



Junior Site Bites

Week 1

Term 1 2018



• Dates to remember:

[Calendar](#)

- **13 Feb** – Yr 3-6 Cyber Bullying
- **19 Feb – 2 Mar** – Kindergarten PIPS Testing
- **21 Feb** – Swimming Carnival
- **22 Feb** – Defence Parents Welcome Morning Tea

Follow us on twitter:

@GoldCreekSchool

Check out the P&C website:

<http://goldcreekschoolpandc.org.au/>



Welcome to 2018! What a fantastic first week of learning! We welcome back all our students and particularly those new to Gold Creek School. It has been a privilege watching your children settle into the new academic year, and I thank you for all the preparation prior to school that has occurred to allow for such a smooth transition. I love entering classrooms during this week, and watching all those routines being set and practiced to allow learning to be at the forefront! I particularly enjoy that as an International Baccalaureate school, all our teachers and students develop their Essential Agreements. In the classroom, this means, rather than teachers imposing rules, everyone works collaboratively to establish an **agreement** of how the class will function. Take the time to ask your child/ren what their Essential Agreement is!

Last week, all our staff returned and spent a number of days together learning new ways to support our students, by exploring ways to engage students with problem solving based on authentic experiences. As teachers, we know the importance of continued learning, and we pride ourselves on being a community of learners.

We are excited to continually provide engaging curriculum, and look forward to more opportunities to share our classrooms as we introduce SEESAW to the whole school community. SEESAW is an online platform which will allow teachers and students to share learning directly to your phone! Keep an eye out for information sent from Kim Barnett. We will be offering a parent workshop to explore how SEESAW works later this term.

Communication

As always, we value a strong home/school link and encourage regular communication with staff. Remember, as always, the first point of contact is your classroom teacher. Our teachers value regular discussion to ensure that we meet the needs of your child. We will be holding our Meet and Greet in week 3 which will give you an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, and understand the year's curriculum for 2018.

Save the date: Meet and Greet 22 February – More information next week

This year we welcome Kirrally Talbot to join our Executive team. Kirrally will be our Director of Student Services, and will support the Year 1/2 team. Cindy Condon will be the executive for Preschool and Kindergarten and Julie Pickering will support Years 3 and 4. We are currently recruiting our Year 5/6 Team Leader.



Finally, thank you as always to all our parents for your continued support during drop-off and pick-up. We recognise that the carpark and entry into Kelleway Ave is still an area of concern, and encourage all families to walk to school where possible. To support this, we are lucky to have been allocated a crossing supervisor to our school. The School Crossing Supervisor program has been introduced in the ACT in 2018 to increase safety at 20 of the ACT's busiest crossings and to encourage more students to walk and ride to school. The Minister for Transport and City Services Meegan Fitzharris announced this at Gold Creek on 12 December 2017 – you can read more about this initiative here: [new initiative](#).

Crossing supervisors (or lollipop people, as they are commonly known) assist children to cross roads safely by directing traffic with a stop sign and providing instructions to students. We are lucky to have Glenn as our supervisor, who was introduced to our students today at assembly and we look forward to him becoming an integral part of our school. He obviously has a very important role keeping us safe when crossing the road. Three important things to remember are:

- STOP- in a safe location next to the crossing
- LOOK- for our crossing supervisor
- LISTEN- to our supervisor's instruction!

Make sure you say hello to Glenn and make him feel welcome at Gold Creek!

Have a fabulous week of learning!

Jacqui

Gold Creek School

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PIPS Testing for Kindergarten

Each year, students in Kindergarten across Australia undertake an on-entry baseline assessment test of their early reading, phonics and numeracy skills using the Performance Indicators in Primary School (PIPS) program. This on-line test will be administered during Week 3 and 4 of Term 1 by classroom teachers, with families receiving their child's results later in the term. The assessment will then be repeated during Term 4, with the end of year results being used to gauge individual, class and school growth. If your Kindergarten child is going to be absent during the testing period please speak to your child's classroom teacher.

Library News

Welcome Back to Joint Facilities Library for 2018.

The library is positioned between both Gold Creek and Holy Spirit Primary Schools with both using this space for borrowing and inquiry.

We are very excited to be starting the year with some lovely new teaching spaces and furnishings, with more to come, so please feel free to visit at any time to have a look around, or stay tuned via the Newsletters, Bites and social media.

Student Borrowing starts next week. A note has been sent home to Kindergarten and Year 1 classes with information about days and times. Other year cohorts will be publishing their library days in our 'Classroom Connections'.

Please assist students to care for our valuable books while they are in your home, encouraging them to return and re-borrow regularly. It is expected that all students will have a library bag to keep books safe travelling to and from school, and while in your home. All lost or damaged books will need to be paid for or replaced so that we can maintain our collection.

Scholastic Book Club will be starting again in the middle of this term. **Loop will be the ONLY option in 2018 to purchase Book Club orders.**

- Go to <http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub/>
- Choose 'LOOP For Parents' to create a profile for your child
- Select "GOLD CREEK & HOLY SPIRIT" then follow the prompts.
- Place order

NOTE: there is also an App for your chosen device.

