Welcome... to all our old and new Middle School students and families to 2014! At GCCC relationship and communication is important. So, come and see us, talk to us, email us and we will journey with you.

Now for some introductions: The Year 8's have new staff looking after them this year, so we would like to introduce ourselves.

Year 8 Level Coordinator and 8W PC Teacher  
- Mrs Kerriane Draper

I’m a Science Geek and proud of it. I love collecting and wearing geeky science shirts like Sheldon (you’ll understand if you watch "The Big Bang Theory"). You may get to see a few of my shirts on our camp.

I’m a Math/Science Teacher and have been teaching for 13 years. I have a passion for Science and how we can apply it in our everyday lives.

I’m a Mum of three boys - Nick, Aden and Danny. They will often be trailing around behind me and are used to being at school with me at all times of the week. They usually know my students as well as I do, so don’t be afraid to say ‘Hi’ to them.

I love my music - I sing in a harmony group and play the piano.

You may hear me singing in my lab from time to time.

I look forward to a wonderful year teaching and getting to know you all.

8G Pastoral Care Teacher – Mr Jarred Pienaar

I have just embarked on my 6th year of teaching. After spending 5 years in the State Education Department teaching Science and Physical Education, I am excited to be continuing my career with GCCC in the Mathematics department for 2014.

My passions include snowboarding, hiking, mountain biking, rugby union, music and food. I was born in South Africa, but I am a proud Australian Citizen.

8M Pastoral Care Teacher – Mrs Sonya Kadel

As a new year begins I have joined the Middle Years Humanities and the Arts departments. I enjoy sport, drama and the movies. Call me crazy but I’m not a fan of coffee and can’t eat chocolate, however I am a very big sweet tooth. I look forward to teaching and influencing the next generation of young people to achieve their God given purpose.
Communication
If you need to contact school regarding your child's progress or issues please either:
1. Contact your child's pastoral care teacher first by emailing or ringing.
2. If you would like to speak further on an issue or query, please ring or email Kerrianne Draper on kerrianne.draper@gccc.qld.edu.au
3. Or Jacq Vreeling (Head of Middle School) jacqueline.vreeling@gccc.qld.edu.au

Homework, Assessments and Diaries
It is expected that year 8's complete around 4 hours of homework/week. This should 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.
There is homework help available on Thursday afternoons after school. All students are welcome to come along and get some help, or just enjoy the company whilst getting their homework done.

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 after-school 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 set up their calendar during PC lessons week 1. They will also be linked to a Year 8 Pastoral Care shared calendar, which will relay any important dates directly to their iPad each time it is updated.

We are trying to support a paperless school... As the year progresses, students will be encouraged to use their iPads for some subject notes and texts instead of paper versions. This is not a simple transition and will be rolled out slowly as our use of technology improves.

Uniform
Formal uniform is to be worn every day.
Sport uniforms to be worn
8G & 8M - Wednesday and Friday
8W - Monday and Friday

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.
This year we will continue to acknowledge exemplary above and beyond behavior through our GREAT award system. When students have received three merits, they will be given a Green Merit slip that needs to be signed by a family member and then they will receive a small 'fun food' item or voucher.
9 Merits in total will see your student awarded a Maroon Merit slip, which will see a letter and reward posted home on their behalf.

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:
Three demerits in a fortnight 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
A great opportunity for families to meet their child's Pastoral Care teacher! Relevant information regarding what is happening at GCCC for Year 8 this year, our policies and procedures and an opportunity for you as families to ask questions or sort out any issues you may have.

Calendar Dates
Parent Info Evening Wednesday 5th Feb
Launch Pad program Friday 15th Feb
Swimming Carnival Friday 7th Feb
Dedication Service Monday 10th Feb
School Photos Thursday 27th Feb