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 Nagi, Ganesh Prasad, Laura Press, Nicole Richardson, Helen Sinclair, Sharyn Thomas, Janine Waters, Anne Brennan, Joanne Hampton, Elissa Penfold, Adam Hellyer 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 ‘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
World Challenge 2014

Students from Years 9 and 10 will be participating in the World Challenge trip to Vietnam and Cambodia. After an acclimatisation phase in Vietnam, the students will complete two treks. The first is a three day trek along a river to Yok Don where we will visit an elephant rehabilitation camp (and maybe get to interact with the elephants). The second is a three day jungle trek to Nam Kat Tiem.

After their trek the students have decided they want to work in an orphanage. We have yet to be informed by World Challenge where the orphanage is located, but we should have about 5 days of hard work to try and make the lives of the orphans and staff a little better.

The group will then have a few days to rest and relax. They will be visiting the temples of Ankor Wat as well as visiting S21 and the Killing Fields. The Gold Creek crew will also be staying at Hoi An, a little village renowned for its food and Tailors, who can make you a suit in couple of day.

The students have already started fundraising towards this experience where 75% of money raised is to go towards to the orphanage project.

Due to unforeseen personal circumstances three students have had to withdraw and we now invite 3 new students to apply to part of this potentially life changing trip.

If you are enrolling to be in years 9 or 10 and you are interested in joining Gold Creeks expedition please see Mr McLennan, Mrs Anton or Mr Haigh who can give you more information about the trip of a lifetime.

Mr McLennan
Expedition Coordinator