Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We have had another busy week for our senior site students; the highlight being our year 7 camp at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation in Narrabeen. The year 7 students set off bright and early Wednesday morning to begin their adventures to return with many exciting stories and tales of new friendships formed on Friday evening. We will include some of these stories in the next Senior Site Bites edition. Our thanks go to the staff who spent many hours organising the camp as well as those who supervised the students on camp: Mary-Anne Kirk, Sara Hillier and Paul Fitzpatrick.

On Friday we had a wonderful assembly focused on the IB Learner Profile attribute of ‘knowledgeable’. The IBO defines this attribute as: ‘We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.’ (SOURCE: http://www.ibo.org/programmes/profile/)

Students were reminded though, that being knowledgeable does not necessarily mean that you know the most. In fact, the answer, ‘I don’t know,’ can be the most powerful and knowledgeable response you could offer. It is the quest for knowledge, throughout our lives, that means we fulfil this aspect of the Learner Profile. The assembly included an entertaining presentation by Mr Paul Fitzpatrick’s Theory of Knowledge class. They challenged students to think about what knowledge is and how can we tell if an idea is genuine knowledge.

Students across all year groups are undertaking ACER testing in comprehension and numeracy over the next few weeks. Teachers use this data, as well as classroom performance and assessment results, to determine students’ current levels and cater to the learning needs of our students. Please encourage your students to try their best when undertaking the online testing.

Coming up next week, we have a parent information forum on a proposed 2016 World Challenge trip. The session will be held on Thursday 5 March in the library. Year 8 and 9 students were given a presentation today about the upcoming trip, so I am sure they will encourage parents to come and hear about the amazing opportunity students can undertake.

If students did not have their school photo taken last week, a reminder that the catch up photo session will be on Monday 2 March. Even if you do not choose to purchase a photograph package, all students need to have their photo taken as these are the photos used for student ID cards.

Warm regards,

Michelle Morthorpe
Associate Principal
Swimming Carnival a great Success

The Senior Site Swimming Carnival was held at Big Splash Macquarie on Wednesday 18th February in beautiful weather. We had close to 300 students attending, which is more than previous years, and all those interviewed said that they had a great time. There were competitive swimming races, novelty events such as the iron man challenge and everyone including staff enjoyed the free swim time in the afternoon on the slides. This was extremely refreshing during a very warm afternoon as you can see in these photos. After all the races and relays, the house competition points tally was extremely close and the overall winner was determined by the house war cry competition. The winning house and age champions will be announced at the next assembly.

Gold Creek School Board Nominations Open

1 Parent and Community Member needed

There are 3 Parents and Citizen Members of the Gold Creek School Board, elected on a rotating basis with 2 positions elected in one year and 1 position in the next. This year there is one position to be filled.

Nominations are now called for one Parent and Community Member of the Gold Creek School Board for a two-year term to commence on 1 April 2015. Nominations close Thursday 12 March 2015.

The Education Act 2004 (the Act) requires that a school board be established for each public school. The board is responsible for the school's strategic direction. The school board is a formal mechanism for parents, carers, staff and students to participate in school decision-making.

Nominations should be submitted on the nomination form, available from the school or on request by email to arogcs@gmail.com. Please also email any queries on the process.

Should there be more than one nominee, details regarding election processes will be circulated after the closing date for nominations.

Michael Rush
ICAS Competitions
All students will have received a letter outlining the dates for the ICAS Competitions administered by the University of NSW. These competitions reward all participating students with a certificate and those students who top their school, state/territory and country with certificates of Merit, Distinction and High Distinction. We encourage all students to participate, particularly those in advanced classes. Students in Years 9 and 10 will receive Graduation Points towards their Graduation Portfolio. More information about the competitions can be found here: https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICAS SUBJECT</th>
<th>ICAS SITTING DATE</th>
<th>OFFICIAL CLOSING DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19 May 2015</td>
<td>Tuesday, 21 April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday, 3 June 2015</td>
<td>Wednesday, 6 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday, 16 June 2015</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday, 28 July 2015</td>
<td>Tuesday, 30 June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11 August 2015</td>
<td>Tuesday, 14 July 2015</td>
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Science News
We are pleased to announce a Questacon Science Incursion! Questacon will be at Gold Creek School Senior Site on Friday 13 March to deliver 3 shows, 1 each for years 7, 8, and 9. Check with your child for further information.

