The Creek is up so it is that time of year to practice a little caution if you are going to go looking for gold. Fortunately, we have an in up near Blackhawk where we can find a little gold and not risk drowning in the high waters that plague the State at this time of year. Run off is a natural rite of spring and allows mother nature to replenish the placer gold within the various water courses that we like to look in like Clear Creek and the Arkansas River.

When the water is high, it is usually too high to risk working in so miners need to exercise a little caution and find areas that are safe to work. If you cannot find one of those rare places, then your options are a lot fewer. Finding a little gold is not worth risking your life for so you need an alternative. I might suggest that you buy gold bags from the Club Store or from the many outlets on e-bay, or more preferably, from dealers such as those who advertise in the GPAA magazine or the Mining Journal. They are more reputable and you have many options to choose from. The high water season usually runs from mid-May until mid-July. If you were smart, you managed to get down to Clear Creek plenty of times in February, March and April. The high water didn’t really arrive until May 20, so there was plenty of time. If you didn’t get out, then shame on you. There was still plenty of gold but there will be a lot more when the waters go back down in late July. Those holes you cleaned out will hold new gold and it is just a matter of finding those few pockets or the more heavily concentrated gold. Now that is a lot of fun. I expect to see you all on the Creek when that water finally gets back down.

I have added a super article on ‘Alchemy’ in the Newsletter this month so I am going to shorten my message this month to allow more space for that article. It is very good and I encourage you all to read it.

Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be…! And until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured ‘Yaller Gold’!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com. Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

2017 Dues are Due and Payable   Last Notice

The V.P. Corner by “Joe Fortunato

Hello again fellow gold seekers. Wow, that was a quick month. Seems like just the other day that I was writing about getting out of town to chase gold in Nevada. The trip went well, there were a couple of unwanted surprises but that will just add a little drama to the story when it is told in the future. We are less than two weeks away from the Gold Show at the Jefferson County Fair Grounds. I am looking forward to attending; I haven’t done much of anything but work since I got back from Nevada. I hope that all of our GPR members plan to attend. I sure want to thank the members of our club that have volunteered to help set up and tear down the booths and exhibits at the show. These shows just could not happen without people who are willing to take the time to lend a hand when it is needed. I believe that goes double for this particular show. The Foothills Chapter of the GPAA really needs our support, not only help wise but in attendance also. They have gotten very little support from the GPAA at the national level. The Foothills Chapter has really gone out on a limb to make this Gold Show happen and we need to support them in any way we can. So, I hope to see a lot familiar faces at the Gold Show, and be sure to tell your friends and family to attend also. I mentioned earlier that all I have done lately is work, so I have no idea what the water level is in Clear Creek. It is getting to be that time of year! So get to the creek and find some gold before the water gets high, fast, and dangerous. Until next time MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES, BE GOLDEN! Joe Fortunato (Questions or comments call or text me 303-263-7204.)
From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker

The June Meeting will feature a 9-nugget drawing that will include a nugget of at least 2.8 grams or more. We have another fine specimen from Alaska to auction off. We will also be giving away numerous door prizes as well. Remember that your chances of winning are better than the Colorado Lottery as there are so many less people participating. Be sure to support your Club and buy lots of tickets. See you all at the upcoming Meeting.

Planned 2017 GPR Meeting Programs:

- **Jun 21** Stump the Panel’, an opportunity to ask ‘GPR Club Experts’, questions related to gold mining.
- **July 19** To be Determined

Board Meeting Minutes From May 2017

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Quorum present? Yes

**Call to Order:** By V. Pres. Fortunato at 6:08 pm.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Corrections: n/a
Approved as read/corrected: Yes.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Questions: none
Approved: Yes.

**Correspondence:** 3 phone calls, 10 e-mails, 6 mailing.

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 148090 Hits for last 2 month 245.

**Committee Reports:** None at this time.

**Unfinished Business:** None at this time.

**New Business:**
- Discussed upcoming Foothills GPAA Chapter’s Gold Show at JeffCo Fairgrounds on June 9, 10, 11. We will have a sign up sheet at the May Mtg.
- Discussed the CSM Book Sale on April 29/30.

**Planned Outings for 2017:**
- Notice of Outings planned for 2017 was sent out with Feb Newsletter.
- Next event is a Panning Demo at Aurora Water Festival on May 18, sign-up sheet on table.
- Next Outing is Prospecting Outing at Clay County Mine in Blackhawk on June 3.

