Welcome... to all our old and new Middle School students and families to 2014! The start of a new year is a fresh page, it's always good to make plans about how you would like this year to turn out. (If you fail to plan you plan to fail). At the same time, having said that, life has its ups and downs, we all have them. At GCCC relationship and communication is important. So, come and see us, talk to us, email us and we will journey with you.

In case you're curious ... I am married to a great bloke called John, we have 4 adult children. I love eating – hence I love cooking and, bushwalking and camping and working with teenagers - most days!

Jacq Vreeling (Head of Middle School)

The Year 7 Coordinator and Pastoral Care teacher for 7G
Mr Matthew Ware

I have been involved in education for almost 20 years. I love working with children and seeing the expression on their faces when they at last understand a concept they have been working hard to grasp. It is a pleasure to be Year Level Coordinator and I look forward to working with you all.

The Pastoral Care teacher for 7M
Miss Nadine Fleming

I have been teaching for about fourteen years. I moved to the Sunshine Coast in 2010 to go to Bible College. I love running and cooking food from around the world for dinner parties or high teas etc. I can also sing high soprano. It is a blessing to be working at GCCC this year!

The Pastoral Care teacher for 7W
Mrs Primrose Kombanie

I'm delighted to be a part of the Year 7 team, supporting the students as they begin their Secondary education. I enjoy inspiring students to reach their full potential and am looking forward to a rewarding year.
The Year Ahead...
This is an exciting year in a child’s journey as they begin ‘high school’... fast approaching the era of ‘teenager hood’. Being organised and growing in independence to the point where they can manage a variety of classes, homework tasks and take responsibility for their learning is part of what happens this year. Relationships and friendships are developed and strengthened. The mind begins tackling divergent thinking, which results in the ability to reason, discuss, and think about a variety of perspectives on issues and topics... and what I love most of all - the ability to laugh along with you.

Canberra Camp
One of the big things on the radar this year is the Canberra camp from the 31st March - 3rd April. It is an expectation that all year 7 students will attend this camp. We will be flying this year for the first time. More specific information on the camp will be given out at our Parent Info Night.

Homework, Assessments and Diaries
It is expected that year 7’s complete around 5 hours of homework/week. This guideline should also include the work they do on assignments.
If at any stage your child is struggling with meeting deadlines or completing work please email the pastoral care teacher or Year Level Coordinator.
It is an expectation that all set work is completed even if it is past the due date. If necessary, students may be expected to attend an afterschool detention as a consequence for not completing outstanding work.
The use of a diary is a very important tool in helping students stay organised, punctual and gain confidence. The iPads will be used for this with the use of an electronic calendar. Students will be taught how to use one diary/calendar system in their business/ICT classes and all teachers will ensure students are using them to record subject specific information, notes and deadlines.

Uniform
Formal uniform is to be worn every day except
Sports uniform to be worn
All Year 7 Tuesday and Friday
Ties and belts will be worn by boys in Terms 2 and 3.

General Care and Conduct Notes
GREAT awards
Our school uses the GREAT acronym for our school values which stands for: Godliness, Respect, Excellence, Attitude and Teachability. When students are recognised for genuinely demonstrating this, a staff member may acknowledge them by placing a merit note on their file. When they have received three of these, students are given an award certificate that needs to be signed by a family member and then they will receive a small ‘fun food’ item or voucher.

RTC, Demerits and After School Detentions
When a student makes poor choices and is disruptive or unsafe, they will be asked, ‘What are they doing?’ and ‘What are the rules?’ If the behavior does not change and they are asked the rules again, students have chosen to go to our Right Thinking Classroom (RTC) to write a plan about how they will behave in that context in the future. They will be allowed back once the plan has been approved.
If students have made poor choices in the following areas they will receive a demerit on their file:
Late to class, overdue work, incorrect uniform, not equipped to class, chewing gum, use of spray deodorants, incorrect ICT use and other issues.
Three demerits in a week will in general constitute an after school detention on a Tuesday or Thursday until 5pm.
Parents will be notified by email.
An after school detention may be given at other times immediately if the behavior was more significant.

Parent Info Night Wed 8th Feb, 6:30
This is a great opportunity for families to meet their child’s Pastoral Care teacher.
Canberra Camp will be discussed at this evening and other relevant information regarding what is happening at GCCC for Year 7 this year and our policies and procedures.

Calendar Dates - Term 1

Week 2
Parent Info Evening Swimming Carnival
Wed 5th Feb - 6.30 - 7:30pm Friday 7th Feb All day

Week 3
Launch Pad program
Friday 14th Feb Tunnel Ridge

Week 5
School Photos Thurs 27 Feb

Week 10
Canberra Camp
31st – 3rd April

Term 1 Break
7th April - 22nd April