As we come to the end of the 2014 year, I’d like to thank two special people who won’t be with us next year. Firstly, thank you so much to Sue Evans, who has volunteered with us this year, giving much valued support to both our students and staff, working with individual children and in the classroom, and also giving Sue Jacob some valuable time away from the front desk. I would also like to thank Emily Schulz who has done an outstanding job as our PE and Arts teacher this year. The students have loved working with her, and she will be sorely missed, but we wish her all the best in her full-time role at Coonalpyn.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our school council – Beau and Trent as school captains, Joe as the minister of sport, and Tyson as the minister of activities. The boys have taken their roles seriously, and given much thought to how the school can improve from a student’s perspective.

Swimming Pool

During our last week, we will be looking to take classes to the pool during school time. All students are able to bring their bathers when the forecast temperature is above 35° at Lameroo, or alternatively, you could send in some bathers and leave them in your child’s locker. Please note all classes do require extra supervision for swimming lessons, so if you might be able to help, please contact your child’s class teacher.

Drinking water

While the taste of the water does seem to have improved a little, please ensure that your child brings a full drink bottle with them each day, if they are unwilling to drink from the fountain.
Parent opinion survey
Thank you to all those who responded to our Parent Opinion Survey. Your views are valued, and will be an important part of the information use to develop our strategic plan for the next few years.

Principal Performance Appraisal
A short while ago we sent home a Principal Appraisal survey which you were invited to fill out. As I draw to the close of my first year as Principal, it would be really helpful for me to hear your opinions as to how well I have done my job! This kind of information, while sometimes confronting, is really useful in knowing what areas I need to work on and improve. Please take some time to fill it in and return it to the front office by this Friday, to give me some invaluable feedback.

2015
We have been very fortunate this year to secure both of our teachers for next year. Miss Lorelle Barton will be our Junior Primary teacher, and Mrs Kathryn Roberts will be our middle and upper primary teacher. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year!
Please have a great holiday break, spend time with your family and enjoy each other!

Regards,
Ruth

CPSW CORNER
MAKING A DIFFERENCE (MAD) Day Tuesday 9th December
Our final “School Pride” for Geranium Primary School will be a trip to the Lameroo Hospital. The children and staff will enjoy morning tea with the residents of Kyeema Hostel and Charles Wing and spend the morning sharing some Christmas cheer!
I know that the older people at Lameroo will be “touched” by your children’s visit to them.

ANDREW MCDONOUGH and the THREE WISE CAMELS are coming to Geranium on Thursday Dec 11th.

‘WHATS THE BUZZ’
This week we had our final session for 2014. However we will complete What’s the buzz in Term 1 of 2015.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to say thank you. Thank you to the Governing Council and Parents & Friends for your whole hearted support and endorsement of the CPSW Programme here at Geranium. Thank you, also to Ruth Clothier, for your support, encouragement and wisdom in guiding me through this year! A final thank you to the support Group for all your hard work and more importantly your friendship and encouragement. I truly love my role here at Geranium, spending time with your children and being involved with them. They are GREAT little people and we have had many ‘heart to heart’ conversations but also LOADS of light hearted fun!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:
“Giving, not getting is the way.
Generosity begets generosity.
Stinginess impoverishes”
Mark 4:25

I will keep all staff and families of Geranium Primary School in my prayers over Christmas and the holiday period,
Margaret Smith
Christian Pastoral Support Worker

JUNIOR PRIMARY UPDATE
And so it has arrived. The final newsletter of the school year! And what a great year it has been. We have had many successes and challenges in the JP class but here are some of our year highlights from the senior students of our class:
• “I have loved Literacy and definitely Math’s. I liked doing our School Play!” - Issy
• “I like the models we have been making and doing different types of transport in History.” - Jack
• “Lola the travelling bunny and the school concert!” - Georgie
• “I liked Math’s and the Shop Day!” - Oscar
• “Doing all the projects in History and Geography, Lola and the concert!” - Tonisha
• “I liked the concert!” – Jade
In more recent class news...

