

Senior Site Bites



Term 2
Week 9

29 June 2018



Dates to remember:
[Calendar](#)

2 July

- Limelight Rehearsals 3pm
- Y10 Gungahlin College Retreat

3-6 July

- Road Ready

4 July

- Homework Centre, 3-4:30pm, Library
- Malaysian Excursion Information meeting 6-7pm

6 July

- **Whole School Awards Assembly SS Gym, 9am**

23 July

- School Resumes for Term 3

23-27 July

- **Naidoc Week**

Check out the P&C website:
<http://goldcreekschoolpandc.org.au/>

Follow us on twitter:
@GoldCreekSchool



STUDENT SERVICES

Each newsletter we will use resources from '*Parenting Ideas*' and the '*Raising Children Network*' to discuss a parenting theme or topic of concern. This week we will focus on *anxiety* which can have a significant impact on children's self-esteem and school attendance thereby affecting their learning opportunities and outcomes for later in life.

Raising Children Network offers evidence-based content related to all ages and stages of child development and self-care for parents.

Parenting Ideas is an Australian source of parenting education and support which provides:

- regular parenting blogs
- online courses for parents
- parenting guides and resources
- books from their founder and best-selling author, Michael Grose
- professional Learning programs for teachers
- presentations, keynote speaking, workshops and conferences for parents and educators

Parenting Ideas is currently accepting enrolments from *parents and teachers* for an online course aimed at addressing anxiety in children and young people. Each session will offer a range of tools to manage and respond to anxiety, both in the moment and over the long term. Included in the course are mindfulness and breathing techniques, as well as strategies on nutrition, exercise, goal-setting, awareness and more.

Helpful Responses to Anxiety allow children and young people to make mistakes and teach them to problem solve (do not provide all solutions/ideas), support children to take risks, allow them to experience adversity, and be available to offer reassurance. Resilience is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. We want our children and young people to cope with adversity in a positive and productive manner. Resilience can only be developed by exposure to stressors in a safe and supportive environment. It is important for your child that you validate their concern and encourage them to think of ways in which they can help themselves.

What are we doing at Gold Creek to promote student resilience?

'*Cool Kids*' is a course designed for *children* who experience anxiety. The aim is to help children build their resilience and self-esteem by learning what anxiety is and how they can manage it independently. Our junior students have been working hard all of term 2 and will complete the course on Wednesday, 4 July 2018. Well Done!

Please contact me if you are interested in learning more about '*Cool Kids*' for your child or '*Cool Little Kids*' for parents of children who experience anxiety.

Jill Shearer,
Director of Community Partnerships

Gold Creek School

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Absences: 6142 1323

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

To enable Gold Creek School to transition effectively from 2018 to the 2019 school year we need a clear picture of prospective student movement. This includes gathering data about known school leaver intentions.

If you are aware of prospective changes and your child/children will not be returning to Gold Creek School in the **2019 school year** please could you complete the form using the link below.

[2019 GCS Leavers Intention \(Kindy -Year 9\) form](#)



We would like to invite parents/carers to the Whole School Award Ceremony,
Friday, 6 July 2018 at 9:00am.

It will be on the Senior Site and we have an amazing guest speaker
Zack Bryers – 2018 ACT Young Australian of the Year.

Zack Bryers has been a homeless teenager, a soldier in Afghanistan, a gridiron player for Australia, a Churchill Fellow and is currently a youth worker for St Johns Care in Canberra. Zack acknowledges his life experiences have led him to where he is today and hopes he can be an inspiration to others. He also believes the effect role models can have is underestimated and that each person can have a positive effect on someone by the way they live their lives, and if you can't walk them down the path, you can show them the way.

Please join us in celebrating the achievements of our students. All parents are welcome.

2019 MALAYSIAN TRIP EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

In 2019, Gold Creek students (current years 7-10) will have the opportunity to participate in an overseas excursion to Malaysia. Malaysia is a close neighbour to Australia and offers experiences for students to broaden their horizons. As an International Baccalaureate school we place a great deal of importance on global citizenship and experiential learning. Providing an immersive setting overseas is a highly effective way to facilitate such learning.

The 2019 Malaysia trip aims to 'plant a seed' about the numerous benefits of travel, experiencing life and culture through a unique perspective and stepping out of (your) ones comfort-zone. The trip has been designed to encompass a range of real-world learning opportunities as well as develop student independence, resilience, team work, service and open mindedness.

If you would like more information, including itinerary and costs, please join us at an information evening on **Wednesday 4 July 2018 from 6pm to 7pm at the Gold Creek School Senior Library.**

Parents: - Please take a moment to RSVP or ask for details to be emailed to you: [here](#).

Students: - Malaysia Trip 2019 student expression of interest <http://bit.ly/MalaysiaTrip2019>

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PERSONAL PROJECTS

Hello parents and carers of Gold Creek Year 10s. I can read your mind. As we head into the final week of term and the mid-year break, I can hear you asking:

How can I help my child/student with their Project?

