

Term 1, 2021 Newsletter

A note from the College Manager

Hello Parents/Carers and Friends

We welcomed many new students and families along with our returning students to the College on the Sunday before school resumed. Our opening day was filled with happy hustle and activity as cars were unloaded, we are never quite sure how students fit everything they bring into their rooms – but they do!

It was wonderful to see many of our new students coming from our local Midwest-area and as far north as Derby too, with parents choosing country boarding over other options in Perth – thank you for choosing us to care for your children, it is a responsibility that we never take for granted and our duty of care is held at the centre of everything we do.

Orientation day was busy with lots of information provided and new routines to process, then it was off to Aquarena for 2 hours of planned water activities and games before returning to the College for a BBQ prepared by Miss Holland and Mr Driscoll.

Term 1 is always a hot time, and the College pool proved to be the highlight for students returning from school on most days, along with surf runs when we managed to fit them in. Fishing with Mr Shiosaki was fun although one of our junior boys, who is an experienced fisherman, was keen to tell Mr Shiosaki that we were going fishing at the wrong time of the day. Thanks Ben we have taken your expert advice on board.

The students have enjoyed getting to know each other and also the students in their Pastoral Care Group, all students are placed in small groups with a Supervisor who is their Pastoral Team Leader. The groups allow for students to have a 'go-to Supervisor' for any issues or personal requests, and this Supervisor also runs activities to promote social and personal wellbeing, and connects with their parents each term by phone and twice a year via the student's College Report.

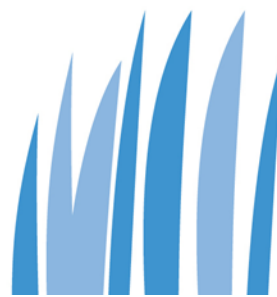
Our year 12 Students looked fabulous at their respective school balls and our students always enjoy jumping on the bus to view the ball arrivals and have their photos taken with our year 12 students – it is like one big College family when something special is happening with all our non-year 12 students wanting to be involved.

Our values of *Respect*, *Responsibility* and *Care* have been a key focus for us in Term 1 and will continue to be as the year progresses. Our values are promoted through our Positive Behaviours (PBS) Support Program where Supervisors support the students in making positive choices. The program allows us to reward positive behaviours and take the time to understand when a student doesn't always make a positive choice using PBS language. Students are rewarded with a PBS token when they display positive behaviours. Students can redeem their rewards from Term 2 which may be for example a movie ticket or asking a Supervisor to clean their room using the allocated amount of tokens for each reward value. We have issued 367 PBS tokens so far this Term as follows, (132) Respectful, (162) Responsible and (73) Caring.

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Our top 5 students on the PBS leader board are:

- Rohan Trigg (32)
- Matilda Criddle (27)
- Ben Sellenger (23)
- Hayley Criddle (21)
- Summer Parker (21)

I am pleased to report that since the introduction of our Study Time Policy this year, the outcomes have been very positive with students required to attend study achieving their homework objectives, however, I do acknowledge the WiFi issues have caused angst. I have been working through these issues since we were migrated to the Departments Operating Framework in Term 4 2020. A site audit has been completed and investigations are still happening behind the scenes. Most of our students have WiFi access in one or more areas of the College. I have purchased an interim 4G WiFi data service that we are using at homework time for the students that are unable to connect to the College WiFi Service. We have also purchased 2 Laptops for student use and they are available at the student study nook at reception. I sincerely apologise to all students and parents for the angst that these issues have caused and I am confident that all issues will be resolved early in Term 2.

We have had several changes in staffing and these have been communicated to you throughout the Term, however, here is a quick update for you all. We farewelled Miss Holland in Week 7 and welcomed Miss Tia & Mr Driscoll (D2) yes we now have two Mr Driscolls and yes they are brothers. Mr Andrew Driscoll tells me that he will always be No 1. So hence he has adopted D1 and his brother Mr Jason Driscoll has been relegated to 2nd position in the male Driscoll hierarchy as D2, this should prove quite amusing with the students already enjoying the friendly banter. We also welcome Mr Jeremy Accorato and Mrs Shiosaki to our relief Supervisor bench. Ms Haynes and Mrs Lolang remain on our relief bench too. Luke Seraglia has joined us this year as our School Psychologist and we are very pleased to have him appointed to our College where he provides professional well-being support to our students and also consults with staff at team meetings so that they can provide additional emotional support to our students when needed.

Now that we have a full Supervisory team on board we have plenty planned from Term 2. I am pleased to announce that we will be fitting out a GYM area next Term with all *new* equipment. We will also be taking a trip to Perth to see the Footy and perhaps a 2nd trip to attend the Zoo, day outings will be planned and overnight camps, so look out for updates shortly.

We closed out this Term with a busy weekend of activities and our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday evening - who says you are too old to enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt? Certainly not our students... 😊

Thank you to our partner school principals and staff, we are very grateful for the extended support that you continue to provide to us. Wishing all the staff at GRC and our students a wonderful Easter with their families, stay safe and we will see you all from 3:00 pm Sunday 18th April 2021.

