Greetings:
The final newsletter for 2015 – it’s a bit hard to believe. As I reflect on our year, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude to all those who have worked tirelessly to make this school an amazing place of learning and nurture for our students. So many events this year have shown just how committed and passionate our community is for its school and students – so thank you!

We are extremely fortunate to have all staffing in place for next year and I am pleased to be able to announce that Annie Patterson will be our history and geography teacher next year.

REVIEW
The new date for our parent review meeting, in which we will review 2015 and plan for 2016, will be Thursday 18th February, at 9am.

ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT
Early in term 1, we have an acquaintance night when we invite all parents to come and catch up with the other families and staff, and hear about what is planned in your child/ren’s classrooms and what the routines and expectations are. Our Acquaintance Night will be on Monday 8th February, starting at 6pm.

GOVERNING COUNCIL
The School Governing Council comprises 11 elected and non-elected members. As an active Governing Councillor, you are a part of the efforts to improve the education and care of students in our school. You represent the views of members in the school community and encourage their participation.

When the entire school community works together to support learning, children succeed, not just in school but also throughout their lives. Governing Councillors are elected by parents/guardians of children enrolled at the school and are usually elected for a two year term and retiring Councillors are eligible to re-nominate.

Elections for Governing Council will occur on Monday the 15th February, at 7pm in the library. Please consider being involved in our Governing Council - it’s a great way to contribute to the school.
THE SUMMER SLIDE
Did you know that when students don’t read over the long summer break, their reading skills tend to slide and when they return to school the next year their reading levels have dropped. It’s called the summer slide! It would be great if you could encourage your children to read for at least 10 minutes every day to keep their skills active and growing.

AND FINALLY!
The holiday break gives families and friends the chance to relax away from the routine and busyness of school time. May the break be restful, with time to talk, read and laugh together. May we all be thankful for the many blessing we share. We live in a safe place in a wonderful country in a world where many are less fortunate and suffer greatly every day. We are indeed, most fortunate.

In closing, all of us at Geranium Primary School, join in saying THANK YOU for your support throughout 2015, and wish you a very Happy Christmas and safe and peaceful New Year.

Regards,
Ruth

A Point to Ponder
“One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don’t clean it up too quickly.”
Andy Rooney
H ave your say on early childhood reform

The South Australian government wants to hear your ideas for improving early childhood education and support for families.

Research shows that access to services such as preschools can reduce the effects of disadvantage, giving children a better start to schooling, creating benefits that continue into adulthood. It also tells us that it is more effective to support children’s development during their early years than attempting to ‘fix’ problems when they are older.

Share your views and ideas about before and after preschool care, services for disadvantaged children, and greater flexibility and choice for families when accessing preschool.

Have your say by visiting the YourSAy online consultation until 4 December 2015 and go into the running to win one of three prizes.

P&F Fundraising

Our families have been fantastic in supporting the P&F fundraising activities this year – so much so that we sometimes get swamped with money! To make things easier and more streamlined, we are asking that if you are sending in a cheque or cash with your children, that you clearly label who the money is from, and for what project. You can also now make deposits online! The details are:

BSB 105-104
Account 384180140
After direct deposit, please send an email or SMS details of what the payment was for to Tanja Morgan, P&F Treasurer.
Email: northside5@bigpond.com
Mobile: 0429395918

Have your say on early childhood reform

It’s very hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of Week 8 and indeed the school year. Earlier this week we completed a writing exercise in which all the students had to write a letter to Father Christmas with a difference. Instead of focusing on themselves and all the material ‘things’ they would like for Christmas, we had a great class discussion about things in the world which they would like Father Christmas to be able to change. It was wonderful to hear the students discussing many issues which we had talked about during the year and to realise how aware and compassionate they are. Topics they raised included the Sampson Flat and Pinery bushfires, this year’s earthquake in Nepal, drought, recent terrorist attacks, deforestation and species extinction and the fact that children in some countries are not able to access medical care or education. The letters they produced were truly heart-warming and made me very proud of this group of young people.

