

Newsletter

29 August Volume 17, Issue 8

Dear Parents and Carers

Earlier this week, the ACT Minister for Education and Training Ms Joy Burch MLA visited the senior school. The Junior and Senior Captains and Vice Captains gave an outstanding presentation on the work that they have completed in building student leadership and student voice at Gold Creek. The Minister then visited a number of classrooms including Science, Art, Food Technology, Wood Technology, and Learning Resource Centre and Multicultural room. She was very impressed with the student work and the engagement in every classroom. I believe that she "tweeted" a number of messages when she left congratulating the school.

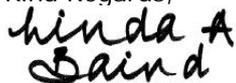
Yesterday, I visited some of the year 5 students from our Instrumental Music Programme who took part in a Combined Band practice at Miles Franklin Primary School. I was very impressed by the skills the students have learned in a few short months. The practice culminated in a concert attended by a huge number of parents and teachers.

The School Board met this week and one of the major topics for discussion was the updating of our school policy documents. Some of our policies were written when the school first opened and as such no longer reflect our current work. A complete overhaul of these documents will be undertaken over the next few months.

Included in this newsletter is a summary of some of the work we have completed this year to maximise student outcomes. This is a lengthy document and it has been necessary to spread this over three newsletters.

I would like to welcome Ms Lyndal Reid to our staff. Lyndal has been appointed as our Gifted and Talented P-10 Coordinator. She has an outstanding knowledge about Gifted and Talented education and is a member of a number of national committees related to this area. She is working closely with the senior executive and staff to support and enhance our current programmes.

Kind Regards,



Linda Baird
Principal



PRINCIPAL: Linda Baird
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL: Priscilla Wray
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL: Brenda Ryan
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL: Kate Stuckey
info@goldcreek.act.edu.au

Board Chair: David Vernon david@davidvernon.net
Parent Members: Leona Anton leona.anton@ed.act.edu.au
P&C President: Michael Rush mikentan@netspeed.com.au

CALENDAR DATES

JS–Junior Site HS- Holy Spirit SS–Senior Site NPS–Nicholls Preschool HPS–Hall Preschool WS-Whole School

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Week 7 Sep | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6/7 |
| | Year 6 Transition visits | | | | | |
| | NPS Judoroo Program – Group 1 | Year 3/4 Indigenous Performance | ACT Netball Finals 13Yrs. + Yr 3/4 Basketball | Yr 9/10 Drama Excursion to Canberra Theatre | Yr 3-6 Assembly JS Chief Ministers Reading Challenge Finishes JS Father’s Day Breakfast JS School Banking NPS Judoroo Program – Group 2 | Tournament of Minds North Side Regional Competition ANU |
| Week 8 Sep | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13/14 |
| | Year 6 Transition visits | | | | | |
| | NPS Judoroo Program – Group 1 | JS student-led conferences Yr 3/4 Boys T20 Cricket Community ACT Touch 13 Yrs. + NPS ACTNowaste Visit | JS Chief Ministers Reading Challenge Records due JS student-led conferences Maths Appreciation Day Excursion P&C meeting 6.30pm Junior Site Library | SS assembly Outdoor Ed Caving and Abseiling, Bungonia NPS ACTNowaste Visit | ACT Girls and Boys Volleyball 13Yrs. + Outdoor Ed Caving and Abseiling, Bungonia NPS Judoroo Program – Group 2 JS School Banking Yr 3/4 Girls T20 Cricket | |
| Week 9 Sep Floriade 13 Sep-12 Oct (Band date TBC) | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20/21 |
| | Kindergarten ACER testing Kindergarten OLSAT testing NPS Judoroo Program – Group 1 | SS Athletics Carnival, AIS Bruce | Pre-school orientation afternoon and Information Evening for 2015 | WS Assembly, SS Gym | P-2 Assembly Joint facilities Disco NPS Judoroo Program – Group 2 JS School Banking | |
| Week 10 Sep EALD Excursion day and date to be confirmed | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27/28 |
| | NPS Judoroo Program – Group 1 | | Gungahlin College performance | NPS The Gruffalo P/T interviews Yr 10 Maths Day, Burgmann Anglican School 8.35am-3.15pm | Yr3-6 Assembly JS School Banking NPS Judoroo Program – Group 2 HS/GCK Joint activity 12 – 1pm | World Challenge |
| | Interview bookings for P/T night | | | | | |

STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Tanatswa Dzvaka in 6AB. Tanatswa progressed all the way through to the ACT Grand Final Rostrum Competition, where on Monday evening he wowed and captivated the audience through his wit and style as a public speaker. He placed third at this event. What an achievement. (Don't forget to read the full article under the Junior Site News Banner).



Congratulations to Luke (yr5) and Cassie Wilson (yr6) who exhibited at the Canberra Brick Expo last week. The Brick Expo is an entertaining and interesting exhibition of rare and unique LEGO® creations by interstate and local collectors and modellers. Hundreds of static, moving and robotic models in themes including: Star Wars™,



Trains, Planes, Space Ships, Racing Cars, Monuments and Sculptures.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Dymocks Belconnen for their support of our Literacy and Numeracy Week programme.

