Greetings:

Only 3 weeks of school left, and 37 sleeps left until Christmas! The year seems to be flying to a close. As we look back and reflect on the year, I believe we, the whole school community, can feel rightly proud of what we have achieved, and most certainly entitled to a well-earned rest!

REMEMBRANCE DAY
Last week we held a Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial. The School Captains and Minister did a fantastic job in leading the service, and I was extremely proud of our students and the respect they showed.

REVIEW
Unfortunately due to a mix-up in communication, we have had to postpone our review meeting for parents until early next year. This meeting will give parents and interested community members an opportunity to review 2015 and share ideas for improvement in 2016.

SWIMMING POOL NEWS
Unfortunately, the repairs to our pool have now been put off until after the swimming season. However, we are able to use it, so VACSWIM will go ahead.

From the beginning of week 8, we will also 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.

We are also hoping to open the pool on weekends during the school holidays. To do this, we need volunteer supervisors. If you are interested, please keep Sun 6th December free as a tentative date for training.

DRINKING WATER
Some students have been finding the water from the drinking fountain unpleasant. The water to the drinking fountain is fed from the underground rain water tank, and it is tested regularly to ensure that it is safe to drink. However, if your child is reluctant to drink it, could you please ensure that your child brings a full drink bottle with them each day. All students should be bringing a water bottle to school, or leaving one at school that they can use.
END OF YEAR BBQ
Please join us at the End of Year BBQ on Wednesday 9th December and give us the opportunity to thank you for your support and contributions in 2015.

Regards,
Ruth

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before!
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store?

A Point to Ponder
Congratulations to Luke on his participation in the SAPSASA state cricket carnival as a member of the Murray Mallee team last week. Luke: “We played 4 games and we won 2 of them. I made 31 runs with a highest score of 14 and I got 4 wickets. It was totally worth coming and I really enjoyed it.”

The last couple of weeks have been very productive for our class with some great learning occurring in all subject areas. Next week we will be starting to wind-up some of our current topics in preparation for the final assessment of the students’ learning for the year. Rest assured, however, that normal lessons will be continuing throughout the last two weeks of term, in addition to some fun and exciting end-of-year and Christmas activities.

During writing time in Literacy this term the students have been creating picture books for young readers. We studied the structure of some popular picture books and scaffolded our planning based on the book The Coat by Julie Hunt. Using the Accelerated Literacy processes, we closely studied some passages from this book, considering things like how the author chose the words she did to create her highly descriptive text. In line with this story, the students had to begin theirs with an inanimate object like the coat and build a narrative around it. I have been very impressed with the imaginative stories they have created and they are now enjoying the illustrating process to complete their books.

As we continue to revise the concepts we have learned in Maths throughout the year it has been great over the last few weeks to see many students really ‘switching on’ to Maths as they realise their ability to apply these concepts to solving real-life problems. I’ve loved hearing the words ‘I love Maths’ and ‘Can we do more Maths?’ particularly from some students who have not been so confident in their own ability previously. Remember that your own attitude to Maths can greatly influence your children’s, so try to avoid saying things like, ‘I never liked Maths at school either’. The more the children see and hear you confidently using simple Maths concepts and operations in everyday life the easier it will become for them to understand its importance and relevance. As we move into this incredibly busy and at times stressful time of the year I hope you are all able to keep life running as smoothly as possible for your families and that the harvest yields are not proving too disappointing for those on the land.

Regards,

Kathryn Roberts

Needing labels for your kid’s school gear? Or perhaps for things in your home? Return address labels perhaps?? Some cool Christmas gifts? Visit stuckonyou.com.au for a great range of labels and other personalised gear - enter GERANIUMKINDY in the "referral code" box, and a percentage of sales will go towards purchasing additional resources for the Geranium Kindy/Playgroup.
It has been a hot and busy week this week and students have enjoyed some cool indoor play the last few days. Here are a few updates about what’s been happening down in the JP room!

