



Senior Site Bites

Week 8

Term 3 2016,
9 September 2016



Dates to remember:

- **12 Sept** - Formal Fundraising Sausage Sizzle & Spiders 1st Break
- **14 Sept** - Y7 Indo Exc, ANU 9:30-2pm
- **14 Sept** - Y9 Humanities Farm Excursion 11am-3pm
- **15 Sept** - Y9/10 Mosque Visit
- **20 Sept** -Y9/10 Photo Tour of Canberra
- **22 Sept** -Parent Teacher Interviews 3:30-5:30pm

Follow us on twitter:
@GoldCreekSchool

Check out the P&C website:

<http://goldcreekschoolpandc.org.au/>



Dear Parents/Carers

The past two weeks have been busy for staff and students at the Senior Site. Staff have been completing mid-semester reports in preparation for the Parent-Teacher interviews on Thurs 22 September. Students will be issued with their mid-semester reports next week and parents can book online through the PTO system. The mid-semester reports will include the details of how to access PTO for your child. Parent-Teacher interviews are an opportunity to build the home-school partnership in supporting students to achieve their best. We also encourage students to come along with their parents/carers to discuss their progress and ways to improve with teachers.

Last Friday was a particularly busy day at the school. We began the day on the Junior Site with a wonderful community Father's Day breakfast BBQ. We would like to acknowledge those fathers from the Senior Site who attended the event. We would also like to acknowledge the Student Leadership students and Zac Hain who so ably stepped in on the morning to help cook and serve the breakfast to many hungry dads and students.

After this breakfast, we welcomed a very special guest to the school. Bronwyn Bancroft, Aboriginal artist and author, gave a presentation to students about her career and life, including the power of education to provide her with many of the opportunities she has been able to undertake. She followed this up with a workshop for our Senior Site Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. During the workshop Bronwyn and some of the students were photographed and interviewed and an article appeared in The Chronicle this week about the event. These students will share their knowledge in a similar workshop with the Junior Site Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in term 4.

Our Gold Creek students were again acknowledged in the Canberra Times for our implementation of the formal uniform policy, released by the ACT Education Directorate on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see our students presented in the media twice within the space of a week for the amazing work that they do every day.

Today we had our Senior Site assembly where we as a school community were able to see the amazing Dancefest performance that our dance students performed on Wednesday night at the Canberra Theatre. The feedback the students received from the Artistic Director in the lead up to the performance was excellent and he described their performance as the best contemporary dance in the festival.

Priscilla Wray & Michelle Morthorpe, Associate Principals

UPCOMING EXCURSIONS PAYMENT DUE DATES

- 14 Sept - Y9 Humanities Farm Excursion
Notes & payments due Monday 12 Sept
- **Year 10 Formal, first deposit is due by Wednesday 14 Sep**
- 20 Sept - Y9/10 Photography Tour of Canberra
Notes & payment due Friday 16 Sept

Senior Site Bites

LOST PROPERTY

The lost property has been relocated, so it can be monitored and disposed of if left unclaimed. There will be two containers, 'school uniform' and 'other'.

Students can access these containers upon request, as they will be stored in a secure store room. to avoid an unsightly mess building up.

Any unnamed, unclaimed school uniform will eventually be washed and put into the second hand uniform store to support our student community, as needed. Non-school uniform be donated.

This is a timely reminder to ensure all students clothing and possessions are clearly labelled to facilitate their return if lost.

P&C NEWS

We hope everyone had a wonderful Father's Day! Thanks to those who came out and joined us for breakfast. The rain was kind enough to hold off until just after we finished packing up.

The year 10 student volunteers very professionally helped run the breakfast, and received high praise from the school community. I'd like to send my personal thanks to each of them for stepping up and helping to run a successful morning, not to mention cleaning up afterward.

Term 3 is drawing to a close already – where is the year going? After a hugely successful federal election day BBQ, we are again looking for volunteers to help with an ACT election day BBQ. Sign up to [Parent Link](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) for more details.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our trivia night. Stay tuned to the usual channels for more info.

