



**Gold Creek
School**

Kelleway Avenue
Nicholls ACT 2913

Senior Site
+ 61 2 6142 1300

Junior Site
+ 61 2 6142 340

info@goldcreek.act.edu.au
www.goldcreek.act.edu.au

Newsletter

4 February 2022, Volume 24 Issue 1

Dear Gold Creek Community

The start of the 2022 school year has been a smooth one so far. It has been wonderful to be able to welcome our students back to school for the start of term 1 and see them settled and learning in classrooms. The first week has been very successful, with our returning students getting back into the swing of things effortlessly while our new students, particularly those in preschool, kindergarten and year 7 have had an excellent start to the year.

Carnivals, Camps, Excursions and Assemblies

As a part of our safe return to school arrangements for term 1 we will not be holding assemblies, camps, sporting carnivals and excursions (with some exceptions).

This has affected the scheduled school swimming carnival there is further information regarding this later in the newsletter. We are hopeful as the year progresses that our Year 7 camp which has also been effected will be able to go ahead. We will keep families informed.

Rapid Antigen Test Kits

Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to come to school to collect the first fortnight's allocation of Rapid Antigen Test Kits.

As of next week, Rapid Antigen Test Kits will be sent home with students on Friday. We encourage families to use the tests at the beginning of the week and again in the middle of the week or if your child is experiencing COVID 19 like symptoms.

If you do not want kits sent home with your child/ren please contact the school on 6142 1300 or email info@goldcreek.act.edu.au.

COVID 19 Exposure Reporting

This week we have sent COVID 19 exposure notifications to some cohorts. In the event of a known case, we will provide families with information about the date, location and times of exposure of confirmed cases along with recommendations from ACT Health on what action should be taken.

Visitors to School

We are currently asking that parents who need to visit school only do so via appointment. We understand that this can be inconvenience at times, but we ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate the first few weeks back.

Professional Learning

Prior to the start of school, all staff were working hard on preparing for the return of students as well as undertaking some excellent professional learning themselves. The learning undertaken was around cultural integrity, curriculum and developing student agency. The sessions were very well run and have set us up for a great start to the school year.

Dan Breen Principal, Cindy Condon, Kirrally Talbot, Janine Waters and Nicole Jagger



ACT
Government
Education

PRINCIPAL:
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL:
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL:
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL:
Board Chair:
P&C President:

Daniel Breen
Janine Waters -SS
Cindy Condon -JS
Nicole Jagers - Curriculum
Kirsten Maloney dandkmaloney@bigpond.com
David Pollard goldcreekschoolpandc@gmail.com



CALENDAR DATES

For important dates please visit our calendar via the school [website](#) and click on a particular event to display more information such as times, locations etc. The calendar can also be viewed via the school App on your mobile phones if you have downloaded it.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

GOLD CREEK SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS 2022

We want YOU for the GCS Board!

If you're keen to contribute to the governance of GCS, you should nominate for a position on the GCS Board. No prior experience is necessary.

The following positions are vacant:

- 2 x staff member positions (2-year appointment)
- 2 x Parent member positions (2-year appointment)
- 1 x student member positions; (2-year appointment - year 9 student)

Nominations open 11.00 am Monday, 7 February 2022 and close on 11.00am Monday, 21 February 2022.

You can pick up a nomination form from the GCS front offices on the junior and senior sites during normal business hours (9.00am to 3.00pm, Monday to Friday), or request one be emailed (preferred)

You can submit your nomination by:

- hand delivery to the GCS front offices and place it in the secure box.
- email to margaret.o'brien@ed.act.edu.au (preferred)
- mail to ARO, c/- GCS front office

For more information, contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Margaret O'Brien on 614 21300

SCHOOL APP & REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES



Option 1

Using the school App allows you to 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 this is available through our school App!

Download the school App NOW, to help us keep in touch!
(Download from Apple Store or Google Play).

Option 2

email **junior site** GoldCreek.StudentJuniorAbsences@ed.act.edu.au

email **senior site** GoldCreek.StudentSeniorAbsences@ed.act.edu.au

Option 3

The other option is by leaving a short message via our dedicated absence number:

Junior Site: 6142 1344

Senior Site: 6142 1323

If using the number above, please leave a short message stating student name, year, PC class and reason for absence eg. Late/Sick or Leave.