P & C

Personalities and egos were well disguised by some creative and innovative masks at the annual Gold Creek School P&C Trivia Night. It was a night full of fun, some great games, and importantly, some successful fundraising in support of the P&C.

Over 160 parents, friends and teachers were tested with 40 questions relating to our school and general knowledge. The teachers were impressive with their knowledge, and the parents were enthusiastic in what was a fiercely contested trivia night.

It was a very successful fundraising effort, raising over \$3500 in support of school projects. Thank you to all of the parents and teachers for your support.

The P&C thanks those that made individual contributions and the local businesses that donated prizes for the auction and raffle, including:

- Amy Wilson, for designing the invitations; and
- Rebecca Evans and Sandra Elliott, for assisting with securing local business support.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous support of the following local businesses:

- CTO Group
- Tathra Beach Family Park
- OSH Club
- Power Yoga Canberra
- Trevs Cafe – Dickson
- Cockington Green
- Integral Embroidery
- Brumbies ACT
- Sibuhair
- Sibuhair Beauty
- Canberra Indoor Rock Climbing



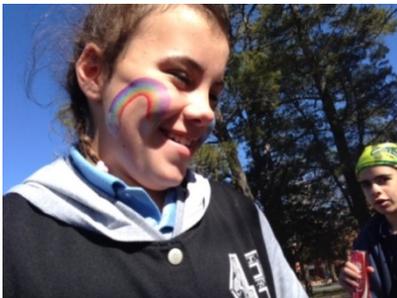
- Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club
- Gold Creek Golf Club
- Questacon
- Adore Tea
- Dinosaur Museum
- Four Winds Winery
- McDonald's
- Jeir Winery
- Gold Creek Garden Nursery

Finally, a huge thank you to the P&C Events Coordinator, Michele Justin, for organising another fantastic event.

CANBERRA CORROBOREE 2014

Indigenous Health Day/3 Legged Race World Record Attempt

Students from both the Junior and Senior site represented Gold Creek School at the Indigenous Health Day/3 Legged Race World Record Attempt held on the 12th of August 2014 at Northbourne Oval. This event was organised by Habitat Personal Indigenous Recruitment who in conjunction with players from the Canberra Raiders conducted the event.



Students participated in a variety of sporting skill activities supervised by the Canberra Raiders, traditional dancing lessons and an opportunity to exercise their artistic skill with some painting. Professional performances of traditional dancing were also well received.



The highlight of the day was the attempt to set a Guinness World Record for the largest 3 legged race. Students, teachers, Canberra Raiders and a huge contingent of ADFA cadets swelled the ranks for the attempt to break the record of 649 pairs, unfortunately with 543 pairs we fell short of the record by 157 pairs. Maybe next year.

World records official Chris Sheedy, on hand to officiate, did however inform us that despite not breaking the world record, we had set an Australian record and in fact a Southern Hemisphere record. (sounds like a CV entry to me)

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR CONFERENCE TIME?

PYP Student Led Conferences – Wednesday 10 September 2014

Student led conferences replace the traditional parent teacher conference by placing significant responsibility on the learner themselves, that is your child. Your child has dedicated considerable time to preparing the conference. Research suggests that family involvement linked to student learning has a greater effect on achievement than more general forms of involvement.

So what?

Students need a variety of experiences to make them believe they are competent and to give them confidence. They also should be encouraged to take responsibility for their learning as well as understand their own strengths and areas needing improvement. When students are given an opportunity to lead a conference with their parents, they are totally engrossed in the process rather than being left to view the conference as "something the teacher and parents do." Too often the student gets no feedback on the conference when only parents and teachers are involved, or the parents may come down hard on the student for lack of progress and the child has no chance to enter into the conversation. A student-led conference requires the student to be involved in preparing the portfolio, planning, and conducting the conference.

An email has been sent to all parents of PYP students outlining the schedule and the online booking arrangements. If you have not received the email please call the front office with your most current email address on 62052955.

Your child is looking forward to you attending their conference. Be sure to book in soon to get the most suitable time. Bookings are allocated on a first come first served basis.

YEAR 6 STUDENT COMES THIRD IN ACT PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

It has been said that people are scared more of public speaking than death itself. If that is the case, then Tanatswa Dzvaka stared death in the eye and mocked him...and then went on to deliver some exceptional oratory.

I, of course, am speaking of Rostrum...that dreaded, almost Herculean task, presented to year 5s and 6s every year in the late autumn, and I want to personally congratulate Tanatswa who took this task on and showed incredible poise throughout his Rostrum journey.

