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# Newsletter

16 December 2016  
Volume 19, Issue 13

Dear School Community

This is my last letter as Principal of Gold Creek School and as such I would like to share with you some of the key highlights of my time here.

In 2013, we set out to make Gold Creek School one of the best public schools in Canberra and together I sincerely believe that we have succeeded.

We have maximised student outcomes and provided a truly holistic educational experience. The staff have worked tirelessly to provide a myriad of opportunities to enrich the learning experiences of all students.

The school community have strongly supported our improvement initiatives and I would like at this point to acknowledge Mr David Vernon, School Board Chair, with whom I have worked alongside since my appointment. He has provided both guidance and direction and I am highly honoured to have had his backing. I would also like to thank other parent Board members, including Mr Paul Singer, Air Commodore Wade Evans, Mr Michael Rush and Ms Leona Anton, for their trust, business acumen and collegiality. As a result of the collaborative, and the evidence based approach we adopted the reputation of the school has grown in the wider educational arena. This confidence is demonstrated in the increased school enrolment numbers especially those students entering at key transition points; kindergarten and year 7.

The introduction of the International Baccalaureate in both primary and high school has ensured that our students have been recognised as global citizens. The current school leadership team are high performing educational leaders, not only developing strategy but also working collaboratively to ensure that the school plans have been translated into achieved outcomes as measured by a number of qualitative and quantitative data sets. The teachers are highly qualified, and willing to continue their professional growth for the benefit of the students. We have had a number of teachers who have undertaken post graduate qualifications and received an extra degree in their chosen field. This has been of great benefit to both staff and students because these teachers have openly shared their learning with others, and professional development has been backed by research.

Succession planning for staff has always been high on my agenda and I have spent the last four years ensuring that my leadership has been distributive. This means that the whole leadership team has worked together and communication has been open. The school will continue to flourish and I am delighted to inform you that Ms Angela Spence has been appointed as the Acting Principal for term 1 of 2017. The associate principals will continue to work collaboratively to ensure that the school remains successful.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Gold Creek and I leave the school knowing that, I, as school principal have done my job.

I wish you all a joyous festive season and holiday.

Best regards

*Linda Anne Baird*

MEd BA PGCE NPQH MACEL

**PRINCIPAL:**

**ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL:**

**ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL:**

**ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL:**

**ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL:**

Linda Baird

Priscilla Wray

Michelle Morthorpe

Angela Spence

Jacqui Chapman

**Board Chair:**

**Parent Members:**

**P&C President:**

David Vernon

Michael Rush

Wade Evans

David Pollard

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## 2017 School Resumes

### Monday 30 January:

Nicholls Preschool –	8:45am-3pm
Hall Preschool –	9am - 3pm
Kindergarten -	8:45 – 2:45pm
Year 7 –	8:50am – 3pm
New Students Years 1 to 6 –	9:30am – 10am
New Students Years 8-10 –	9am – 10:30am

### Tuesday 31 January:

All students

## WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget to download the school app for smart phones



and Androids  and make sure you turn the notification on so you don't miss out on the latest news!

You can also report student absences and change details via the school app.

Follow us on Twitter



and Facebook



### GOLD CREEK SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS 2017

We want YOU for the GCS Board!

If you're keen to contribute to the governance of GCS, you should nominate for a position on the GCS Board. No prior experience is necessary.

#### The following positions are vacant:

- 1 x staff member positions; (2 year appointment)
- 2 x P & C member positions; (2 year appointments )
- 1 x student member positions; (2 year appointment Y9 student)

**Nominations open 11am on Monday, 30 January 2017 and close 14 days later on Monday, 13 February 2017.**

You can pick up a nomination form from the GCS front offices on the junior and senior sites during normal business hours (9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday), or request one be emailed or faxed to you. You can submit your nomination by:

- hand delivery to the GCS front offices and place it in the secure box.
- email to [Kerry.lyttle@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Kerry.lyttle@ed.act.edu.au)
- mail to ARO, c/- GCS front office

For more information contact the Assistant Returning Officer,  
Kerry Lyttle on 0427 626 507.



## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE LEARNER PROFILE WORDS OF WISDOM

**IB Learners are Knowledgeable:**

*If you want the answer—ask the question.* — Lorii Myers



### STAFF PROFILES

**Jaimee Allan,  
Languages Teacher/Junior Site**



**Why did you become a teacher?**

The reason I wanted to be a teacher was to help students on their educational journeys and help them realise their own potential

**What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?.**

Accommodating for the various needs of all students.

**What is something you couldn't live without?**

Social Interaction.

**If you could meet anyone in the world dead or alive, who would it be and why?**

Grandfather; just so that I could say hello.

**Do you have a hidden talent/hobby/interest out of work?**

Dance, soccer & documentaries.

**What are your hopes for your students?**

To lead a life full of happiness, passion, self respect and curiosity.

**What is the most valuable thing you've learnt to date?**

That at any given time, you have NO IDEA what someone is going through unless you talk to them, so always act with kindness.

**What would you do for a career if you weren't teaching?**

I would probably either a midwife, police officer or social worker.



### MOTHER TONGUE



#### **Bilingual children do better in education**

Being bilingual may give children an advantage at school. Bilingual children have been shown to be better than their monolingual peers at focusing on a task while tuning out distractions. This seemingly enhanced ability to concentrate has also been found in bilingual adults, especially those who became fluent in two languages at an early age. It is thought that being able to filter things out when switching language enhances the brain's ability to focus and ignore irrelevant information.

*Varuna Arora, Year 3 Classroom teacher*

### JUNIOR SITE SPORTS REPORT

#### **Karate**

Congratulations to Mia Brown in year 5 for competing at the Gold Coast Nationals Karate Championships and taking home the Gold.

She competed in the division 10 - 11 years old 3rd Kyu (brown belt) and above, including black belts. There were two events to compete in, there was Kata where she had to preform a sequence of moves and judged on her technique and strength. There was also Kumite (sparring) where she wore protective gear and fought.

Mia conquered her nerves and fought in front of 5000 people and was judged intensely by the officials and observed by all of the Senseis. She received 8.8 and 8.9 with 8.9 being the highest possible score. Mia states, *"Feelings are much like waves, you can't stop them from coming, but we can choose which one to surf"*.

We wish Mia Good Luck as she transitions to a Black Belt next year and prepares to compete in the Karate World Cup.



#### **Year 5 and 6 Sports Education**

During term 4 we have participated in a unit called SEPEP (Sports Education in Physical Education Program). We had to organise our teams and vote on the sports we wanted to compete in. We had to take on two roles, one as a player and one as a secondary role to do with the operation of a sports team/competition.

Some of these jobs were; Captain, Coach, Referee, Manager, Score Keeper, Sports Board, Equipment Organisers and Fitness Trainers. We all worked together to get through each game with fairness and fun. The teachers got us to do everything, like reff the game, coach and much more! We loved having this responsibility. We played Capture the Flag and Dodgeball, every week we changed the games and/or the teams we played as we followed a sports draw.



This year's sport was AWESOME!!!

Thank you Mr Russell, Mr Carswell and Mr Felix.

*Anna and Rebecca L from 5B*



### House Champions

Congratulations to Wattle House for winning the House Champions cup for 2016. The champions are decided upon the results tallied from the participation and place points rewarded to the houses from the swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals. A special mention must be given to our house captains for their commitment and enthusiasm consistently displayed to motivate and encourage the students in their house to participate and try their best.

Well done to:

- Felix and Olivia from Eucalyptus
- Jay and Remi from Blue Gum
- Tyler and Jayla from Waratah
- Noah and Alyssa from Wattle