A number of parents have come together recently to talk about problems with the synthetic oval. I wanted to reassure everyone that the school shares our concerns and has taken the issue up the chain. It can't be fixed overnight, though I am sure we will get a good outcome.

Another hot topic has been transport to and from extra-curricular events. The P&C has been working with the school to improve the process of signing children up to events requiring transport. You will start to see some changes on permission slips shortly. Please provide any feedback you would like to share.

Only two P&C meetings left for the year – week 4 and week 8 of term 4. If you want to come along and see what we are about with no pressure, arrive at the junior site office just before 6pm on Wednesday 19th October. There is usually chocolate on offer!

Follow us on Facebook to raise issues that are important to you, or to get updates about ongoing items - <https://www.facebook.com/GoldCreekPandC>

Have a great rest over the holidays. We're on the home stretch now!

David Pollard, P&C President

Senior Site Bites

BOOK WEEK

Book Week was an exciting event last week on the Senior Site. A huge thanks must go to the senior leadership class and their teacher Zac Hain who organised some fun and memorable events.

Throughout the week students visited the younger classes on the junior site to read some quality Australian stories. The class teachers were very appreciative of their efforts, and some of the readers were keen to continue the story telling at some stage in the future.



Each morning in tutor group classes participated in a trivia quiz. Entries are still being marked and when the winning tutor group is announced they will receive a Pizza Lunch.

Many students and staff made the effort to come as their favourite book character for our Book Week dress-up day. Apart from enjoying the spectacle of the variety of costumes, having Mrs Wray read to everyone at assembly was a real treat!

Thank you Mrs Kwong and Mrs Sherd for your cooking skills and assisting students with the cupcake sales. They raised \$176 to purchase student selected titles for our library. As soon as the books are ready students can borrow them.

Grace Huang, in year 7, was the winner of the \$20 Dymocks book voucher competition. It was difficult to match the staff members to the favourite Australian Story title. The results are still in the library window if you're curious.



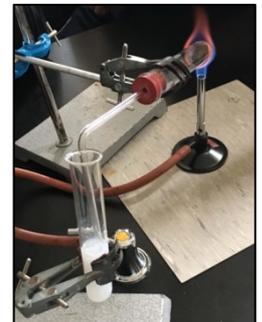
Happy Reading

Keryn Hoeschle, Teacher/Librarian

YEAR 10 SCIENCE

Students in Year 10 have been investigating chemical reactions. Here they are decomposing copper carbonate. A gas formed can be identified as carbon dioxide if the limewater turns a milky colour. Students then deduced that copper carbonate decomposed into copper oxide.

Niels Hider, Executive Teacher



TED^x CONFERENCE

Year 10 students Kimberly, Zubair, Shams and Layla (not in the picture) attended TED^x Canberra with Ms McInnes, Mr Hider and Ms Chapman. The conference theme was 'All In' where speakers discussed what it would look like if we were all committed 100% to our lives, families, our work and our passions.



Senior Site Bites

Leading Canberrans spoke about medical imaging, nutrition, mental health, refugee experiences, agriculture, neuroscience, gender, housing for the disabled, social media, entomology, overcoming PTSD, ultra marathons and inclusive art programs. They were also entertained by dancers, musicians and a magician!

Shams said that the talk he enjoyed the most at Ted^x Canberra was the talk from Omar and Saad Al-Kassab, two Syrian brothers who escaped their war torn country to create for themselves a new and better life in Australia.

'Their talk was truly inspiring and moving, because it made me realise how we shouldn't take things for granted, and that there are people out there struggling and wishing for a better life. They talked about all of the struggles that they went through to create for themselves a new life. Alongside speaking about their hardships and struggles, their use of Australian slang terms was really funny. Their talk was really captivating and was my favourite of all the talks given that day.'

BAND NEWS

On Wednesday 7 September, Gold Creek Senior Site Band played in the ACT School Bands Festival at Canberra City Band Hall in Watson. Students played a variety of pieces for the pleasure of their audience and feedback from an adjudicator. These included 'Crazy in Love', 'Funkytown', and 'Let It Go'.

