Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been such a productive and exciting start to the 2016 academic year. Term 1 seems to have flown by very quickly and there have been many highlights for staff, students and parents.

Over the past week, this includes the parent forums run by Mr Garth Bradfield and Ms Jacqui Chapman on the future directions for ICT at Gold Creek School. We would like to thank all of the parents who came to these sessions and provided the school with valuable ideas and feedback on ways to move forward with various plans, including BYOD. Thanks as well to the teachers who gave up time before and after school to run the forums.

We would like to acknowledge and farewell one of our long-term staff members, Tina Negline. Tina has been with the SHAPE faculty and helped the team to develop its engaging curriculum. She has secured a position at another school and we wish her all the best as she begins teaching there.

Coming up in Week 10 parent teacher interviews will be held on the Senior Site on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The mid-semester reports are being delivered to students on Wednesday 30 March at a special Tutor Group session at 2:50pm. If students are absent on this day, reports will be posted on the following day. Within the report envelope instructions for the Parent Teacher Online (PTO) booking system will be provided to parents.

We also have our whole school ANZAC Commemorative Assembly on Friday 8 April at 9:00am in the Senior Site gymnasium. All parents and family are invited to attend the assembly to help recognise the service of past and present servicemen and women, including many of our own community who are currently serving in the three arms of the Australian Defence Force. A morning tea will be provided for Defence families following the assembly.

We would like to wish our students and their families a safe and happy Easter break. It seems like such a long time since the beginning of Term 1 and so much has happened that we know everyone will enjoy this short break prior to the end of term. We also look forward to hearing everyone’s stories about what they got up to over the break.

Best wishes,

Michelle Morthorpe and Priscilla Wray
Associate Principals – Gold Creek School Senior Site
GOVERNOR-GENERAL’S HARMONY DAY LUNCH

On Monday 21 March, we had the privilege of accompanying Ms Wray to the Governor General’s Long Lunch for Harmony Day at Government House. Over 1000 people sat down at the 350m long table to celebrate diversity within Australia. Whether they were foreign dignitaries, Indigenous representatives, community leaders, Defence personnel or school students, everybody got the chance to share their cultures.

Many people came dressed in their traditional clothing and brought along a traditional dish to share on their table. We had the chance to try homemade Chilean, Singaporean and Indian food, as well as many other dishes on our table, even one from Jordan! It was an amazing experience to be a part of such a wide spread celebration of diversity, and it enforced just how important it is to embrace everyone for who they are.

As the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, said, “These differences don’t divide or separate us. They actually bind us together because our diversity ends up being our greatest strength. It’s who we are.”

Caitlin Gare and Shams Mehry, School Captains
**Senior Site Bites**

**JUNIOR DEBATING TEAM**

On Monday 21 March, Gold Creek School's junior debating team competed in the first round of the ACT Debating Union's junior competition and were victorious!

In this week's debate, Gold Creek School was affirmative on the topic "That school uniforms should be compulsory". Armed with their stylish school uniforms and their brilliant minds, the Gold Creek team debated against Canberra Girls Grammar School with finesse and style. The Gold Creek team brought up arguments about how school uniforms prevented underprivileged students from being bullied, how they created discipline and a work ethic, and how they created a sense of community within schools.

They also expertly responded to arguments from their opponents about freedom and individuality, by saying that it would be better to have individuality come from who we are within, rather than what we are wearing. After the 30 minute debate, and a nail biting adjudication, it was announced that Gold Creek School had won! The adjudicator also commented that she was very impressed by the debate, and that the Gold Creek team was the best that she had seen all evening.

Congratulations to the speaking team, Rebekah Williams, Taaseen Islam, Eve Hudson, and Skye Anton who should be very proud of their first victory for the semester. Thank you also to the team’s alternatives, Claire Warner and Jayden Miller who helped the team prepare for the debate, and to the team's parents, who came to support Gold Creek.

*Vincent Chiang & Max Rixe, Class Teachers*

**MYP VERIFICATION VISIT**

In Week 10, from Monday to Wednesday, the Senior Site will host two very important visitors to the school. Two representatives from the International Baccalaureate Organisation will be coming in as part of the final step towards Gold Creek becoming an IB World School delivering the MYP. As part of the visit, the team members will be taking a tour of the school and speaking with various people to see how Gold Creek has been implementing the programme and our future plans. They will meet with staff, students and parents in their time here.

If parents/carers would like to be involved in the visit, please call Michelle Morthorpe by Friday 1 April on 6205 1814, at the latest, to express your interest. It would be wonderful to have a range of voices that represent the feelings of parents/carers on the implementation of the programme.

**SUCCESSFUL YEAR 10 STUDENTS**

Once again Gold Creek School has been successful in gaining positions in the Master Builders Association Kids Assist GRAPES Construction program. Five Year 10 students, including Luke Butterworth, Ryan Crandell, Kane Cummins, and Josh Demczyszyn, will take part in the course, which runs over seven weeks, spread out across the year.

They will receive training for their White Cards, Asbestos Awareness and gain a Certificate II in Construction Pathways. In their last two weeks, they will have an on-site work placement in the trade of their choice. Congratulations guys on winning a position on the course!

*Sara Hillier, Careers & WEX Coordinator*
AUDITIONS FOR THE SCHOOL MUSICAL – HAIRSPRAY

Acting, singing and dancing auditions will be held on Wednesday 6 April from 3-5pm. Sign up in the Performing Arts Corridor to express your interest.

NEWS FROM LANGUAGE/S

The term is flying by and we want to say thank you to all the students who have been working hard in class, handing in assignments and contributing to a positive class climate.

In Week 9, Year 7 has a narrative assignment to submit, after preparatory work in class. In Week 10 there will be an Indonesian lunch on offer for a very reasonable cost. These lunches are always tasty and very popular. Happy Easter to everyone.

*Trish Cregan, Executive Teacher*

TERRORISM AND RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM ELECTIVE

In the Year 9/10 elective called ‘Terrorism and Religious Extremism’, students have been learning about the history of terrorism from classical, medieval and up to the modern era (pre-2000). We have re-enacted parts of the French Revolution and done a ‘cop show’ style investigation of the murder of Alan Berg by white supremacists belonging to ‘The Order’. This involved images, a pin board with strings, press releases and forensics.

Last week we heard from Leona Anton, parent and staffing officer at Gold Creek School, and what it was like for her to live under the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Students have been developing an understanding of the history of terrorism and religious extremism and the complexities that surround this topic. The term will culminate with students taking action in a way that educates and informs their community at large. We will also visit the Canberra Mosque in Week 10. All of this is to deepen student’s understanding of these issues and hopefully enable them to be a part of a more peaceful and understanding world.

*Eric Woodward, Languages and Humanities Teacher*

YEAR 7 BIG DAY OUT

In order to facilitate relationship building and resilience amongst the Year 7 cohort, Gold Creek School will be hosting a day of organised activities to build a positive culture within the year group on Friday 1 April at Gold Creek School. These activities will be implemented in alignment with the Year 7 Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum.

The day will include team and resilience building activities in the morning, to be followed by a sausage sizzle and sporting activities in the afternoon. Please ensure that your student is sun smart and comes prepared with sunscreen and a hat on the day to prevent sunburn or heatstroke. Notes have been handed out to students and we request that they are returned to school as soon as possible.

*Max Rixe, Class Teacher & Y7 Coordinator*

DONATION

Thank you to Rebekah Williams and her family for their kind donation of ‘Billy Bones’, our new skeleton donated to the PE faculty.