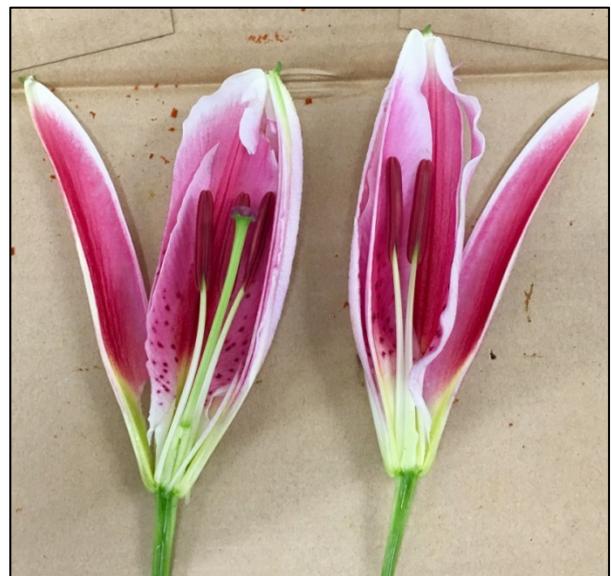
## SENIOR SITE NEWS

### YEAR 7 SCIENCE

Students in year 7 finished their work on classification by looking at the anatomy of flowering plants.

Here, they are looking at the internal structure of *Lilium lancifolium* (Tiger Lilly).

*Niels Hider, SLC Science/Maths*



## FRENCH EXCURSION

On Thursday, 1 December students attended the French cooking excursion to the Très Bon Restaurant in Bungendore. We had a fantastic day.

Upon arrival we were served freshly baked croissants with a chocolat chaud (hot chocolate). We then met the renowned chef, Christophe Gregoire, who lead us through the cooking of a crème brûlée and poulet chasseur (hunter's chicken). After eating our very tasty lunch with desert we were treated to a French cooking history lesson by Josephine (Christophe's wife and restaurant co-owner).



We learnt about the inventor of the 'croquembouche', the origins of the Micheline star system and why there are 100 folds in a top chef's hat...to represent 100 ways to cook an egg.

We finished off with a fun little role play of a French restaurant scene. Students had a great time, asked lots of questions, sampled fine French dining, and most importantly, spoke and listened to French language in an authentic setting.

*Eric Woodward, Languages and Humanities Teacher*

## GOLD CREEK SCHOOL CREATE GREATER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND PROMOTES 'READ&WRITE' FOR GOOGLE

In order to determine the impact Read&Write for Google Chrome could have on the students at Gold Creek School, a study was undertaken. Following some tutorials, a target group of senior school students who were enrolled in the school's study line elective were asked to complete a pre and post trial survey. The main goal was to determine how effective students found the software and how it would impact on their learning and assignments.



From the results of both surveys it was apparent that Read&Write for Google Chrome had great potential to enhance students' learning experience.

For more information please click on this link [Gold Creek School Read&Write for Google Chrome Project Report](#).

## ASPIRE PROGRAMME

Alan Tongue Aspire programme. We have been very privileged to be able to take part in this group; Alan has just been recognised for his commitment to community and youth development by being awarded the title of ACT Australian of the Year. This culminated in a special luncheon attended by media and local politicians to celebrate the achievements of the students who have participated.



If you would like more information on the programme please click on the following link - [Aspire Programme](#).



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Jacob Doornbos

Congratulations to Jacob Doornbos for being selected into the Australian National Youth U18 Ice Hockey Team. The Team will travel to Sweden on the 28 February for a training camp in Tranas and then onto Novi Sad, Serbia for World Championships on March 13-19. They are in Division II – Group B and will play against Belgium, Spain, Iceland, Netherlands & Serbia. Jakob is one of the two goalies in the 22 men squad.



## Joshua Smith

On Saturday, 3 December, year 8 student Joshua Smith competed in the Australian Martial Arts National Championship titles in Sydney. Over the past year, he has competed in a number of state tournaments and placed well enough in each competition (where he received a number of places, as well as ACT state champion) to be selected to go to the national titles.

Over the weekend, Joshua competed in three events at the national titles. He was in the 13-15 year old Advanced-Black Belt Division which had some 18 competitors in that division alone (one of the biggest). As Joshua is only 13, he was one of the youngest in his division and one of the smallest, that said, his spirit, perseverance and professionalism helped him to achieve a fantastic outcome.

