

YEAR 7 -10 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS 2020

SEMESTER 1



Dear parents, carers and students,

Students in Year 7 - 10 are all required to choose a Community Connections activity for Semester 1, 2020.

Community Connections activities are focused on service learning, which is a core component of the IB.

Students should consider their preferences carefully, based on academic and special areas of interest. All classes have a limit to the number of students that can enrol; however, every effort will be made for students to be placed in their first or second preference class. Careful decisions can help lead your child to make informed, happier and healthier life choices.

Community Connections will be reported on at the end of the semester and students will be required to complete a self-reflection on their progress and achievement in this class.

Students will be notified of their placement before the end of Week 9, Term 4, 2019. If any errors are made in class placements, students will have an opportunity to discuss them before the end of week 10, Semester 2, 2019. After this time **NO** changes will be made.

Students may choose a Community Connection they have done before, however, priority will be given to new students for each Community Connection.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Regards

Sam Beattie
Deputy Principal
Senior Site

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - Semester 1, 2020

Card Making

This is an opportunity for concerned and caring students to put their ideas and creative energy into action: making cards for those less fortunate than us. We will be look at cause and effect models and see how we can respond with practical acts of care and kindness. Students will develop gift making skills and ideas as individuals and in small response teams. The web address below has given inspiration to this Community Connection class and might inspire and guide student engagement and responses.

<https://www.doinggoodtogether.org/bhf/create-greeting-cards>



Community Radio

In this activity students will learn about the power of communication and how radio stations and radio programming can enhance the lives of others through entertainment, information and opinion. Students will develop an understanding of how to use audio tools to create their own radio shows. Students will engage in developing material for break time shows as well as pre-recording shows for publication. Shows can explore key issues facing young people and students' ideas on how to enhance the world around them.



DanceFest and More

Students will be working towards the performance of DanceFest in 2020 and then exploring how to share their passion for dance and movement with the wider community. This will be done initially through creating links with the primary school, visiting the elderly and looking at the benefits of mental health through dance and how we incorporate this across the student body.



Finding the Energy

Students will develop learning and skills around new innovations, materials and thinking as they respond to finding affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for everyone. Students will research, create and showcase, through products and experience, a variety of clean and sustainable energy actions/options for community information and awareness.



G'Day and Welcome

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions is the title of the UN Sustainable Development Goal for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. In this Community Connection programme students will explore the issues, concerns and needs of New Australians, resettled Refugees and visitors to Canberra and our local community.



Giving Through Food

Students will connect to the school community by assisting with Breakfast club and general every day student management and support. Community connection time will be spent learning how breakfast club is run, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns while also learning about food and hygiene standards. This learning includes the organisation, cleaning, cooking, sourcing of resources and most importantly, service to others in the school community. Students must be able to commit to attending school by 7:30am on Wednesdays at least once or twice a term to assist with breakfast club.



Giving Through Music

In this activity students will develop a wide variety of music industry skills. This may include performance, band management or music production. Students will be given support in developing their chosen skills with a specific focus on how they can use them to support their local and extended community. This course will significantly push the comfort zones of all students who take it and will be great for building communication and presentation skills whilst developing further expert knowledge in this field. Students are expected to participate in, and to organise a number of musical performance events in both our school and the wider community.



Global Issues Network

In August 2018, 15-year-old Greta Thunberg began a one-person School Strike for Climate in Sweden. A little over a year later, she led a strike of 7 million people around the world. In the Global Issues Network, students will identify the issues that matter to them, learn how to have an impact, and lead the changes they want to see in the world.



Happy Healthy Teens

Students will learn through experience about what contributes to the wellbeing of teenagers in today's society. Students will undertake research, including making comparisons with other countries' wellbeing and use their learning and research findings to address and promote teenage wellbeing across the school and wider community.



Helping Hands

Students in this Community Connection will organise themselves towards supporting a not-for-profit organisation from within the Canberra community. Students will look at developing resources through recycle refunding and building relationships with local businesses. Team work, communication, planning, organising and managing timelines are some of the skills to be developed and used through this programme.



Local History Stories

Students will undertake self-guided research into local history (e.g., sites of significance, local historical personalities and local stories), and then share these stories with others in the community. This will be an opportunity to learn more about our local surroundings and be 'storytellers' of local history.



Minor Mending

Would you like to learn how to mend clothing instead of throwing it away? How about how to take a hemline up or down? Would you like to fix your school bag strap instead of having it held on by safety pins? Would you like to show others how to fix clothing or other cloth items? Or to fix these things for other people? You can even learn to make minor alterations to clothing to make it fit better.



