Dear Parents and Carers

As the 2013 school year draws to a close, I have recently been reflecting on the progress we have made in a relatively short time. The priorities, goals and timelines we set for ourselves in terms of school improvement at the beginning of the year, have all been achieved. The data we have collected as an evaluation tool and as a measure of our success, indicates that there has been significant whole school improvement, in terms of student engagement, academic performance in NAPLAN and PIPS, attendance rates, staff absence and student retention. Satisfaction survey results demonstrate that the wider community is beginning to have real confidence in the school and this has recently been validated by the significant increase in prospective enrolments for 2014.

We are currently waiting to find out about our application to the International Baccalaureate Organisation as a candidate school for the IB PYP and MYP. Although I was hoping to have some good news before the festive period, it looks as though we will have to wait another few weeks before officially finding out if we have been successful with our submission.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Gold Creek for their tireless pursuit to maximise student outcomes for all. A number of staff will leave us at the end of this year. Many have been at Gold Creek for a long time and will move to new schools in 2014. This is normal practice in all ACT Public Schools. I would therefore like to acknowledge the work and commitment made by the following staff and wish them well on behalf of the school community; Michiko Barber, Sharon Barnes, Lisa Batum, Vic Brown, Shannon Brown, Sharoll Chand, Tim Egan, April Fojtik, Robyn Harris, Stephanie Johnston, Maz Mazandaran, Nicole McLaurin, Franceska Nagy, Ganesh Prasad, Laura Press, Nicole Richardson, Helen Sinclair, Sharyn Thomas, Janine Waters, Anne Brennan, Joanne Hampton, Elissa Penfold, Adam Hellyar and Kellie Shoemark.

This term has been particularly busy on both junior and senior campuses with a myriad of events taking place including concerts, graduations, award assemblies, excursions, discos and information evenings. End of year reports have also been written by staff and summative assessment reports for our contract teachers completed. We have spent a considerable time preparing for 2014 and are now ready to go!

I have very much appreciated the support I have received this year from David Vernon our School Board Chair and Michael Rush, our P&C president. They have provided advice, given constructive feedback and been ‘on hand’ whenever needed.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you all a very Jolly Christmas, Happy New Year and restful summer holiday. I am off to the Northern Hemisphere so Christmas Day will most certainly be white!!

Best Wishes, Linda Baird

Notes home

Change to Junior Site start and finish times for 2014
End of Semester School Reports
Book Pack lists
After School Care information
Information Pack including:
- Cover Note
- 2014 School starting Dates and procedures
- 2014 Uniform Overview
- Term One Calendar
- Family Contributions

Gold Creek School
Kelleway Ave, Nicholls, ACT, 2913
www.goldcreek.act.edu.au
Congratulations to our 2014 School Captains
Captains
Jacinta Rush Anas Shahjahan
Vice Captains
Jodie Chang Humza Shaik

Congratulations to our 2014 Student Leadership Council
Jacinta Rush Wanin Tessema Skye Anton Annerly Poulos
Jodie Chang Anas Shahjahan Emily Cullinan Humza Shaik
Abbey Cooper Paris Carter Ashleigh Parker

Congratulations to all recipients at today’s Awards Ceremony
Social excellence: Jayden Miller Yr4
Sporting: Annerly Poulos Yr5
Academic: Ryan To Yr4
Citizenship: Finn Johnson Yr2
Individual Self-improvement: Rose Platten Yr4
Positive contribution: Abbey Cooper Yr5
Community Service: Sarah Nguyen Yr5
Talent Quest Winner: Georgette Wood Yr 4

Year 4/5 Expo
Last week, year 4 & 5 students in the Jade Unit hosted an expo on their Integrated Unit of Inquiry - Living things rely on each other and their environment to survive. Students presented displays featuring expositions and information reports on their chosen animal, which included, Spitting Cobras, White Lions and Angler Fish. Students also presented powerpoint slides, models and brochures on their creature. The event was a real highlight for the term, with students engaged and working effectively in groups.