Rostrum exists to foster and showcase students' oral speaking abilities, and that is exactly what it has done for Tanatswa. As a judge for the Rostrum rounds here at the school level, I was completely thunderstruck by the way in which Tanatswa connected with the audience and roped them in to his speech. You just can't teach that. I was further in awe when I watched Tanatswa compete in the Semi-Finals at Palmerston where I witnessed a young man exhibit complete confidence not only in himself, but also in the words he was saying. He had the whole room enthralled, as well as in stitches. I said it before: you just cannot teach that.

That day, Tanatswa placed second out of the best-of-the-best of our region, which granted him a place in the Finals at the Australian National University on the 25th of August. There was fierce competition at the Finals, with incredibly talented speakers, and out of all of them: Tanatswa placed third. What an incredible achievement to come third in a Territory competition. He has proven to himself and the other students in our school that you can achieve...and do it with style and panache.

Tanatswa, well done Sir, and please use your powers for good.

Max Rixe, Year 6 Teacher

YEAR 2 NEWS

Our Global Connections

This Term Year 2 Students have been researching, locating and discussing the places around our globe to which we are connected.

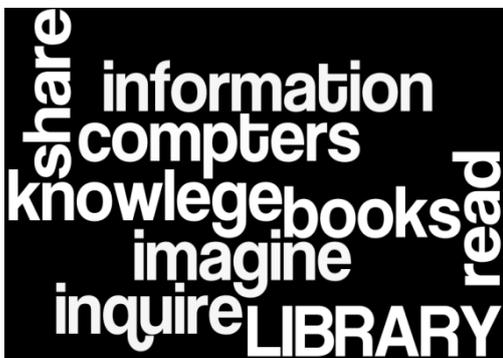
Between the three Year 2 classes we discovered that our students have connections to many parts of our world including the following continents:

Asia, Europe, North and South America, Africa and Australia (Oceania).

Students investigated their ancestry; enjoyed learning about their family tree and listening to their peers present weekly information unique to each family.



LIBRARY NEWS



Book Week - "Connect to Reading – Reading to Connect"

A wonderful week was had by all as we celebrated Book Week on the junior site last week.

Kinder, year 1 and 2 became book judges after listening to the six shortlisted books in the Picture Book category. They were very good at their job, choosing the book which won the best Picture Book of the year – Shaun Tan's 'Rules of Summer.'

Students stayed tuned each lunch time to find out what happened next in the serial reading of 'The Ugg Boot War'. They also took great delight in trying to work out which teacher was the day's 'guest reader'. Thankyou Shannon Birch, Varuna Arora, Kate Stuckey and Mimma Giampietro for your enthusaistic narrations.



The Reading Hour was a relaxing time. Thank you to those families who took the time on a cold Tuesday evening to wind down in the library and 'connect' with your family and some good books.

Classes have produced colourful and interesting displays after reading some shortlisted books in class. Thank you year 5 for your insightful 'letters home' after reading some excerpts of 'Light Horse Boy'.

Thank you to all students, their families and staff for an exciting Book Week Parade on Friday. The sea of book characters was a colourful display, and many had gone to a great deal of trouble to be ready for the big event.



Chief Ministers Reading Challenge - Reading stops next week on **5 September**. To complete the challenge students need to have read 12 books, 8 from the recommended list.

Student in Kindergarten, Yr1 and Yr2 have participated in the challenge as a group and read stories when they visited the library for borrowing. Their names will go into the challenge records with no further action from families necessary.

Years 3 – 6 students who have taken on the challenge as individual readers need to have their Reading Record sheets completed and to the library by **10 September**. Each book entry must be initialled and dated by carers.

Happy Reading

Keryn Hoeschle
Joint Facilities Teacher Librarian

FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST

Just a reminder for the Father's Day Breakfast taking place in the Junior Site Courtyard at 8:00am, Friday September 5.

We will be selling tea and coffee for a gold coin donation.

STUDENT ABSENCES – Junior Site

Our 24 hour dedicated absences phone number is
6205 5737



To report you child's absence, please leave a short message stating their name, year, class/tutor group and reason for absence - Sick/Leave etc by 9:30am, any calls after this time should be reported to **6205 2955**.

All absences must also be explained through a written format either via email info@goldcreek.act.edu.au or a note given to the tutor group teacher upon return.

SENIOR SITE NEWS

MATHS NEWS

Australian Mathematics Trust enrichment solutions have been submitted by participating students. Congratulations to all who have completed the questions, results should be available by the end of term.

The Bank of Queensland financial mathematics challenge is back on again. Various students will have the opportunity to win \$1000 as they negotiate 2 weeks of financial choices in a fictional online environment. Students will look at income, tax, budgeting and interest in trying to earn more money than any other student in the country!

Year 8 are working on linking relationships between linear algebra and graphical representations and will have an assessment on this towards the end of the term. Year 9 standard classes are developing their knowledge and use of indices and exploring their practical uses. Year 10 standard classes have just completed an assignment on Pythagoras and a test on Trigonometry; most students completed the assignment to a pleasing standard. They will soon begin work on Probability which will be assessed in the last week of term. Year 10 advanced classes have their first major test during week 7 so should be preparing accordingly.