On a lighter note our last few weeks have continued to be packed full of fun and learning. It has been exciting to see the students’ Passion Projects, which have comprised the bulk of their homework this term, coming to fruition. During our emergency evacuation on Tuesday we had to spend an extended period of time out on the oval and Olivia did a wonderful job of stepping up and running a yoga session to help us all relax and pass some of the time. This was a perfect example of a student putting her new-found practical skills to good use!

The Sporting Schools Program has enabled our students to participate in some lawn bowls coaching this term and I enjoyed attending a session with my...
class this week. This has been a great opportunity for them to try out a sport they may otherwise not consider and they all took part enthusiastically. The range of different activities set up on the bowling green had them really engaging and trying their best to score points. Thankyou to Bevan King for providing the coaching.

Wednesday of this week saw us enjoying our final Young Environment Leaders’ forum for the year, with thanks once again to Harry Beauchamp from Murray Bridge for making this program available to our class. The theme this week was ‘Art from Nature’ and everyone made themselves a ‘crown’ using strips of bark and then collecting natural items from around the school grounds to decorate them. Amongst the fun and laughs it was obvious how this activity made the students really open their eyes to search for and appreciate the small things of beauty all around them.

As this is our final newsletter for the year I would like to say what a joy and privilege it has been to be a part of the Geranium Primary School community again this year. Thank you to every one of you for your support and I look forward to what the New Year brings (after a suitably relaxing break of course!) I hope you all have a wonderful, safe festive season and are able to enjoy some down-time with your families.

Regards,

Kathryn Roberts

Another year, another Shop Day and how exciting this one was! This year we expanded our shop and students came up with a big list of items to sell. On Wednesday, as we opened our doors, we were swarmed with keen shoppers. It was fantastic to see the excitement on all the student’s faces. After careful calculations and counting up the till in Maths on Thursday, we are so excited to announce that this year we raised $259.80, which is all going to ‘The Little Heroes Foundation’.

I am so proud of the amount of effort all the students put in during the build-up to the event and on the day. We did a lot of preparation for the Shop in class but some students even chose to make items, print signs and tie up bags or put goody bags together in play times or at home.

This year we had three students from the MUP class who chose to make and sell their Passion Project items too. This was a great chance for them to showcase their projects and everyone thought they were delicious! Thank you to Georgie, Jasmine, Tracey and their families for getting these items ready for the Shop. A big thank you to some other students in the MUP class too, who chose to help out at a stall or at the cash register. We would also like to thank the
PCW support group and all other staff at school, for helping out at stalls on the day too.

But, most importantly thank you to everyone who came and supported the day, buying some goods and making donations. We are so proud of what we put together for you but are even more proud of how this work helped raise money to help support the work that ‘The Little Heroes Foundation’ do.

On another note, this week we also ventured to Lameroo for a Christmas Seminar which the kids loved joining in with, had lawn bowls, had an “exciting” Tuesday afternoon and had the Kindy students join us for a half day visit. As this is our last newsletter for the year (I can’t believe it’s gone so quickly), I asked the senior students of our class, who are moving up, to reflect on the great year we have had at G.P.S.!

- Sophie T
- Tom
- Hayden
- Shianne
- Libby

Personally, I would like to thank everyone for an outstanding year. Thank you to all the students and parents of the JP class for a successful and fun year of learning, I have loved teaching and learning with your children and enjoying experiences like camp, the 50 year celebrations, Shop Day, excursions, School Pride, Glee Club and so on. Thank you to Sandy Small for volunteering her time to listen to reading every week, to Ashley Litchfield for giving up her time to put a lot of work into the school Veggie Garden for School Pride and to all the staff here at Geranium for another fabulous year. I feel incredibly lucky to have been a part of the Geranium community again this year and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2016!

And as the JP’s current favourite Christmas song says – “have a ripper Aussie Christmas mate”!