**From the Board:**
- BM B. Manning advised he has fliers and half price tickets for Gold Show and has placed them back in Store for the membership.
- BM J. Shubert was in Hospital and unable to attend.
- BM B. Luchtenburg was also ill. Pres. Long advised
- That the Open House for the Clear Creek Developmental Plan will be April 22nd at the Community Center at 54th and Meade St. from 9a to noon.

**Announcements:** None at this time.

**Next Board Meeting:** June21, 2017, at 6:00 pm.  
Next General Meeting, June 21, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

**Tonight’s general meeting program:** Front Range mine rescue will talk about mine safety.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:35 pm.
1. Meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by Pres. Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Long then announced that the evening speaker, Matt Collins of Front Range Mine Rescue would be late due to traffic problems.
3. Pres. Long gave the Metals Report: Gold __1260.90__, Silver __16.86__, Platinum __944.00__, Palladium __780.00__.
4. Web hits for last month were approx. 250. Web counter is not working right and we will check it out.
5. Treasurer Wayne Schomaker reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, be sure to buy tickets for the ‘Special Nugget’ drawing. We have a brand new Alaskan chunk of raw gold weighing in at 13.9 grams. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight’s 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.8 grams.
6. Dan and Becki McConnell who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 79 members in attendance. There were 4 guests present. The total meeting attendance was 83.
7. Pres. Long read the ‘Question of the Month’, which was “What 1959 movie (starring Gary Cooper, Karl Malden and George C. Scott) is set primarily in a gold mining camp just after gold was discovered in California? Hint: Marty Robbins sang the theme song with the same name as the Movie??”
8. Pres. Long introduced Matt Collins for his Program. Matt did a great job and the Program was well received by the membership.
9. Pres. Long advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the ‘Finds of the Month’ table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2017. A reminder to all that gold submissions need to be weighed dry, and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out entry cards completely.
10. John Johnson announced the ‘Cache Clue #4’.
11. Pres. Long advised that there were lots of stuff in the Club Store for sale. We have bags of sand containing gold for members to buy as well as lots of other stuff, and we have discounted several items. There are also half price tickets to the upcoming Gold and Mineral Show at Jefferson County Fairgrounds. We continue to look for a volunteer to take over the Store. We thank Mike Hurtado for helping out at the Store in the meanwhile. We also have the ‘Avonne Deaver’ estate table in the back. All items are marked and are non-negotiable. Please help Avonne out and the Club offers their condolences to the passing of her husband.
12. Pres. Long informed the membership of:
   • The next 2017 Outing which will be a Panning Demo at the Aurora Water Festival on May 18.
   • On June 3, we will have a Prospecting Outing at Blackhawk again which will be led by Jack Meineke this trip. The Gold and Mineral Show will be on June 10/11 and we will have a booth at the Show. There is a sign-up sheet at the front desk.
   • The Club managed to pick up over 200.00 worth of books from the CSM Bool Sale for only 15.00. These books will be offered as door prizes in the coming months.
   • Members are reminded to check out the Finds of the Month and vote accordingly as well as answer the Question of the Month during the break.
   • Members were reminded to return items checked out of the Library in a timely manner. Check the Monthly Newsletter Calendar for future Gem and Mineral Shows coming up in the future.
   • There was nothing further from the floor.
13. Pres. Long announced the break at 8:20 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:38 pm.
14. Pres. Long announced the winners of the ‘Question of the Month’. The answer was “Hanging Tree”!! There were only 51 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
15. Pres. Long announced the winners for the ‘Finds of the Month’. Those were:
   • Best Coin – Robert Ahr with a 1927 half-dollar he found near Blackhawk while dredging for gold.
   • Best Jewelry – Joe Johnston with an ugly looking ring he found in Denver while metal detecting.
Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

- **Best Mineral** – Dale Herbertson with a sample of silver ore containing copper, malachite, azurite and chrysola from the Belgin Mill in Nevada.
- **Best Artifact** – Ray Vigil with a sample of metamorphic rock from Marble, Colorado.
- **Best Bottle** – Ian Duncanson with a screw top bottle that he found near Del Norte, Colorado.
- **Most Raw Gold** – There were no submissions in this category this month.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There were no submissions in this category this month.

16. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, Dick Oakes, and Pres. Long, followed by drawings for the 9 gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were Chuck Cown and Wayne Schomaker.

17. **Pres. Long** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President’s time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.

