I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new families that have started this term. In addition, we would like to welcome our new staff: Amanda Chisnall to Year 5, Belinda Brown to the Executive Team for Term 2 heading up Student Engagement and Early Years Education, and Margaret O’Brien who will be managing the Junior Site Office. There will be an afternoon scheduled next week to provide the families of 5AC (formally 5AW) to officially meet the new teacher.

On May 7 from 6.30 pm we will be holding a Preschool and Kindergarten Open Evening. Please spread the word within the community as enrolment is now open for Preschool and Kindergarten in 2015 and we would welcome the opportunity to talk to as many families as possible about the wonderful programs we offer here at Gold Creek School in our Early Years. Year 6 students will have the opportunity to attend the Open Night at the Senior School on the same night, as well as participating in some orientation visits during Week one and two of this term to start their familiarisation with the Senior Campus.

Last Term parents received a package asking all current and prospective students to reapply to the GOLD program. The program has been streamlined to align with the new Directorate policy released earlier in Term 1. We remind all parents affected to please return forms as soon as possible to allow the panel to meet, offer places and begin communication with families around what acceptance into the GOLD program looks like for their child.

A follow up note will be coming home soon with regard to enrichment programs beginning in Term 2. Some programs are for selected students, and notes will come home to offer placement into these activities. Others are open to nominations, and a note will come home requesting nomination into these programs. Please keep your eye out for notices. We will display this information on our website and on our display board in the centre courtyard.

Congratulations to all the students who won a seat at the Associate Principal’s Morning Tea in Week 10. I look forward to meeting with the next group of students in Week 5 this term.

Best wishes for a happy and productive Term 2

Kate Stuckey
Associate Principal
Junior Site Bites

Defence News
Thank you to all parents/carers who attended our Whole School Anzac Day Ceremony. Our Defence parents’ presence in ceremonial dress uniform was very much appreciated. Your participation in the assembly was fantastic and added to the atmosphere of this event.

The DCO monthly coffee club will be meeting this term at Gungahlin Library Café on Tuesday 6 May, 3 June and 1 July at 10am, and at the National Museum of Australia (NMA) cafe, 28 May and 25 June at 10am. This is a great way to meet with other Defence families in the local area.

Hilary Kinraid
DTM / DSTA

*Reminder to parents/carers of students in years three – six. If you would like your child to participate in the school Maths Challenge and/or the Enrichment program, please return the permission note by Friday 2 May 2014

Tournament of Minds (TOM) is a problem solving program where teams of students are faced with demanding and open-ended challenges that they have to creatively solve. These challenges come from different disciplines including:

- Applied Technology
- Language Literature
- Maths Engineering
- Social Sciences

Tournament of Minds is for students with a passion for learning and problem solving. It provides an opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills in an exciting and public way. As an inter-school competition, Tournament of Minds is one of the fastest growing international school programs encouraging student engagement and responsibility.

During Term 2 students who have committed to representing Gold Creek School in TOM will attend regular coaching sessions in the lead up to the competition in Term 3. Students who are interested and can commit to participating in this program are encouraged to see

Change in enrolment processes for all ACT government schools
Our Directorate has taken on board feedback on ways to improve enrolment processes from parents, principals and school office staff across all sectors in our city and there is now a new streamlined process for enrolments for ALL government schools, from preschool to year 12.

Enrolment forms are ALL to be completed online (if support/access is required, each school’s office staff can help)

Applications for 2015 can be lodged online between 28 April 2014 (first day of term 2) and 30 May 2014

From 2 June 2014 principals look at enrolment applications and accept enrolments based on criteria outlined in Directorate policy taking into account the school’s Enrolment Management Plan

Parents will be notified of the school that has accepted their application

Applications received after 2 June will be considered within the individual school’s Enrolment Management Plan. A school’s Enrolment Management Plan takes into account school capacity, context and enrolment trends.

NAPLAN WITHDRAWAL PERIOD
NAPLAN assessments will be held for our year 3 and year 5 students from 13 – 15 May 2014. The period for parents to apply for their child to be withdrawn from some or all of the NAPLAN assessments is open now.

If you would like more information about this process please contact Julie Pickering on 6205 2955.

Car park Issues
Please take note of new signage erected at the Primary School.

Keep our children safe—slow down

Gold Creek School
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