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Newsletter

3 July Volume 18, Issue 6

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

This has been an exceptionally busy term for staff and students alike. The prospective enrolments for 2016 have risen considerably in both Kindergarten and Year 7, and I believe that this is due to the hard work of the staff and students who put hours of preparation for our open evenings, and also because everyone is so enthusiastic about the learning here at Gold Creek. We received a great deal of correspondence after the 'open evenings' praising the school, and I am delighted that we are beginning to achieve our goals and realise our vision for the whole school in the longer term.

As with all large schools, there is always movement of teachers at the end of each term. Mr Greg Blake, our highly esteemed historian has decided to retire from the teaching profession after thirty eight years of service. Greg has been an asset to Gold Creek both from a teaching perspective and also a leadership one. He is, however, not retiring from the educational arena altogether. Greg has been accepted by the University of New South Wales as a PhD candidate and will spend the next three years researching a particular aspect of Australian military history before completing his final dissertation. We wish him well in his role as a 'uni student'! Unfortunately Amanda Chisnall has to return to New Zealand at the beginning of the holiday. She has been a fabulous member of staff and we wish her every success in her new job in Christchurch. Emma Edwards is also leaving us to spend more time with her three young children. Lastly, David Russell has spent the last term teaching PE both on the junior and senior sites. David's background is as a college teacher but I have been most impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm he has shown towards teaching our youngest students. We wish him well as he embarks on a new teaching job in Tuggeranong.

Over the last two days, we have had an International Baccalaureate Consultant interview students, staff and parents to elicit their views around our implementation of the PYP. She has also examined our documentation and teachers' planning records. Although in the preliminary stages, her report will indicate that we are now more than ready to undergo the authorisation process - how exciting for us!

The end of Semester 1 reports are being sent home today. Semester 2 elective choices for students in years 8-10 should now be completed online.

I would like to thank everyone for such a productive term and hope you all manage to have a restful holiday.

Linda A Baird

Kind regards
Linda Baird

PRINCIPAL: Linda Baird
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL: Priscilla Wray
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL: Michelle Morthorpe
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL: Angela Spence / Belinda Brown
info@goldcreek.act.edu.au

Board Chair: David Vernon david@davidvernon.net
Parent Members: Wade Evans
Paul Singer
P&C President: Michele Justin goldcreekschoolpandc@gmail.com

FROM THE MINISTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

During Public Education Week this year, I launched the Canberra Public Schools web portal. http://www.det.act.gov.au/canberra-public-schools

The *Canberra Public Schools* webpage is a 'one-stop shop' for you to find information specifically about Canberra public schools. The webpage has a fresh look and feel, and contains important information, feature articles and useful links. It also has a search function for you to search for schools by geographic area, details on curriculum, programs and student enrolment. The page also links to useful information including school websites, holiday and school term information, ACTION Buses and SunSmart.

The *Canberra Public Schools* webpage also links to the 'Parents and Students at the Centre', 'Trending #successstories', and 'Public School Alumni' pages. These pages contain stories and articles about the achievements of our schools, teachers, principals, alumni and students.

I encourage you to explore the new webpage, and let us know your thoughts. Please email DET.Media@act.gov.au with your feedback. As you know, Canberra public schools are fantastic and students deserve to have their successes shared.