IMPORTANT - PICKING STUDENTS UP EARLY?

To help reduce the number of interruptions in class time caused by runners or making announcements over the PA, we ask parents wanting to pick children up early for appointments etc to provide a note so the child can show it to the teacher before making their way to the administration office to await pickup. Students must sign out and in if returning after an appointment.

Where possible we ask that appointments are made outside school hours, your assistance in this will be greatly appreciated in reducing disruptions during class time



School website and social media links



INTERNATIONAL MINDEDNESS

As an IB school we strive to develop students who demonstrate the qualities of a global learner. This is done through exploring the three dimensions of international mindedness throughout our curriculum: multilingualism, intercultural understanding and global engagement are embedded in the IB learner profile.

An internationally minded learner is above all a competent communicator, open-minded and knowledgeable. However, these qualities cannot be achieved without the remaining seven attributes, which fall into the two categories of cognitive competence (inquirers, thinkers and reflective practitioners), and disposition (principled, caring, risktakers, and balanced).

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE LEARNER PROFILE & WORDS OF WISDOM

IB LEARNERS ARE:

INQUIRERS, KNOWLEDGEABLE, THINKERS, COMMUNICATORS,
PRINCIPLED, OPEN-MINDED, CARING, REFLECTIVE, BALANCED
and **RISK-TAKERS.**

WITHOUT A SENSE OF CARING, THERE CAN BE NO SENSE OF COMMUNITY - Anthony J. D'Angelo

OUR PRIME PURPOSE IN THIS LIFE IS TO HELP OTHERS. AND IF YOU CAN'T HELP THEM, AT LEAST DON'T HURT THEM. - The Dalai Lama



Senior Site
Angela Cheung
Science and Mathematics Teacher and Year 8 Coordinator



Why did you become a teacher?

Initially I didn't actually want to be a teacher. I completed my Science degree after wanting to do Vet Science, but unfortunately did not get into the course.

Working as an education officer in a zoo or aquarium was my next move but I needed a teaching degree for that. I enrolled in teaching and fell in love with the job and here I am after nearly 20 years.

What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?

Showing my students how important it is to have a growth mind and to embrace learning.

What is something you couldn't live without?

My chickens! They keep me sane

If you could meet anyone in the world dead or alive, who would it be and why?

Mahatma Ghandi as there is so much to learn from him and his journey.

Do you have a hidden talent/hobby/interest out of work?

I love keeping active as it keeps me feeling energised. Triathlon and hiking are my two fav things to do. Gardening is another fav past time.

What are your hopes for your students?

They can find what they are passionate about and find a path to achieving that thing.

What is the most valuable thing you've learnt to date?

It doesn't matter what other people think, you do you! And always be kind

What would you do for a career if you weren't teaching?

I've always said that if I won the lotto, I would become a professional volunteer worker just helping out where need is required

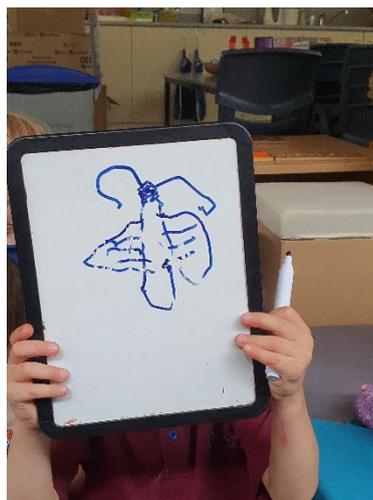
PRESCHOOL NEWS

Preschool this week has been very busy. At Hall and Nicholls campus we have been learning all about routines. We have explored our play environments and learnt to sing new songs especially the welcome and goodbye songs. We have also met many new preschool classmates and are learning how you kindly and safely play with each other. We have also been learning about the Ngunnawal people and how to respect the land that we play on. There are so many things to do, remember and to play with.

In the first few weeks the students are very tired, so make sure your children get plenty of rest and sleep to face the big days filled with fun and challenges.