Miss. Lorelle Barton

Quotes from the graduating Yr 2 class

HAYDEN
I loved all of the work and play we did this year

TOM
I have loved PE, doing Maths and Literacy. I loved learning how to use the clock and working on the computers. This year I liked camp.

Sophie T
I have loved when we have done our Fun Friday and our Shared Learning with Kindy. I liked Literacy Centres and the Listening Post

Libby
I have loved doing Spelling activities and doing magnetic letters and block words. I liked playing ‘Steve Steve’ and following Ms Barton around at lunch

Shianne
I have loved doing Maths and doing numbers. I like doing Science and learning about food and money for our Shop Day
What a great year it has been, here at Geranium Primary School! 😊
The children at Geranium are so good to be around and are a credit to their parents. I think the highlight for Term 4, for me, would have to be Relaxation Class. The way the students have taken it in turns to lead; preparing and presenting great sessions, is just blowing me away!

On Monday, the school joined in with Lameroo students for the Christmas presentation: “The Wait is Over!” Thank you to Wendy Kemp and Pam Morgan for driving the buses.

Next Tuesday, 8th December, we have Christmas Electives run by PCW support group. Children can nominate their choices – on the school noticeboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHRISTMAS ELECTIVES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ginger bread cooking &amp; decorating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Christmas lanterns in a jar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Christmas cooking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Making Christmas decorations and cards</td>
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The JP Shop Day was a huge success, both in the money raised and in the way the children demonstrated true Teamwork. Congratulations to Miss Barton on facilitating this wonderful event. It will be a very satisfying feeling for Sophie Temby to know that all that hard work will be going towards a cause that is very close to her heart, “Little Heroes Foundation”.

PRESENTS V presence..

I’ve been thinking over the last few weeks about how important it is to be simply present in the lives of those here at Geranium Primary school.

Words, GIFTS, parties, fancy presentations and activities are all ok. But I think what most of us want, when we’re really feeling down, sick, isolated or under pressure is the presence of a friend or family member standing alongside us. Over the Christmas season, it’s easy to get caught up in the tide of presents but hopefully, we can be mindful of one another, being present for our children, families and friends. For me, one of the “light-bulb” or “Ahhh” things about christmas is the concept of a god who wants to be present in our lives!

Have a FANTASTIC Christmas break and holidays! I keep all staff and families of Geranium Primary School in my prayers.

Margaret Smith (Pastoral Care Worker)

Geranium Uniting Church
Christmas Service
Dec 20th at 10.00 am
Les Underwood sharing with us
Morning tea to follow
All Welcome
CHRISTMAS PARTY
FRIDAY 11th December
2.30 PM (EARLY DISMISSAL)

The Plan
- Walk to the church
- Party food
- Wrap gifts (each child to bring a gift under $10 for needy children
- Walk to swimming pool
- Swim & celebrate

Kids club party finishes at 4.30pm at the pool
Cost $2.50 + pool entry $5 (if you don’t have a season pass)

Non perishable groceries for Uniting Care
Wesley can be left at the school or at church
Details from Margaret Smith Ph: 85772216

POOL SUPERVISORS
A big thank you to those who have volunteered as pool Supervisors over summer. Unfortunately only a few people have responded which will limit the opening times.

If you are still contemplating and you would like to assist, the Pool Supervisor training will be held at the Pool at 10 am Sunday 6th December. We’d love to see you there!!

Supervisor training is mandatory

School Photos

School Photos have been sent home this week.
- Whole School & mess up
- Glee club
- Ministry
- SAPSASA
Photos are at the front office to view.
If families wish to order these the envelopes are also at the front office. All orders must be completed by Friday 11th December.

Wanted.
Tiny glass jars with lids; the ones you get mustard in. I need 28! If you have some can you please leave them on my desk in the PCW room.

Thank You
Marg Smith

School Logos

School and Kindy logos available for embroidery on t-shirts and jumpers $8.50 per logo. Clothing items do not need to be new,
Please send items to school in a bag clearly labelled with child’s name and payment enclosed. I will return items to school
Sonia Broadbent Ph: 8573 3556