Sincere regards,
Ms Davis

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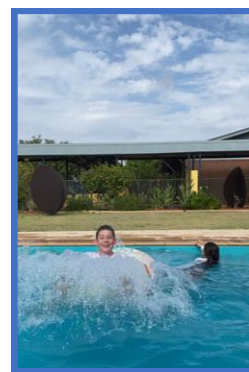
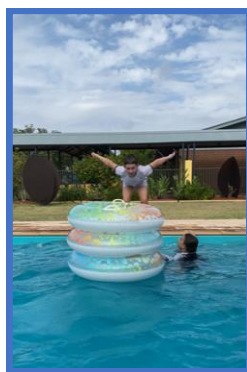


This is Mr Shiosaki our Aboriginal Boarding Supervisor at the Geraldton Residential College identifying our students' Indigenous connection to country. One of our students Jennifer enjoyed reflecting on where her clan country is located on the Indigenous Australia Language Map. All our Aboriginal students have their cultural clan names displayed and the exact location of where their clan country is from.

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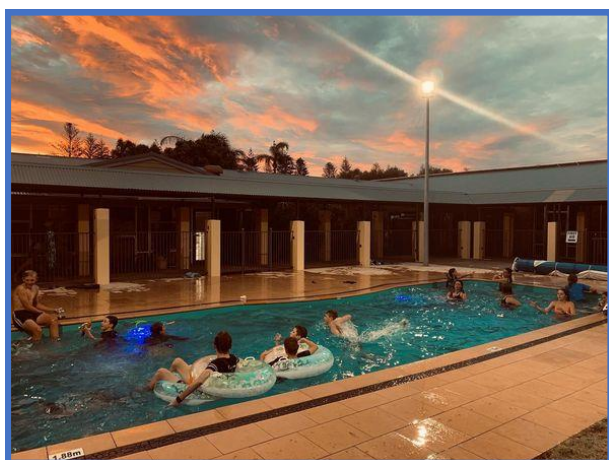


Student Activities in Term 1



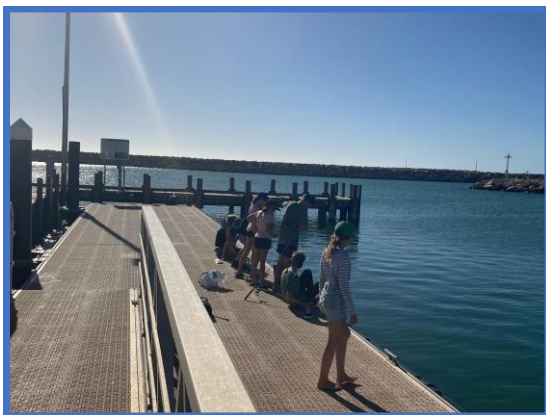
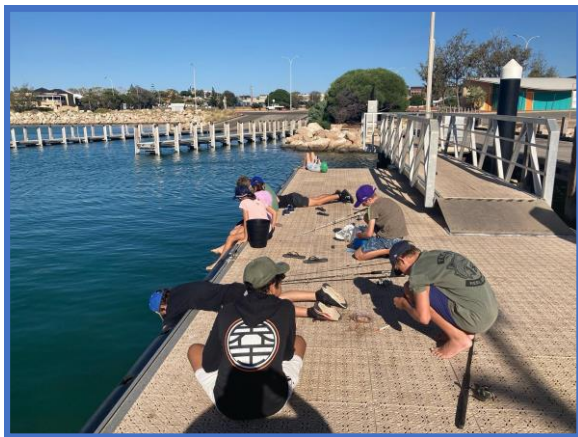
The College pool is always a main attraction in Term 1. We try to open it as often as possible, especially after school on a hot and humid day. This year has been no exception with most of our students regularly jumping in at some point.

Evening swims have also been popular, and the perfect way to enjoy some of the outstanding sunsets Geraldton has on offer!





We have enjoyed being out and about this term, soaking up the sun, with regular beach trips, and a few fun fishing trips! Some of our students were even able to enjoy the fruits of their labour!!



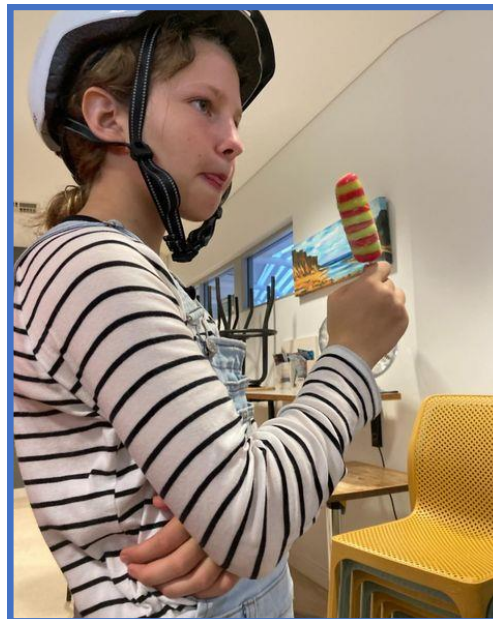


We have been very impressed with our junior students and their commitment to study this year. We regularly see them being Responsible, by coming prepared; being Respectful, by allowing others to study in peace; and being Caring, by helping each other out when they are stuck.

