



# Newsletter

12 March, Volume 23 Issue 2

Dear Parents / Carers

This term is indeed going quickly! With only three weeks of term left, I thought I'd take this opportunity to remind our community of our Key improvement areas: *Developing a Strong Learning Culture*, and explore some ways in which we are explicitly teaching students with specific focus on next week!

We work with students to ensure that their social, emotional, physical and moral well-being are at the forefront. At Gold Creek School we teach this through the attributes of the learner profile. These attributes are taught explicitly in our curriculum and are recognised in our celebrations of success. They are all of equal importance, however this week, I would like to talk about being open-minded and how we actively support students to demonstrate this attribute through our school.

Students who demonstrate being open-minded actively *appreciate their own culture and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others*. In our multi-cultural world, ensuring

that we seek to understand differing perspectives is critical to enhance our respectful relationships with others, as well as our reflective thinking. Next week Gold Creek will celebrate Harmony week. This is a time in which we celebrate Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. You can find out more about Harmony Day by visiting

the Australian Government Harmony Week website: <https://www.harmony.gov.au/>.

During next week both sites will focus during SEL time on this concept – with Junior Site celebrating with a Harmony Week focused assembly on Friday, 19 March. This will showcase the fabulous Harmony Day learnings each year group has explored. You are welcome to attend!

Friday, 19 March is also 'National Day of Action Against Bullying'. Students will be engaging in conversations during the week about Bullying linking to our PBL values of being SAFE,

RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL LEARNERS. This year, we are focusing on **Taking Action**

**Together**. You can find more information at: [Bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://Bullyingnoway.gov.au). I have also attached to this email some valuable information from Bullying No way – which you may wish to print and talk about your with your child/ren.

To show our solidarity, we are asking students and staff to **wear orange clothing or accessories** for Harmony Week / Bullying No Way values. Students at Junior site are also allowed to wear Cultural Dress to support Harmony Day.



As you are aware, Gold Creek School has adopted the Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) framework that supports us in reviewing current practices and procedures. PBL teaches a defined set of expected behaviours (in all settings) and is taught through our Social and Emotional teaching programs. We are continuing to refine this process and our next targeted focus is:



## *We are in the right place at the right time.*

We ask that you remind your child that being in class is the best way to increase learning outcomes. Research states that improving attendance rates is a critical step in closing the gaps in educational outcomes for disadvantaged students. Research also states that in Australia:

- 25% of Australian school students attend less than 90% of school days – this equates to approximately 20 or more days absent in a school year
- attendance rates tend to decline in secondary school, from Year 8 onwards

This equates to a quarter of students missing at least a month of school! Further, while all absences have a negative impact, greater declines in student achievement are associated with

- Unauthorised absences
- Chronic absenteeism.

At Gold Creek we have a strong focus on attendance – that includes for all lessons. Please help us to support students in attendance – it really is the single biggest way to increase student outcomes!

"Every day counts and there is no 'safe' threshold for absences"  
– Hancock et al., 2013.

At Gold Creek we would add – every moment of learning matters ....

We will continue to work with our community to maximise student attendance and engagement using the PBL framework.

*Jacqueline Chapman, Principal*

## INTERNATIONAL MINDEDNESS

Next week is Harmony Week (15 – 21 March). We will be celebrating Australia's cultural diversity and the wonderful diversity of Gold Creek School. Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone. It's a time to reflect of the importance of respecting each other and our differences. On Friday, 19 March, the junior school assembly will focus on Harmony Week and the message *Everyone Belongs*. For assembly, and the rest of the school day, junior students are encouraged to wear clothing or accessories that reflect their cultural heritage and to celebrate their learning about Harmony Week. Orange is the Harmony Week colour so students can choose to wear orange clothing or accessories. Harmony Week is important to Gold Creek School because we become more open-minded and creative when we learn about and understand diversity across the world in our own community.

*Libby Glasglow, Junior Site*

## **Language and Literature**

In language and Literature, students are studying a variety of novels with global connections. In Year 8, Mrs. Kendall Row's class are studying *Trash* by Andy Mulligan, which is a novel about three boys that live in a huge dumpsite and deal with voluntourism, poverty, slums, police and government corruption, violence, and child exploitation. Other classes are studying *Tomorrow When the War Began* by John Marsden and *Holes* by Louis Sachar, novels that deal with the nature of growing up in different contexts, international relations, and conflict.

In Year 10 Language and Literature and INS are completing an Interdisciplinary Unit about Power and Injustice which enables students to see the perspectives of persecuted peoples around the world. This is an essential unit that requires students to empathise with people who have different experiences and perspectives and how these have changed around the world over time.