Following their performance, students then participated in a workshop with the adjudicator, who provided them with interesting and constructive advice on how to develop their playing further. She was very impressed by the standard of playing, particularly the band's excellent grasp of complex rhythms and articulation.

It was a valuable experience for all those who came along, with all students being excellent representatives of our school community.



Danielle Sheville and Philippa Needham

YEAR 10 RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS: UN YOUTH, TENT EMBASSY AND PARLIAMENT HOUSE VISIT

Last week was an eventful one for year 10 Humanities students learning about Rights and Freedoms. We began with a visit from Canberra's youth ambassador to the UN. We learnt about some of the fascinating projects around the world that are targeting the sustainable development goals and brainstormed local issues to be shared in this forum on our behalf.



Then, 78 year 10s braved the cold to

Senior Site Bites

make the trip out to the Tent Embassy and Parliament House. The Tent Embassy, begun in 1972, is one of the oldest running protests of its kind in the world and is an action that aims to increase Aboriginal Sovereignty and Constitutional Recognition. We spoke with one of the original protestors as well as some up and coming

Aboriginal activists who sang, spoke passionately about current issues, and performed a smoking ceremony.

Up at Parliament House it was the first day of action for the new government so the place was abuzz. We had a quick look at the Magna Carta, the original human rights document where King John made some promises to his disgruntled Lords in 1215 that he later broke, then into the houses to watch the politicians go at it. Students were less than impressed by question time which according to them was 'worse than our classroom'. They were, however, impressed that the politicians could keep speaking while being heckled, much harder than doing an oral presentation in class! Congratulations to all for representing our school so well and thanks to so many parents who supported their child to come along; a great day.

Eric Woodward: Languages and Humanities Teacher

Y9 PERSONAL PROJECT UPDATE:

As the preparation for the Personal Projects continues, excitement and eagerness is growing amongst students. This week an email was sent home to the parents/carers of all year 9 students detailing the timeline and mentor selection process. In addition to this, the school website now has a dedicated Personal Projects page where information and materials will be posted as they are released to the student body. It will also list FAQs, tips and updates provided in the newsletter. If you did not receive a copy or require further information, please contact Mr Paul Fitzpatrick.

TIP 2: Prepare a Journal

When students begin their personal project journey in term 4 they will be required to keep track of their actions in a journal. This will be a place for planning, tracking and reflection. Exact details of what to include will be provided in the guidebook. Year 9 students are encouraged to think about what format would suit best. The journal can be digital (such as a google doc) or hard copy. If things tend to go missing easily, a google doc is a wise choice, however, if internet access is an issue perhaps a hard copy would best suit the student.

Students can access Google Docs through Google Apps for Education (GAFE). If a student has not yet returned their permission note they can be accessed at:

http://www.goldcreek.act.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/381611/Student_IT_And_Media_Permission_Forms_Combined.pdf

Paul Fitzpatrick, Personal Projects Coordinator; Paul.fitzpatrick@ed.act.edu.au

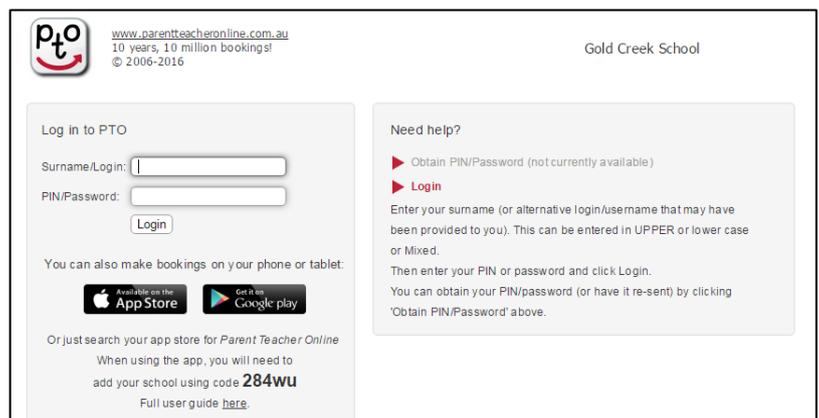
Projects website: http://www.goldcreek.act.edu.au/curriculum/year_personal_projects

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

PTO online will be available for parents Tuesday, 13 September from 2.30pm.