Kind regards,

Joy Burch
Minister for Education and Training

CALENDAR DATES

GOLD CREEK SCHOOL CALENDAR - TERM 1 2015

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

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/ Sun
Week 1 Jul	**20** Yr 7 Immunisations.	**21**	**22**	**23** Gungahlin College Visit to talk to Yr 10, 11.40am-12.40pm	**24**	**25/26**
Week 2 Jul/Aug	**27**	**28** ICAS English Competition Yr 3-10.	**29**	**30** 9 A-Side League, Northbourne Ave, Braddon, 8.30am-2.30pm. Yr 10 Careers Xpo, EPIC, 11am-2.30pm. Gungahlin College Course Information Evening, Yr 11 2016, 6.00-8.00pm Australian Mathematics Competition Yr 3-10.	**31** **SS Assembly**	**1/2**
Week 3 Aug	**3** NPS National Zoo and Aquarium, 9.30am-1.30pm. G & T Workshop PISA Testing for 20 x Year 10 students	**4** HPS National Zoo and Aquarium, 9.30am-1.30pm.	**5**	**6** IMP Combined Band Rehearsal Yr6, Ngunnawal Primary, 8:45am-12.45pm	**7** NPS National Zoo and Aquarium, 9.30am-1.30pm.	**8/9**
Week 4 Aug	**10** PISA Testing for 20 x Year 10 students	**11** Kindergarten Health Check. ICAS Mathematics Competition.	**12** Kindergarten Health Check. P & C Meeting, 6.00pm, Junior Site Library.	**13**	**14** **SS Assembly**	**15/16**
Week 5 Aug	**17** NPS Book Fair. PYP Job Alike (Hosting)	**18** NPS Book Fair. PYP Job Alike Visit Other Schools. North Gungahlin Athletics (AIS).	**19** NPS Book Fair. Outdoor Ed Caving at Bungonia, ETD 8am.	**20** NPS Book Fair. Outdoor Ed Caving at Bungonia, ETA 4pm.	**21** NPS Book Fair. Gungahlin College Course Selection for Yr 11 2016.	**22/23** NPS Community Event: Working Bee 8am-12pm

Week 6 Aug	**24** P & C BBQ	**25** Yr 5/6 Sue Geh Cup Girls Basketball (TBC)	**26** K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10) IMP Combined Band Rehearsal Yr5, Ngunnawal Primary, 8:45am-12.45pm	**27** (JS Lock Down Drill 2.15pm) Gungahlin College Course Selection for Yr 11 2016.	**28** K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10) **SS Assembly**	**29/30**
Week 7 Aug/Sep	**31**	**1**	**2** K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10)	**3** Outdoor Ed Cross Country Skiing, ETD 6am.	**4** JS Father's Day Breakfast, 8am. K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10) Outdoor Ed Cross Country Skiing, ETA 5pm.	**5/6**
Week 8 Sep	**7**	**8** Christian Education, 1.45-2.45pm.	**9** K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10) P & C Meeting, 6.00pm, Junior Site Library.	**10** WS Winter Movie Night.	**11** K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10) Yr 5/6 Girls Cricket. **SS Assembly**	**12/13**
Week 9 Sep Dance Fest, TBC	**14**	**15** (JS Fire Drill 2.15pm)	**16** Preschool Orientation Evening. K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10) Yr 5 Camp, Cooba. Yr 6 Camp, Borambola.	**17** Yr 5 Camp, Cooba. Yr 6 Camp, Borambola.	**18** K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10) Yr 5 Camp, Cooba. Yr 6 Camp, Borambola.	**19/20**
Week 10 Sep	**21**	**22** Parent Teacher Afternoon, 4-6pm	**23** K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10)	**24** SS Athletics Carnival, AIS Bruce.	**25** K/Yr 1 Swimming Lessons (12.10-12.40, 12.40-1.10, 1.10-1.40,1.40-2.10) Yr 3/4 Girls Cricket, Aranda Playing Fields, 9am-3pm. **SS Assembly**	**26/27**

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE LEARNER PROFILE WORDS OF WISDOM

IB Learners are reflective: "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." Soren Kierkegaard

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AWARDS

The Recognition of Service Awards are held to honour the long term commitment, dedication and loyalty of employees who have served long periods of uninterrupted service with the ACT Education and Training Directorate and the contribution made to the Directorate. The following Gold Creek School staff received service awards this year.

