Dear Parents and Carers

The work that has recently been done in improving our landscaping and gardens is giving the school a bright and fresh feel. The Junior Site gardens are really looking fabulous and you can see the amazing work done by Senior Site students building the brick wall around the flagpole will look stunning in the future.

The coming year promises to be busy and exciting here at Gold Creek. We are busily aligning the Australian Curriculum with the International Baccalaureate. The professional development for all staff will be an opportunity to further refine and build on quality units of work for our students. Successful programs initiated this year will continue next year. The E-Learning Café and Learning Resource Centre (LRC) have proved to provide substantial growth to students learning outcomes. The E-Learning Café will evolve and be incorporated in learning areas on the Junior Site. The LRC will continue and we are designing a Multicultural Area. The changes to a more traditional high school model will also be exciting. Staff will be in subject specialisations rather than in year levels. All staff will be responsible for a smaller tutor (homeroom) group. These are just a few of new directions coming.

This is also very poignant times of year when we say our farewells to our Graduating Year 10 students and to staff who are moving on. We hope our Year 10 students move on to the college sector ready to make the most of all opportunities that are coming their way.

All student reports on both the Junior and Senior sites will be coming home with students in Week 10.

Warm regards

The Leadership Team
CALENDAR DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
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<th>Week 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>JS</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>SS-Y6-9 End of Year Pool Day.</td>
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<td>JS End of Term Sausage Sizzle</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>SS-Y 10 Graduation &amp; Formal Rydges Lakeside.</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>SS Band Day Camp 9.30am-2.30pm</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF TERM 4</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>SS-End of Year Special Awards Ceremony.</td>
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JUNIOR CAMPUS NEWS

2013 Book Fair

Thank you to all who participated in our Joint Facilities Book Fair 20-22 November. You purchased $9000 worth of books. Our commission of $1800 will be used to purchase book resources for students in 2014. Reorders have been placed and will be delivered to classrooms as soon as they arrive.

We also had $142 worth of books donated to class libraries. These books have been processed and covered and will spend the rest of the year in your child’s class. At the end of the year they will be placed in the general collection in the library.

Happy reading!

Student Loans

All student books needed to be returned to the library by the end of last week. Overdue notices were send home last Friday and will be sent home again this Friday, 6 December. Any payment for lost or damaged books can be placed in an envelope with the overdue notice and returned to the library.

Please contact me if you have any queries about your child’s overdue notices.

Help Needed

As you can imagine the end of the year is a very busy time in the library. There are many administration jobs which need to be completed so the library is organised and tidy for a new start in 2014. One of the things we have been working towards is the colour coding of information books so that younger readers are able to access this collection more easily. This involves placing a colour sticker on the book spines and covering it with a spine label protector. If anyone can spare some time between now and the end of the year to help move this job on it would be very much appreciated! Even 15 minutes every now and then by a couple of people will make a huge difference to having this ready for next year.

Keryn Hoeschle and Anne Kunicki
(Teacher/Librarians)

Year 1 News

Year 1 students have been very busy beautifying and cleaning the area outside the multi-purpose room. The students have enjoyed their regular visits on Friday to weed, dig, plant and collect rubbish. Di the’ Gold Creek Garden Guru’ has kindly lent her guidance to our students and help them demonstrate the school values of Responsibility and Excellence.

The students are enjoying experimenting and investigating on our unit of work Light and Sound. They might have asked you to help them build another hummer or megaphone at home!
National Computer Science School Challenge 2013

In August and September there were a number of students from Years 8 – 10 who participated in the National Computer Science School Challenge. The challenge is run for high school students by the School of Information Technologies at the University of Sydney. Each week over five weeks a set of Python resources as well as a set of questions were distributed to the students. Those participating in the challenge had a week to submit their solutions and be automatically marked. The students showed a great deal of technological resilience as we dealt with a number of technical issues during over the course of the challenge. The following students received certificates as a part of their participation in the challenge, while Damanvir S from Year 10 received a High Distinction for his excellent results. Well done to all of those who participated, and congratulations to those who qualified for the certificates, which will be handed out in upcoming assemblies.

Year 8
Alen Z
Jakob M

Year 9
Henk R

Year 10
Stefan L
Marc S
James P
Cassie C.S.

World Challenge 2014

The students participating in the World Challenge trip to Vietnam and Cambodia have had their second meeting with staff from World Challenge, and have made a decision on what they will be doing whilst they are overseas.