18. **Pres. Long** thanked Chris and Joe Kafka and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Don’t forget the ‘tip jar’ also, which helps to defray costs. This really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.

19. The June Meeting Program will feature a program called ‘Stump the Panel’ in which Several Club members will try to answer questions from the membership about mining and prospecting, so put on those thinking caps and bring those questions next month. It should be a lot of fun.

20. Until next time, remember to prospect safely, live long and be grateful for that golden bounty from the stars, that gleaming magical miracle, called ‘gold’!

21. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

**Finds of the Month**

The finds of the Month for May are as follows:

- **Best Coin** – The winner was Robert Ahr with a 1917 half-dollar he found while dredging for gold near Blackhawk.
- **Best Jewelry** – The winner was Joe Johnston with an ugly looking ring he found while metal detecting in Denver.
- **Best Mineral** – The winner was Dale Herbertson with a silver ore sample containing malachite, azurite, copper, and chrysola that he found near the Belgin Mill in Nevada.
- **Best Artifact** – The winner was Ray Vigil with a metamorphic sample he found near Marble, Colorado.
- **Best Bottle** – The winner was Ian Duncanson with a screw top glass bottle he found near Del Norte, Colorado.
- **Most Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this category.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this category.

Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. We would all like to know what everyone else is finding out there so don’t be bashful. Winners each month will have their name published in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Monthly winners will need to save their finds to bring back to the
November 2017 meeting to compete for the Find of the Year 2017. Thanks to all those who also submitted, additional finds that were not judged winners.

**A Miner’s Laugh**

Three Englishmen were in a bar and spotted an old Irish miner. They decided to have some fun with the old guy. One of the Englishmen walked over to the old Irishman, tapped him on the shoulder, and said, “Hey, I hear that your St. Patrick was a girly-man.” “Oh really, hmm, well I did not be a knowing that,” said the old miner. Puzzled, the Englishman walked back to his buddies. “I told him St. Patrick was a girly-man, and he didn’t seem to be especially bothered.”

The second Englishman remarked, “You just don’t know how to set them off. Watch and learn.” So, the second Englishman walked over to the Irishman, tapped him on the shoulder and said, “Hey mate, I hear your St. Patrick was a transvestite!”

“Oh really, hmm, well I did not be a knowing that either,” said the old miner again. Shocked beyond belief, the Englishman went back to his buddies. “You’re right. He’s unshakable!”

But the third Englishman remarked, “Boys, I’ll really tick him off. Just watch.” So the third Englishman walked over to the Irishman, tapped him on the shoulder and said, “I hear St. Patrick was an Englishman!”

The old Irish miner sadly shook his head and replied, “Yeah, and that’s what your buddies were a trying to tell me!!”

**HOW ABOUT ANOTHER MINER’S LAUGH**

An old miner became very bored in retirement and decided to become a doctor and open a medical clinic in his small mining town. He put a sign up outside that said: "Dr. Geezer's Clinic. Get your treatment for $500. If not cured, get back $1,000." A young miner, Dr. Young, who actually was a real doctor, was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, and he thought this would be a great opportunity to get $1,000 as well as bolstering his own practice, so he went to Dr. Geezer’s clinic to try and put the old boy to the test.

Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?"

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring some medicine from box 22 and put 3 tablets in this man's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Aaagh..!! This is donkey crap!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be $500."

Dr. Young gets very annoyed and goes back after a couple of days, figuring to recover his money.

Dr. Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 tablets in the patient's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Oh, no you don't, that is donkey crap!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be $500."

Dr. Young, now having lost $1000, leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak --- I can hardly see anything!!!!"

Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so here's your $1000 back.", giving him a $10 bill.

Dr. Young: "But this is only $10!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You have got your vision back! That will be $500."

*Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miner'*

**Prospecting/Mining Notes:** (mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

5-10-17 States Sue Administration over Coal Leases: California, New Mexico, New York and Washington re sing over the Trump Administration’s decision to restart the sale of coal leases on federal lands. Their lawsuit, filed in US district Court in Montana, says that the US Interior Department’s reversal of the Obama Administration’s moratorium on
the federal coal leasing program was done without a review on whether it would be good for the environment or the taxpayers.

