

Senior Site Bites



**Term 1
Week 3**

24 February 2018



Dates to remember:
[Calendar](#)

27 Feb

- Switched on – Chat, games & Food 3-4pm Canteen (Free)

28 Feb

- Breakfast Club 7:50-8:40am Kitchen
- Homework Centre 3-4:30pm Library
- P&C Meeting 6-8 pm JS

1 March

- Swimming Carnival –Big Splash Jamison

Check out the P&C website:
<http://goldcreekschoolpandc.org.au/>
Follow us on twitter:
@GoldCreekSchool



ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS REPORT

It has been a busy start to the year as staff and students experience new things. We are all getting used to the new timetable and the introduction of Community Connections and Interdisciplinary Units, which are important aspects of being an International Baccalaureate school. Another change is that Tutor Groups are now known as Pastoral Care Groups; however the purpose of these groups remains the same. The Pastoral Care teacher plays an important role in connecting with students and supporting their social, emotional and academic growth throughout the year. They are a good point of first contact for parents should you wish to discuss anything. We do value communication with home as we work in partnership to meet the needs of your child/children in order to achieve the best possible learning outcomes.

A focus for the school this year is to create a strong learning culture. One of the key improvement strategies is to develop and implement a school wide approach to managing student behaviour. We have a small core team of teachers currently undergoing training on Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL), who will then communicate with staff, students, parents and the wider community about the development and implementation of an educative approach to behavioural issues. We are very excited to be commencing this journey and we will be offering opportunities for parents to contribute. Stay tuned for more information over the coming weeks.



Staff from the junior and senior sites attending day one of the 'Positive Behaviours for Learning' training on Wednesday, 21 February 2018

As the theme this fortnight has been on the Learner Profile of Communicators it has been a pleasure to visit classes and talk to students about what they are learning, why they are learning a particular concept and how they will use that learning in their future. Year 7 also showed excellent non-verbal communication by winning the Pictionary challenge at the assembly last Friday.

[Cont/](#)

Gold Creek School

Phone: 6142 1300

Absences: 6142 1323

Kelleway Ave, Nicholls, ACT, 2913

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Info @goldcreek.act.edu.au

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I would like to seek parent/guardian support in ensuring there is communication with the school if your child/children are absent or late to school. With the new attendance system any absence or lateness not explained by a parent/guardian will be recorded as unexplained and will show up as truancy on the absence report. Pastoral Care teachers will be regularly checking absences and communicating with home if there are concerns.

Next Thursday, 1 March 2018, is the Swimming Carnival at Big Splash, Macquarie. Students are all expected to attend where there will be opportunities for all students to be able to participate in a range of activities. Please be aware of the weather forecast on the day and ensure your child/children have the appropriate clothing, towels, sunscreen, healthy food and water bottles. These days are always a fun way to interact with staff and peers outside the classroom environment.

Please be sure to check the school calendar for upcoming events including the P & C meeting, sporting events and breakfast club.

*Enjoy the week ahead.
Sam Beattie*

YEAR 7

Year 7 students have started off their high school careers with a bang. The feedback from year 7 students about their experience of starting high school has been overwhelmingly positive. Students have been happy and smiling in the corridors and the feedback from teachers is that they have been eager to learn in their classes.

I personally have been really pleased to see students who have been willing to take some positive risks and try some new things. Pastoral care groups have been competing against each other in the 'Year 7 Challenge', over a number of challenges, some that involve the whole pastoral care group working as a team, and some that involve one student representing their whole group. Throughout our various challenges, it has been great to see students encouraging each other and working together. This was really demonstrated by the 'cheer off', where each pastoral care group created and then performed a cheer about their pastoral care group and how great they were. All year 7 students got up and cheered for their group, and the cheers were very creative!

Year 7 Camp

Year 7 Camp is coming up in just two weeks, in week 5, from 5-7 March. It is going to be fantastic!

The program aims to provide the year 7 students and staff an opportunity to strengthen bonds and develop cohesion amongst their cohort, and provide students with challenge and growth experiences, both physically and mentally, to build resilience and foster learning around working together. It will also provide students the opportunity to experience firsthand the diversity of the Kosciuszko National Park and uniqueness of the Alpine region, through activities such as raft building, canoeing, mountain biking and walking to the highest peak in Australia.

If your child is attending the camp, please ensure that the school has received a completed permission note, a medical form and a swimming ability form, and of course the full payment as soon as possible. If your child has any dietary restrictions, medication or other concerns that you would like staff to be aware of on camp, please complete the google form to let us know about them at <http://bit.ly/Year7campinfo>.

Julia Szabo, Year 7 Coordinator

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IMPORTANT!

MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND KNOWN MEDICAL CONDITION RESPONSE PLAN

The *Known Medical Condition Response Plan* is required only for students with a known medical condition. It provides instruction for the management of an identified medical condition and should be completed in consultation with the treating health professional. Without this form, in an emergency situation first aid can only be given in accordance with a publically available generalised action plan related to the condition.

If medication is required to be administered at school a *Medication Authorisation and Administration Record* must also be completed and returned to the school. An individual *Medication Authorisation and Administration Record* must be completed for each medication.

It is important that information on these forms is accurate and detailed in order to help us provide appropriate care. The *Medical Information and Consent Form* and *Known Medical Condition Response Plan* will be sent to you annually for your review. However, if there are changes to your child's health or medical circumstances, during the year, please inform the school immediately. You may also choose to keep certain medical information private. When making this choice, please consider whether this might affect the provision of appropriate first aid care for your child.

If an incident occurs at school or during a school-related activity in the ACT, students will be transported free of charge to the emergency section of an ACT public hospital. Parents/carers are reminded to check their health cover for ambulance transportation outside the ACT, as charges may apply.

Please complete and promptly return the [forms](#) (found on our website) to assist staff to provide appropriate first aid support for your child.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES – SENIOR SITE

**Our 24 hour dedicated absences phone number is
6142 1323**



To report your child's absence, please leave a short message stating their name, year, tutor group name and reason for absence - sick/leave, etc by 9:30am. You can also report absences via mobile phones through our school App or by emailing info@goldcreek.act.edu.au.

LEE CROCKETT TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Gold Creek School staff had the pleasure to participate with an international speaker, Lee Crockett from the Global Digital Citizen Foundation, in a whole day workshop prior to the students' return. We have partnered with him this year to help us better engage students in the learning environment. Over the course of this year we will be able to directly utilise his skills, particularly in relation to developing our classroom practice, through a variety of online forums and workshops. The teachers have begun a new year enthusiastically discussing how we can implement best practice in our classrooms to benefit every child at our school. You can read more about Lee and how his transformational ideas are benefiting your child on the link: <https://globaldigitalcitizen.org>

Ingrid Osborn, Director of Curriculum and MYP Coordinator

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MUSIC

Band has started for the year, and they sounded pretty good playing 'May It Be' from Lord of the Rings this week! Band rotates through the lines of the timetable so that students miss a different lesson each week – they have access to the timetable through the Google Classroom (code n3uie7s).



We have lots of students coming to Beginner Band each week on Friday Break 2, to learn their new band instruments (with some help from more experienced instrumentalists). Vocal Group have been meeting each Wednesday so far this term, and are learning 'Gaudete' – they've already been singing in three part harmony! We're looking forward to some performances on the concourse on Friday during Break 1 to showcase some of the awesome musical talent among the students.

Phil Needham

HOMEWORK CENTRE

The senior site homework centre is on every Wednesday afternoon from 3-4:30pm in the Library. There will be teacher supervision and support for students in years 7-10.



IN THE BUILDING



IN THE BAG

NEW MOBILE PHONE RULES

Don't forget our new rules for mobile phones - when students are in the buildings their phones must be off and in their bags.

If you need to contact your child in an emergency please call the school direct on 6142 1300 and we will get the message to them.

For non-urgent messages you can send an SMS and students can check their phones during break times.

For more information check our [website](#).

DOUBLE POINTS THIS WEEKEND! 23-25 February

This year Gold Creek School will be participating in the Coles Sports for Schools Program. Sports for Schools coupons are now available from Coles stores with purchases for every \$10 spent. Coupons can be left at the Front Office of both the Junior and Senior Sites, or at Coles Gungahlin.

Start collecting to help our school achieve some great new sports equipment to encourage all children to get healthy and active at school! Thank you for your support.



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STAFF FUN FACT

Martyn Call, one of our teachers in the Maths Department, spent his summer back in the UK where he is from, refereeing at the Women's Roller Derby World Cup. Martyn has been refereeing roller derby for 5 years and has had the opportunity to represent both Scotland and Australia as an official at many international competitions.

Roller Derby is a full-contact sport played on four-wheeled roller skates. Two teams of five (one jammer - the point scorer - and four blockers) skate anti-clockwise around the oval-shaped track. The aim is to prevent the opposition's jammer completing laps of the track, while simultaneously helping your own point scorer to do so. Blockers are allowed to use shoulder, hip and full body contact to stop the jammer passing.

The WRDWC was held in Manchester, UK this year and saw 38 teams from around the world coming together. Team Australia made it through to the final to play against Team USA. It was a fun game and

a half time the score was almost tied. Both teams showed moments of brilliance, and the Aussies pushed their opponents all the way, but the Americans triumphed 187 to 146.

BBC Sport 6 Interesting Things We Learned in Manchester: <http://www.bbc.com/sport/42944801> "