Our Shop Day
We finished our Maths unit on Number and Money on a high after our ‘Shop Day’ last Wednesday. The JP students had their own smiley face biscuits and muffins, bookmarks, blank Christmas cards, craft, books and loom bands for sale. We also had a variety of small toys available for purchase.
I am very proud of all the effort that the JP students put in to this day, whether they were making the items, setting up the shop, creating the work roster, serving customers or working at the “till”.
During the days following the ‘Shop Day’, we spent a lesson calculating the amount of money we raised. We are extremely pleased to announce, we raised $142.10! Students also excitably created shopping lists using an abundance of toy sale catalogues. Each year level was given $40 to spend on presents for boys and girls their age. It now looks like I will be busy shopping this weekend so students can wrap up their gifts next week to place underneath our class Christmas tree.
We were absolutely overwhelmed with the amount of support that was shown to us during our open times. Thank you to everyone who purchased any items donated money or donated goods to sell for making our Christmas charity event possible.

Our Transport Projects
This term throughout History, Geography and Science we have been investigating different forms of transport. Students have been busy learning about the way different modes of transports move (push and pull forces), what places they move and how they have changed over time. In the last few weeks students have been working on their own transport projects. They have worked on writing a short report for their transport and built a model of it.

Our Book Study
In Literacy our term writing focus has been on Narratives and Reports. During our work on Narratives, we studied Pamela Allen’s book ‘Alexander’s Outing’ and students have worked on creating their own picture books. Student’s spent many lessons analysing ‘Alexander’s Outing’ and breaking down the structure and grammar used within the text. In the last few weeks, students have focussed on becoming Author’s like Pamela Allen, using similar language and story structure. The Reception and Year One students have written and illustrated a group book called ‘Minion’s Outing’ and each Year 2 student has written their own “outing” story. Why not ask your child what they wrote about or pop in and see their published versions!
It is hard to believe how quickly this first year of teaching has flown by. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching each and every one of the students in my class. We have had many laughs and lots of learning experiences. I thank them for being a wonderful first class to have. I would also like to thank all the parents for their support to both myself and their children. A big thank you to Sandy Small for volunteering her time once a week to read with the students, all the staff and other volunteers here at GPS and the Kindy for a great year and the community for being so welcoming!

I hope you all have a very safe and merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you again in 2015!

Lorelle Barton
R-2 Classroom Teacher

UPPER PRIMARY CLASS UPDATE
As the year draws very rapidly to its end the pace in our classroom has been quite frenetic as we finish off all our learning areas and squeeze in some revision of some of our important maths learning from earlier in the year. The children are certainly starting to get in the festive spirit and are keen to start some Christmas crafts and some of the fun activities that have been organised for next week. No doubt, like all of us, they are also starting to feel tired and looking forward to the upcoming break.
In Literacy we have been reading as a class novel Danny, the Champion of the World, by the ever-popular children’s author Roald Dahl. Inspired by the fact that Danny and his father live in a traditional gypsy caravan, the children have researched the history of these rustic vehicles and discovered a bit about how they were constructed. In Design and Technology they have enjoyed the task of planning and designing their own modern version of a gypsy caravan and then building a scale model. It has been interesting to see the luxurious and sometimes quirky features they have included in their unique caravans!
In Science we have been learning about the forces of nature that constantly change the face of the Earth. Last week the students enthusiastically constructed landscapes with a variety of features in the sandpit areas and then observed the effects of heavy rainfall (via a watering can). This was a very good demonstration of the soil erosion problems that can plague our country without careful land management.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my students for being a wonderful group to work with this year – you have certainly kept me busy, amazed and amused! Thanks also to their families for their fantastic support, all the great support staff at GPS and the many community members who contribute to our school and provide opportunities for the children in so many different ways. I am very pleased and thankful to be returning to Geranium in 2015.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a very relaxing holiday period.