**Mining Concerns from Around the Country**

*(In my attempt to keep our members aware of what is happening involving mining from around the country, I will run this little section each month and see how it goes. I am apt to put a little passion and some direct finger pointing in my reporting, for which I will offer no apology to anyone who may feel offended. I support responsible mining and responsible miners, period. It is what it is, and it is my opinion, and that is that, like it or not.)*

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE…Oregon Passes Senate Bill 3:** The Oregon State Senate passes Senate Bill 3 (SB3), a bill that would further restrict instream mining within the state. SB3 would revoke the current moratorium on instream mining previously passed (SB 838), but would keep in place many of the previous restrictions and create a permanent ban on all motorized instream mining in those streams designated as essential salmon habitat. For those waterways where suction gold dredging would still be allowed, dredges would be limited to a 4 inch nozzle and miners would be required to pay a $250 application fee and a $250 permit fee. A number of states are clearly buying into the environmental extremist rhetoric and are beholden to them for the money they contribute, especially to their campaigns.

*(I greatly fear that Colorado is going to follow the lead of California, Oregon and Washington in following the environmental extremist lead. Those people have money to burn and Gov. Hickenlooper has clearly shown that he favors the California style of doing things, so hang on to your pants and your wallets in the coming months and year and don’t be shocked when I tell you that I told you so…)*

**Aurora Youth Water Festival Panning Demonstration**

On May 18, members of the Club visited the Aurora Community College Campus in Aurora to participate in the Aurora Youth Water Festival, an annual event that involves some 17 elementary schools that brought some 1000 or more fifth and sixth grade students to learn about water as a resource and all the ways that it is used and why it is important to conserve and use wisely. There were 30 or so various vendors who had numerous displays and presentations for the kids. Many of these were various forms of hands on demonstrations, including the gold panning. The weather backfired on us this year and instead of being outside, we were forced to move inside the campus. It was certainly warmer and dryer than it would have been outside since it was raining and snowing that particular day. All in all, it turned out to be a good day and a lot of the kids managed to find their way to our location to get a look at some real gold and try their hand at a little panning. The first users of water in the expansion of the old west was that of the trappers and the miners. And of course, the native people understood the value of water as well. Later on, ranching and farming became major users and people needed water to survive as well. Everyone learned that water makes the world go around and if you have it, it is good. If you don’t, things generally are going to go badly. Many thanks to Jack Meineke, Carl Adams, Chris Kafka, Frank Zahn, and Sue and Ian Duncanson for volunteering their time to help make the event successful. Pres. Long managed a couple of photos.
What Is Alchemy and Is It Even Real?  
By John Hawthorne

You’ve probably heard of alchemy. But what is it exactly? Is it even a real thing? In this post, we break it all down for you.

Alchemy, the process of turning a base metal into gold, has been a dream of gold enthusiasts for millennia. It’s not hard to see why. If you discovered a recipe for turning lead into gold, you would become a millionaire overnight. Your basement would be filled with stacks and stacks of gold, and you would never need to worry about inflation again. You could indulge in all sorts of eccentric hobbies, and if anyone questioned you, you could just throw a few gold bars their way. Unfortunately, it turns out that alchemy, at least in its purest form, can’t be done. You can’t turn any metal into gold, no matter how much sorcery or chemicals or mystical charms you use. For now, lead will remain lead and gold will remain gold.

In this post, we’re going to unpack alchemy. We’re going to explain where the idea came from and some of the ways people tried to make it happen. We’re also going to unveil some real, surprising ways that gold can be obtained. By the end, you’ll see gold everywhere!

The History (And Failure) Of Alchemy

Alchemy originated in a spiritual worldview that said everything holds a universal spirit within it. Metals were not only alive but also grew inside the earth like living organisms. They had the universal spirit within them, just like every other material on earth. A base metal, like lead, was simply a physically and spiritually immature form of a higher metal, like gold. Zinc, lead, and gold were not all individual metals, but the same metal in various forms of development. The goal was to make the base metal “mature” into the higher metal gold. Think of it like nurturing a young child. As time went on, the process of alchemy evolved. In the beginning, it relied heavily on magic. Some individuals thought that something called the “Philosopher’s Stone” existed, which could heal people, lengthen life, and transform base metals into gold. Others created elaborate mystical rituals designed to effect the transformation. During the Enlightenment, a more rational, scientific approach was taken, with many scientists experimenting with chemical processes. Surprisingly though, even some of the most rational scientists such as Isaac Newton clung to the hope of discovering a mystical alchemy process. As Benjamin Radford notes: In March 2016, the Chemical Heritage Foundation bought a 17th-century alchemy manuscript written by Newton. Buried in a private collection for decades, the manuscript detailed how to make “philosophic” mercury, thought to be a step toward making the philosopher’s stone — a magical substance thought to have the ability to turn any metal into gold and give eternal life. Unfortunately, none of these efforts produced true alchemy. It turns out that base metals can’t be magically or chemically transformed into gold. Today, it is possible to “create” gold using particle accelerators, but the amounts created are minuscule and not worth the Herculean efforts involved.