Please check with your child and support them to hand in homework and assignments, revise and complete their classwork at least once a week and prepare for tests in order to assist their achievement. It is important that students bring adequate resources to class, this includes their book, writing utensils and a scientific calculator as phones are not an acceptable alternative in the classroom. A textbook second hand shop will be setup in term 4 so it is important for students to take care of their book if they wish to sell it.

SPORTS NEWS

Year 7/8 Boys and Girls Northside Soccer Gala Day

On Monday the 18th of August, one Year 7/8 boys and one girls team went out to compete at the Northside Soccer carnival at Dickson playing fields.

The girls team showed dramatic improvement throughout the day, especially considering many of the team had little experience in playing Soccer. A commendable 2-0 loss at the end of the day highlighted just how much improvement the girls showed throughout the course of the day. The team never gave up and maintained a positive attitude, doing the school proud. Well done.

The boys team was a mix of experienced players who had a history of playing together outside of school. This meant the team had a number of strong combinations and it showed in their results on the day. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the day was shocking Daramalan School in the first match of the day 5-1. This showed the high level of skill present within the team. Other results included strong wins over Kingsford Smith 7-1, Kaleen 5-0, Harrison 2-0 and a last second draw against St Francis 1-1. The team showed great resilience, teamwork and support of each other on a day which was difficult considering the weather. The team now progresses to the ACT carnival on Wednesday 10th of September after qualifying first in their pool with 4 wins, 1 draw and a goal difference of +17! Well done on a great result boys.

Year 9/10 Boys Northside Soccer Gala Day

Wednesday 27 August saw the annual gala day come around again. The boys found themselves in a tough pool, and were up against it from the start, but worked hard, played with confidence and can count themselves very unlucky not to have reached the Finals.

They began with a match against a very strong Daramalan College team, and were, somewhat unluckily, 2-0 behind before half time. However, the boys played with real character in the second half, didn't concede again and were unlucky not to score and get back into the game. Final score, 2-0.

Next up was Harrison School. The Gold Creek boys were the better side in this game from the start, and were very, very unlucky not to score, creating several good chances; but it just wasn't to be. This game ended 0-0.

Our third match was against an excellent St Francis Xavier College team. Again, the Gold Creek boys battled hard, and gave everything they had, but ultimately, a couple of moments of magic from the opposition put the game out of our reach; resulting in a 3-0 defeat.

So, after three matches, we hadn't received the rewards that our efforts deserved; but things were about to change. Our next match was against a much-fancied Burgmann Anglican School team, who had won their three previous games. However, this was the match in which everything finally clicked for the Gold Creek boys. They began to play with some real flair, pace and confidence, and managed a 1-0 win, with a stunning 25 metre goal from Massimo Piccirillo. This was the win they needed, and thoroughly deserved. In fact, our goalkeeper didn't have a save to make in the whole match! It was good to see our boys playing with a smile on their faces again.

Our last match was against Kingsford Smith School. The boys knew that the finals were probably out of reach by this point, but were determined to go out on a high. Confidence was up, and they were enjoying their soccer now. From the start, Gold Creek dominated the game, passing the ball quickly and with accuracy, quickly moving in to a 2-0 lead, with outstanding team goals finished by Tyron Demczynsyn and Deyan Vukovic. We could have scored many more, but for some good goalkeeping and some unlucky finishing. Kingsford Smith School scored a late consolation goal, but the result never looked in danger, and Gold Creek had won their final two games.

In the end, we were just two points away from making the finals, which leaves us wondering 'what might have been'. However, the boys' attitude, spirit and work ethic is a real credit to both themselves, and to Gold Creek School, and they should be proud of everything they've achieved, both during the build up to and during the Gala Day. They certainly made a positive impression on others at the event.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

At Gold Creek School, we are very proud to offer students alternative programs to broaden their skills and outlook. Work Experience (WEX) is a great opportunity for students to try a placement in the workforce that they might be interested in for a career. WEX is highly recommended for all Year 10 students and everyone should try to make the effort to organise a placement.

We have had 20 students go out to various places around Canberra: Michael W to Gerald Slaven Holden in Belconnen, Nigem H to Woden Community Services, Katie M & Chloe J to Belconnen Hair Design, Harsh M to an architecture company, Sam B to Shepherd Electrical, Shani S to the ANU Dept of Psychology, Jed S & Meg D to Gold Creek Junior site working with Yr 3, Laura J to Fernwood Fitness Belconnen, Scott C to CIT Animal House, Lillie K to Wattle Child Care Centre, Alex N to a plastering company, Josh S to Lake Ginninderra College for Outdoor Education, Brigitte L to Turner Primary School, Kate V to Calvary Retirement Community, Harry G to ACT Cricket Association, Mia T to Canberra Youth Theatre, Grace J to Canberra Reptile Zoo and Taylah S to Gold Creek Junior for Sports.