Joshua placed sixth in the forms event, sixth in the continuous sparring and came fourth in Australia in the points sparring event. To beat so many competitors from all across the country was a massive achievement. He has now qualified for the Australian team to travel to Japan in May next year to compete in the world titles.



*Joshua Smith is on the left*

## DEFENCE NEWS



### Air Force Cadets 2017

315 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets will be recruiting again in January 2017. There will be two information nights, the first on 31 January 2017 and the second on 7 February 2017, both commencing at 7pm. They are being held at the Squadron, which is at the Multi User Depot at HMAS Harman.

Parents and prospective cadets will need to be signed in and issued visitors passes to access the base, so if you could be at the front gate of HMAS Harman by 6.30pm, it would be appreciated.

If parents have any question, please email: [315sqnaafc@gmail.com](mailto:315sqnaafc@gmail.com)

*Colin Wilson, DTM & DSTA*

# OSHClub News

## Before School / After School Care Program



### Program Update

This newsletter finds us at the end of another school year. It has been a wonderful year at OSHClub and it has been a pleasure looking after your children.

Over the last couple of weeks your children have been enjoying making various Christmas decorations, water play and end of year parties. We will be handing out portfolios for the children filled with the work that was on display or not taken home.

Don't forget to check last minute lost property. All left over lost property will be donated to charity Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Our Before School Care bbq breakfast will be held this Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 7.30am. Please come and have breakfast with your child/children, we look forward to seeing you there. Next week is holiday program, a few things to remember, all children require hats and be dressed appropriately, remembering that we go outside on the playground regularly so closed shoes are best. **NO SKATE SHOES**. Make sure that your child has plenty of food, the only food that we provide is late snack at about 5pm. Due to health and safety regulations we cannot heat up left overs or 2min noodles.

For those coming to holiday program, we are going to have a wonderful time we have some Great excursions including Bowling and Go Karts. Some of our incursions are solving a mystery And Water play.

For those not attending holiday program, we hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you next year for a fantastic 2017.

### *This fortnight's Activities*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before Care Activities	Chinese Whispers Stain glass Christmas tree	Super hero cape Hannakah cards	Animal tails Christmas tree decorations	Uno tournament Christmas carol jumble	Christmas foil stars Soccer game
After Care Activities	Christmas angel End of term party	Outdoor play Christmas pom poms	Paper plate snow flakes Snowman biscuits	Easy jam drops Paper wreaths	Christmas hearts Dance party

### Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0402 611 484

Program Manager: Kathleen Rigby

Coordinators: Sandra, Luke and Stacey

OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

*All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at [www.oshclub.com.au](http://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.*

## AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) has been engaged by the Education Directorate to develop parent engagement resources for teachers, parents and carers of students with complex needs and challenging behaviour.

ARACY is inviting parents and carers of ACT primary and secondary students to participate in small group discussions focusing on how families and schools work together to support the learning of students who experience particular learning challenges. Participants will be asked questions to explore their experiences of what works well and what doesn't work well, and perspectives about the quality of the connection between home and school.

The discussion groups will take 60 - 90 minutes. Interviews will also be available for individual participants, where preferred. These will last approximately 60 minutes. Participants will receive a \$50 Coles-Myer gift voucher as reimbursement for time and input into the research.

Interested parents and carers can contact Barbara at ARACY via phone 6248 2400 or email [barbara.barker@aracy.org.au](mailto:barbara.barker@aracy.org.au).





# ACT SECONDARY BURSARY SCHEME

**DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme can provide ACT residents on low incomes with **financial support** for students in Years 7 – 10.

**Eligibility:** Holders of a Pensioner Concession Card or a Health Care Card with means tested 'payment codes'  
- see application form for more details

**APPLY ONLINE NOW**

**ACT EDUCATION DIRECTORATE**  
Secondary Bursary Scheme  
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning  
GPO Box 158 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Application forms are available at all high schools, colleges, Centrelink Regional Offices and online at  
[http://www.det.act.gov.au/school\\_education/starting\\_school/financial\\_assistance\\_for\\_families](http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/starting_school/financial_assistance_for_families)

**Enquiries: 6205 8262**