*Holly Wright, Senior Site*

**IB LEARNERS ARE:**

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

*I have no special talent; I am only passionately curious. – Albert Einstein*

**PRESCHOOL NEWS**

Can you believe we are already halfway through our first term together! The Legless Lizards class have been very involved in our current Unit of Inquiry, 'Who We Are'. They are learning about themselves, their peers and how to be an active participant at school. Students have been sharing all about ourselves, our families and what we like. We have been exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's history and what an Acknowledgement of Country is. To extend on this, we have written our own Legless Lizards Acknowledgement of Country which we say each morning to show our respect. Students have also been taking care of our preschool land and watering our plants which links back to our class Acknowledgement of Country.

**Reminders:**

- Have you connected to your child's Seesaw class? This is our main communication method with families and we regularly update it with photos of what we get up to
- Have you returned your Nutrition Magician permission note? The performance is soon so notes need to be returned ASAP
- Please pack spare clothes for your child in case they get wet, dirty, or have an accident
- Library borrowing in the classroom has begun, so don't forget a library bag
- We are looking for donations for our art and craft areas. Please see your child's teacher



*Belinda Rawlinson*

**JUNIOR SITE NEWS****Chess**

Congratulations to our Primary Girls Chess Team for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Northside Girls Chess Championship in their first ever tournament!

All girls who competed are to be commended for being respectfully competitive representative of our school. Special mention also goes to our four top scorers: Gabrielle H (yr 6), Chloe M (Yr 6), Evie P (Yr4), and Lily P (Yr 4). Their efforts resulted in the Gold Creek team qualifying for the ACT Finals later this year.



*Stephen Sengstock*

## Music – Band Reminder

Year 5 band students are eagerly awaiting the start of their band experience. Would families who have received invitations for their son/daughter to join to please send their reply in as soon as possible, so that numbers can be finalised and we can make a start on our learning. If you do not wish for your child to join, please email our school-based band teacher at [jaki.fraser@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jaki.fraser@ed.act.edu.au) as soon as possible, so that an invitation can be sent to the next student on the waiting list.

*Jaki Fraser*

**Book club loop orders close Friday 19 March**



## SENIOR SITE NEWS

### Year 7 Camp

Students had a tremendous time of triumph and overcoming last week at the Year 7 camp. Students climbed Mount Kosciusko, the highest point of Australia. This required grit, positive self-talk and a few kit-kats. Comments heard as students climbed up were 'I can't do this', 'are we there yet?', 'I can't go any further'. Comments shifted slightly on the way down to 'I'm glad I did that', 'I made it' to 'I'm not doing that again'. Mountain bike riding was a popular activity with some students learning to ride a bike for the first time and others taking on seesaws, balance beams and steep climbs and descents. Students also canoed on Lake Jindabyne. The weather was perfect, sleep was better than expected and the company was marvellous.



*Tamsyn Terry, Angela Cheung*

### ACT Instrumental Music Program Extension Ensembles

The following students have been selected to audition to participate in extension ensembles run by the Instrumental Music Program – this is the equivalent of ACT representation in Music. Congratulations!



*Primary Concert Choir:*

Chloe M

*Senior Concert Choir:*

Amelia V

Radhiska S

Niina S

Lucy M

Poppi M

*Junior Concert Band:*

Teanna N

Phong H

Niina S

## Year 7 Science



In science year 7 has been focusing on forces. They are investigating the non-contact force of electrostatic force. The equipment with the shiny ball is a Van der Graaf Generator (VDG) which makes sparks up to 5cm long. Electrically, the person is acting as part of the circuit for the VDG to re-establish its neutral charge.

Year 7 Science Teachers



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Road Safety Reminder

There has been a concerned community member contact the school to let us know of a road incident that occurred in which a student rode their bike carelessly and with speed onto a road which caused the driver to have to slam on their breaks. Please remind your child about road safety so we can avoid these kinds of incidents.

### Lost Bikes – Bikelinc

Many bikes stolen in the ACT are not returned to their owners as they cannot be accurately identified. You can use [Bikelinc](#) to keep information in one convenient online platform, which police can check to reunite you with your bike:

- Record your bike's serial number
- Take a photo of the bike
- Keep a description of your bike including any markings or characteristics that make your bike easily identifiable.

Bikelinc is powered by Crime Stoppers WA and is used in Western Australia and the ACT. It is safe, secure, and confidential. The searchable online database allows anyone to check if a bike is registered as safe, lost, or stolen.

Visit <https://bikelinc.com.au/> to register

### REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Option 1 (school app): 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).

Option 2: Email [GoldCreek.StudentSeniorAbsences@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:GoldCreek.StudentSeniorAbsences@ed.act.edu.au)

Option 3: Leaving a short message via our dedicated absence number SS: 6142 1323  
when using the number above, please leave a short message stating student, name, year, pc class and reason for absence eg. Late/sick or leave.



Download the School App now from either Apple Store or Google Play

## SCHOOL WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

