

4 February 2026

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa - warm greetings to you all!

It has been great to see children quickly back into the routines of school learning, excited to see their classmates and enjoying their time in the playground.

With Waitangi Day this Friday (no school), we start with a short week, which starts us off on a shorter 9-week term. Check the end of this newsletter for a breakdown of events coming up, along with a Term 1 calendar.

Next week we have the excitement of school camps, information for this will have gone out / will be going out on HERO. These are not only a fun and challenging opportunity for our children, but another great chance for parents to connect particularly at the Year 1-3 camp at school. Please note that due to camps, next Wednesday - Friday there is no rural bus. There will also be no Ritchies bus on Thursday afternoon, Friday morning or Friday afternoon.

Following camps, classes will be into their regular classroom routines. Teachers will be gathering further information (on top of what we already know) about children's learning needs and establishing programmes. For students requiring extra support we make contact with parents to meet and discuss what is in place. Of course, parents are also welcome to contact us at any time if you would like to discuss the learning, behaviour or emotional progress of your child in relation to their schooling.

We look forward to re-connecting with families as we get into the school year. Teachers have been incredibly impressed with the way children have quickly settled back into class routines and learning, their attitudes and their positive social interactions - we look forward to developing these areas further as the year progresses.

Ngā mihi,

Mike



WELCOME  
back to  
SCHOOL

## BUSES

Bus Vests and bus safety are a priority for us, to ensure children are visible when getting to and from the bus. We have some strategies to try and positively encourage children to remember to bring and wear these. If a child is repeatedly not wearing their vest, it may be that we do not allow them on the bus in the afternoon.

If your child requires a new vest because they have outgrown their old one, please contact the office. Thank you to Hayden Mackenzie Contracting, who have generously provided these vests for our children.

## SWIMMING

Please send your child along to school with their togs and towel every day, even though your child may not get in the pool that day.

After School Swimming begins Tuesday 17th February, occurring every Tuesday and Thursday until the final session on Thursday 12th March. Please contact Clare Connolly ([clare.connolly@xtra.co.nz](mailto:clare.connolly@xtra.co.nz)) with any questions.

## HOME & SCHOOL

A big welcome back, from the Woodbury Home and School team.

The first meeting of the year is **Wednesday 18th February, 7.00pm** in the school staffroom. Anyone is welcome to come along to see what we get up to.

The first (and biggest) fundraiser of the year is Peastraw, coming up in March - first Delivery day is Sunday, 1st March - please keep day free if you can help out with deliveries if you are available.

## WOODBURY SCHOOL PEASTRAW AND LINSEED FUNDRAISER

Support our Tamariki/Children by purchasing Peastraw

### Uses for Peastraw:

- Chicken Coop
- Add to compost
- Garden Paths

### Amazing as Garden Mulch:

- Adds nitrogen to the soil
- Retains moisture and improves soil structure
- Suppresses weeds
- Reduces needs to water
- Protects plants and roots from frost