**SHOP DAY 2015!**

This year our JP Shop Day will be held in Week 8 on Wednesday (2/12/15). We will be opening up our shop at recess (10.30am-11am) and at Lunch (1pm-1.50pm). We will be selling a variety of things that we have made as a class like: craft items and morning tea items (biscuits, fresh fruit and cupcakes etc.). We will also have a few little gimmick toys and items like pencils and funky erasers to buy.

Every cent raised this year, will be donated to *The Little Heroes Foundation* who work to provide seriously ill children and their families appropriate support no matter the rarity of their diagnosis, where they live or their financial status. Some support they provide to seriously ill children and their families is: appropriate play equipment for the children, in-home nurse programs, education and rehabilitation, home cleaning, food hampers and therapy programs. Check out their website at [http://www.littleheroesfoundation.com.au](http://www.littleheroesfoundation.com.au)!

Our class are so excited about this year’s shop day and would love if you could support us and this great cause in any way possible.

In other news...

In Science this week we have been discussing the term ‘Gravity’. Students had a ‘Floating on Air’ Investigation where they used a piece of paper to test how the air affects movement and identified where air can be found. They tested their subjects, inside and outside and from different heights. They completed a POE task where they predicted what might happen, observed and recorded their observations and wrote or drew an explanation for what happened.

We had some great discussions on how air pushes up against falling objects but gravity pulls things down. Some students took their thinking further and added things, like bark chips, to the top of the paper and noticed how this weight affected the speed and way the item floated in the air.

For our Maths and Technologies investigation, starting last Friday, students worked in pairs to create a poster about our currency and chose to investigate either an Australian coin or note. Depending on their choice, students investigated the people on the money, the animals and symbols. They were also asked to come up with a list of things they might buy with this amount of money and to describe what the coin or note looked like. As a class, we enjoyed reading some interesting facts about Australian money and finding out where money is made in Australia.
Our first two Kindy transitions have been a great success and our class have loved having some extra visitors. During the last two visits, the Kindy students have focussed on some different letters sounds, creating very special books. They have been having a go at writing the sounds, and writing some words they have found the sound in. This week was a focus on the ‘a’ sound and our class were great helpers in the introduction to this, before going on with our own spelling tasks. However, we had lots of fun as a big group going on a treasure hunt for the letter ‘a’ and being acrobats!

Well done to all the JP students for being such wonderful and responsible role models during these sessions. And, although this is not the last newsletter of the year, I would like to thank you all for the support you have given your child for their learning this year, engaging them in reading at home, supporting our school community and listening to all the children have to tell you about their learning.

Remember to check out our class blog at jpgsstars.edublogs.org where we regularly post reminders, updates and some photos of work we are currently engaging in.

Take Care,

Miss. Lorelle Barton
Good times and happy sounds emanate from this powerful little school!

Relaxation Class is continuing on a weekly basis and the children (and me!) are coming away from these times; breathing more deeply, feeling de-stressed and smiling!

Christmas Presentation by Schools Ministry Group (SMG) - “The Wait is Over” at Lameroo Regional Community School on Monday, November 30th. Our students will join with the Lameroo students for lunch and then the presentation. Full details and Consent forms will be sent home next week.

Wednesday 2nd December is the JP SHOP DAY and funds raised will go to "Little Heroes Fundraiser". Jasmine Knight (Minister of Activities) and Sophie Temby are assisting with the day. Thank you, Sophie for sharing your PowerPoint Presentation at the Assembly about “Little Heroes Foundation” and your very sweet cousin, Amalia. I’m sure this will be a positive thing coming out of Geranium Primary School, making a difference in the lives of others. A note will come home next week with FULL details!

On Tuesday Dec 8th the PCW Support Group will be running Christmas Electives; cooking and craft! Children will nominate preferences and will get to do one before lunch and one after lunch. I am very grateful to the ladies in the Support Group who have volunteered their time and I’m sure there will be lovely aromas wafting from the Home Ec. Room and some “cool creations” to take home!

