



St Benedict's Primary School

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13th June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Registration for the third program in the GATEWAYS Eureka Series 2017 "That's Unbelievable" for students from Year 1 through to Year 6 is now open. The information sheet about the program is on the back of this letter. Your child has been nominated by their teacher as a student who may be interested and benefit from attending. The choice to attend remains with parents.

The program is offered at two venues in Week 6 at Canberra Grammar and Campbell Primary School on the 23rd and 24th August. The school calendar is so far free of other events at this time.

Due to the popularity of these programs **early enrolment is essential** but not a guarantee of securing a place as numbers are limited. The **Parent Expression of Interest for the GATEWAYS Eureka Program for the two venues** is included in this letter. Please select and complete the appropriate form for the venue you have selected and return it to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. We will then enable the nomination process, however **you must check your nominated email to make the online payment in order to complete and confirm enrolment.**

Please be advised that students attending these programs must wear their school uniform and parents are responsible for transport to and from the venue.

Kind Regards

Jeanette Skaff



'That's Unbelievable!'

Years 4, 5 and 6 - Term 3, 2017

Fee \$99.00

8:45am-3:10pm

I've always loved massive worlds, whether in fantasy or science fiction. I like the idea of making my own rules as well as utilizing everything that I love or inspires me. It's very freeing to know you can write a story that can be as big as your own imagination. Victoria Aveyard (US fantasy and sci-fi writer).

In this term's Eureka we will be challenged to exercise the extremes of our imaginations. We'll explore ideas that will expand our minds; we'll encounter places, characters and stories both strange and unbelievable, and we'll even invent some of our own!

'Don't Trip over your Tropes' with Rachel Hoikner

Do you get the feeling that you've read this one before? Someone, who has no parents, learns from an old wise man that they have a special power. This person must use their power to defeat a terrifying villain. So, is this Luke Skywalker or Harry Potter? Wait, maybe it's Emmet, or Aladdin or Katniss!? The Chosen One trope is one of the most easily recognised story patterns. There are hundreds of other tropes however, and once you've discovered a few favourites, you'll spot them everywhere! Some of them have silly names (Phlebotinum anyone?) and some are named for their creator (Chekov's Gun – was it ever fired?). In this workshop, we are going to ask if the most popular books and movies of today are the ones which owe the most to their use of tropes. We'll identify common patterns, turn a few of them inside out, and create some unbelievable new stories!

Rachel has a background in media arts and professional writing, specialising in children's literature. She has several fiction and non-fiction publications and regularly reviews books and theatre productions for various websites. Rachel loves using her quite ridiculous imagination to engage students and encourage them to view the world in new ways.

'Finding the Final Frontier - Time-Travelling Tales' with Narelle Wood

A short time ago, in a galaxy not so far away ... is a period of time-travel, where random objects have bizarre scientific properties and the future, the past or the present ARE the possible final frontiers. Science fiction is the genre of choice and continues to influence scientific discovery and even push the boundaries of what is acceptable and possible in society. Characters travel between parallel universes, play havoc with the space-time continuum, and find ways to keep time-lag (the time-traveller's jet-lag) at bay. But that's not all. As in any sci-fi adventure, there is a 'big-bad' battle, whether it involve human, alien or inanimate object. The key to conquering the big-bad is up to you, but conquering the science-fiction genre is a whole other story!

Narelle Wood is an English and science teacher so the genre of science fiction is the ultimate combination of two of her greatest loves – writing and science. Her favourite thing about science fiction is that you can play with the principles of physics, create new chemicals and even build new biological entities, and make it work!

'Futures Fearsome and Fantastic?' with Angela Hewasiribaddana

You awaken from a dreamless sleep to find yourself in a forest full of fantastic beasts... or a strange glittering city... or a barren wasteland inhabited only by resourceful ruffians... You've landed in the pandemonium – or possibly paradise – of a dystopian future. Strange sorcery and thrilling technology will help you on your way, but at what cost? What oppression or uprising will you witness? Will you choose to believe or disbelieve in a new code of morality? And how will you use a strange artefact to tie it all together? Join us as we step into the shoes of a range of dystopian characters and explore the literary elements embedded in these brave new worlds.

Ang has worked with G.A.T.E.WAYS since 2012. She is a qualified mainstream and Montessori teacher and is commencing her Master of Education (Gifted and Talented) through UNSW. She has a passion for literature and writing, studying literary studies and professional writing during her undergraduate degree. She has had several short works of fiction and poetry published in anthologies and performed in Australia and Asia. In her spare time, Ang loves to read, view and dissect material on fictional dystopias. She is looking forward to passing on her passion to her workshop participants.



PARENT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE G.A.T.E.WAYS EUREKA PROGRAM

Dear Parent,

Your child has been selected by a teacher for a G.A.T.E.WAYS Eureka program. Below is some important information and a form to complete and return to the member of staff co-ordinating the G.A.T.E.WAYS program at your school.

Program: **That's Unbelievable!**

Year Levels: **4, 5 and 6**

Venue: **Canberra Grammar School**

Cost: **\$99.00**

Date: **Wednesday, 23 August**

Time: **9.00 – 3.10 (Registration 8.45am)**

1. Please check the dates of the program with your school coordinator to ensure they do not conflict with school commitments (e.g. school photos, excursions, concerts, sports' days etc.). Once enrolments are finalised G.A.T.E.WAYS is **unable to give refunds or credits.**
2. Parents are to arrange transport to and from the venue listed above.
3. If you would like your child to be nominated in the program, return the *Expression of Interest Form* below to the teacher as soon as possible. You **MUST** enter your email address on this form. Please note that nomination does not ensure a place in the program until payment is made.
4. Once your expression of interest has been registered you will receive an email. This email contains your child's G.A.T.E.WAYS online account details. A record of this information should be kept to use for future programs. Please follow the link to complete the enrolment process.
5. **Your child will not have a confirmed place in the program until you have followed the link and made payment.** In order to maximise the chance of your child getting a confirmed place, you should do this immediately as places fill very quickly.



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Venue: **Canberra Grammar School**

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Child's name: _____ Year Level: _____ Parent Mobile: _____

Parent's name: _____ Contact email address: _____

- Please nominate my child. **OR** Please **do not** nominate my child.
- I understand that my child does not have a confirmed place at this stage.
- Once nominated, online payment must be made in order to confirm the enrolment.
- I understand that I will need to arrange transport to and from the venue listed above.

Parent's/Guardian's signature: _____ Date: _____



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Program: **That's Unbelievable**

Year Levels: **4, 5 and 6**

Venue: **Campbell Primary School**

Cost: **\$99.00**

Date: **Thursday, 24 August**

Time: **9.00 – 3.10 (Registration 8.45am)**

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