robotics Lab, 1998

During our Pupil Free Day, the Kindy and School staff met together and looked at how we can further grow and develop our students’ thinking and learning skills, from Kindy right through to Year 7. We have begun working on a thinking skills toolbox, that hopefully will become an idea and language that all students understand and can use, to talk about how they think about situations and problems. We will continue to report to you as we work on implementing it in the Kindergarten and classrooms.

It is better to know how to learn, than to know Dr Seuss

GPS READING CUP
We already have a number of children who have read for 100 nights – well done to Libby Broadbent, Sophie Temby, Harrison Temby, Jessica Broadbent, Tracey Williams, Olivia Howard and Tyson Stewart. And THANK YOU to the families who support their children in reading every night. Listening to your child read, and reading to them are vital for the development of their reading skills. Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out print. Through hearing
stories, children are exposed to a rich and wide vocabulary helping them to build their own vocabulary. It’s important for them to understand how stories work as well. Even if your child doesn’t understand every word, they’ll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard. As they begin to read more to you, you become a coach, gently helping them with difficult vocabulary, and asking questions to deepen their understanding and enjoyment. **ABOVE ALL, READING AT HOME SHOULD BE ENJOYABLE.** If it becomes a battle ground, stop. Think about what is causing the battle. Talk to us here at school, so that a solution can be found. Reading for enjoyment is our goal.

**EXTREME READING**
Our extreme reading challenge is coming to an end! If you had an idea for a photo that you would like to add to our collection, you’ve only got a couple of weeks left – don’t miss out.

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**SCHOOL PRIDE**
School Pride is on again next Tuesday. If you’re available, and would like to lend a hand, we would love to have you.

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**REPORTS**
Our end of semester written reports will be coming home in the last week of this term. This year, all learning areas, apart from German, will be assessed using the Australian Curriculum achievement standards, which describe the expected level of achievement at the end of the student’s current year level (e.g. Year 5 student assessed against the Year 5 Achievement Standard). In these middle of year reports, the assessment of learning is based on the work students have completed so far. It is a requirement for all schools in Australia to report student achievement according to the following grade scale. Please keep this in mind when reading your child’s report in Week 10.

**Levels of Achievement:**
A Demonstrating excellent achievement of what is expected at this year level
B Demonstrating good achievement of what is expected at this year level
C Demonstrating satisfactory achievement of what is expected at this year level
D Demonstrating partial achievement of what is expected at this year level
E Demonstrating minimal achievement of what is expected at this year level

Please remember that although we have these formal reporting opportunities, we encourage you to make contact at any time to discuss your child’s progress. Simply call or send a note to arrange a visit or chat. We value and welcome your input!

‘sParental engagement is a powerful lever for raising student achievement in schools. Where parents and teachers work together to improve learning, the gains in achievement are significant.’

2007 Research for DCSF by Professor Alma Harris and Janet Goodhall, University of Warwick ‘Engaging Parents in Raising Achievement’

Regards,

Ruth

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**Upper Primary Class Update**
As part of our learning in Literacy this term the Year 3, 4 and 5 students have been investigating information texts. We have studied different types of newspaper and
television reports, and looked at their structure and purpose. Each student wrote their own report to contribute to our class newspaper, The GPS Gazette. The first edition of the Gazette is hot off the presses and features articles about school events and personalities, sport, cooking, a movie review and an interview with a local farmer. The students did a wonderful job of conducting interviews and writing interesting articles in report format.

Our Science strand this term has been Living Things. One of our early activities was to examine bean seeds and consider whether they are living things or non-living (any thoughts?) We then germinated some seeds in various controlled conditions and recorded their growth, finding that those placed in a dark cupboard germinated and grew much faster than any others! Our broad-beans are now thriving in pots outside and will be planted in the vegetable garden when a bed is ready.

I recently witnessed the class practicing their amazing circus skills in Active After Schools time with Mrs Heather Wait. I can’t wait to see their performance at the final assembly for the term, on Friday 4th July, and hope that some of you can join us.

Skills:
Matthew testing out his circus skills.

Kathryn Roberts

CPSW CORNER
“What’s the Buzz?” is moving along with lots of fun and learning for all involved. This week we are learning what being a good friend is all about. I’m really enjoying the discussions, role playing and games with the children.

Next Wednesday, June 25th, don’t forget the Coffee Night and Clothing Swap to be held from 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm at the Geranium Uniting Church to raise funds for the CPSW Programme at Geranium Primary School. More importantly, it’s an opportunity for people in this community to meet in a relaxed way over a coffee!

There has been much discussion in the media about school chaplaincy following the May Federal Budget. The National Schools Chaplaincy Association has put a document together to address these issues and questions. Please look at this document for information around chaplaincy at http://g.suqld.org.au/1kLUib. I have printed off a copy of this document and if anyone would like a copy, please let me know.

Last week I attended a workshop run by SMG (Schools Ministries Group ~ my employer) which was all about restoring balance in life. This interactive workshop looked at the balance between caring for others and caring for self through boundaries and strategies to stay the distance. Just as boundaries are necessary for children, adults also need boundaries in which to live. Knowing when to say “no” can be a difficult thing but is the first step in self-care. I leave you with this little pearl;

“A “no” uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a “yes” merely uttered to please, or worse, to avoid trouble.” M. Gandhi

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

Margaret Smith
Christian Pastoral Support worker

Geranium Primary School Students taking part in What’s the Buzz?
Math Madness…
This week in Maths we have moved away from our shape adventures and have begun to look at data and how to represent data. We are working on the Mental Routine, Graphs, to practice using the language of data, less than, more than and equal to. This week we have collected data about our daily routines and looked at how to put this data into a picture graph.