Volunteers are very much appreciated. If you are able to help, even for ½ an hour, with such things as re-shelving or covering books, just pop in and see one of our library staff.

Our library staff this year will be:

- Gold Creek staff – Keryn Hoeschle (teacher/librarian) & Julie Sherd (library assistant)
- Holy Spirit staff – Kathy Talbot & David Camp (teacher /librarians) & Mary-Ellen Bakker (library assistant)

There will usually be library staff available every day and we are all here to assist.

Parent Information sheet: click on the following link for valuable advice on keeping your child safe on the internet <https://gdcf-0916001bcitd.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/3is-internet-safety.pdf>

Please feel free to ring the library with your questions or concerns on 614 21 355.

Keryn Hoeschle
Teacher/Librarian

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Kindergarten Health Checks are happening this year!

All kindergarten students in the ACT are eligible to receive a FREE health check



VISION CHECK



HEARING CHECK



HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND
BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)



If you have not returned your child's Kindergarten Health Check Consent and Questionnaire



FIND – Information packs will be sent home early in Term 1



SIGN – Complete The Kindergarten Health Check Consent And Questionnaire



RETURN – To your school by 28th February 2018

Your school can provide you with the date of the health check.



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www.health.act.gov.au | www.act.gov.au | Enquiries: Canberra 13ACT1 or 132281

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Gold Creek School Board Elections 2018

- We want YOU for the GCS Board!
- If you're keen to contribute to the governance of GCS, you should nominate for a position on the GCS Board. No prior experience is necessary.

The following positions will be vacant in 2018.

- 1 x staff member position (2 year appointment)
- 1 x P & C member position (2 year appointment)
- 1 x student member position (2 year appointment for a yr 9 student)
- **Nominations open 11am, Monday 12 February 2018 and close 14 days later on Monday 26 February 2018.**
- You can pick up a nomination form from the GCS front offices on the junior and senior sites during normal business hours (9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday), or request one be emailed or faxed to you, or via our [website](#).

You can submit your nomination by:

- hand delivery to the GCS front offices and place it in the secure box.
- email to Kerry.lyttle@ed.act.edu.au
- mail to ARO, c/- GCS front office

Voting will commence on 5 March and close on 12 March 2018

For more information, contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Kerry Lyttle on 0427626507

Defence News



Welcome Morning Tea

There will be a Welcome Morning Tea at Gold Creek on Thursday 22nd of February 18 (Week 3) for Defence parents and other parents/carers new to Canberra.

Date: **Thu 22nd Feb 18**

Time: **9:30am – 10:30am**

Where: The courtyard off the main staffroom at the **Gold Creek Junior Campus**

For catering purposes, please **RSVP** by Monday 19th Feb 18, colin.wilson@ed.act.edu.au.

Colin Wilson
DTM/DSTA

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Bus News

As we start a new school year, we would like to remind you, parents and students about our services and how to best prepare for bus travel this school year.

Details of all school and regular bus services are now available for parents and students to begin planning their journeys. We ask that parents and students familiarise themselves with the most suitable route, times and stop locations for their children before the school term commences.

School bus services are available to school students only however, parents with young children may apply to travel on these services for a few weeks to help their child get used to bus travel. Please use the links below for further information on our bus services:

[School bus timetables](#)

[Regular bus timetables](#)

We are urging parents and students to check MyWay cards and top up if required. MyWay cards can be topped up automatically using the handy autoloading service, online, over the phone via the Transport Canberra information line (13 17 10), or in person with a MyWay recharge agent. Passengers who top up using Autoload attract a further 5% discount on all fares.

New bus fares came into effect on 20 January 2018. Single trip concessions cash fares cost \$2.40 and MyWay fares are now \$1.57. Parents and students can find more information at transport.act.gov.au or by calling 13 17 10.

Transport Canberra would appreciate your assistance in circulating this information to students and parents using your existing communications channels, such as school emails, newsletters or notices.

We wish you the best of luck with the 2018 school year.

Regards

Transport Canberra - Marketing and Communications

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK...AND KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE!

With school now back for the year we are encouraging all parents to make parking safety a priority!

This means:

- keep clear of 'no stopping' and 'no parking' zones
- don't park in bus zones on school crossings, across footpaths or driveways; and
- don't double (or triple) park!

Remember - it's okay to park a little further away from the school and walk the rest of the way!

Consider - having a pre-determined meeting spot agreed with your kids. That way if you are a little late, they know where to wait.

Think - visibility around schools and if your car may be blocking the view of crossings for other motorists. Also be mindful when entering or leaving parking spots - look twice!

Be kind - to other road users and pedestrians and also if you see any parking officers in the area - they are doing their job and working to keep our kids safe!

Note - licence Plate Recognition (or electronic chalking) vans are now actively monitoring schools. Penalties range from \$114 upwards to \$600. Details at www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

Access Canberra