Mrs Beukes continues to provide tutoring during study time each Monday night, along with Pre-service teachers from time to time. Thank you Mrs Beukes for your continued commitment to the College.



Ms Wendy has lead several bike rides this term. Despite having to find shelter (and buy some icecreams) when they were rained on one day, every students enjoyed the opportunity to get out and stretch their legs!



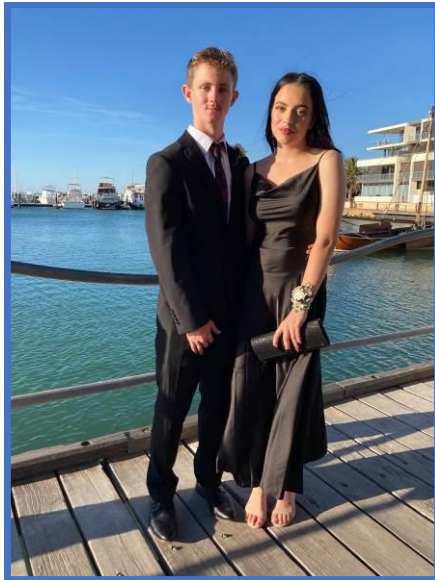


We have enjoyed cooking activities with students and they have enjoyed making icecream sandwiches and cherry ripe slice. Who doesn't have a sweet tooth?



Every term our students meet with their Pastoral Groups. They have a lot of fun, and often get the chance to spend time with other students outside of their usual friendship groups. These are smaller groups that are each lead by a staff member, and you will find this same staff member checks in with them, their parents, and writes their report comments in Term 2 and 4. If you aren't sure who your child's Pastoral Leader is, feel free to check in with the College!

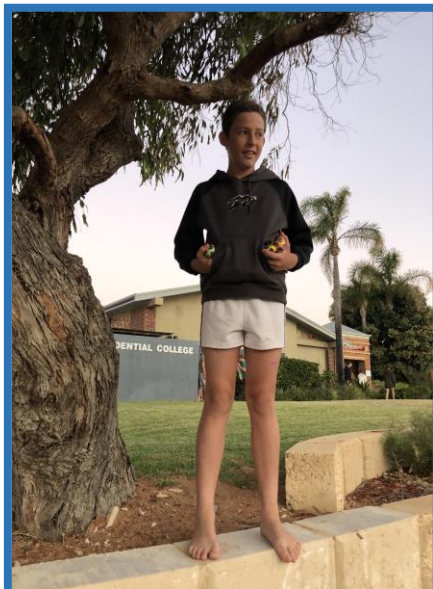




Term 1 is School Ball time and we enjoy celebrating this time with our Yr 12's.
How students certainly looked very grown up!



Is there something exciting happening at reception? Yes – Darren is on site from Market Creations – (Our Local IT partner) conducting a WiFi site audit.



Young Ted really enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt and you could say he found quite a few eggs, lets hope he did not eat them all at once?

Important Dates:

College Closes Term 1	Thursday 1 st April at 5:00pm 2021
College Opens Term 2	Sunday 18 th April at 3:00pm 2021
School Return Dates	Monday 19th April 2021– GCC, GGS, GSHS Tuesday 20th April 2021- NCC
College Closes Term 2	Friday 2 nd July at 5:00pm 2021
Protective Behaviours Workshops	<p>Wednesday 28th April 2021</p> <p>The Protective Behaviours Workshops are presented each year to the students. ALL staff are here to support the students during & after the workshops.</p> <p>Sexual Abuse: 4.30pm – 5.30pm Year 7 & 8's Cyber Safety: 6.30pm – 7.30pm Years 9, 10, 11 & 12's</p> <p>If you have any questions feel free to check in with the College.</p>
ANZAC Weekend	Friday 23 rd – 26 th April 2021
Labour Weekend	Friday 4 th June – 7 th June 2021
College Closes Term 2	Friday 2 nd July at 5:00 pm 2021

Reminders for Term 2:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Appointments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduled medical appointments should be booked outside of school time (ie. optometrist, physiotherapy, general medical appointments) - Urgent medical appointments will always be prioritised when necessary - Please discuss with the College before booking appointments during the school day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Clothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please name student clothing – especially school uniforms! - All students are encouraged to check lost property on a regular basis - We accumulate a large amount of unclaimed clothing items each term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy drinks, aerosol cans and chewing gums are all prohibited items at the College - Please speak to a staff member if you would like any further clarification on this matter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Reminders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our winter months are fast approaching the College does <u>not</u> permit heaters or electric blankets in student bedrooms