Some of the comments from the workplace supervisors included – "if he was older enough I would employ him right now; this student has the aptitude and attitude to go into animal medical research; he has worked extremely well with the students and should probably go into a career in teaching." Comments from students included: "the kids were really cute and it showed me whether I wanted to do that later in life; I enjoyed it a lot, it was very educational and I learnt a lot about what it would be like to be a teacher; it gave me an experience of what I wanted to do later on in life; working with the primary school students was lots of fun and real eye-opener." Congratulations to all the above students for representing our school well in the community.

We also have 3 Year 10 students attending Flexible Learning Option (FLO) courses in Fitness and Sports Training for every Friday for 10 weeks. (Lochlan S, Connor D & Luke B). Andrew W is doing a FLO course in the automotive industry for 16 weeks. Well done to these boys for getting themselves organised and taking up these opportunities, which will lead them to competencies in a Certificate III.

We also have 2 Year 8 boys, Lee C & Josh J experiencing working at a car repairs company once a week for the rest of Term 3.

So get organised and get involved!

STUDENT ABSENCES – Senior Site

Our 24 hour dedicated absences phone number is
6205 1792



To report your child's absence, please leave a short message stating their name, year, class/tutor group and reason for absence - Sick/Leave etc by 9:30am, any calls after this time should be reported to **6205 1814**.

All absences must also be explained through a written format either via email info@goldcreek.act.edu.au or a note given to the tutor group teacher upon return.

Defence News

Over the past few weeks I have been touching base with Defence students on both sites and am aware of a few deployments and postings that are happening or are about to happen. Please let me know if you are affected by these or other circumstances, so that I can be of assistance to help your children cope with these changes. I can also put you in touch with the new Regional Education District Liaison Officer (REDLO) at your new location to help sort schooling issues out. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday I am usually on the Senior Site, and Thursday and Friday I am at the Primary Site, however I will be absent from the school from 22 August – 9 September on a period of leave.

I am organising a Pizza lunch for all primary site Defence students in week 9 or 10. Invitations for this event will be handed to students shortly with an RSVP for catering purposes.

Remember to visit the DCO website from time to time as they have a regularly updated timetable of events. The floating coffee club will meet at 10am the National Museum of Australia café on 27 August and at Gungahlin library café on 2 September. Cook's night off this month will be held on 28 August at Tilley's Devine café in Lyneham and a Snapshot Seminar on "*Education and Employment for Defence Partners and Spouses*" will be held on 10 September from 7-8pm at DCO in Deakin. See the website for more information and to register for these events.

The Defence Community Organisation's (DCO) Defence Family Helpline phone number 1800 624 608 is there if you need advice, support or connection with your local community. The Defence Family Helpline operates 24 -7 and is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists.

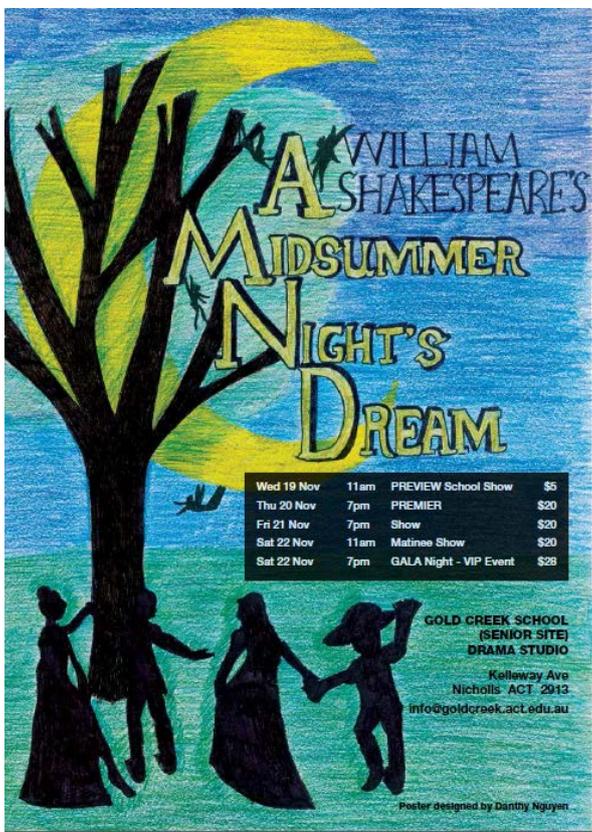
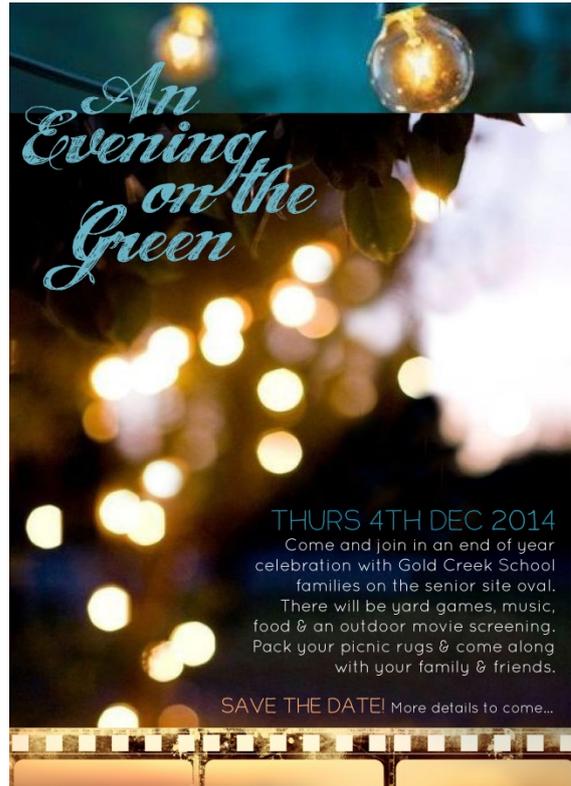
Regards
Hilary Kinraid
DTM/DSTA