HALL PRESCHOOL

Did you know the word for butterfly in Ngunnawal language in Mununja. This week the students at Hall preschool campus learnt about butterflies.



Mununja the Butterfly is the story of a young Aboriginal girl who was changed into a butterfly so that she could avoid marrying the evil Gunga. Gunga possessed great powers and would always prevent Mununja from marrying the boy she loved. With the help of Narja, the good spirit butterfly, Mununja was able to remain near her family and her country forever, as a beautiful butterfly.

Set on the banks of the Burrinjuck River, the characters and landscape celebrate the diversity of plant and animal species in the environment before non-indigenous people settled there. The story of Mununja has been told for generations and will continue to be told for many more.

The story of Mununja the Butterfly, as told by Ngunnawal elder Don Bell, has been provided by Tyronne Bell. Other traditional custodians have also been consulted to ensure appropriate depiction of cultural intellectual property, via Charles Solomon at Garawana Creative.

We look forward to getting to know all our new students and families.

Welcome to Gold Creek School
The Preschool team

JUNIOR SITE NEWS

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Unfortunately, the emerging COVID-19 situation is posing some significant challenges for intraschool and interschool sporting competition. Traditionally, the first major event in the school sporting calendar is the school swimming carnival.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the school swimming carnival will not proceed in 2022.

Traditionally, swimmers that perform well at the school swimming carnival, can progress to 'regionals', swimmers that perform well at the regional carnival then have the opportunity to progress to the ACT

Championships in which the ACT team is selected to compete on the national stage (against other states and territories).

Unfortunately, and in addition to the school swimming carnival, the 'regionals' have also been cancelled by School Sport ACT. Currently, the 12 and under and 13 and over ACT Championship Carnival are scheduled to continue (scheduled for the 4 and 6 May respectively).

Without school swimming carnivals and regional carnivals to qualify entrants for the ACT Championships, School Sport ACT and Swimming ACT have elected to accept nominations for the ACT Championships via verifiable times. Applicants for entry to the ACT Championships must provide details of their event and their time which must be verified by Swimming ACT (who keep an active database on all swim meets). This means that students must be a part of a club or established swim squad to be eligible to enter (verified times must be from the most recent season with October 2021 identified as the earliest date).

Further details are to be provided by School Sport ACT on how entries are to be submitted. If you would like to consider submitting an entry on behalf of your son / daughter / person in your care, please contact Tim van Dalen (Timothy.VanDalen@ed.act.edu.au) to register your interest and updates will be provided accordingly.

Tim van Dalen.
PE Teacher

JS SCHOOL PHOTOS

Junior Site photos will be on Wednesday, 9 February 2022. The school will be following their COVID Safe plan to keep our students safe.

SENIOR SITE NEWS

SS SCHOOL PHOTOS

Senior Site photos will be on Thursday, 10 February 2022 and Friday, 11 February 2022. The school will be following their COVID Safe plan to keep our students safe.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

As most of you know the planned swimming carnival at Big Splash had to be cancelled.

Due to current covid restrictions, School Sport ACT under the instruction of the ACT Education Directorate has cancelled all school swimming carnivals and regional selection carnivals. This will be disappointing for many of our students. However, for those who are keen competitors, School Sport ACT is still hopeful that an ACT championship event can be held in term 2 to select an ACT team for a national championship event later in the year.

The following are the relevant points of the new plan as it currently stands:

- With no School Carnivals nor Regional Swimming Carnivals as qualifying events, SSACT and Swimming ACT will implement a process to accept entries from schools across all events conducted within the ACT Champs Program. With qualifying times already established, we will calculate and confirm numbers of entries per event.
- Entry times provided will have to be verifiable by Swimming ACT – they have a full data base of all ACT swim club meets, this unfortunately means that entered students will need to be part of a club or established swim squad. Club meets have still been conducted over the summer. Verifiable times will need to come from the most recent season (Oct 2021 the earliest date).
- The entry process will be shared with plenty of notice

The PE Team

2022 SCHOOL CAPTAINS ANNOUNCEMENT

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of our 2022 School Captains and Vice-Captains. These students were elected by their peers at the end of 2021. We know that these students will do a fantastic job in demonstrating student leadership across our school in 2022.



