Welcome back to all of our students, to the staff and to our families. I trust you all had the chance to have a short break, as I know harvest was a very long and slow process.

Welcome to our new students Jessica Tracey, Matthew and Braidyn.

Staff News
A special welcome to Andrew Sweatman, our new Upper Primary teacher for 2011. Andrew comes to us, highly recommended, from Karoonda Area School. We welcome on Thursdays, Harvinder Sidhu, who will be taking both classes to provide the teachers with some of their Non Instruction Time. Harvinder is also working at Karoonda Area School this year. We will continue to have Renate Lauterbach teaching German twice a term, usually in Weeks 3 and 7 on Wednesdays. We also welcome Julie Barrie, who will work on Thursday afternoons and assist us to keep our computer network running smoothly. Julie may also work with students from time to time. Julie comes to us from Coomandook Area School where she looks after their computer network.

Welcome back to Lauren Gabrielle, Maxine Downs and Sue Jacob too. They are enthusiastic about the new school year and will continue to work hard supporting your children. Bonnie Pfeiffer will continue as the Community Library Assistant and Joy Przibilla has 2 hours a week as Library Support. Katrina Kilroy continues as the grounds person. We also welcome Brian Redden back to assist with the computing facilities.
The students will again be divided into three groups for our core Learning Areas of Literacy and Numeracy. Lauren Gabrieel will teach the R to Year 2 students, Andrew Sweatman the Year 3 to 5 students and I will take the Year 6&7 students.

Visiting
When visiting the school please enter via the Front Office and sign in at the front desk. When visiting classrooms please be mindful of keeping interruptions to a minimum and knock, enter and then wait for an appropriate time to speak with the teacher. When leaving, please remember to sign out at the front desk. Please also be reminded, that it is inappropriate to go to other student’s bags. If you need to deposit some thing for another parent, please ask a staff member to hand it on to the child. Similarly, please also ask a teacher if you need to put a community notice into the student pigeon holes.

AGM and Acquaintance Night Monday 14th February
At 6.00pm a BBQ will be provided for parents and families to give people the opportunity to catch-up before the AGM. Families are asked to please bring a salad to share. Please indicate on the reply slip if you will be attending the BBQ. The BBQ will take place on the verandah between the two sections of the school.

The AGM will begin at 7.00pm and reports from the 2010 school year will be given. We need to elect 5 new councillors to replace those who have completed their two year terms. We thank the retiring members of the Governing Council for the valuable contribution they have made over the years. If you would like to nominate for the 2011 Governing Council, please complete the nomination form included at the end of this newsletter
Continuing Governing Council members are: Adrian Wait, Elise Wilson-Barrett, Matt Harvey and Di Ryan.

Following the AGM each teacher will run a short Acquaintance Meeting. At this meeting information will be provided about expectations, routines and the general plans for the year. The evening will finish at approximately 9.00pm.

Solar Grant
The school has been successful in obtaining $49983.64 in the Australian Government’s National Solar Schools Program. We will be using this to install a 4.0kW solar system, to install energy efficient security lights and to install an extra rain water tank which will assist the connection of rainwater to our toilets. Hopefully, when installed these measures will reduce our energy consumption and hence in the long term the costs of running the school. Over 2000 schools submitted an application for the 2010-11 funding round and approximately 12000 schools were successful. Applications were assessed against three criteria: value for money, environmental benefit and educational benefit. Well done to Josie Spriggs and Maxine Downs for applying for this grant. Unfortunately the agreement between DECS and the Federal Government has not been signed yet and nothing can begin until we have been notified that this has occurred.

Bushfire Action Plan
We have been asked to remind families of our Bushfire Action Plan three times in Term 1 and a copy of it is included with this newsletter. Please familiarise yourself with this. Please note that on days of catastrophic fire danger our buses will not run, but the school will be open.