- Ask them about it. The more they talk about it (articulate it) the better they will be able to write about it in their report. If you can ask them during meal time this will help them to cement their understanding of what that are doing, what went according to plan and what didn't and what they are trying to achieve.
- What is the Report? (Glad you asked) After all the work they have done on their product and their process journal, it is now time for students to analyse and reflect upon what they have produced. They will be assessed according to the four criteria:

A: Investigating

B: Planning >each heading needs a minimum of 400 words (3500 word total maximum)

C: Taking action

D: Reflection

There are detailed instructions in the Personal Projects Guide which students should have a copy of, or which can be found under the 'Curriculum' tab on the school website.

The Report is due on MONDAY of WEEK 3, TERM 3.

Thank you for your support.

Ross Hunter, Personal Projects Coordinator

CATCH-UP CENTRE RESUMES SEMESTER 2, 2018

Research shows that poor school attendance is associated with lower academic achievement and reduced opportunities for children to learn and access educational resources. Strategies to increase school attendance include connective approaches that offer support for children and their families to focus on improving relationships between the school, incentive approaches that reward students for good or improved attendance and sanction-based approaches that penalise students for absenteeism¹.

Our new attendance database is up and running and we have been looking at how we can use this data to work with children and their families to improve attendance patterns and improve learning outcomes.

We currently track the amount of time students are absent from classes without parent or teacher permission. This can be due to:

- arrival at school after 8:50am without parental approval,
- late arrival to class, extended absence from class or leaving class early without a signed note from a teacher, and
- truanting lessons, or leaving school grounds during the school day.

Parents & carers should be receiving notification if their child is absent (if not, please inform the school of updated contact details). We collate the amount of time missed and build up 'time owed' in response to these absences. Once time owed reaches 60 minutes, we will notify the child and send home an email requesting that they make up for lost learning time through attendance at a catch-up session. These will occur during the second break on specific days and on Thursday afternoons from 3:00pm – 4:30pm. Attendance at these sessions will reduce the amount of time owed. Children will be supported to catch up on missed classwork or to complete homework and assignments. If a child is not productively engaged in work, time owed will not be reduced.

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Children owing more than 60 minutes will also be placed on the 'No Go List' which excludes them from participating in extracurricular and end of year activities until they have reduced time owing to below 60 minutes or discussed a plan to reduce time owed with their Pastoral Care Teacher or Year Coordinator.

Children can do a number of things to ensure that they do not accrue time owed:

- Ensure that they arrive to each lesson on time and seek permission from their teacher before leaving class.
- Attend each class and not leave school grounds during the school day.
- Promptly follow up absences with notes from Parents & Carers.

Parents & carers can do a number of things to ensure that their children do not accrue time owed:

- Ensure that children arrive at school on time (before 8:50am)
- Notify the school if their child is running late or is absent due to illness or personal leave (via the school app or the student absences line 6142-1323).

Please contact us if you have any concerns about your child's attendance and we will work with you to ensure their attendance record is accurate and up to date.

Aaron Harding, Niels Hider & Hamish McDonald
Attendance Working Group.

¹ Education.qld.gov.au. (2018). Research into school attendance. [online] Available at: <http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/schools/research-school-attendance.html> [Accessed 28 Jun. 2018].

STEAM collaboration flies to new heights and makes friends with a fungi while keeping to the code.



The term may be winding down but the crazy geniuses of the STEAM ROLLERS are still having amazing learning adventures.

On Wednesday, as part of the STEAM community connection, members of the Ngunnawal Primary school came to visit Gold Creek and see some of the amazing transdisciplinary projects that we have been working on.

This time, the highlights included the theory of flight and how to build a better airplane with kids flexing their creative muscles by building bigger and better designed airplanes than any ever made in the history of flight; however the adventures were not limited to just this reality with the kids setting about recoding the virtual world and getting ready to give to design the next incarnation of the Matrix- look out Keanu!



And finally, just when you would think there wouldn't be 'mushroom' for any more excitement (Thank Mr Kane for that Pun!)– the kids learnt all about the amazing world of fungus, how it can be used for everything from a convenient food source to a building material and even a sustainable way to recycle waste paper. Each of the kids create their own mini farm of Pearl oyster spores to take home, all set to infect the world with tasty treats!



Huge thanks to Akiko, Markwell and Cameron for helping out today and huge "well-done" to all the STEAM ROLLERS who participated- an incredible effort and the kids had an amazing time!

Dr Daniel White

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ICAS & AMT COMPETITIONS	DATES
ICAS English	Tuesday, 31 July 2018
Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) 2018	Thursday, 9 August 2018
ICAS Mathematics	Tuesday, 14 August 2018
Australian Informatics Olympiad (AIO).	Thursday, 23 August 2018
Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO).	Thursday, 13 September 2018

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, Pastoral Care class, 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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SCHOOL APP

Did you know that you can report student absences, check the school calendar, read newsletters and receive important information via sms on your mobile phones (provided you allow push notifications) all through our school App!

iPhone – Go to the app store, enter - Gold Creek School, press install, enter your iTunes password.

Android – Go to Google Play, enter – Gold Creek School, press install.

Download the school App NOW, to help us keep in touch!

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

If your child suffers from a known medical condition for example - anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma or other allergies, the school requires a 'known medical condition response plan'.

Please note that in the absence of this plan only standard first aid would be administered. The forms can be found on our [website](#). Once completed please return to the school as soon as possible.