From Alchemy to Chemistry

Even though alchemy itself could be considered a failure, it did contribute in significant ways to the field of chemistry. Robert Boyle, who articulated Boyle’s Law, claimed that he had been able to change gold into mercury using something he called “quicksilver.” Not surprisingly, he didn’t reveal exactly how he did this, which creates some significant doubts around his claims. Nevertheless, Boyle was a constant experimenter and was on the forefront of developing the scientific method. As Michelle Feder notes: Boyle was a prolific experimenter who kept meticulous accounts about both his failures and successes. He was a pioneer of chemical analysis and the scientific method, endlessly repeating his experiments with slight variations to obtain better results and, unheard of among earlier alchemists, always publishing the methods and details of his work in clear terms that could be widely understood. While it’s true that alchemy itself hasn’t survived scrutiny by modern science, it did play some role in the creation of modern scientific methods.
The Extraction of Gold

Even though gold can’t be created out of other substances, it can be extracted from a variety of substances. This, of course, isn’t alchemy. Rather, it’s removing existing gold from a substance. Gold occurs naturally in some substances and can be removed through a variety of processes. It is also found in some consumer products and can be stripped for profit.

What can gold be extracted from? Here’s a partial list:

Coal

Researchers in Russia recently created a way to extract trace amounts of gold from coal. Although the return rate isn’t great ($23 worth of gold per ton), it’s a start.

As Sergey Guneev wrote: To create the gold, smoke created in burning coal goes through a hundred-fold purifying system. The residue is then flushed through a filter with water, allowing a gold concentrate to be extracted that is later used to make the precious metal.

Seawater

Tiny amounts of gold can be extracted from seawater. However, the amount per liter is so tiny that it requires a massive amount of effort to accumulate even a small amount. As the National Ocean Service writes: Ocean waters do hold gold – nearly 20 million tons of it. However, if you were hoping to make your fortune mining the sea, consider this: Gold in the ocean is so dilute that its concentration is on the order of parts per trillion. Each liter of seawater contains, on average, about 13 billionths of a gram of gold.

Crops

Surprisingly, small amounts of gold can be extracted from certain types of crops. Certain plants, like mustard and tobacco, have the ability to suck up gold particles from treated soil. The plants can then be burned, and tiny amounts of gold can be extracted from the ash using a series of chemicals. While this process will certainly never replace traditional gold mining, it can be used to remediate soil that has been polluted by gold mines.

Electronics

Because gold is such an outstanding conductor, it is used to coat connections and circuits in various electronic devices. The fact that gold doesn’t rust makes it an ideal connector for low voltage circuits, which get disrupted by even the smallest blemishes. Usually, you can find gold plating in switches, relays, circuit joints, connection wires, and contacts.

Dental Work

Gold is malleable, allowing it to be molded to fit into small spaces between teeth. This is why crowns, bridges, and other orthodontics are a combination of gold and porcelain. Because gold doesn’t rust or corrode, it’s the perfect material for the wet environment of your mouth.

Interestingly, the price of dental work is often connected to the market price of gold. The more it goes up, the costlier it becomes to have dental work done.

Old Jewelry

Not surprisingly, jewelry is a prime source of gold. Typically, jewelry is either 24 karats, 18 karats, 12 karats, or 10 karats. The lower the number, the less pure gold, with 24 karats being 100% gold.

Conclusion

Until science progresses, we won’t be able to create gold out of other substances. Most of us will have to settle for extracting gold from old jewelry, discarded dental work, and broken electronics.

But we can still dream of discovering miraculous ways to create gold. Of gold bars piled high in our houses and of cars made from pure gold.

The explorer Cortes said: “We Spaniards know a sickness of the heart that only gold can cure.”

Cortes would be disappointed that we haven’t solved the problem of alchemy yet.
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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. COPY DEADLINE is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President
(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)

Coming Announcements and Special Events for Jul. 2017

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

GPR Panning Demo Georgetown Loop RR 9/10

WMMI STEM Science Camp by Science Matters! 17 - 21

WMMI Anniversary Weekend 15/16

Parents’ Day 23rd