Student Absences
DECS requires us to follow correct procedures when students are absent. We would be very appreciative if all parents could follow the procedures listed below to inform us of student absence as considerable time can be wasted chasing up absences. If your child is absent please:

- Call the school 85772277 by 9.15am and give the reason why the student is absent. (Unfortunately you will still need to send in a signed dated note explaining the absence.)
- Send a signed and dated note explaining while the child is going to be away, indicating the date of the absence, prior to the absence. This may be in the diary or on one of the forms produced by the school and printed in the newsletter.

If a student is unaccounted for by 9.15am, staff members are required to contact parents.
(DECS has instigated this procedure to ensure the safety of all students.)

Grievance Procedures
Please read the information provided later in this newsletter regarding the procedures for grievance procedures. If you have any issues, please follow the procedures immediately. Open honest communication is always the best policy. It is very annoying when people choose to discuss issues with the whole community, before speaking with the appropriate person/people, as often early intervention can prevent a problem from happening in the first place. Please also be mindful of the appropriateness of the place and people present when discussions about grievances occur.

Please be reminded that smoking is not permitted on any part of the school grounds at any time of the day.

Leaving the School Grounds at Lunch Time
Students will not be permitted to leave the school grounds at Lunch time unless there is a specific notice for that day entered in the child’s diary. One note for a regular trip to the shop each week is not permitted. DECS require single notes for each occasion. One of the Upper Primary students will be required to collect the lunches from the shop, just prior to lunch each day. If you do not want your child doing this, please notify the school.

SAPSASA
A SAPSASA letter and calendar will be sent home soon, with all children from Years 4 to 7. Please understand that children must turn 10 this year to participate and that team sports are only open the Year 6&7 students. Year 7’s have priority if two students are of the same ability.

Regards
Margret Elvey

VACSWIM and Royal Life Saving Society Programs
Thirty eight young people participated in the VACSWIM program at Geranium during the school holidays. Three of the senior students also did some work experience hours towards their instructor qualification.

In the afternoons after the VACSWIM lessons, Royal Life Saving Society programs were held for children below school age, with 17 attending.

This is a great result for such a small community.
Arlette Beelitz

Grey Medallion
A swimming and water safety program for ‘older’ community members will be offered on Sunday afternoons 1.45 to 3.00 from Feb 6th for six weeks. This is a Royal Life Saving Society program which aims to reduce drowning accidents amongst older Australians, improve fitness by low impact exercise, increase awareness of safety around water when caring for children, and to develop skills in responding to emergency situations.

The course cost has not been finalised but is not likely to be more than $15 for the whole course. (Pool entrance for those who do not have a season subscription is $2.50).

If you are interested or want further information please contact Arlette Beelitz on 8577 3538 after hours.

Pool Subs
$65 per non supervising family
$55 per supervising family
$45 per non supervisor single
$35 per single supervisor
$2.50 per casual swim

Peake Football Club
Welcome to the 2011 season!!
I’m proud and excited to be appointed to the senior coaching position of the Peake and Districts Football Club. After a successful 2010 season for the Peake and Districts football club with 3 of the 4 football grades in the Grand Final, and the B-grade being premiers, I am determined to bring this success to A grade in the 2011 season. The club has been very active in the off season, recruiting key players to help us build from the 2010 season. I not only want success as a senior coach, but to be successful at creating a club that you want to be involved with for many years to come. I am very keen to start the season off strongly, with us all being much fitter which will help set up the rest of the year. Our pre-season training will start on Wednesday Feb 2nd at the Murray Bridge High School at 6:30pm. If you can’t make it, can you please contact me (details below).

Due to the late harvest we will not be having a ‘Meet the Coach’s Day’, instead we will hold a ‘Meet and Greet Day’, having a 20/20 cricket match on Feb 27th at the Showgrounds Oval in Murray Bridge. This will give the new recruits, existing Peake players and members a better chance to get to know each other. On this day the coaching staff will be able to have individual player meetings, discuss players preferred positions, discuss areas of improvement and have a casual player group discussion about the coming 2011 season.

All players are expected to attend trainings in Murray Bridge, as trainings at Peake will not start until early April. I have appointed a personal fitness trainer to conduct and oversee our preseason program, to help us all start the season in peak fitness. So come on, let’s roll up our sleeves and get meaner, harder, faster, and ready for our first home game - April 17th vs. Murrayville.

