Greetings:

Two weeks ago all Principals across our Partnership met with Jayne Johnston (Chief Education Officer of DECD) and Anne Millard (Executive Director, School and Preschool Improvement) to talk about what we are doing within our sites to improve outcomes for all of our students. Out of this review we were given 3 recommendations:

1. Build capacity to support all learners to SACE completion.
2. Work collectively to build consistently high community and teacher expectations of all learners to strengthen their aspiration and perseverance in particular.
3. Work as a partnership towards retaining as many learners in the higher bands for numeracy as for literacy - build competence and confidence in mathematical skill of teachers.

You as parents and community can assist us in each of these recommendations, but particularly the second recommendation. It is our duty as adults in the community to show real value in education, continual learning, perseverance and resilience in everything we do, role modelling and instilling these values in our students. The school and community need to work in partnership to achieve this for all our students.

Last week, the Partnership met with Governing Council representatives to discuss the directions our Partnership should take, and again, how we can work in partnership to ensure the best outcomes for our children. More on that meeting will be communicated when it is completed.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are in the process of reviewing our 2016 year, in preparation for planning 2017. An integral part of our review is the parent survey, which gives you an opportunity to feedback on our performance and progress from a parent’s perspective. This information is really important and valuable in helping us set goals for 2017. Please take the time to fill it in – it’s all online so does not take more than about 10 minutes. If online is difficult for you, let us know and we can give you a paper copy. The link is: https://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/v3kAQjKX

access code: tbaQPN6h
In addition, we will be holding a **parent workshop** early next term where we will look at student achievement data and the responses to surveys to also help guide us in writing our 2017 site improvement plan. It would be great if you could join us for that as well.

To tie in with our planning for 2017 it is essential that we gauge our student enrolments as accurately as possible, as our staffing allocation and class configurations are reliant on this figure. If you know of any changes to enrolments or of any families moving into the area, please contact the school.

Several **maintenance issues** will be addressed at the school during the school holidays. Lighting is being upgraded in the secondary block, so that area is closed for the duration of the holidays. The brick wall between the main building and the secondary block is being upgraded, so there will be demolition works happening, and the entire site will be closed for asbestos removal on Tuesday the 11th. Please remember too, that if there is a reason for you to be on site, that the Principal needs to be notified.

And finally, our **Carboot Sale** last Sunday was a lot of fun, and it was great to see the confidence of our students in chatting to people and giving them the ‘hard sell’! Congratulations to them, because we raised $160 to go towards our concert costs!

**Regards,**

Ruth

---

**STOP PRESS!**

We have been extremely fortunate, and successfully gained a grant from the **Barnados Children’s Support Program.** This grant will enable us to employ Footsteps, a Dance Company, to come next week to run two full day workshops with all of our students. These workshops will be conducted on Thursday and Friday, and will focus on preparing an item for our school concert.

**VERY EXCITING!**

---

**CHEAP AS CHIPS**

With school photos coming up and ideal opportunity to purchase school rugby tops available now for just $10.

Wide variety of sizes from 4 up.

Payment must be made prior to or at pick up.

Contact Denise Stephenson for further info. 0417 087 445

---

**Ever considered being a foster carer?**

More foster carers are always needed to provide a safe and nurturing home for children and young people while their own families are unable to care for them. Whether it’s a weekend, a fortnight, a month or longer, any amount of your time could really make a difference. The government’s Choose to Care campaign encourages people to become foster carers and bring hope to a young life. Phone 1300 2 367 837 or visit www.fostercare.sa.gov.au for more information.

---

**Points to Ponder**

**Possibility must be the norm.**

Phil Brown

We innovate because opportunity, well-being success, learning, inclusion and excellence are not available to all.

John West-Burnham

---
Playground Materials

Our imaginative play items are becoming a bit battered and broken, so we are putting out a call for any plastic or metal kitchen items that could be donated for our playground. Items such as saucepans, bowls, cutlery, cups etc that the children can use in their imaginary games. All greatly appreciated!
I can’t believe this is already the last report for the term (phew!). But seriously, where has the time gone? We have battened down to hatches the last few weeks on concert rehearsal and I appreciate any time you have already put in to look for costumes, props, practise lines with your children (if they have some) and I’m sure… putting up with them singing or practising some dances at home. Concert is a wonderful time of year that incorporates so many subject areas together and I am always amazed at how much talent we have here at GPS.

