Greetings

**Read every day. Lead a better life.**
Reading and the development of skills for reading are a huge focus for us here at GPS. We have two main projects to encourage reading at home.

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**
Our students are about to commence the Premier’s Reading Challenge and our aim is to have every child complete the Challenge by 4th September. The Challenge is to read 12 books in total; students choose 8 books from the Reading Challenge booklist and 4 of their own choice. More information and a list of the Challenge booklists can be found at www.prc.sa.edu.au. Please join us in encouraging our young people to read every day, become stronger readers, gain enjoyment from reading and be rewarded by completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge in 2016. A Premier’s Reading Challenge Record sheet has been included in your child’s diary, to make it easier to record books as they read them.

**READING CUP**
The Reading Cup has also begun again this year. This is an individual challenge. We will record scores, and award a reading champion for the week and at the end of each term, and then have two overall reading champions, one from each class, for the whole year. Remember to keep signing your child’s diary every time they read!

‘**Students who do not develop reading fluency, regardless of how bright they are, are likely to remain poor readers throughout their lives.**’
National Reading Panel, 2000

A lot of meetings have happened in the last couple of weeks!

**GOVERNING COUNCIL**
Our Governing Council AGM was held on Monday 15th February, and a new council was elected. All positions were filled, and I think we can be very proud of the fact that nearly 50% of our families are now represented on our Governing Council!

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<th>Our current Governing Council Members are:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Morgan (chairperson)</td>
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<td>Fiona Woolfit (vice chairperson)</td>
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<td>Richard Howard</td>
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<td>Penny Temby (Treasurer)</td>
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<td>Ashley Litchfield (Secretary)</td>
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<td>Leigh Oster</td>
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<td>Daniel Piggott</td>
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<td>Kelli Harvey</td>
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<td>Sonia Broadbent (P&amp;F rep.)</td>
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<td>Ruth Clothier (Principal: ex-officio)</td>
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<td>Sandy Small (community rep.)</td>
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COMMITTEES
The Governing Council has several committees which take on oversight of various areas of the school’s operation. One of the ways other parents can be involved is through these committees:

Grounds, Facilities and Pool: this committee oversees projects that involve up-keeping and improving our grounds and facilities, and also oversees the running and maintenance of the pool during summer. The convenor is Richard Howard.

School Development: this committee reviews current policies of the school, and considers the need for new policies as required. The convenor is Sonia Broadbent.

Bus: this committee reviews bus routes and makes recommendations for changes as required. The convenor is Adam Morgan.

These committees are an extremely valuable way for the school and families to work together. We would love people to become a part of any of the committees that they may be interested in. If there is an area in which you would like to be involved, please fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the front office, and the convenor of that committee will be in touch. The Parent representatives do not necessarily have to be School Councillors, and parents are also encouraged to ring members of the committee to pass on any ideas they have.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS
Our Parents & Friends AGM occurred on Thursday the 18th February. The executive are:
Penny Howard: President
Penny Temby: Vice President
Fiona Woolfit: Secretary
Ashley Litchfield: Assistant Secretary
Tanja Morgan: Treasurer

Parents and Friends is a fantastic way to contribute to the life of the school, so if you are interested in being involved, please contact one of the people above.

PARENT REVIEW WORKSHOP
Thankyou to the parents who came to our review workshop. Some great discussions were had about what we achieved last year, and what our goals will be for 2016. Over the next few weeks I will write a draft site improvement plan for 2016, drawing together the discussions from staff, student and now parent feedback. This draft will then be available for further comment.

ANNUAL REPORT
Our annual report is now complete, and copies are available from the front desk. A copy has also been uploaded onto our website.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
And lastly, a huge thankyou to all of the staff, parents and students for making our collaboration with Lameroo such a success! It was a great day of fun and competition.