Cheers Bluey 0429809733
blueyo@activ8.net.au
Home/fax- 85724361

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**PEAKE AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL CLUB**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - PART 2**

To be held

**MONDAY, 21st February 2011**

At 8.00 P.M.

At the CLUBROOMS

Agenda includes:-

- Present
- Apologies

**Previous Minutes - Part 1 - 25th October 2010**

**Business Arising**

**Correspondence**

**Election of Officers**

**General Business**

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Any apologies or additional agenda items please contact Leonie Kielow, Secretary.

phone: 85736519

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**Helen’s Craft – School Uniforms**

Any item in any colour can be ordered. If you want to purchase anything, I will be placing an order on 11/2/11. Ring me on 85772203.

I have 3 skorts – size 10 – for sale as the wrong size had previously been ordered. Price is per catalogue which is available for your perusal at the front office.

Orders less than $100 will incur a small postage fee, so I combine orders where I can.

Denise Stephenson
GERANIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL
BUSHFIRE ACTION PLAN

GENERAL INFORMATION

This Bushfire Action Plan (BAP) has been developed during Term 3 after consultation with:
- families of students attending Geranium Primary School and CPC
- members of the Geranium Country Fire Service (CFS)

The BAP is to be reviewed annually during Term 2 each year to reflect any changes that may have taken place in:
- DECS or government policy
- site facilities
- personnel normally on site.

The BAP outlines required actions to prepare:
- the site before the bushfire season.

The BAP also outlines activities to be undertaken by staff and students at the different levels of a bushfire emergency:
- on days of Total Fire Ban
- when there is a fire in the local district
- when a bushfire is threatening or impacting on the site
- during the period immediately after a bushfire has impacted on the site (known as the ‘Recovery Phase’).

The Principal will hold discussions with members of the Geranium CFS during Term 3 each year about the bushfire preparedness of the site

The Principal will forward a copy of the site BAP to the Regional Director to be held in the regional office

The Principal will forward a copy of the site BAP to the Geranium CFS by Week 2 of Term 4 each year

The Front Office SSO will forward a copy of the BAP to all families of students of the site at the beginning of Term 1 each year.
- The BAP is explained to the families of new students by the Principal during the enrolment process.

The Principal will include bushfire season reminders and information in site newsletters at least three times in each of Term 4 and Term 1. The Geranium Primary School Information Booklet, includes detailed information about actions and procedures included in the BAP.

All staff members receive pre fire season updates during Term 3 and ongoing information and instruction about the contents and requirements of the BAP during Term 4 and Term 1.
staff meetings.
The Principal will ensure that all new staff members, relieving staff and visitors are briefed about the requirements of the BAP during the site induction process.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS ACROSS THE FIRE BAN DISTRICT
If the Bureau of Meteorology and the Country Fire Service issue a forecast of *catastrophic (Code Red)* bushfire weather conditions within the Fire Ban District, the Geranium Primary School and CPC will remain open but school bus routes will be cancelled.

Pamphlets and newsletters outlining the DECS school closure policy on days of catastrophic bushfire weather conditions have been distributed to parents and caregivers.

The Emergency Response Team should *prepare* to advise all parents and care givers about the cancellation of bus routes by telephone and by follow-up written notification.

The Regional Director will confirm decision by the Chief Executive to cancel school bus routes within the Fire Ban District for a period as determined by emergency services.

The Emergency response Team will *contact* all parents and school bus operators, by telephone, to inform them of the decision. A template letter will be provided with key messages to parents and care givers.

- The letter will provide parents and caregivers with an emergency hotline telephone number and a web address to obtain information about Geranium Primary School.

- Parents will also be reminded to listen to ABC radio for further warnings and advice messages.
GPS Governing Council Nominations for 2011

We will be electing five new councillors for this year’s Governing Council to replace the retiring members (Eric Przibilla, Margaret Smith, Denise Stephenson, Michelle Hensel and Philip Smith) and encourage people to nominate for these positions. Retiring members are eligible to renominate.