The students decided that they wanted to complete two smaller treks rather than one very long one. One of them is a three day trek along a river to Yok Don where we will visit an elephant rehabilitation camp (and maybe get to interact with the elephants). The second is a three day jungle trek to Nam Kat Tiem. After their trek the students decided they wanted to work in an orphanage. We are not yet sure where the orphanage is but we should have about 5 days working there to try and make their lives a little better. After all their hard work the students will have a few days to rest and relax. They will be visiting the temples of Ankor Wat as well as visiting S21 and the Killing Fields. After this the Gold Creek crew will be staying at Hoi An, a little village renowned for its food and tailors that can make you a suit in couple of days.

If you see any of the students participating in the World Challenge trip fundraising, could you help them out with a little donation, or buy their produce to help them on their way.

Mark McLennan
STUDENT SERVICES NEWS

Student Leavers

A reminder that any student leaving Gold Creek this year are to collect a leaver’s card from the appropriate front office and hand back in signed to an Associate Principal.

Student Services Team

MUSIC & THE ARTS

Drama at Gold Creek

In 2012 Mel Timpson and I launched a drama club on the senior site that was open to Year 9 and 10 twice a week. The club grew and took its direction from the students supported, with passion, by Mel and I. At the end of 2012 the students requested to put on a performance to showcase their work, despite the fact it was “unpolished”. The staff and parents support for this unpolished performance was exceptional and truly valued the students work throughout the year. Now, in 2013, the club is open to Year 8 as well as 9 and 10 and building on last year’s workshops. We have also united with the primary site drama club with the senior site where both sites ran workshops for each other. This was a great learning experience and fun was had by all. (The drama club is not musical theatre. It is a non-assessable extra-curricular experience).

2012 saw Gold Creek offering theatre sports in house cup time as well as drama as an elective for Year 7. This has filtered through to a Year 8 drama elective in 2013.

This year, for the first time, Gold Creek has run an elective called ‘School Production”. The elective ran at full capacity with one third studying back stage as the crew and two thirds studying on stage as the cast. The elective ran for 1 full year (7hrs a fortnight). I believe the licensed musical being open to the wider community has helped reintroduce Gold Creek to the theatrical scene.

I would like to acknowledge and thank MASSIVELY the efforts that staff have put in in their own time, outside of school hours in previous years to launch a school play. Endless time and effort has been put in to this as a project, before I was privileged to be able teach it as an elective.

A privileged Sharon Barnes

DSTA/DTM NEWS

I would like to wish all my Defence families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Some of our families are being posted to new locations and I wish them all the very best for their new future home, school, work and community. It has been real a pleasure knowing your children, some for only a short time, as I have been saying goodbye along with their Teachers and classmates on both sites.

All of the Defence children on the Primary Site and the Senior Site have received a Christmas card and a little treat from me as part of the Defence Program. At the Senior Site the Student Services team
have helped me with “Get Togethers” for Years 6 to 10. The Junior Site we will be having a “Special Recess” in week 10 for a final get together for the year. A note will be coming home soon.

The Defence Community Organisation offers a wide range of support services for the families of ADF members visit [www.defence.gov.au/dco](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco) or contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

Eligible defence families can also access a range of free services from Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) [www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs](http://www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs) or phone 1800 011 046.

Finally I look forward to the DSTA/DTM Program continuing in 2013 and meeting our new and existing students and families.

Kind regards,

Deidre Robinson
DSTA/DTM

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**P&C NEWS**

**A Very Few Words from the Board Chair**

2013 has been a year of transition for Gold Creek, as will, I suspect 2014. Your Board has been active in supporting Linda Baird and her leadership team in making changes to our school and look forward with much anticipation to more change next year. We started the year with some big ideas and we have ended the year with these big ideas now written down, planned and funded. Our application to become an IB school is in full swing and we anticipate a favourable outcome.

We are working hard on continuing to improve the academic standard of our students and the engagement of all our students with learning — whether it be in physics or wood technology, basketball or chess, music or architecture, we want our students to find their niche and love learning. Our P&C under the guidance of Michael Rush has been superb in engaging with parents this year. P&C attendance has never been so high, indicating that parents and carers understand that when their child sees that their parent/carer is concerned about education, then the student responds.

2013 has been a wonderful year for Gold Creek, through the efforts of the teachers, students, parents, carers and community members. I expect 2014 will be even better.

Have a happy, relaxing and safe break and see you in 2014.