**Just a reminder that all students need to have black pants or tights and a black or white t-shirt to wear for the concert.**

Next term, I will post some photos of hairstyles we would love for you to try with your kids, so they can come to the concert with hair already done. We are thinking anything, big, colourful, spiky, wild and wacky. Keep a look out for next terms notices.

In other news, we have been busy wrapping up our learning for the term. Here’s a sneak peek of some learning occurring...

**Wombat Stew – Reading and Writing Procedural Texts**

Over the last few weeks we have looked at writing procedures and incorporated this learning with our focus on Australia and The Olympics. We used an Australian animal to help us learn the steps to a procedure. Whilst learning about Wombats, we read the text *Wombat Stew* and broke down the components of a procedural text to write a procedure for Wombat Stew and our very own Kid Stew. Then we had lots of fun making pretend (mud, leaves, water, flowers and gumnuts) and real (chocolate drops, mousse, lolly snakes) versions of Wombat Stew. **Yum and FUN!**

**Oobleck! – Science**

Ooey, gooey slime was the fun for Science this week. Inspired by Dr. Seuss ‘ text *Bartholomex and the Oobleck*’ we investigated how to make Oobleck and had a very messy play. As a group we made an ingredients list after watching a Oobleck Science video and then wrote down the steps to the experiment. In small teams we followed the steps closely to create our own versions of Oobleck and spent a while playing. Students were fascinated with how the Oobleck was both a solid and a liquid depending on the way you moved it. Why not try this at home with 1 and half cups of cornflour, water and a few drops food colouring.

**Postman Pat, Postman Pat, Postman Pat and his black and white hat! – Writing Centre/People who help us in Health**

Following on from our health topic of People Who Help Us and looking at people in our community who help, we have introduced a Post Box into our writing centre. This has proved to be very popular and I have enjoyed seeing students have a go at writing in this station through writing letters to their peers or teachers. Each night these letters are mailed to the student pigeon holes for them to open during “Mail Time”. It has been super special watching students respond to each other, use so many writing strategies without assistance AND be so enthused. Don’t be alarmed if many handwritten notes or hand-made books come home in school bags as this has been a very exciting station at the moment!
Another busy term has almost come to a close and we are all looking forward to some exciting happenings next week, followed by a chance to unwind and relax in the holidays.

Our instrumental music students have been making great progress throughout the year and next Tuesday they will travel to Lameroo to participate in a workshop and concert with the Riverland Primary Concert Band. This will be a wonderful opportunity for them to experience the sounds of playing with a larger group and hearing just what is possible with their instruments.

We wish the best of luck to our four class members who were selected onto the SAPSASA district athletics team to compete at the championships in Adelaide next Monday. In their respective age groups, Luke is competing in the 800 metres, Olivia in 100 and 200 metres and relay, Emelia in the relay and Oscar in discus, 100 metres and relay. Luke has also recently been selected onto the district cricket team and will compete at the country championships in Adelaide next term.

This Wednesday afternoon 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. In line with our Design and Technology focus this term on food and fibre production, Harry conducted some activities around the resources that are used to produce our food. We had the opportunity to have a go at rating different foods on how much water is used to produce them and were staggered to find out the figures for some common foods. The production of just one egg apparently uses over 200 litres of water in a commercial situation! We discovered that generally plant based foods use less water to produce than animal based ones.

In the second activity we had to try and identify bags of seeds and grains of various cereal and pulse crops and work out what products these were used to make. We learnt about the value of looking after our soils and why farmers need to rotate the crops they grow, as well as environmentally friendly ways to grow our own food gardens. These hands-on activities are a truly valuable way for our students to learn about what goes into primary production and, in conjunction with the research on our Design and Tech topics, I’ve seen a very real and growing interest among the students.

Kind regards,

Kathryn Roberts and the MUP Class.
In “What’s the Buzz?” - Social skills learning, we have covered:
* Worry
* Following Instructions
* Empathy
We have also continued talking about ways of switching on positive thinking and switching off negative self-talk.
Our students have come up with little posters of how positive thoughts look.
Here is Tonisha’s!

Thank you to the ladies in the Pastoral Care Programme who volunteered their time and assisted with cup-cake making. It was great fun and hopefully some of the cakes made it home!
We will have another cup-cake day next Wednesday for the students who didn’t do it this week.