If you would like to nominate someone, please return the nomination form below by Friday 11th February.

I ___________________________________________ nominate ____________________________

to be a member of the Geranium Primary School Governing Council for a term of two years.

Nominator’s Name: ___________________________   Signed: _____________________________

I _____________________________ accept the nomination to the Geranium Primary School Governing Council.

Nominee Signature: _____________________________

*Please note change of date

AGM/Acquaintance Night Response

Name/s ________________________________________

I/we will/ will not be attending the AGM/Acquaintance Night on Monday 14th February.

Number attending BBQ :   Children: _________   Adults: _______

We will have ________ children using the crèche.

Signed: _______________________________
The following guidelines are a joint and collaborative effort developed by staff and Governing Council to outline ways through which parents may raise issues or concerns regarding their child’s education. **WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH ISSUES OR CONCERNS ARE MOST EFFECTIVELY DEALT WITH IF THEY ARE RAISED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS.**

All personal matters such as concerns regarding student, parent or staff relationships should be raised directly with the school through the class teacher or Principal in a confidential manner.

General school matters such as timing of sports days, parent / teacher interviews or comments about policies like the camping policy are most appropriately raised with members of Governing Council, staff or the Principal.

Classroom concerns should be addressed to the teacher concerned. If the concern cannot be resolved then contact the Principal - it is important that you state this at the conclusion of the meeting.

Please contact the school to make an appointment as teachers and the principal have other commitments and may not be able to see you if you come to the school without an appointment. When raising a matter please be prepared to outline specific concerns. Let the teacher / Principal know what subject you wish to discuss as this will facilitate the process.

You can bring a mediator or an advocate along to the meeting if you wish.

At some stage a matter may need to be followed up, for example, with teachers, students or families.

Every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality and to support all parties involved.

**THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SERVICES WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED BY THE SCHOOL, ON REQUEST, TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY.**

The procedure outlined below will assist you to raise a grievance and have it addressed. Please follow the following steps in sequence

1. Make an appointment to discuss the grievance with your child’s class teacher.
2. If the matter is not resolved, make an appointment to discuss the grievance with the Principal.
3. If you believe the result is inadequate, you may wish to raise the matter at the school level again or contact the District Director, Riverland, at the Berri District Education Office. Telephone:- 85 952323.

**The Expectation of the District Director will be that the above steps 1 - 2 have been followed before step 3 occurs.**
At Geranium Primary School we aim to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all of our students.

All students attending Geranium Primary School are informed about how to use the Student Grievance Procedures for any concerns or issues they may wish to raise.

**General school issues that students have may be raised at regular class meetings and discussed by the Geranium Student Council.**

**The Student Grievance Procedure at Geranium Primary School**

When student's emotions, feelings or property are not safe at school students can take action using the following steps:

**If a student is harassed or has a grievance they must**

1. Ask the alleged perpetrator to stop what they are doing
   - Some suggestions maybe to:
     - Explain how it is annoying you or Say how you feel

   The victim needs to work out strategies to stop the harassment or bullying as well. For example not playing with the perpetrator or staying away from that person to help resolve the grievance.

2. If the grievance continues once again the alleged perpetrator is asked to stop what they are doing by the victim. The victim warns the perpetrator that they will be speaking to a teacher about this matter.
   - The victim goes to the classroom teacher or yard duty teacher and tells them their concerns.

Staff member approached by the victim listens, provides advice and support.

**Bullying**

- Is deliberately hurtful physically or psychologically e.g. hitting, kicking, spreading rumours)
- Is repeated often over time
- It is difficult for the person being bullied to defend themselves because they are physically or psychologically weaker

Victims should follow the plan:-

- **Stay calm and look confident** - even if you don't feel this way, you can pretend.
- **Speak loudly and firmly** to the person / people bullying you - say that you don't like what is happening and tell them to stop.
- **Don't be mean back** - it will not make bullying go away.
- **Get away** from the situation - find some friends or go to a safe place.
- **Tell an adult about it.**