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.

Visit Flexischools at www.flexischools.com.au or phone 1300 361 769 for more information.



6287 3833

Being a parent is the hardest job we'll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT

is a confidential, anonymous telephone counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager's behaviour.

Parentline ACT.

Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.

Phone: 6287 3833



PLAYCRICKET.COM.AU



What is Oi?

The Online Inclusion (Oi) portal offers structured and informal online support for people living with disability, their families or carers. It is a tool to guide people to information, resources and support, particularly for those who are may be newly diagnosed, have a newly acquired disability, isolated or concerned about where to get information.

Oi brings a number of specialist organisations, professionals and not for profit programs and supports together to ensure finding information about disability is easy, accurate. Content is available in many formats including visual, audio and written.

The platform is launching Stage 1 of a three phase process. As the Australian disability landscape changes, the site will keep abreast with state, national and international trends and change to meet the marketplace. Each phase will continue to:

- Create further partnerships and link with organisations that support people living with disability
- Ensure high accessibility to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- Develop and upload relevant information and resources
- Develop a disability cultural library
- Add to the creative resource library
- Develop a record keeping area to keep information about appointment notes
- Host a number of online therapy and support appointments
- Host webinars, e-learning and e-meetings
- Provide a collaborative marketing approach to the not for profit disability sector

Oi is located at www.oi.org.au.

Who will it benefit from using Oi?

- People living with disability
- Families and carers
- Professionals including clinical staff, doctors and therapists
- Service providers
- People wishing to be employed in the disability sector

What disability information is available?

- Online information group sessions
- Individual online space to collect and record information
- Opportunities to collaborate with your support network online
- Resource creation through the Creative Resource Centre
- Information on disabilities
- Resources
- Videos
- Podcasts
- Visual Aids
- Links to resources, service providers, specific information and services
- Disability fact sheets
- A hub of information shared by experts in the disability sector

What does Oi offer that is different to a normal website?

- Online therapy and meeting collaboration
- Social and chat opportunities
- Collaboration between not for profits and government
- Interactive resources
- Record management for therapy, information and programs
- Static resources including visual aids
- Online inclusion for those socially or geographically isolated
- Live services including webinars, e-meetings and e-learning
- Disability news aggregation
- Opportunities to host medical appointments online using a secure platform
- Constant site update and upgrading including adding of information
- The collation of a library of disability information in other languages

One of the most collaborative approaches online in the not for profit sector

Oi provides a collaborative approach to disseminating information on disability in the one spot as well as offering the use of available technology to support people living with disability. By working with other organisations and government to share information already available, Oi will make a person's quest for information easier when looking for assistance and support. The platform will not reinvent the information in the marketplace, but rather act as a portal and an interactive access point.

Many more modules are planned for the future and will be constantly evaluated to ensure users receive the information they require. The platform will evolve with user feedback.

QUICK FACTS

- Collaborative approach with over 85 partners from not for profit, commercial and government agencies.
- In excess of over 1000 external links to disability information.
- Client driven and focused.
- Content peer reviewed by professionals.
- Over 250 pages of information
- 130 resource landing pages with videos, podcasts, visual aids and fact sheets.
- Online tools including webinars, e-meetings, e-learning and chat groups.
- Corporate volunteer partners from NSW Business Chamber, McAfee and IBM advising on the project.
- Connected to social media to engage the community in discussion, sharing and feedback.

History of Oi

The Oi idea originated from a small federally funded pilot project in 2010, the *My Time To Chat* program which focused on forums and online chat to support families in an online therapy environment. The online chat facilitated peer support to families and carers of young children living with disability, particularly those in social isolation or live in remote areas. Six two hour chat facilitated sessions were held where families could share interests, experiences, information and services obtained. As this method was welcomed, Lifestart sourced funding to grow online support further. The Trust Company part of Perpetual, provided funding for the project and in consultation, a larger more inclusive project "Online Inclusion" was born.