School Captains: Ella C and Caitlin S, School



School Vice-Captains: Christian D and Krystal H

A special mention to all the Year 10 students who nominated for the role of School Captains.

BAND

We had lots of students interest in Band this week – we're looking forward to welcoming back previous members and having new students join us! If your child missed the meeting but are still interested, please get them to join the Google Classroom (code: jyihetv) so they can see the info we went through in the meeting.

If they want to join, please fill in this sign up Google Form: bit.ly/goldcreekschoolbandinterest Our first Band session of the year is next week – Wednesday during Line A – at 2.00pm.

The SS Band Team

WORK EXPERIENCE

White Card and Asbestos Training – Year 9 & 10 students only

This course will be at school on Tuesday 22 February and Wednesday 23 February 2022

Enrolment is open now and must be completed by 15 February.

Places are limited

Careers classroom for 2022

New code for the careers classroom **xr54dzw**

The google classroom is where lots of information will be added along with job opportunities, ASBA information, apprenticeships and everything career orientated.

There are also documents that are available relating to resumes (CV's), planning for an interview etc.

Careers Practitioner on site

Jacqui Bennett is the resident Careers practitioner at Gold Creek School.

I'm available for a chat and to organise work experience (WEX) among lots of other activities.

Remember: students have 10 days per school term to attend WEX to check out an occupation they might be interested in pursuing.

Extra Careers information: Work experience will NOT be going ahead for Term 1 as per the Health Guidelines for Schools and Early Childhood Educational Care.

When further details are known, we will update the school community.

TENNIS COURT MEMBERSHIP FOR GCS FAMILIES

Is your family interested in tennis and would you like to use the school's tennis courts?

At Gold Creek School we are able to offer our families a membership to access our tennis courts at reduced fees. Free during the day (not school hours) and only \$2.50 per half hour after 5pm each day, 7 days a week.

If you would like to register to use the courts, please fill in the attached form <https://forms.gle/1pk4ds9vw5zCT1Gx7>

Once the form is submitted, you will receive a link to setup an account in the [Book a Court](#) system, this is where you'll see court availability, make bookings and payments.

CANTEEN NEWS

If you are looking to get back into the work force, we have school days and school hours work available at school canteens for an immediate start.

You must be motivated and enthusiastic and willing to be a great role model to students not only in their nutritional environment but also in their educational environment. You must also have great communication skills and a driver's licence.

Please send us a message on 0408 200 481.

*Stella
Fed Well Catering*

Did you know you can place an online lunch order for your child via flexischools?



Online ordering is a convenient way to place orders, providing 24/7 payment and ordering system that can be accessed from home, work or a mobile device.

Visit flexischools at www.flexischools.com.au or you can download the App

Community Services



The guide at this [link](#) has been prepared by Volunteering ACT. Our Community Info Hub services provide emergency relief, meal services, short stay accommodation, and are accessible via phone and email.

Info Line 02 6248 7988 (9am-5pm, Monday-Friday)

Email info@volunteeringact.org.au

Visit www.communityinfohub.org.au to find more community services in the Canberra Region.

You can contact Eva or Macca should you like more information: Eva.B.Gasiewicz@ed.act.edu.au or Hamish.mcdonald@ed.act.edu.au

Other useful links

[Community Service Directorate](#)

[Talking to children about the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Helpful Strategies for Carers](#)

[abc.net.au-should you step in when your child has a dispute](#)

[Anxiety and Returning to School video series for parents and carers](#)

CANBERRA YOUTH THEATRE

Is this the sign you've been waiting for! Canberra Youth Theatre is launching our Ensemble workshops for young people in school years 4 - 9 in Gungahlin at Gold Creek School!

With sessions starting from 7 Feb, places are filling fast.

Our Ensemble workshops build confidence, collaboration, creative thinking and communication skills in a fun and inclusive environment.

Young people explore a wide range of skills across many performance styles culminating in an end of semester showcase performance for family and friends.

And who knows? This might even be the first exciting step to a professional career in the arts! Enrol today at <https://canberrayouththeatre.com.au/workshops/>