



Senior Site Bites



Week 4

Term 3 2016,



Dates to remember:

- 16 Aug - Y7/8 Soccer, Dickson 8:30am
- 19 Aug - Y7 Languages Zoo Exc
- 23 Aug - O/Ed camp, ETD 7am Wee Jasper
- 24 Aug - O/Ed camp Wee Jasper, ETA 3:30pm
- 25 Aug - Step into the Limelight Gala, AIS 6:15pm
- 26 Aug - Step into the Limelight Gala, AIS 6:15pm

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@GoldCreekSchool

Check out the P&C website:

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



Dear Parents/Carers

This week the Senior Site Tutor Groups have been competing in science quizzes as part of National Science Week. The top two Tutor Groups will compete in a final quiz at our assembly tomorrow morning. Thanks to the Science team for developing the activities and challenging us all to be inquirers and to think scientifically.

On Monday night our Junior Debating team competed in the ACT finals of the Junior Open Competition. They were awarded the overall runners-up of the competition. Congratulations to this team. As they are in the junior competition we will look forward to many more years of them proudly representing Gold Creek at the finals in the senior competition. Our thanks go to Max Rixe and Vincent Chiang for their ongoing support and coaching of the three teams and to those parents who were there every week cheering on the Gold Creek students. Our school has certainly presented itself well in the debating competitions. Well done.

This week also saw us welcome Ms Judith Hamilton, the Schools Network Leader for North-Gungahlin as well as Ms Heather Paterson the newly appointed Principal of Gungahlin College. They came to immerse themselves for a day at our school across both sites to see our improvement journey in action. This included visiting classes, talking to students about their learning and meeting with the executive team. The feedback we received after the visit has been validating and valuable for us. Judith commented particularly on the vibrant learning community and commended the work of our highly committed staff and their support of student learning.

Hopefully you all received Mrs Linda Baird's strategic update last week, highlighting the various actions and the progress to date of our Annual Action Plan. You will be receiving early next week a further email regarding your participation in the School Satisfaction Survey conducted at all ACT Public Schools in August. Students and staff will also participate in a similar survey. The survey results contribute to our school improvement process. Your feedback is valuable and we encourage you all to participate. Remember, if you have more than one student at the school, you will be asked to complete a survey relating to each child. This is to recognise that our students are individuals and there will be variations to their experiences within the school.

In week 6, we are excited to participate in National Book Week events culminating in a Book Week costume parade. So get your thinking hats on as to the best book character your student can come to school dressed as on Friday 26 August. Just because we're in high school doesn't mean we don't get to have fun and be silly every once in a while. Our student leadership group are working closely with Ms Keryn Hoeschle, our librarian, to come up with a number of events for that week.

Michelle Morthorpe and Priscilla Wray
Associate Principals – Senior Site

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DEBATING NEWS

It has been an amazing season for Gold Creek School debaters!

Congratulations to the GCS Junior Debating Team, Skye Anton, Eve Hudson, Taaseen Islam, Rebekah Williams, and reserve team member Jayden Miller, who have been awarded overall runner-up in the ACT Junior Open competition. Their achievement follows on from a remarkable season, where the students qualified for the state grand finals. They did so after finishing 3rd on the preliminary rounds ladder, and then by winning three knockout finals rounds, against Burgmann Anglican School and Orana Steiner School.



Congratulations also to the two GCS Senior Debating Teams, who both qualified for the ACT Senior Open competition's finals series. The teams debated valiantly, and though they were not victorious in their octo-finals, they debated spectacularly across the whole season. All in all, every GCS team qualified for a final, which is a remarkable achievement for the school.

Gold Creek School has seen numerous individual successes as well. Year 7 student Rebekah Williams was given an award for ranking as 6th best junior speaker in the ACT, and year 7 student Taaseen Islam narrowly missed an award after ranking 11th best junior speaker in the ACT. Year 9 student Elicia Sangster was also given an award for ranking as one of the top 10 senior speakers in the ACT. These achievements are particularly significant, as this year is the first time all of these students have participated in the ACT Debating competitions.

All of the debaters are to be congratulated for their exceptional performance throughout the season; they have proven once and for all that Gold Creek School is a debating force to be reckoned with.

Debaters, you've done us proud!

HOUSE POINTS CHANGES

Over the course of the next semester Gold Creek Senior Site is rolling out a new House System to acknowledge and reward student achievement across all aspects of school life. In the past, the house system has been based mostly on the sporting carnivals, however, this has become out dated.

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To fit in with the status of Gold Creek as an IB World School, the house system has been designed to reward students for their achievements every day, rather than solely at whole school and year assemblies. On the school website you will find a tab that takes you to a link. This link enables students to go on at any stage to claim points allocated to them by their teacher in the classroom, their coach from a sporting team, teachers in charge of school production etc. These are but a few examples of what students can claim points for. Please refer to the school website for an information sheet on what students can claim points for.

To encourage student involvement, a number of rewards are on offer to recognise student achievement such as a Principal's morning tea once a term for the highest points achievers and an end of year house activity off site.

In saying all this, the main purpose of the new system is to encourage a more rigorous approach from all students and staff in their work across the school and to recognise all achievements rather than a few. A strong emphasis on developing an understanding of the IB learner profile and what it means in school and in the community is a core focus to support the philosophies of Gold Creek being an IB World School.

