Junior Site Bites

Term 4 seems to be slipping by at a rate of knots. This last week alone was full of amazing events, many of which you will read about further on in the Junior Site Bites. All classes participated in the NRMA Science & Road Safety Day on Tuesday where students learned about strategies to stay safe on the road. Students investigated some scientific principles such as why it is hard for cars to stop in slippery conditions, the forces and inertia involved in car crashes and how seatbelts keep you safe. Students also learned how to fit a bike helmet correctly, the importance of entering a car safely and why driveways and car parks are places of potential danger for pedestrians, especially children. Parents play a vital role in keeping their children safe, so please take this opportunity to talk to your children about what they learned and what they can do to keep safe on our roads.

Staff are actively planning for 2015 at the moment. As teacher’s input is vital, you may notice that your child’s class teacher has some time off face to face teaching over the next few weeks. We have employed a bank of quality relief teachers to cover the classes to allow for teacher’s to contribute to the strategic planning for 2015. There will be no disruption to the academic curriculum for your child during this period as all staff are required to plan lessons to ensure continuation of the curriculum in their absence.

Student transitions have really ramped up this term, with our formalised Term 4 transition program being implemented for all prospective students entering Gold Creek School. Preschool students are following the scheduled visits to come across to the kindergarten rooms to familiarise themselves with the space and to engage in Kindergarten activities. They are thoroughly enjoying it so far! Students entering Gold Creek School at other year levels have also been provided with several transition dates to allow them to familiarise themselves with the school setting and immerse themselves in the culture of the school. Our current students have been warmly welcoming them in to our school community.

Bookpacks for 2015 will be sent home to parents in Week 7. We acknowledge the expense of these packs, and encourage parents to shop around where possible. You will note that there are several compulsory items that must be purchased through office max, including a resource and technology levy to support the resource consumption that is associated with day to day schooling and technology use. The technology levy will also support some online based homework options. The remainder of the stationary pack can be bought wherever you can source it most cheaply, but please ensure that you purchase all the items required on the list, paying close attention to the specific requirements of each item eg. Triangular pencils, size of books, line spacing etc.

The P&C are very active in our community, and have been working on many projects over the course of the year. Some recent notable work has included the collaborative planning and organising of the ‘Evening on the green’ to be held on 4 December, the Playground Design and the Sports House Logo competition. Without the support of the P&C, many of the school improvements would not be possible. We extend our gratitude to the members who offer their support, time and energy to making Gold Creek a wonderful school. The P&C supported an application from teaching staff to purchase several new mobile teaching stations. These have arrived and are being used in classrooms now. Thank you for your support.

Homework means many things to many people. We are working towards achieving consensus between what the community wants, what we as professionals believe is appropriate, and how to make homework best fit with the children of today. Please keep your eyes out for an upcoming Homework Survey. We welcome families feedback.

Today is World Teachers’ Day. Why not drop your child’s teacher a line letting you know that you appreciate their work?
Year 3 news
On Wednesday 22 October, Year 3 students were treated to a guest speaker, Mr Graham. He is a former signalman in the Australian Army who spoke about specialised army communication systems. This tied in with our current Unit of Inquiry – Signs and symbols are part of human-made systems that facilitate local and global communication.

Mr Graham taught us that army personnel are able to communicate locally such as with field signals and short range radio as well as globally, with long range radio and satellites.

The students learnt that specialised communication systems are critical for defense personnel in sending and receiving messages and for civilian purposes too. Did you know that without the Telstra Tower in Canberra we would not have television, radio or mobile phones?

Mr Graham’s presentation left us with many more questions to ask, such as:
- What is frequency?
- How do radio waves bounce off the ionosphere?
- Can you destroy an enemy’s satellite in space?
- How do submarines send and receive messages underwater?

Best Regards
Year 3 Team
Ms Giampietro, Ms Pickering, Mr Warre & Mrs Hallahan

T20 Milo Cricket Finals
Eight year 3-4 boys participated in the T20 Blast School Cup on Tuesday 28 October at Deakin playing fields.

The boys won 4 out of 5 games and played with skill, courage and focus. There were classic catches, disciplined bowling and smashing batting from all team members. There was a small yet dedicated family of supporters cheering for the team. The final result placed Gold Creek as runners up behind the winners. This was a brilliant result that was earned by every team member.

Thanks for an excellent day. You did us all proud.
Mr Warre

World Teachers Day
World Teachers Day is a UNESCO event established to recognise the work of our teachers. It is celebrated in over 100 countries around the world. Our teachers do a wonderful job every day inspiring and teaching our children, one of the most important jobs in our society. Through the P&C I have had opportunities to see the commitment of our teachers here at Gold Creek. The planning and work that happens behind the scenes is extensive. The opportunities afforded our students, the range of programs and the quality of education are the result of the team at the school. On your behalf I would like to thank them for their work and wish them well in celebrating World Teachers Day.

Michael Rush, Gold Creek School P&C
Mark Your Calendar — Nude Food Day
12 November 2014

What is Nude Food Day?
Essentially, kids bring their food – nude! This will reduce the amount of rubbish that goes into the bins, that goes into the ground or pollutes the planet. It aims to educate parents, teachers and children about nutrition and the environment through a fun, interactive program that specifically ties into the Australian Curriculum Sustainability Priority. We will be running a waste audit for each classroom and awarding prizes for the least amount of litter generated. For further Information visit www.nudefoodday.com.au or contact info@nudefoodday.com.au

Primary Disco with Holy Spirit
Friday 7 November

The Halloween disco jointly held by Gold Creek and Holy Spirit is on next week.

This is great fun for the students and very popular. Notes have gone home for advance ticket sales, or can be bought on the night.

Look forward to seeing everyone there! Funds raised for Gold Creek go towards the playground redevelopment work.

Volunteers urgently needed to cook/serve bbq and help out on the night. Even part of the evening will help.

Enquiries to goldcreekschoolpandc@gmail.com.

What note that bookings for Before and After Care 2015 are now open online, so please jump on and book the dates you require as soon as possible.

www.oshclub.com.au