Maria Kelliher 30 years of service

Kratai Visityuthasart 20 years of service

Clive MacKillop 20 years of service

Linda Baird 10 years of service

Deidre Robinson 10 years of service

Eva Gasiewicz 10 years of service

Regan Wickes 10 years of service

Alison Scholes 10 years of service

Lisa Ryan 10 years of service

Mark McLennan 10 years of service

Shannon Brown 10 years of service

Jayne Bleckendorf 10 years of service

Julie Pickering 10 years of service

Alivia Hurcum 10 years of service

Michael Dawson 10 years of service

Julie Sherd 10 years of service

Hilary Pitt 10 years of service

Samantha Burgess 10 years of service

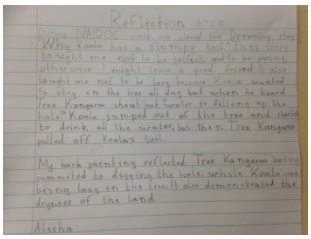
Congratulations to these members of staff and thank you to all our staff for their efforts and hard work this semester.

Have a safe and restful break.

The Leadership Team.

NAIDOC Week

The Junior Site celebrated NAIDOC Week during week 10. Monday morning, children from Kindergarten to Year 6 sang *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* in the Wiradjuri language. This was assisted by Raiyan and Darcy in Year 4. Indigenous music was played in Area C during Wednesday breaks. Mitchell Platten encouraged students to listen, dance and sing along with the music. Furthermore, during the week each class viewed a Dreamtime story. As a follow-up activity, the students created artwork of their reflections, perceptions or understandings of the Dreamtime story. Year 3C viewed the Dreamtime story of "Why the koala has a stumpy tail." Attached is their artwork and reflections.



SPORT NEWS

Athletics Carnival 2015

Our Annual Athletics Carnival was held on Tuesday 23rd June. Despite the cold wind we were thankful that the rain that had been predicted earlier in the week stayed away. Overall it was a successful day with very high student participation numbers. This meant that some events like the 400m had to be completed after the carnival day. The students were well-behaved and enthusiastically cheered on their fellow participants from their house, their classmates and friends.

The under 8 year olds had a games morning (see pictures right) before they had their opportunity to run in either a 50m or 70m race.

The times for all the heats have been collated and the 3 fastest times for 100m, 200m and the 400m races will earn a place ribbon. The 3 longest distances for each age category in shot put and discus will also be rewarded with ribbons. The times and distances will be used to determine how many students have qualified to go to the zone athletics carnival next term.

A big thank you to the small group of parents and grandparents who joined us for the day and assisted with time keeping. We look forward to greater participation from parents in future carnivals, so please don't be shy. The Senior School sports leaders attended the carnival and helped to run the field events in the afternoon. The house captains were very active in getting their houses motivated to participate throughout the day. Well done to Mr McLennan for organising the day and to all the staff members who supervised, measured, marshalled, judged, timed, recorded and encouraged!

SCHOOL BANKING NEWS

School Banking ran a raffle during Term 2. The winners are as follows:

<u>1st Prize</u>

- Ethan Robertson
- Harry Triggs

<u>2nd Prize</u>

- Katherine Bunsell
- Ryan Sergent

<u>3rd Prize</u>

- Kayla Burgess
- Hannah Cooper

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 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 class teacher upon return.

NAIDOC WEEK

This week Gold Creek School celebrated *NAIDOC Week*. What is *NAIDOC Week?*

NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal Islander Day of Celebration. *NAIDOC Week* celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. *NAIDOC* is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from *all* walks of life.

This week we have held a Flag Raising Ceremony and a Welcome to Country which was officiated by Mr Warren Daley – member of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council. This was an opportunity for the whole senior site to recognise the contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their cultures have contributed to our school.

Following the ceremony we held a morning tea for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families and a Staff vs Students Buroinjin match.

Our week culminated in Friendship Day lunch which was an opportunity for some of our teachers to share food from their cultures with us. We had the following:

- French croissants and crepes
- Indian potato curry and kebabs
- Indonesian fried rice (Nasi Goreng)
- Aussie BBQ
- Scottish haggis and black sausage
- Japanese Sushi.