EUCALYPTUS (Surnames A-E)

BLUE GUM (Surnames F-Le)

WARATAH (surnames Lf-Ri)

WATTLE (Surnames Rj-Z)



YEAR 7 SCIENCE

Students in Year 7 Science classes have been looking at soil as a resource. Here, they are looking at the horizons in a soil profile collected from the oval.

Niels Hider, Executive Teacher Science and Mathematics

YEAR 9 SCIENCE

Students in Year 9 have been investigating the properties of electricity. In this photo, Justin is touching a Van der Graf generator which has given him extra electrons to make him charged with negative static electricity. This makes each hair on his head negatively charged and exert repulsive forces on each other to make his hair stand on end.

Niels Hider, Executive Teacher Science and Mathematics



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VISUAL ARTS

On Tuesday of Week 2, artist and lecturer Tiffany Cole, of the Australian National University School of Art visited Gold Creek senior students to conduct a two hour intensive session of portrait drawing for our Year 9/10 Visual Arts elective students.

Tiffany showed us examples of her own paintings and portraits, and lead a series of exercises in careful observation and drawing skills. Students worked on creating detailed portraits of each other, making the most of the opportunity to have a live model pose for them for an extended period.



The students really enjoyed the workshop and learnt some important skills which will support their painting and drawing projects this semester. Thanks again to Ms. Cole and the ANU School of Art for providing such an excellent opportunity to extend our learning!

Thea Katauskas, Visual Arts Teacher

ACT YOUTH DANCE FESTIVAL (DANCEFEST)

Students from Gold Creek School will be performing in the 2016 Youth Dancefest. Please mark the following dates in your diary:

- Monday 5 September - Technical Rehearsal excursion to the Canberra Theatre.
- Wednesday 7 September - Dancefest Show at the Canberra Theatre from 7pm.

Please watch this space; more details will be available closer to the date.

Miss Kirk, SHAPE/Y8 Coordinator

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NAPLAN ONLINE - TRIAL OF THE NEW ONLINE ASSESSMENT PLATFORM

You may have heard that NAPLAN online is being introduced across Australia from 2017, with an aim for all Australian schools administering NAPLAN online by 2019.

NAPLAN online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information. Your child's results will be returned to you faster, within a couple of weeks rather than a couple of months.

Between 16 and 26 August 2016, our school is participating in a trial of the new NAPLAN Online platform (the computer system the test will be taken on). This trial isn't 'another' NAPLAN test for 2016, rather, it is a chance for teachers and students to test the new platform in a real-life classroom environment. A selection of our students will participate in the trial, by undertaking either one or two online tests that include examples of the new NAPLAN online questions. Each of these tests will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

Participating in this trial is important as it will help us make sure we have adequate bandwidth capacity, wireless connectivity, and whether students have access to a sufficient number of devices for NAPLAN testing. During the trial, we will also have the opportunity to practice managing the classroom for an online assessment, as well as the new test administration processes.

Feedback from schools participating in the trial will inform transition to the online assessment as well as provide valuable feedback to shape the final development of the NAPLAN online platform.

Participation in this trial is a key step to ensuring a successful NAPLAN online experience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate in contacting Philip De Zylva on 6205 1814.

Further information is available on the Education Directorate Website
www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/naplan-online.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR KIDS DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

Dear Parents/Carers

As parents ourselves we know the challenge of finding care for our kids during the school break. We also understand that as kids get older they don't want to attend or participate in childcare of any sort.

SWISH Education recognise this and have created a program aimed at Year 7-9 students for 2 days only. As you will see from the attached flyer we have 2 unique programs designed to stimulate and perhaps inspire the young minds of Year 7-9 students.

We are also CCB/CCR approved for this age group, something unique in Canberra. Why not check us out this school break! If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Regards

Michele Justin

Director – Operations 0488 265 122

www.swisheducation.edu.au



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Step into the Limelight 2016 Gala Showcase

Students at Gold Creek School are performing in the opening sequence of *Step into the Limelight 2016* Gala Showcase at the AIS Arena on Thursday 25 August and Friday 26 August. Please come and watch our students perform at the 10th anniversary of *Step into the Limelight*. The students have interpreted the story of *Mununja the Butterfly* through dance and drama. Katie Bennett, one of our Kindergarten teachers, is leading this performance of students from Years 2 to 10.

'Stories'

Step into the Limelight, the ACT's creative and performing arts showcase event for public schools began in 2007 and has grown to become the largest youth Arts event in the ACT. More than 1600 students from over 65 public schools from Preschool to Year 12 will work closely with professional artists, tertiary institutions and arts organisations to develop outstanding artistic works for the show. The performance is held at the AIS Indoor Arena. The theme for this year's showcase is *Stories*.



Tickets go on sale for the **Step into the Limelight 2016** on Monday 1 August.

The show is performed on floor area at one end of arena – best seats in D, E, F, G, H sections which are front on to stage placement.

Show starts at 7.00pm – box office opens at 5.30pm, doors at 6.30pm, finishes by 9.45pm

Links - <http://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=LIMELIGH16>
<http://m.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=LIMELIGH16>

Prices

Adults - \$30

Junior – all school aged children - \$18

Concession - \$25

Family of 4 – 1 + 3 or 2 + 2 - \$81

Group of 8 or more - \$25 per ticket



Transaction Fees may apply. Think carefully about family or group tickets to get best value.