**21 bales  
for \$180**

**\$9 per bale  
(delivered)  
or  
\$8 per bale  
(pick up)**



Scan the QR code  
to order

 **Delivery: 1st March**

### ORDER INFO

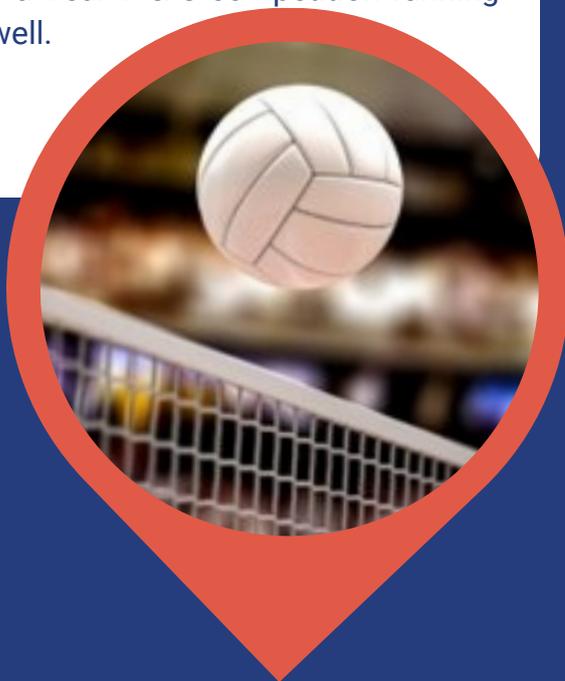
**027 485 0989**

**Minimum  
orders  
5 bales**

## VOLLEYBALL

We are excited to hear that Geraldine High School are again running volleyball for our Year 5 and Year 6 students. This is an excellent opportunity to learn a new sport, be active and have fun. Added to this, we have found this a great way for senior students to familiarise themselves with the High School, and connect with some older students who support them during games.

If you would like your child to play - [please fill in this google form](#). This will need to be done ASAP, as games start Wednesday 18th March and go for 6 weeks. Game times are between 4.30pm-6.00pm, last year most game times were at the earlier slots, as there was a Year 7 & 8 competition running as well.



## NEW STUDENT

We welcome Esther to Pekapeka. She joins her big brother Flynn at Woodbury School.



## SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Accounts are accessible via HERO, and get added to as activities arise. This includes camp, which we start the year with. If you require financial assistance with this, please contact the office (in confidence). Any payments can also be made over the course of several weeks, in more manageable instalments - please also contact the office if you would like to set this up.

## ATTENDANCE

A major focus of the Ministry of Education currently is around improving student attendance rates across New Zealand Schools. Each school needs an attendance plan in place, detailing how we will monitor and communicate around attendance to whanau.

As with last year we will be in touch with parents if attendance reaches a certain threshold, and HERO is also developing a function to do this via their app.

## SUN SMART

At this very sunny (hopefully!) time of year we remind parents that children need their drink bottles, hats, and sunscreen EVERY DAY.

For those children not wearing hats, they will play in the shaded decking area. It is fun to be out on the fields and playgrounds though, so we encourage children to bring them!

## LEARNER SUPPORT

The first few weeks of the year are all about settling in and forming / building on relationships within and across classrooms. Teachers then meet across the school to discuss children requiring additional support and programmes. Following this we then organise meetings with parents for those students who are requiring extra support, which happen around Weeks 7 and 8 of the term.

## THURSDAY SUSHI ORDERS

This will continue for Thursday lunchtimes (apart from next week, with camps on).

Keep an eye out for the links, sent early in the week.

**Note: there is no sausage sizzle in Term 1, we will restart this in Term 2**



## CONCERNS & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

At the start of each year we remind parents of our Concerns and Complaints Procedures, which are linked below.

- Concerns and Complaints Policy
- Raising Concerns and Complaints
- Assessing and Responding to Concerns and Complaints

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## KIVA

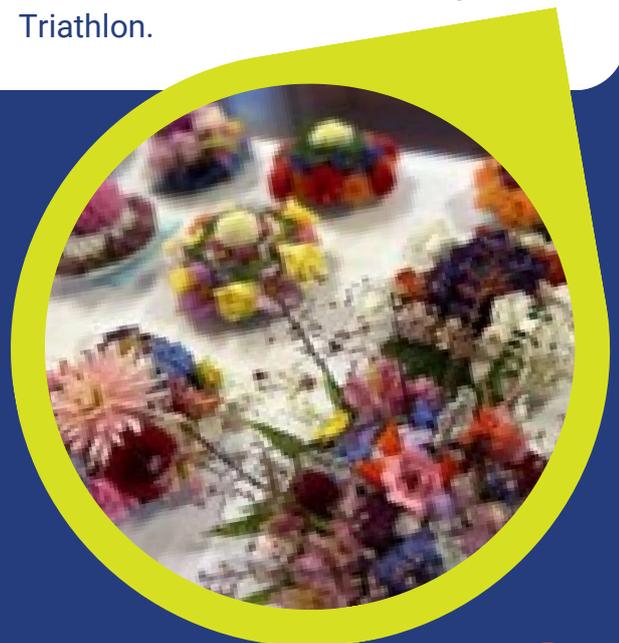


KiVA is our anti-bullying programme, which has been in place for the last 2 years. KiVA consists of regular classroom lessons and activities, along with a reporting process and procedures to follow-up of any incidents reported by staff, students, or parents. Lessons cover what bullying actually is, the harm it can cause, what to do if you experience it, amongst other topics. A major focus is the role of the bystander - what you can do if you see bullying happen.