As a class we are also investigating the following question: If we practice a skill every day, for two weeks, will we get better at it? We are practicing a variety of skills from star jumps and getting across monkey bars, to shooting netball goals and running laps around the oval. We are even timing ourselves to see if we make any improvements and are recording this data.

Our class survey shows that, 9 of us believe that our skills will be improved but 6 believe they won’t. I wonder who will be right…

RIGHT: On Day 2 Shianne took 9.3 seconds to get across the monkey bars.

Extra! Extra! Tell all about it!
In Daily News we have been sharing our favourite books. Students have had a wonderful time, sharing these books with one another, and we have especially enjoyed reading them throughout the week as a class. Here are some books that the Junior Primary students recommend you read:

- 10 Silly Wombats
- The Where’s Wally? Series
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Pedal Prix
Last Sunday Trent, Beau and Joe went up to Adelaide to do Pedal Prix. At the start Mr Roberts forgot to do up the back tyre on one of the bikes and it fell off right at the start! It was a long, cold and foggy day. Trent and Beau did eight laps and Joe did 7 laps of the Adelaide track. Their car came 35 out of 68 cars in their division, and Mr Roberts got Trent to finish the race. They all thought it was fun and would like to do the next races.

Beau and Trent

School Captain and Minister Report
At our last meeting with Miss Clothier, we discussed two main things – getting some outdoor fitness equipment for our playground, and a casual day on the last day of this term.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment
We discussed some ways to raise money towards getting some outdoor fitness equipment for our playground. This equipment would be great for our older students to use, and also community members who come and use the gym. We have already written to various local businesses inviting them to sponsor a piece of equipment. The other ideas we came up with were:

1. Putting a spare change tin at the front office and maybe at the shop – feel free to fill the tin with your spare change.
2. Collecting refundable cans and cartons to get the refunds. If you would like to donate cans and cartons from home, please let Miss Clothier know.

Casual Day
On the last day of term we will be having a Wild West casual day, with a gold coin donation to join in. This donation will be a fundraiser for SCOSA (previously known as Spastic Centres of South Australia). SCOSA need help in funding their buses to take people with disabilities to events and activities. It costs $250.00 to keep 10 of their vans on the road each day. Our fundraising will help towards that cost.

Lorelle Barton

Joe and Tyson
SANFL SEASON TICKETS
Geranium Primary School has been lucky enough to receive two SANFL season tickets for 2014. The tickets give you entry to SANFL Minor Round League Matches at all suburban ovals including Adelaide Oval. If you would like to borrow the tickets for a weekend please contact the school. The tickets must be returned after each match.

LIBRARY BAGS FOR SALE
Parents and Friends are making drawstring library bag. The bags are being sold for $5.00 per bag, and are made out of green and white fabric to match the school colours. The bags are kindly being made by Sonia Broadbent. There is an example of the bag at the front office for you to have a look at. If you would like to make an order please complete the tear off slip in this week’s newsletter.

BreastScreen SA
The BreastScreen SA Mobile Screening Unit is visiting Lameroo, from early July until mid July 2014. Woman aged 50 to 69 years are welcome to come along and see the screening unit for their two-yearly screening mammogram. It’s free and only takes 15 minutes. You can make a booking with a friend, family member or group. It’s the best way of detecting breast cancer early. The mobile screening unit will be located by the Council Office in Lameroo. To book an appointment or to find out more information phone 13 20 50.

THE COONALPYN BLUE LIGHT DISCO
Friday 20th June, 2014
7.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Coonalpyn Hall
$5.00 entry
Youths - 6 - 17 years of age.
Locked in
Nibbles and drink available for purchase
SUPPORTED BY COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL AND LOCAL BUSINESSES
DJ - BORG

VACSWIM
The dates for the summer holiday VACSWIM programme are 15th – 23rd December. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC
The State Government is constructing a new dental clinic at 45 Beatty Terrace, Murray Bridge. It is expected to open mid July 2014. The new clinic will allow the community to receive their dental service from this site. Children who currently attend the Murray Bridge South school dental clinic will now be invited to receive their care at the Murray Bridge Community Dental Clinic. As a consequence the School Dental Service Clinic will close. More information will be provided when a firm closure date has been determined. During the moving phase emergency care will be available at the Mt Barker School Dental Clinic – ph 8391 0858. This clinic is open 5 days/week 8.30am-4.30pm. If you have any concerns or comments please contact the Local Operations Manager Robyn Cummings on 8391 1536 or the Director Clinic Operations Jenny Dickson on 8222 9021.

THE WILD WEST
DATE: Friday 4th July
COST: Gold coin donation, to be donated to SCOSA (Spastic Centres of SA)
MATHS MENTAL STRATEGY

Adding Zero: the concept of zero is important for children to understand, but can be difficult. In particular, it is quite common for students to add 1 rather than leaving the result unchanged. You can support their understanding by:

- Using marbles or other materials to act out problems, emphasising that zero means nothing.
- Practise with a number plus zero, and then zero plus a number. I.e. $8 + 0 = 8$, then $0 + 8 = 8$.
- Make sure you use the word ‘zero’, as well as other words i.e. nought, nothing, none.
- Be careful that the student doesn’t confuse the letter o with the number 0.

Joe Howard in the SAPSASA Murray Mallee Football team.