Musical Production Preparation

One way that the whole of Gold Creek School comes together as a community (junior and senior students, staff, parents and carers) is through the annual musical production. This project requires the active service of a lot of students with a lot of different talents, not just through performing but also in giving up their time to grow the production. Students enrolled in this community connections class will learn and employ skills to work together, design and create school performance resources, develop communication networks and calendars and to work with the wider school, and local communities. The skills learned will help right across the school, community and into each student's future. If this sounds like the service area that you're interested in, then this is the community connections class for you.



Random Acts of Kindness

Research has shown that performing an act of kindness produces the single most reliable momentary increase in well-being of any exercise that has been tested. Students will be challenged to perform random acts of kindness in many ways. This may be for an individual, a teacher, a class, the school or the community at large. The possibilities for kindness are endless. Students will be putting their research into practice by performing random acts of kindness in the community making a difference to their chosen target group. Students who have done this class previously, may like to continue their project.

“Wherever there is a human being there is an opportunity for kindness.”

Reading to Connect

Students in this group will engage Kindergarten and Year 1 students in reading, comprehending and transferring what are in stories into the real world. In Community Connections they will learn how to engage with younger students and using these skills will complete activities with the Primary students, supporting them in understanding reading material and what it means for their own world.



Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse...

In this class, students will develop skills around recycling, repurposing and reusing wooden pallets to create new table tops for the canteen tables. Most of the recycled and repurposed materials used in this Community Connection is timber. It is recommended that students who have a strong interest in woodworking or building select this subject. An example of a previous project was the repurposing of old hardwood fence palings into a serving tray used in an outdoor BBQ setting. Knowledge around responsible consumption and production, both locally and globally is also highlighted. Students will explore ideas of sustainability, use of materials and how to give items 'no longer used/wanted' a new lease of life.



School Newsletter

Students will meet each fortnight to work on contributions and design for student blog, school newsletter and social media. This has been a work in progress for Term 1 and will become more developed through the year and may involve the School Yearbook. Students will develop practical literacy and design skills and this Community Connection will be a forum for students to publish articles of interest and inform the community including about other Community Connections and student activities across the school.



Sewing for a Cause

In this class students will learn basic sewing skills (and/or knitting/crocheting skills) while making items for charities. Some of the items include re-usable shopping bags, sanitary items for "Days for Girls" charity or Toiletry bags for the Homeless. Students may be involved in communications with members of the local community to teach certain skills. Sewing teaches valuable skills employers demand such as creativity, project management, meeting deadlines and problem solving. Students will develop life skills, independence and creativity, as well as helping others through their creations.



Skill Share

Do you have a skill or talent that you are good at? Would you like to learn how to share that with others in the school and wider community? In **Skill Share**, we will be developing our ability to share our skills and abilities with others. Students will take something they are already good at, and then explore ways they can effectively help someone else to develop and enjoy that skill as well and then put those ideas into practice. Students will also be learning about some of the best ways to give feedback to others, how to provide effective coaching, and what some of the benefits to teaching others can be!



Spick & Span

Students in Spick and Span will seek ideas from the wider school community to develop and lead small initiatives to beautify various spaces around our school. Each group will work on their own chosen projects based on their own research around the school. The projects could involve cleaning and painting green bins, making wooden tables for the concourse areas, putting up posters, removing graffiti, weeding garden beds and tidying areas around the school. Students will need to demonstrate a 'can do' attitude and be prepared to pitch in to get jobs done.



Sports and Activities Coaching

In this activity students will learn basic coaching skills. The course is designed for coaches at a primary school level. The course is a combination of various international games coach courses, modified games coaching courses, and a suite of online coaching units through the Australian Institute of Sport. Students will help with the major school carnivals, transition activities with associated local primary schools and coaching on the junior site.



Sustainable School Grounds

Through this program students will explore concepts of health and well-being and reducing hunger through enhancing links between food production and waste. Students will have the ability to develop projects around the school garden, working to build connections between the food consumed and used in classes at school and what can be grown on the school grounds. They will also have the opportunity to explore urban sustainability.



Worm Farming

In this class students will investigate the benefits of, and the potential to create a worm farm at Gold Creek; and, suitable options. Students would create a proposal for a worm farm (location, cost, design, etc) and present it to Leighton for implementation and construction in semester 2.



Year 10 Leadership Group

This group will be actively engaged in the planning of year 10 activities, whole school event organisation and providing support to the School Captains and leaders and the School Parent Committee around growing a positive and healthy school culture. Activities may include the planning and promotion of fundraising initiatives.