Kathryn Roberts
3-6 Classroom Teacher

School Photos

Photos that were ordered are being sent home tonight.

Group photos are available to view in the front office; these include whole school, school captains, Glee Club and SAPSASA. These photos may be ordered using the envelopes supplied by MSP Photography.

These photo orders must be finalised by Thursday 11th December.

LOST AT SCHOOL

An I Pod has been lost at school, if found can it please be left in Mrs Smith’s office

Lost Jewellery

In the process of cleaning out cupboards, a piece of jewellery has been found. If you think it might be yours, please contact either Ruth or Sue Jacob.

‘Asthma Assist’ Registration Forms

Forms are available in the front foyer for those who are interested in applying for Asthma Assist. This will allow you to receive health information in an effort to better manage your child’s asthma.

School Magazine

We are producing a school magazine this year, primarily a photographic record of the amazing variety of things we’ve managed to pack into one year! These will be available for purchase from Wednesday next week, for $5.00.

If you would like to purchase a copy, please fill out the return slip.

Andrew McDonough
and the
Three Wise Camels are coming to Geranium!

Thursday December 11th, 2014

Andrew will be interesting, showing how the Three Wise Camels went from an idea to a book.

We’ll be drawing camels and having bags of fun

Autographed books will be available to buy/order

Details from Margaret Smith (CFIS/F)
POOL SUBS MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER AS THERE WILL BE NO ONE IN THE FRONT OFFICE TO TAKE MONEY AFTER THIS DATE.

Geranium Primary School

2014-2015
Swimming Pool Fees

$75- per non-supervising family
$65- per supervising family
$55- per non-supervising single
$45- per supervising single
$5- per casual swim

NB: During Vacswim each child who is from a non-subscribing family will be invoiced by the school $30.00 to use the pool for the duration of the Vacswim programme. If they enter the pool after the lesson they should pay another $5 for the casual swim.

SA Water VACSWIM December 2014 and Royal Lifesaving Infant Aquatics

VACSWIM this year will be held before Christmas from 15th to 19th December, and preschool and Infant Aquatics classes will be held on the same dates straight after VACSWIM classes.

The cost for both is $31.50 per child, being $30 course fee and 1.50 for equipment fee. Payments can be made by cheque or money order (payable to RLSSA SA Branch Inc) or by credit card. The school will also require participants to have a season subscription or pay the pool entrance fee.

I will be at the pool SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 9.00am – 12.30 TO DO ENROLMENTS. I would appreciate it if as many parents as possible who haven’t already enrolled can do so on Saturday. If you can’t make it please email or ring me and I will get a form out to you. I would like to minimise the number of families who need to complete forms and make payments on the first day of lessons.

Geranium will be offering Bronze awards as well as levels 1-7 and infant aquatics for children 8 months to school age. Children under 3.5 years will need a parent or carer in the water with them.

Arlette Beelitz
8577 3538 (after hours – I am at work during the day)
arlettebeelitz@gmail.com

SUPERVISOR TRAINING

10th December 2014
2 pm
Geranium Swimming Pool
If interested please contact
Sue Jacob ph. 85772277
By 9th December

SA Water VACSWIM December 2014 and Royal Lifesaving Infant Aquatics

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Arlette Beelitz
8577 3538 (after hours – I am at work during the day)
arlettebeelitz@gmail.com

GERANIUM SWIMMING POOL
OPENING HOURS
Saturdays & Sundays
3.30pm-5.30pm
Swimming Pool Phone
Pool Phone: 85772279
The school year is quickly drawing to a close. There will be no borrowing for students next week and all borrowed books are to be returned. If any can’t be found please let the library know and I will check the shelves to make sure they have not been returned. Any lost or missing books will need to be replaced or reimbursement to be paid to the school.