I have now completed all Modules of my on line training in “The Accidental Counsellor” and have learnt lots! In the last Newsletter, I mentioned habits. I wonder if the staff and families of Geranium Primary School could start up the habit of “3 Good Things” where at the meal table, we come up with 3 Good things that happened that day. What happened? What did it feel like when it happened?

“Good habits are as addictive as bad habits, but much more rewarding!” Rocky Biasi

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

Margaret Smith~ Pastoral Care Worker

SWIMMING PROGRAM

As I am not now working on Mondays, I am willing to run a swimming program after school on Mondays, with younger school students at 4.00pm (half hour lesson) and older students at 5.00ish (I believe some older students go to basketball straight after school.) Starting next Monday 23rd November, if the pool is ready by then, and if there is interest.

I will also be instructor-in -charge at VACSWIM this year, and will again offer higher awards. It has been pointed out to me that online registrations for Geranium only go up to Level 7, but I have consent from Royal Life Saving Society to teach Rescue and Bronze awards. Last year, going from 7 lessons to 5 lessons made it really difficult for us to get through the Bronze Medallion award program in the time allocated, so this year I can make the Bronze Medallion class a 2 hour one.

We will again run infant aquatics in tandem with VACSWIM and just after VACSWIM lessons. I was planning to give parents a choice this year of the infant aquatics program with VACSWIM or on Sunday afternoons in Term 1, as the numbers significantly dropped last year from previous years when we had the lessons on Sundays. However, due to the uncertainty of when the pool will close for the end of season, I
have decided to leave infant aquatics to VACSWIM days this year.
I will come to the pool on Saturday Dec 5th 8.30 – 11.30 to take any late enrolments, and enrolments for infant aquatics which won’t be online, and maybe a few Rescue and Bronze enrolments. You can contact me by email arlettebeelitz@gmail.com or at home after hours on 8577 3538.

Geranium Primary School

LUNCH ORDER MENU
FOR REMAINDER OF 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

From December 1st until the end of the school year, excluding Monday 7th December we will be ordering school lunches from Mallee Muncher Café @ Jabuk. Orders can be placed by clearly writing your child/children’s order on a lunch bag and placing the correct money in the bag. These orders will be collated and sent to Jabuk, and will then be delivered in time for lunch.

NO LATE ORDERS CAN BE PLACED

PLEASE ONLY SELECT FROM LIST BELOW

HOT LUNCH
Pie $3.50
Pasty $3.50
Sausage roll $3.00
Hot dog sauce $4
Hot dog cheese and sauce $4.50
Toasted cheese sandwich $3.80
Toasted ham and cheese sandwich $4.50
Cheese burger $6.50
Chicken burger $6.50
Bolognaise and Pasta $6.50

FRESH
Sandwich
Vegemite or strawberry Jam $3
Cheese or cheese and vegemite $3.50
Meat – ham, chicken, silverside, fritz $3.80
Extras – 50cents each- cheese, lettuce, tomato or cucumber
Sauce, mayonnaise and mustard no charge
Grilled Chicken Salad $9

DRINKS
Big M choc or strawberry $2.50
Fruit Box $2.20
Mount Franklin Water $3.50
Daily Juice – Orange $4

EXTRA
Finger Bun $2.50
Double Choc Donut $3
Glazed Donut $2.20
Throughout the year the students at Geranium Primary School produce some fantastic art work. This year we have decided through Parents and Friends to produce some of this art work in the form of a 2016 yearly wall calendar. We will be selling these calendars at just $11 each. Sample copies of both available calendars are on display at the front office. Please note that these are just a printed version as an example. The finished product will be through a printing company. While every child’s artwork can’t fit in the Middle Upper Primary’s calendar together, multiple versions of this group will be produced, so we can guarantee that if you order a calendar, you will receive one that includes your child’s artwork. If you would like to order a calendar, please complete the below form and return to the school with payment (cheques made out to Geranium Parents and Friends) by **no later than FRIDAY 27th of November**. No late orders will be accepted due to printing requirements.

### Family Name: ____________________________

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