About Lifestart

Lifestart provides early childhood intervention and school age services for children living with disability or developmental delay, their families and carers. Lifestart is committed to providing services based on the values of empowerment, partnership and inclusion, delivered in a culture of excellence, diversity and respect for the individual.

Oi is an initiative of Lifestart Co-operative Ltd
PO Box 3977 Putney NSW 2112
Tel: 02 9364 0111. Email: info@oi.org.au

SOFTBALL ACT ARE INVITING YOU TO THE REGISTRATION / COME & TRY DAY ON THE 14TH SEPTEMBER 2014 FROM 1PM - 4PM

NORTHSIDE MORNING COMPETITION

Where: Hawker International Diamonds

When: Saturday mornings
Starting 11th October to 13th December 2014
Starting 31st January to 15th March 2015

Time: Game times are 9am & 10.30am

PLAY FOR YOUR SCHOOL OR JOIN A CLUB

Boomerangs Softball Club

boomerangs_softballclub@hotmail.com

Namadgi Dragons Softball Club

namadgi.dragons@outlook.com

West Belconnen Softball Club

westbelsoftball@gmail.com

Please contact Softball ACT if you would like further information or help forming a school team.

Phone: 6278 3000

Email: softballact@bigpond.com

Web: www.act.softball.org.au



17, 18 & 19 OCTOBER 2014
CRANLEIGH SCHOOL, STARKE STREET, HOLT

Featuring works by well-known Canberra Artist Ian Sharpe

Opening Night Friday 17th October 7—9pm

Official Opening by Alex Sloan
ABC 666 afternoon presenter

Tickets \$15 at the door
Live music, wine and canapés

Quality Art by Local Artists and Cranleigh School Students

Raising money for Cranleigh School
Providing an education for students with disabilities

Weekend Opening Times

Saturday 18 October 10am-4pm
Sunday 19 October 10am-12.30pm
Entry by donation
Artwork raffie draw, silent auction and announcement of People's Choice awards at 12 noon Sunday 19 October

Further Info:

Cranleigh School 62055000
Website: www.cranleighps.act.edu.au
Email: info@cranleighps.act.edu.au



Kai's village orphanage in Cambodia needs your Support



Raffle of;

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ <i>Club Lime Membership</i> ★ <i>Grand Prix Go Karting (10 vouchers)</i> ★ <i>Zone 3 Laser Tag (10 people pass)</i> ★ <i>Questacon family pass</i> ★ <i>Signed Brumbies balls</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ <i>Ladies gift basket - includes entertainment book</i> ★ <i>X2 VIP Palace electric cinema passes</i> ★ <i>Hoyts cinema \$30 voucher</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ <i>National Dinosaur Museum family pass</i> ★ <i>Wine and Tupperware</i> ★ <i>Book collection</i> ★ <i>\$30 Raiders voucher</i> |
| <p>To be drawn Monday 15 September</p> | | <p>All enquiries; Senior campus to Leona Anton 6205 1814, Junior Campus to Mark McLennan 6205 2955 or speak to the world challenge students</p> |

\$10 each.

Permit Number: R 14/00266



The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register is hosted by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and is supported by Vision Australia and Guide Dogs. It is the first national register of children in Australia with vision impairment. The Register has been collecting data since 2009, and this data is providing important information about the types of eye disease and vision disorders children have and the support they need. The data is also used by service providers and researchers. Data is stored securely and no child can be identified in any way when the data is released.

vifamilynetwork.org.au

Families are invited to register their child (aged 0-18 years) if they have vision impairment in both eyes which has been diagnosed by an eye specialist or ophthalmologist. Registration can be completed by contacting Register staff on (02) 9872 0303, or by visiting the VI Family Network website at: vifamilynetwork.org.au. The website also provides information on eyes and vision; family support; education and related issues; braille and low vision aids; technology supporting vision impairment; newsletters from Australian low vision agencies and support groups, useful websites; and news and events that might interest families across Australia.

Sue Silveira Research Fellow, Renwick Centre

Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children

sue.silveira@ridbc.org.au

(02)9872 0248



MARYMEAD FOSTER CARE INFORMATION SEMINAR
 Over 700 children are currently in out of home care in Canberra and many more need a home
can you help just one?

Come along and learn more about becoming a Foster Carer with Marymead

GUEST SPEAKERS Mick Gentleman, MLA, Minister for Children and Young People, Dr Judy Bragg, Foster Carers and many other guest speakers

WHEN: Saturday 20 September 2014 – 12.30pm–4.30pm

WHERE: Marymead 255 Goyder Street, Narrabundah

RSVP BY: Monday 15 September 2014
 to Amy Tulloch on (02) 6162 5800 or email fcinfo@marymead.org.au
 To download the programme go to marymead.org.au/events
 A light lunch will be provided and children are more than welcome



255 GOYDER STREET NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604
 PHONE 02 6162 5800 • FAX 02 6295 0944
 EMAIL fcinfo@marymead.org.au
marymead.org.au

Strategic Update on School Operational Plan (AOP)

Part 1

Strategic Priority 1: **Maximise Student Outcomes**

Over the last twelve months, Gold Creek School has actively engaged in a full review of its Preschool campuses at both Hall and Nicholls. A Preschool Coordinator was appointed at the beginning of 2014 to support the ongoing implementation of the National Quality Improvement Standards. At the end of term 2, Hall Preschool underwent its first accreditation visit by ACEQA. It is expected that the Nicholls Preschool will undergo the same process before the end of the academic year.