David Vernon
On behalf of the Gold Creek School Board

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**What the Working With Vulnerable People Act means for parents who volunteer at school**

Since the introduction of the Working With Vulnerable People Act, some parents and members of the Gold Creek School community have been expressing uncertainty about the need for volunteers to register with the Office of Regulatory Services to provide volunteer services to the school.

Volunteers who regularly work with children in classrooms or regularly make contact with children during other school activities will need to be registered. If you are unsure whether you need to be registered, please contact Linda Baird.

Some volunteers may choose not to register but to continue supporting the school by reducing the number of days on which they work so as to avoid exceeding statutory limits. There may also be opportunities for volunteers to participate in forms of work which are not considered education activities or involve contact with children and do not require volunteers to be registered.
Where this is not possible, it may be necessary to apply for a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. There is no cost for volunteers.

The new Working With Vulnerable People scheme has meant that all volunteers, new and continuing, will need to complete a new School Volunteer Nomination Form and to sign in each day they work at Gold Creek School.

We are strengthening protection for children, but we depend on our volunteers in a variety of ways and look forward to your continued support in whatever capacity you choose.

**Capacity Building Workshops**

To support individuals and families to prepare for the NDIS, ADACAS and ImagineMore will co-facilitate 3 series of 7 workshops that will explore how people living with disability can move towards a good life, especially given the changes to how disability support is funded. This NDIS readiness work is supported by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments.

Workshops include:

- You and Your Life – Thinking about who you are and the life you want to live.
- Making a Plan – Moving towards the life you want.
- Choices and Voices – Being an informed decision maker.
- Connected – Navigating into community life.
- Choosing your Personal Assistance – It’s your support.
- My Home, My Castle – Creating Your sanctuary.
- Safeguarding for a Good Life – How to stay safe while living your life.

Participants can choose to attend a whole series or select specific workshops of interest to them.

Details and registration form can be found at the following website:


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**YMCA Nicholls Campus**

**Outside School Hours Care**

Before & After School Care programs run by the YMCA of Canberra at the Gold Creek & Holy Spirit Shared Campus

**Before School Care**
3:30 - 9:00 am
**After School Care**
3:00 - 6:00 pm

**Breakfast Club at Senior Site**

Every Wednesday morning
7:45-8:45am

(Except first & last weeks of term)

**Did you know you can place a canteen order via Flexischools?**

Online ordering is a convenient way to place orders, providing a 24/7 payment and ordering system that can be accessed from home, work or a mobile device.

Parents and Carers please note that bookings are essential with OSHClub for 2014. Previous enrolments with the YMCA will not transfer over.

New Before, After and Vacation Care at Nicholls Joint Facilities!

From Term 1, 2014 there will be a brand new Outside School Hours Care provider at the Nicholls Joint Facilities run by OSHClub. OSHClub programs are great fun as there is so much to do, including heaps of activity choices, loads of equipment and wonderful, experienced and qualified carers. We are also looking forward to revamping the room with brand new furnishing and a whole new look! Times and fees will be the same in 2014 as 2013.

Check out our mega toy boxes full of brand new fun stuff:
- Loads of toys and cars
- Board games
- Art and craft materials
- Dress ups
- Games
- Sports gear

Join in our exciting activities:
- Science
- Art/Craft
- Drama
- Sports
- Cooking
- Construction

Both permanent and casual/last minute bookings available*.
Book early to ensure your place is reserved!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Fees and Times:</th>
<th>Fee **</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before School Care</td>
<td>$5.44 to $17.00</td>
<td>7:00am – 9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>After School Care</td>
<td>$7.75 to $25.50</td>
<td>3:00pm – 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pupil Free Days / Vac Care</td>
<td>$18.00 to $70.00</td>
<td>8:00am – 6:00pm</td>
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* A late booking fee of $3 applies to all bookings made within 24 hours of the session starting. Subject to availability. Fees subject to change.

** Families can apply for Child Care Benefit and the 50% Child Care Rebate so the actual fee payable will vary between these amounts depending on individual families’ circumstances. Fees range is approximate. The CCR isn’t means tested which means just about all working/studying parents are eligible to receive it. Call 13 61 50 to apply.

You will need a valid credit card or your Bank details for Direct Debit to enrol.
Enrolments will be open from Wednesday 13th November. Queries please call the numbers below.

www.oshclub.com.au  03 3364 9000 or 1800 460 870