Regards,
Ruth

“A Point to Ponder

“Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”
Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of America

CATASTROPHIC FIRE DAYS
With the Bushfire season still upon us and the warm weather we are beginning to encounter, I would like to remind all parents and carers that Geranium Primary School does not close on forecast catastrophic days. However, no buses are able to run on these days. On these days parents will need to make the decision to transport your children to school or to keep them home.

The announcement of these days cannot be made until DECD is notified of the following days forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology after 4pm. The school will make every effort to contact parents once this announcement has been made. Information will also be provided on the DECD Parent Hotline (1800 000 279), ABC Radio 891 and local regional stations, ABC TV and the DECD website www.decd.sa.gov.au
We were very lucky this week to travel to Adelaide to attend a performance of Trash Test Dummies in The Garden of Unearthly Delights at the Fringe Festival. The children were totally enthralled by the whole atmosphere and loved the show. It was a wonderful experience to expand their horizons in the area of performing arts and one they will all remember. A very big thankyou from our class to Mrs Smith for organising the excursion and Mrs Bond for safely delivering us to and from Adelaide on what was a fairly tight schedule!

Do you feel down in the trash can? Then why don't you go see TRASH TEST DUMMIES! But watch out for the awesome ball fight ...

Georgie

Trash Test Dummies was hilarious and their acrobatic skills were amazing!

Tracey

They did so many funny things, like when they were racing with the bins and the slow motion bits and I really liked the dance of the sugar plum fairies.

Lilly

They were really funny and I liked when they had the ball fight and the funeral!

Jessica

I liked it when they surfed on the wheelie bins and when they were fighting over the hat.

Oscar

There were circus skills and acrobatic skills and we were on the news.

Sophie

The Trash Test Dummies were throwing balls, hiding in the bins and then trying to get rid of a bomb.

Tonisha

I liked the part when there was a bag of balls and in slow motion someone grabbed the bag and started to hit the others and it opened and we threw all the balls back at them.

Jade

I loved the whole show, it was really funny.

Amy

It was fun and it made me laugh. I liked when they went to jail.

Jack

I liked when they opened the trash bag and balls went flying in the sky.

Shianne

I liked when they got in the bin and the acrobatic skills.

Libby

I liked when they were very happy. It was funny when they kept asking “Why?”

Hayden
It has been so exciting to see students properly begin to settle into our routines over the last two weeks. We have had such a busy start to the year and I have been impressed with how everyone is keeping up with the pace of school and giving everything a go – particularly during our two weeks of swimming lessons and our swimming carnival.

We have been enjoying our overall topic of ‘Under the Sea’ with many activities based around sea creatures, beach safety and ocean habitats. At our Shared Learning session this week we enjoyed singing some under the sea songs and making our underwater habitats. Thank you for bringing along some beach related items to share with the class for our Under the Sea theme.

A really exciting part of our day has become our Mental Computation games. Each week we introduce a new number game, which we play in pairs or with a small group for the first 5-10 minutes of each math lesson. So far, we have enjoyed playing snakes and ladders, making 10 snap, making 10 go fish and shaker boxes. I love the enthusiasm students have been displaying in their work with numbers and these sessions have really boosted our teamwork too. Enjoy some photos of our Mental Computation games in action:
This week I sent home a note with a few updates on it. We would love to have a family photo for each student so that we can create our ‘Family Forest’. Students have enjoyed talking about their families this week and sharing the photos they have brought in to be displayed. Please send in a photo by the end of next week!

This week in the “INVESTIGATE” section of the Year 2’s homework, they were challenged to solve the riddle below:

A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed in town for 3 days and rode out on Friday. How was that possible?

Thank you to everyone who joined in on their task and sent in an answer, we have enjoyed reading your guesses. The students have been particularly eager to find out the answer, which is: His horse’s name is Friday! If you want to solve more of our riddles – keep an eye out on the JP information board outside our classroom for the weekly riddle or check our class website at jpgpsstars.edublogs.org for a post with each week’s riddle.