Thank you to all the members from our school community who helped to make this week really special. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the organising committee:

- Ms Kelliher
- Mr Woodward
- Mr De Zylva
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families.

Have a great holiday and see you next term,
Ms Kirk.

SEMESTER 2 ELECTIVES

Students Semester 2 elective choices

All years 8 to 10 students should now have completed their elective choices online for Semester 2. Students go to the school website: http://www.goldcreek.act.edu.au/ and then click on the appropriate year group electives link on the right hand side of the page.

Every effort will be made to ensure students are enrolled in their choices. We will not be completing a change class/elective process next semester but utilising students' preferences to appropriately place students.

WORK EXPERIENCE NEWS

Yr 10 Careers Xpo Thursday 30 July Week 2

Notes will be handout about the Careers Xpo in Week 1 next term. The Careers Xpo will be held on Thursday 30 July at EPIC. It is a great opportunity for all Yr 10s to find out about future careers and university courses. Students can also try a trade like carpentry, tiling etc. So don't miss out on your chance to get some excellent current information for your future. www.canberracareersmarket.com.au

Also next term, there will be various courses held outside of school, but during school hours, for students to undertake. These include hairdressing, construction and business admin. See your tutor group teacher for further information.

Mrs Hillier
WEX coordinator

AIME PROGRAM

Gold Creek School is proud to be a part of the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience program (AIME). This program aims to connect students with mentors to support them through school and beyond into higher education.

This photo shows some of our Year 10 students, our Youth Worker and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teacher proudly wearing our AIME hoodies. Don't they look great!!

STUDENT ABSENCES – Senior Site

Our 24 hour dedicated absences phone number is

6205 1792

To report you child's absence, please leave a short message stating their name, year, 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.

OSHClub News

Before School / After School Care Program

OSHClub Before & After School Care

Program Update

The educators at Nicholls have been enjoying planning and participating in activities based around ideas from your children, sea creatures, space and weather. For the remainder of the Term we will be engaging your children in Fairy tales, Fables and Disney; With an emphasis on Pirates and Vikings for Sea Faring Friday. Please make sure you reiterate to your children about the safety of coming straight from school to afters as we have had some children turning up late without good reason. Our holiday program is now open for bookings, please go online to see the activities and themes and for bookings. Below is a snapshot of what we will be offering at our program over the next couple of weeks. Please remember to check through lost property by the end of term, as any unclaimed items will be donated back to the school or to St Vincent De Pauls. If you have any questions or concerns please talk to the coordinators of your child's room, also our feedback book is located at the sign in and out area. Thanks Kathleen and the team at Nicholls.

The Week's Activities

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before Care Activities	Alien Space ships Line Tiggy	Medieval Castle Winter penguin	Sugar cube igloo Glitter galaxy	Frosty winter scenes Disney finger puppets	Squishy space Aliens Viking paper craft
After Care Activities	Fairy flower headband Cake in a cup	Balloon Rockets Weather Vane	Pastel Planets Ship, shark, shore	Al foil Aliens Making yoghurt and fruit ice poles	Hand print pirate Scrub the decks

Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0402 611 484
Program Manager: Kathleen Rigby
Coordinators: Tanya, Sophie and Jayne
OSHClub Head Office: 02 8355 5300

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

The *Australian Association for the Teaching of English*
and
Australian Literacy Educators' Association
invite
students, with their parents, to meet the authors
Graeme Base and Gary Crew
at
the National Convention Centre, Canberra
on
Saturday, 4 July 2015
from
12:00 – 1:00 pm

These renowned Australian authors will be available to share experiences, respond to questions, and sign books.

A range of their books will be for sale during the session.

AATE Australian Association for the Teaching of English

AUSTRALIAN LITERACY EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION

Did you know you can place a canteen order via Flexischools?

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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.

parentline

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