I keep all staff and families of Geranium Primary school in my prayers,

Margaret Smith (PCW)

P.S. “GO!! All the Geranium students at SAPSASA Athletics on Monday” :}

At Coomandook we learnt how to weigh pigs which was fun. I got to use a giant sack trolley to move the scales.

Jack
Lets get together and connect
This is not a Ladies Night
Blokes you’re welcome COFFEE NIGHT

TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER  7-9 PM
Geranium Uniting Church
Hosted by the Geranium Primary School
Pastoral Care Work Program
Entertainment & live acoustic music
Contact Marg Smith for more info
8577 2216

FAMILY FUN DAY
FRI 14th October
10AM—2PM
Start Reserve Murray Bridge
Registration Essential

If you live in Coorong Region
Please contact The Tickle-Bear
Community Centre for Registration Details & Bus Departure Times
On: 8572 3513

If you live in Murray Bridge / Goolwa Region
Please contact ac care Communities for Children
Tas. for Registration Details
On: 8572 1003

If you live & Well Murray Region
Please contact The Women’s Community Hub
For Registration Details & Bus Departure Times
On: 8505-1050

Final Reminder.
Please let Marg Smith know if you’re coming.

FAMILY PICNIC DAY
@ BERLINGS CARRIAGE
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH
10:00 AM- 4 PM
All Welcome

TIQBIZ
As Tiqbiz is becoming our main form of communication please feel free to use Tiqbiz one on one messaging with Sue, instead of returning hard copies of notices that come out in the Newsletter.

GYM WILL BE UNAVAILABLE
FROM 30TH SEP TO 17TH OCT AS THE SECONDARY BLOCK’S LIGHTS ARE BEING REFURBISHED

OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR USE BUT PLEASE NOTE WHOLE SCHOOL GROUNDS WILL BE CLOSED ON 11TH OCT 8.30 – 11 AM FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL.
Music Lessons

I am a qualified degree teacher with 10 years of experience in teaching, having specialized specifically in teaching children instrumental music lessons. I have taught Music in numerous schools as well as on a private basis. I have recently moved to Loxton and am offering the following Private Music tuition lessons:

- **Group guitar lessons (max 3 children in a group)**: $15 per half hour lesson
- **Individual one on one Piano lessons**: $22 per half hour lesson
- **Individual guitar lessons**: $22 per half hour lesson
- **Recorder group lesson (max 3 children in a group)**: $15 per half hour lesson

WHERE: At Geranium Primary School
WHEN: Every Tuesday during the school day!
If you are interested please contact Liesel Joosten on 0497600195

---

Murray Districts Coaching Academy

An exciting opportunity has presented itself for all junior cricketers to participate in the Murray Districts Coaching Academy. Players will be exposed to high level coaching and given ways to improve no matter what their level. Players 18 years and under are encouraged to attend.

- The Academy will also double as the selection trials for the under 14 and 16 Country Cup teams. (Players only need to attend one but may need to choose to attend both)
  - Thursday 6 October (Loxton Oval), 10 – 2pm
  - Friday 7 October (Lameroo Oval), 10 – 2pm

- A one-day intensive coaching program designed to help junior cricketers of any level
- There will be 2 days available to choose from. Players only need to attend one but may choose to attend both. Players only charged for lunch to attend second day.
- Coaching will be provided by Appleton Sports along with SACA.
- Cost: No more than $33 (Lunch Provided)

For more information go to cricketsa.com.au or call 0400 368 222

---

7 Seminars exploring issues of mental health

**Presenter**: Rev Mark Boyce (19 years as Uniting Church Mental Health Chaplain)

**When**: Session 1 Thursday the 13th of October 7:00pm – 9:00pm

What is good mental health and what causes mental health issues?

**Session 2** Thursday the 20th of October 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Depression: more than just the blues. Suicide, the elephant in the room!

**Session 3** Thursday the 27th of October 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Anxiety: Dealing with the thoughts that keep us stuck in a cycle of doom!

**Session 4** Thursday the 3rd of November 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Dealing with difficult people.

**Session 5** Thursday the 10th of November 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Psychosis, what do you mean?

**Session 6** Thursday the 17th of December 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Bipolar: Managing the roller coaster

**Session 7** Thursday the 4th of December 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Graying and Mental Health

**Where**: Murray Bridge Uniting Church, Narroona Bid Murray Bridge

Everyone is welcome (Enquiries Phone 0466 411 784)