A focus for us this year is to better inform parents around this programme, as while the processes are followed by staff when incidents occur, many parents have told us they are unaware of what KiVA is. Here is a link to the ["KiVA Parents Guide"](#), which gives some background to the programme.

## FLOWER SHOW

Please note that the Flower Show date has changed from Friday 13th March to Thursday 19th March, due to a clash with the South Canterbury Triathlon.



# TERM 1 DATES

Please find a link here to the [Term 1 calendar for 2026](#).

Note that most dates are confirmed but there may be some changes. For all events, there will be HERO messages prior with more information.

## Week 1 (2 - 6 February)

- Friday 6th is Waitangi Day Holiday, with no school on this day

## Week 2 (9 - 13 February)

- On Wednesday Tarahaoa head away to Oamaru for their camp. The Year 1-3 students have their locally-based camp at school on the Thursday and Friday. Information about these camps has **already been sent home - please contact the class teacher if you have any questions.**

## Week 3 (16 - 20 February)

- After School Swimming with Clare Connolly begins Tuesday 17th February, and continues every Tuesday and Thursday for 4 weeks.
- On Wednesday 18th February the Home and School have their first meeting, 7.00pm at school.

## Week 4 (23 - 27 February)

- Bike to School Day is on Monday 23rd, with bikes then kept at school for triathlon practices for the week. These are then taken home after the triathlon on the Friday.
- Our first BOT meeting is on Monday, at 7.00pm.
- Friday 27th is our school Triathlon - starting at 4.00pm (students remain at school until this time)

## Week 6 (9-13 March)

- On Tuesday 10th March we send 2 teams to the South Canterbury Year 5/6 Rippa Rugby Tournament.
- The South Canterbury Triathlon is held on Friday 13th March, for students in Years 5/6

## Week 7 (16-20 March)

- Thursday 19th March is Flower Show (note this date has changed)

## Week 8 (23-27 March)

- Monday 23rd March is a BOT meeting at 7.00pm
- On Tuesday Tarahaoa (Year 4-6) head away on a trip fossil hunting

## Week 9 (29 March-3 April)

- This is a 9 week term, with the last day of school being Thursday 2nd April (Friday is Easter). ANZAC Day is at the start of Term 2.

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# TIMARU Seaweek.

**Sat 28 Feb – Sun 8 March**

Community  
events  
timetable:



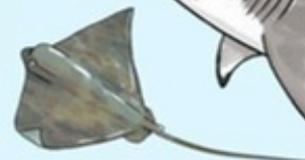
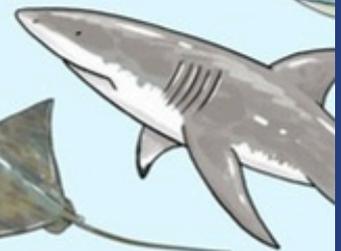
SC Eco Centre website



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## Four Peaks Geraldine Seido Karate

Beginners classes start on THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 at 5-50pm and runs for 12 weeks. Cost is \$2 per session. It is recommended that children are at least 6 years old and must be accompanied by a parent.

**Venue:** *Geraldine Bowling Club rooms, 45 Wright Street, Geraldine, 7930*

Four Peaks Geraldine Seido Karate is a well established club and has been running classes in Geraldine since 2006.

Seido Karate is a martial art that develops the following :

- ❖ Great Fitness Training developing stamina, strength and co-ordination skills.
- ❖ Builds up confidence and self-esteem as well as resilience in a supportive environment.
- ❖ Great Self Defence & Martial Art that will give you the skills and confidence to cope in any situation.
- ❖ Ideal for families as parents and children can train together in the same classes.
- ❖ Quality coaching from time served martial artists.

Contact Sensei Gisell on 02102287049 for more information or come down when we train and see what we do.