Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We near the middle of first term and it is fantastic to see staff and students embracing many exciting opportunities. Year 7 students supported by Ms Mary-Anne Kirk, Ms Sara Hillier and Mr Paul Fitzpatrick participated in the Year 7 Camp to Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation in Narrabeen last week and all reports indicate everyone had a great trip.

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the National Leadership Conference in Sydney along with Mr Rael Matthews and Ms Angela Spence. This was an excellent opportunity for us to hear the leadership and school improvement journeys from other schools across Australia and internationally. We shared and planned as a whole school leadership group ideas for Gold Creek Schools’ continued improvement journey. This will be communicated to our school community through sharing our Annual Operational Plan in the next Newsletter.

On Thursday 5 March, I had the great pleasure of attending the International Women’s Day luncheon for Canberra with our Senior Site female Captains, Tara Swanton and Emily Russell and Ms Trish Cregan along with the Junior Site female Captains, Eryn Copeland and Amber Sharpe. It was a truly inspirational day to hear speakers discuss and debate the theme for this year, “let’s not wait another 20 years to achieve gender equality”.

This year there are many opportunities for students to engage in extra-curricular activities, excursions and incursions. Students need to ensure they are not on the No Go List as a result of missing classes or being consistently out of uniform to allow their participation in these activities. It is the responsibility of students to catch up any missed lessons.

We wish our school community a safe and enjoyable long weekend.

Warm regards,

Priscilla Wray
Associate Principal
Senior Site Bites

Sporting News

Our sporting teams are training hard to head out to events over the next couple of weeks. Coming up we have Girls and Boys Basketball, Girls Water Polo and we are in the process of determining who qualified for Northside swimming.

Congratulations to Gavin Preston for coming Second Place in Division A in the Singles Tennis Tournament on Monday 2nd March. This is a huge achievement and Gavin should be commended for his efforts on the day. Also a special mention to Jacque Read and Ahmed Waqar on their participation in this tournament. It’s fantastic to see students represent Gold Creek in this competition.

A reminder to all students to continuously check the ‘Sports Notice Board’ in the gym for upcoming ACT trials. This includes students who are 12 years and under. If you require further information or wish to trial and require the paperwork please see Miss Slater in the Health & PE Staffroom in the gym.

Library News

Thank you to Sara Hillier’s Year 7 English class for helping Mrs Sherd in the library this week. Not only were they demonstrating community spirit by performing a valuable service to the school community, they were also applying their knowledge of ordering decimal numbers to re-shelve information books into Dewey order.

Overdue Notices

Overdue notices for books borrowed by students in 2014 and not yet returned have been sent home this week. We know that accidents happen and books can be replaced or damaged, but to maintain our collection we ask that you either replace the item with a new copy or contribute financially to its replacement.

Please return the overdue notice, with replacement cost OR replacement book, to the front office by the end of next week.

Student Information Check Sheets

The Student Information Check Sheets sent home with students on Monday are now due. Could parents check that all details are correct, make any amendments if necessary, sign the form and then return to Tutor Group teachers as soon as possible please.

Robotics News

Congratulations to Mr West’s Robotics class on their recent workshop at the Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre (Questacon). Students developed and tested technology and programming skills using pre-assembled robots. Attending students were outstanding in their behaviour and participation. Also, thanks go to Mr West for his organisation of this excursion.
Year 7 Camp

Last week on Wednesday 25 February at 6.30 in the morning, we set off for the Year 7 camp with 84 sleepy but excited Year 7s. Ms Kirk, Mr Fitzpatrick and myself were there 24/7 for the kids. Our school captains and vice captains, Tara, Michael, Emily and Nic also came along as peer leaders. We arrived at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation, located on Narrabean Lake, in time for lunch. The students were allocated cabins of 4 to 10 people and the fun began. The groups rotated through various activities including archery, ropes course, raft building, canoeing, abseiling and tennis. In the evening, we had games and swimming in the indoor pool. Everyone seemed to have a great time and we arrived back on Friday around 6.30 pm. Thank you to the teachers and the peer leaders for giving up their time to go on the camp.

Mrs Hillier Year 7 Coordinator

Here are some comments from the students:

“My last archery shot was in the middle for a 100 points and my team won” - Alex K
“We did the ropes course and it was fun when we went down the flying fox” - Byron
“It was 10 out of 10” - Sam F
“The food was good” - Alex G
“Raft building and canoeing were fun as we were able to get in the river” - Zac C
“I especially loved swimming in the pool on the second night” - Hannah
“It felt really intimidating when getting on the ropes course first but when you got past that feeling, you felt accomplished” - Sam B
“Then we went to bed, but of course we didn’t all go to sleep straight away” - Courtney
“Camp was great, but there was one downside – waking up at 5 am” - Courtney
“We had a lot of fun building the rafts” - Hayley
“When we did high ropes it was scary at first” - Alex G
NDIS Information Evenings

Harrison School – Tuesday March 10 at 6pm

Nth Ainslie Primary School – Monday March 16 at 6pm

Dickson College - Thursday March 19 at 6pm

Representatives from the National Disability Insurance Agency and the Education and Training Directorate will cover the following topics;

- Raising awareness of the NDIS and NDIA
- An explanation and discussion of the application process
- Answering any questions from parents or school staff

If you have any questions regarding these information evening please contact Kyrie Douch – Disability Education Partner for North/Gungahlin and Belconnen.

Kyrie.douch@act.gov.au or 62052714