Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Congratulations to everyone on a smooth start to the semester. On the Senior Site we have a very positive and stable staff. We also welcome a number of new members to our team as well as congratulate other staff on some exciting new opportunities.

**The 2015 Executive Team:**
- Priscilla Wray – Associate Principal
- Michelle Morthorpe – Acting Associate Principal
- Mr Zac Hain – Pastoral Care Coordinator
- Mr Niels Hider – Head of Mathematics and Science who joins us from Amaroo School
- Ms Maria Keilher – Head of English and Languages who joins us from Hawker College
- Mr Greg Blake – Acting Head of Humanities
- Ms Mary-Anne Kirk – Acting Head of PE and Health and Learning Support
- Mr Rael Matthews – Head of The Arts and Technology

**Teaching staff new to our school in 2015:**
- Garth Bradfield in IT
- Nicole Hamilton and Tessa Yvanovich in the Humanities team
- Julia Szabo in the English team
- Max Rixe in the English team, returning to us from the Junior Site
- David Russell in the PE team
- Tamsyn Terry in the Mathematics team
- Tina Negline in the PE team returning to our school following parental leave

**Student Services Team:**
- Eva Gasiewicz is our new Youth Support Worker. We also welcome Erin Sheldrick as our School Psychologist, working across both sites. She will be on the Senior Site on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The student’s Tutor Group teachers will contact parents/carers very soon to introduce themselves and establish the home-school partnership for 2015.

Students have settled into classes and will receive unit outlines for each of their courses during the next two weeks. These will also be available on our school website, under the curriculum tab in High School Unit Outlines, Semester 1. Unit Outlines provide important information about the content in terms of the skills, knowledge and understanding students will be learning within a course as well as the homework and assessment requirements of the course.

Gold Creek School offers a comprehensive language programme for all students. In years 7 and 8 the study of languages is compulsory and of growing importance as the global context of the world our children will ultimately enter is ever increasing. Students will continue with their chosen language until the end of Year 10 in line with the MYP IB programme (Middle Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate).

**Years 8 to 10 Elective Choices**
Within the elective programme student must do a semester of Geography/Economics and at least one Arts subject and a Technology subject over each semester. In years 7 and 8 students are required to complete one semester of IT.

Students will have the opportunity to change electives next Tuesday Feb 10 and Thursday February 12 between 11am and 11:40am. Changes can only be made where room within the class exists for this to occur. Students will be advised of the location in the Daily Blurb next week.

This year there are many opportunities for students to engage in extra-curricular activities, excursions and incursions. Students need to ensure they are not on the No Go List as a result of missing classes or being consistently out of uniform to allow their participation in these activities.

Warm regards,
Priscilla Wray
Associate Principal

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**Dates to remember:**
- 18 Feb - Swimming Carnival - Big Splash
- 19 Feb - School Photos
- 19 Feb - ‘An Evening on the Green’
- 25-27 Feb - Year 7 Peer Support Camp
Senior Site Bites

Student Services
The student services team is back again with some fresh faces! We welcome new staff Eva Gasiewicz our new youth worker and Erin Sheldrick our new school psychologist. Both have fitted in fantastically and look forward to getting to know our students. Hilary Kinraid remains as our Defence liaison and I have moved here from the Mathematics Faculty as the Pastoral Care Coordinator. Our goal is to support students who are having problems with school or home life whether it be for a day, a term or for their entire school life. Watch this space for programmes and opportunities available to all students as we move into the term. If a student would like to see us they can make an appointment so that they don’t miss out on too much class time, or drop in if it’s urgent. We also welcome contact from parents if there is any information that we could benefit from in order to improve the wellbeing of your child.

Zac Hain

PE and Health
Welcome back to school! We hope that you had a restful and enjoyable holiday and are ready to learn. The PE team has some important information about upcoming events to share:

The Swimming Carnival
This is a compulsory school day for all students and parents are most welcome. The Junior Site and Senior Site carnivals are on the same day: Wednesday Week 3, 18 February. The venues are:

Junior Site: Gungahlin Swimming Centre
Senior Site: Big Splash Macquarie.

Permission notes have all gone home by now. Please return the notes and money as soon as possible.

House Captains
Congratulations to the following people who have been elected as House Captains for 2015:

Eucalyptus Captain: Hailey Abel  Eucalyptus Vice Captain: Ali Al Wali
Bluegum Captain: Elise Fischetti  Bluegum Vice Captain: Zubair Iqbal
Waratah Captain: Nathan Mazengarb  Waratah Vice Captain: Tyler Passey
Wattle Captain: Kathryn Zatschler  Wattle Vice Captain: Aidan Tremethick.

We look forward to working with them.

We’ll keep you posted with upcoming events.

Yours in Sport – the PE team.

Year 7 Immunisations
Immunisation cards were handed out to students today. Please fill them in and return them to your child’s tutor group teacher by Friday 20th February. The first round of immunisations will take place on Friday 13th March. All cards must be returned whether your child is being immunised or not.

Sara Hillier
Yr 7 Coordinator

Second Hand Text Books
Second hand text books will be on sale in the Student Engagement Room each morning in Week 2 from 8:00am until 8:45am. Cash sales only.

Evening on the Green
Evening on the Green has been rescheduled for Thursday 19 February beginning at 5:30pm. Families are warmly invited to attend this event. Please come and join our celebration on the Senior Site oval. There will be yard games, music, food and an outdoor movie screening. Pack your picnic rugs and come along with your family and friends.
224 Army Cadet Unit (Canberra) is now recruiting new members

The Australian Army Cadets (AAC) is a youth development organisation sponsored by the Australian Defence Force, dedicated to providing opportunities for all young Australians to obtain comprehensive personal challenges and growth, enhanced self-esteem and self-discipline, and adventurous enjoyment in a military setting for boys and girls ages 12 1/2—18 years.

AAC Activities include: Fieldcraft, Navigation, Leadership, Military History and Traditions, Adventurous Training and First Aid

Information Presentations for Parents and prospective Recruits will be held at HMAS Harman (Cadet Precinct).

Please arrive at gate at 6:30pm, on Monday nights 9 Feb and 16 Feb 2015

For more information please email oc.224acu@cadetnet.gov.au or contact Lieutenant Carey at 0457 723 865