Student Information Check Sheets
Student Information Check Sheets will be sent home with students on Monday. Could parents check that all details are correct, make any amendments if necessary, sign the form and then return to Tutor Group teacher by Friday 6 March.

What's Going On in the Arts?
School of Rock
Join us after school every Thursday until 4.30pm and develop your musicianship skills. Come along, and whatever your musical tastes or interests, we'll support you and, if you wish, place you with like minded people. Not only will you develop your musical skills, you will also build your ensemble and listening skills. We'll make you a better musician!

Get Good
Whether you're interested in Dance, Drama or Music, you can come into the Performing Arts building at break-times and be supervised in practicing and refining your skills. Please remember though...you must come and see a member of staff as you enter the building and sign in, and there is a strict NO FOOD policy in performance spaces.

GC Live!
We're always looking for great DJs to play great tunes at break-times... so, if you would like to have a go, come and see Mr Krajacic, Mr Bradfield or Mr Matthews and we'll get you a spot on the schedule.

Keep your eyes peeled for other exciting things happening in the near future...
2015 Competitions for Students in Years 3 to 10

Students in Years 3 to 10 are invited to enter the following academic competitions to be held later this year. They include the International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) Science, Writing and English competitions and the Australian Mathematics Competition and the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT, formerly informatics).

In each of these competitions, students are given tasks targeted to assess abilities at their year level. Participation in competitions is strongly encouraged and provides students with an opportunity for developing skills in sitting external tests and examinations. Regardless of their grading, all students receive a certificate, which can be included in their portfolios and is a commendable indication of their willingness to ‘give things a go’.

Please indicate the competitions you would like your child to participate in on the form below and forward the completed form together with payment to the front office before Thursday, 2nd April (Week 8, Term 1). If entering CAT, entry needs to be made by Friday MARCH 8. Please note that, due to competition closing dates, no late payments can be accepted. Due to pre-ordering, no refund is available.

Tony Webber  
Competitions Coordinator Senior Site

Julie Plokring  
Competitions Coordinator Primary Site

2016 Competitions for Students in Years 3 to 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Competition Date</th>
<th>GL Code</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICAS Science Yr 2-10</td>
<td>Wed June 3</td>
<td>$006-000-00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICAS Writing Yr 3-10</td>
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<td>ICAS English Yr 3-10</td>
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<td>Australian Mathematics Competition Yr 3-10</td>
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<td>$009-000-00</td>
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<td>CAT Yr 7-10</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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I give permission for my child to enter the competitions indicated above.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: __________

Name: ___________________________ (Parent/Career)

Please indicate payment type: CASH □  CHECKS □  DIRECT DEPOSIT □

Card no. ___________________________ Amount: $____________

Reply Date: __________ Name of Cardholder: ___________________________ Signature of Cardholder: ___________________________

Direct Deposit to: Gold Creek School Management Account 
BSB No. 022 777
ACC No. 801340

Please include student name, class & payment detail (INSERT) Receipt No.__________________________
ed-space

heads pace Canberra

information seminars 2015

What: Free information and education seminars about mental health and wellbeing.
Who: For parents and carers of young people between the ages of 12 to 25 years. All welcome.
Where: At heads pace. 170 Haydon Drive, Level B, Building 18, Bruce ACT 2601.
When: On the last Tuesday evening of the month, starts at 5:30pm for 6pm presentation. Each presentation will run for 1 hour. Tea & coffee provided.

RSVP P: (02) 6201 5343 E: heads pace@canberra.edu.au

Date Topic
Tuesday 24 Feb Anxiety
Tuesday 31 March Real-life Stories (panel) - Help Seeking
Bonus—TBC - Anxiety (repeat) at Local School (Special Event)
Tuesday 28 April School Refusal
Tuesday 26 May Depression
Tuesday 30 June Real-life Stories (panel) - Eating Disorders

Details: See our website for more details.
www.headspace.org.au/Canberra

Presented by intern psychology students from the University of Canberra.

We hope to see you there!