Until next time,
Miss. Lorelle Barton

SWIMMING CARNIVAL AT LAMEROO
SAPSASA Softball

Well done to Jasmine and Olivia for attending the regional SAPSASA girls’ softball selection day at Lameroo on Thursday. The girls enjoyed the coaching in a sport they are not very familiar with, and both performed well enough to be selected as reserves for our district team. Congratulations on a great effort girls and thankyou to Penny Howard for taking them to Lameroo.

PCW Corner

Well done to all of the students, families and staff who represented Geranium Primary School last Friday at the Swimming Carnival. I have noticed a HUGE improvement in all of the children, in their swimming ability and confidence.

Pancake Breakfast
Friday March 18th
As buses arrive at school, all students and staff will be given a delicious pancake breakfast, supplied by the PCW Support Group.

Walk & Talk
I am going to trial a “Walk & Talk” time on Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am. The plan is to go for a short walk for 30-40 minutes to catch up, get to know new faces, exercise our legs and tongues! Let’s try next Tuesday, March 1st. All are welcome to join me – meet in the front Foyer to “sign in”.

Alert Programme~ “How does your engine run?”
I will be presenting an Information Session for all interested parents, caregivers and community members on this FANTASTIC programme. Further information coming soon.
I really love the involvement that I have at Geranium Primary School with your children. They have settled into the new school year so smoothly, which I’m sure is a reflection of the support they have from you as parents and caregivers and also the effort and care that our teachers invest in the classrooms. I think it is the sense of care for each other that makes this school so unique!
I’ll leave you with this “pearl of wisdom”:

“Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It’s the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts.” The Message, James 3:13

I continue to keep all families and staff of Geranium primary School in my prayers,

Margaret Smith
Pastoral Care Worker
Shaun W Smith Kids Entertainer

Carnival activities & live entertainment
March 18th 2016
7pm-9pm @ Mallee Life Church Lameroo
Enquiries to Marg Smith 8577 2216
More details coming!!

Henley High School Tennis Invitational 2016

Year 5, 6, & 7 students currently playing with a tennis club are invited to attend the Henley Invitational on Friday 1st April from 8.45 am. For more information please contact the school.

Geranium Primary School Embroidered Logo
School Logo $8.50 per logo
Please send items to school with name and cash payment. Completed items will be returned to school for collection or children to bring home. Invoice will be with item. Please note: Items do not need to be new or prewashed. For more info contact Sonia Broadbent on 8577 3556 or Mob 0427 027 742
Email: sabroadbent@sykmesh.com.au

Two FREE Parenting SA seminars
Presented by Dr Justin Coulson
• Nationally recognised parenting speaker
• Newspaper columnist
• TV commentator; author and researcher

Tuesday 5 April
When: 7.00 - 9.00pm
Where: City Rooms
Adelaide Convention Centre
North Terrace, Adelaide

Toddler and touch screens: What should I do?
• the pros and cons of the digital age for children 0-5 years
• now and when to introduce phones, tablets, apps, e-books
• how to manage electronic media use

Wednesday 6 April
When: 7.00 - 9.00pm
Where: City Rooms
Adelaide Convention Centre
North Terrace, Adelaide

Children, teen and pornography: What every parent should know
• the alarming statistics
• are we becoming desensitised?
• the impact on boys and girls
• how parents can guide children and teens

Register to attend in person or view the live webcasts at:
http://parenting.sa.eventbrite.com.au
Phone: 8203 1569
Email: health.southaustralia@health.sa.gov.au

Find out more about Dr Justin Coulson at www.happyfamilies.com.au
For parenting information go to www.parenting.sa.gov.au or www.nyf.com

Parents and Friends Meeting
Thursday 17th March 9.00 am
In meeting room

A friendly reminder from P&F! Hats are available for purchase from the front office for $12 each.
Sizes: 53cm, 55cm & 57cm
GOVERNING COUNCIL COMMITTEE NOMINATION

I ______________________ would like to nominate myself as a member of the following committee/s:

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<th>Grounds, Facilities and Pool</th>
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My contact details are:

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