Parents are able to make appointments through the Parent Teacher Online app from Apple or Google play stores when downloaded or through the website. Our school code is **284wu**.

If you require further assistance please call 6205 1795.



The screenshot shows the PTO login interface. At the top left is the PTO logo and the text 'www.parentteacheronline.com.au 10 years, 10 million bookings! © 2006-2016'. At the top right is 'Gold Creek School'. The main content area has a 'Log in to PTO' section with two input fields: 'Surname/Login:' and 'PIN/Password:', followed by a 'Login' button. Below this is a note: 'You can also make bookings on your phone or tablet.' with 'Available on the App Store' and 'Get it on Google play' buttons. At the bottom, it says 'Or just search your app store for Parent Teacher Online. When using the app, you will need to add your school using code **284wu**. Full user guide [here](#).' To the right is a 'Need help?' section with a red arrow pointing to 'Obtain PIN/Password (not currently available)' and another red arrow pointing to 'Login'. Below this, it says 'Enter your surname (or alternative login/username that may have been provided to you). This can be entered in UPPER or lower case or Mixed. Then enter your PIN or password and click Login. You can obtain your PIN/password (or have it re-sent) by clicking 'Obtain PIN/Password' above.'

Senior Site Bites

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 5-9 SEPTEMBER 2016

This week is National Child Protection Week and the NAPCAN theme is Protecting Children is Everyone's Business. We must all protect and encourage children and young people, and we must do all we can to ensure their happiness and wellbeing as they grow and learn. Protecting children is a whole of community responsibility and everyone has a part to play in promoting their safety and their wellbeing.

So what can parents do to protect their children? One way is to teach and support them to have healthy and respectful relationships.

It is important to build up protective behaviours. Parents can talk about safety with their children, including water safety, fire drills, bike safety and personal and body safety. You can also talk about what safe behaviour might look like and feel like both at school and at home. Teach your children about safe and unsafe touches and body safety. It is never too early or too late to have these conversations.

Children need to know that they have the right to feel safe and so do other people they are in contact with. They need to know that if they feel unsafe they can talk to a network of trusted adults. This helps to set up lifelong help seeking behaviours and helps to keep our children and ourselves connected to others for the good times as well as for the tough times. It is always good to ask for help when you need it and is a sign of strength!

Make a safety plan for your family for everyday situations and include what to do if there is a family emergency.

Celebrate the strengths that your family has and value everyone's achievements and interests. Help develop your child's interests and have fun together as a family regularly. Take turns choosing different activities. This will assist in building strong family bonds.

Remember that we can all play a role in keeping kids safe from abuse and neglect and protecting our future.

FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

Invitation to parent forum

As you may be aware, in 2015, the Minister for Education established an Expert Panel to review how ACT schools respond to students with complex needs and challenging behaviour. In November 2015, the Expert Panel released their report *Schools for All Children and Young People – Report of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour*, outlining 50 recommendations. All 50 recommendations were accepted by the ACT Government.

In response to the report, the Education Directorate commenced a three year program of system reform, the *Schools for All Program*. Throughout the year, parents of students in ACT public schools have been invited to attend quarterly forums to hear about progress to date. You are invited to participate in the third quarterly forum to discuss progress in the first nine months of the program.

Please see below for dates and locations of the third quarter parent forums. There is no need to book, just come along.

Forum 3 Thursday 15 September 2016

9:30am-10:30am UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)

5:30pm-6:30pm Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling (mezzanine)

Regular updates on progress are on the Education Directorate website at www.education.act.gov.au
If you are unable to attend any of these dates and you would like to provide feedback or enquire about progress to date, please contact the Schools for All Program Implementation team on 6207 6606 or by email SchoolsForAll@act.gov.au