Just reminding you that the library has 2 computers with internet access and a colour printer available for use for members of the community. These are only accessible during Community Library opening hours.

The Library would gratefully accept donations of any DVD’s which your children, or you, have outgrown or no longer want. Our DVD selection has dwindled as I have deleted all those that stopped during playing. If your child does borrow a DVD which doesn’t play, please return with a note attached.

If you are registered under the one card library system you are able to borrow from any Library in S.A. If you do borrow books or DVD’s from another library while holidaying they can be returned to Geranium.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be yours

Bonnie Pfeiffer
(Library Assistant)

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<th>Holiday Opening Times</th>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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Wood for Sale
As you may have noticed, we have had a number of trees removed, and now have about 10 loads of wood available for purchase, as a fundraiser for ongoing maintenance of our grounds. This will be a tender process – you let us know which pile you would like to buy, and for how much. We need your tenders by the morning of Thursday 11\(^{th}\) December, and then I will call you that day to let you know if you have been successful. Payment will need to be made by the following Tuesday, the 16\(^{th}\) December, and preferably by cheque.

We would like the wood to be collected by the end of the following week, unless a different arrangement has been made with the Principal.

For more information about the loads, please contact either Sue Jacob or Ruth Clothier.

REMINDER
END OF YEAR BBQ
TUESDAY 9\(^{TH}\) DECEMBER 2014
6.30PM
SWIMMING POOL AREA
PLEASE BRING A SALAD AND A SWEET TO SHARE.
MEAT PROVIDED FOR A GOLD COIN DONATION.

JUNIOR PRIMARY SHOP DAY
Kids Club

Final kids club for 2014
December 12th
(Last day of term)

Christmas Pool Party

- Please bring a gift for a needy child to be wrapped at Kids Club (Under $10).
- Non – perishable food items for Wesley uniting Care
- Bring bathers, towel & sunscreen for swim at the pool
- Cost $2.50 + $5.00 for a swim. (unless you have paid a yearly pool sub)
- We will have present wrapping and party food at the church and then finish at swimming pool at 4.30pm.
- Note early dismissal time
- Don’t forget a note in the diary.

More details from Marg Smith 85772216

Cricket comes to Geranium Primary!

On 9 September the South Australian Cricket Association visited Geranium Primary and conducted a range of cricket activities with all students.

The activities focused on the main skills of cricket – batting, bowling and fielding as well as team work and having fun!

Each student received information regarding the types of cricket activities and programs available to them in their local area and for their age group.

SACA Participation Manager, Alice Johnswood said, “We love getting out into the schools and working with the students and teachers. Our programs are designed to be fun, fast-paced and give the kids a taste of what cricket is like. Hopefully, from here the kids will transition through into one of our other programs. We have programs to cater for all ages and abilities, so there really is something for everyone.”

For further information on our programs please contact Scott Houston, SACA Regional Team Leader – North East, at shouston@saca.com.au or visit the South Australian Cricket Association website at www.cricketsa.com.au

Shared learning with the Kindy & Projects for History
GERANIUM CHRISTMAS TREE
THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER
SWIMMING POOL
5.30pm Swimming
6.30pm Schnitzel Tea ($6.00)
Games & carols to follow.
Questions please ring Kelli 85772222 or Denise 85772203

Questions please ring Kelli 85772222 or Denise 85772203

Making model gypsy caravans 4/12

Science in the Sandpit 27/11
SCHOOL MAGAZINE
FAMILY NAME: ____________ COPIES: ________ TOTAL: __________
Please return by Wednesday 10th December

POOL CLEANING
Yes I am willing to volunteer to clean the swimming pool change rooms & BBQ area over the holiday period.
NAME: _____________________ HOW OFTEN: ___________________

WOOD FOR SALE
NAME: _____________________ TENDER OFFER: ___________________
WHICH PILE: ___________________
Please return by Thursday 11th December.