As part of this review process, all Preschool policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated and a full review cycle has been implemented to support the ongoing development of the preschool.

The Preschool staff attended a network workshop on 'Documenting Inquiry in the Early Years and all evidence to support the National Quality Standard assessment has been collated into relevant folders.

The Hall Preschool was recently assessed against the National Standards by a team from ACECQA and the top rating was awarded for the quality of service provided to our youngest students.

Gold Creek School has made a considered commitment to increasing the capacity of staff to develop and implement quality assessment practices across all sites.

The English and Languages faculties have developed common assessment tasks which align with the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards and the IB MYP assessment criteria. In Semester 1, teachers participated in moderation of selected students' work. All members of the faculty are engaged in Assessment for Learning Professional Learning teams. In Languages, summative assessment tasks are differentiated in each year level based on language experience levels. The languages team conduct diagnostic testing on a regular basis to determine achievement levels and understanding. The information is used to differentiate learning opportunities for students. This team share successful formative assessment strategies with other teams across the school.

In the Arts faculty, learning outcomes are maximised for students by providing dynamic interactive arts programmes. Differentiation is embedded in the Arts curriculum through student led projects, allowing students choices in their learning and by using a range of formative assessment techniques. The Arts faculty are in the process of aligning their assessment procedures. The faculty use common rubrics to provide a consistent approach to marking student work and to moderate work samples.

In Science, all assessments are written collaboratively and moderated by all members of the faculty. All staffs are involved in 'Assessment for Learning' professional development. Part of this programme is identifying, discussing and using a range of formative assessment strategies.

In Mathematics staffs are in the process of developing their toolkit of assessment strategies. Summative assessment tasks are being developed across the faculty with reviews and adjustments being made during timetabled collaborative learning time. Assessments are moderated to ensure consistency of marking and for quality assurance.

The Maths faculty has been working on a weekly basis with the MYP Coordinator to develop units of work which meet both Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards and MYP Standards.

In Humanities rubrics have been collaboratively developed for all units. Work is moderated across all subject areas including History, Geography, Economics and Civics and Citizenship. Unit plans reflect the IB MYP and Scope and Sequence documents will be completed by the end of this year.

All Physical Education and Technology staff members have been attending the Formative Assessment workshops which are facilitated by Executive teachers. The staffs have ensured that plans reflect both Australian Curriculum and MYP philosophies.

In the Junior School, all teams plan collaboratively for two hours each week. These sessions are supported by the PYP Coordinator. Teams have developed common planning documents to ensure that the content and skills being taught and assessed are consistent across all classes. All summative assessments on the Junior site are consistent across classes in each year level. The tools for recording evidence of learning are based on the Australian Curriculum Standards of Achievement. The PYP Coordinator works collaboratively with all teams to develop appropriate assessment tasks that allow for differentiation in both product and academic standards. Teams have developed rubrics to document learning for all summative assessments in the Units of Inquiry and for Writing in English.

All teams are using the PYP Medium Term Unit Planning Documents. Teachers work includes both summative and formative assessment strategies and tools. Formative assessment documentation includes pre-assessment information. The quality of the planning has improved significantly and the time taken to plan lessons is decreasing as teachers become accustomed to the new way of working. The staffs access the IB Online Curriculum Centre to support the development of quality units of work both in the Units of Inquiry and other stand-alone subject areas.

A significant investment in time has been dedicated to the ongoing professional development of staff at Gold Creek School. This has involved dedicating blocks of time when teams on both Junior and Senior sites meet weekly to work collaboratively on planning, assessment and evaluation of programmes and student work. The PYP and MYP Coordinators have had a significant part to play in developing the skills of staff in aligning their work with the IB Standards and Practices. All staffs have been given the opportunity to observe the professional practice of colleagues and to provide constructive feedback on areas of strength or for improvement. Senior staff have observed all teachers and provided explicit written feedback to teachers. The National Professional Standards for Teachers has been used as a basis for this work.

All beginning teachers are using the Standards and associated level descriptors to track evidence of competence in personal portfolios whilst more experienced teachers are required to take on a whole school leadership role including mentoring of beginning teachers.

The Strategic decision to create subject specialist faculty teams has been of great benefit to the teaching staff. This has enabled teachers to share professional knowledge and expertise openly to engage in robust professional discussions during collaborative learning time. Staff meeting time is dedicated to professional development, sharing good practice, curriculum development and critical reflection.