6 December 2013

From the Principal

Presentation Days

Our Annual Presentation Days are upon us and as usual, we have so many students receiving awards for commitment, achievement and excellence that we need to hold three separate ceremonies.

On Friday 6 December our Sports Assembly will take place to highlight the stellar achievements of our athletes. Friday 13 December is our Year 10 Farewell Assembly, which gives us our last chance to say goodbye as they head for TAFE, work or GRC Oatley Senior Campus. Tuesday 17 December is the Years 7, 8 and 9 Presentation Assembly to complete our acknowledgement assemblies for the year.

New Hall

Bathrooms tiled, windows installed and ceilings hung. The construction is moving along at pace with all sorts of trades beavering away to complete the work on time.

Year 10 School Formal

What a great night!

Miss Lauren Osmond and her organising committee did an outstanding job, with every detail worked out to create a perfect night for all. The students looked magnificent in all their finery and the staff scrubbed up pretty well too. The students really appreciated all the staff support on the night and they were close to the best behaved group I have ever seen at a formal.

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

Thank you to all the parents who generously donated their time and effort in supporting our Bunnings Barbecue fundraiser. It was a fun day, with everyone playing their roles superbly; from the cooks, order takers and money handlers to the spruikers trying to entice customers to our merchandise. A special mention must go to Marsia Cordova for her organisation of the event, the amount of parents helping on the day was outstanding but none of it would have happened if Marsia hadn’t followed through on the initial idea.

The money raised will help support our school, providing resources which will be used by a variety of students to help realise their potential.

Thank you all!

Community Award

Hurstville City Council celebrated International Volunteers’ Day on Thursday, 5 December 2013, by hosting a special reception to formally recognise the outstanding efforts and diversity of people who put up their hand to volunteer in the community. I was fortunate to attend this ceremony as one of our parents, Mr Kevin Manners, was the recipient of one of these awards after being nominated by the GRC Peakhurst Community.

Kevin is currently the President of the School P&C and represents the parent body on the School Finance Committee and the 50th Anniversary Committee. He has trained in the merit selection process to help select staff for the school and has sat on numerous interview panels.

Kevin is the first to put up his hand to run school BBQs, provide refreshments at parent teacher and information evenings, help with fundraising or attend official functions. Kevin has worked tirelessly to improve student outcomes and teacher/student/parent relationships at Georges River College Peakhurst Campus.

Kevin is an outstanding citizen, who is worthy of being recognised on International Volunteers Day for his outstanding efforts in our school community.

Congratulations Kevin.

Return to school in 2014

Important dates for next year:

Staff return on Tuesday 28th January
Year 7 return on Wednesday 29th January
Years 8, 9 and 10 return on Thursday 30th January

Thanks to everyone in the GRC Peakhurst community for your valued support of the students and staff in their endeavours to achieve the best possible outcomes for the school. It has been an exciting, rewarding and extremely busy year. Have a safe and happy holidays and I look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Neale Harries
(Rel) Principal
YEAR 7 Advisors Report
I would like to congratulate Year 7 on their achievements throughout the year. This year has seen huge growth, physically, socially and academically, in a new environment. It has been a pleasure to get to know Year 7 and I look forward to next year.

Year 8 is full of challenges for the students and they will be learning a lot of new concepts in 2014 as well. I look forward to another successful year for the students and their developing ability to face new challenges.

Before the end of the year, students will again be recognised for their achievements in different KLAS in their year assembly and presentation day. I extend my congratulations to those students and their parents on this success.

I wish all of Year 7 and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Kind regards
Year 7 advisor
Harmeet Sandhu

YEAR 9 Advisors Report
On Friday 22nd November, 26 Year 9 students were trained up in the Peer Support program. These students have volunteered to take on a mentoring role for our Year 7 students of 2014. The day, run by Miss Walton, saw students participate in a range of team building and leadership activities. I would like to commend all students involved for the way in which they enthusiastically supported and encouraged each other. I am sure you will make fantastic leaders and mentors and that Year 7 of 2014 will be in great hands.

As we near the end of 2013, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 9 on their achievements throughout the year. This year has seen you grow, learn, face new challenges and succeed. It has been a pleasure to get to know Year 9 this past year and it is fantastic to know that Year 10 of 2014 has a bright future. I wish all of Year 9 and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Miss J Picone
Year 9 Advisor

YEAR 10 Advisors Report
I’ll make this quick as some Year 10s have provided you below, with some details on arguably the best event of the term: the Year 10 Formal! It was amazing to see so many Year 10s look so grown up, mature and incredibly dressed; those in attendance should all be immensely proud of yourselves! Myself and 22 of your other teachers loved seeing you enjoy the night and celebrate your hard work throughout the year as well as finishing off all of those exams! I look forward to seeing that maturity continue on the 2nd and 3rd of December at Oatley Orientation and the 5th of December at the Big Day Out at Oatley. Your official Presentation Day for Year 10 is to be held on Friday 13th of December so I look forward to seeing as many family members on that day as well.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for making it such a pleasure to be your Year Advisor this year and wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lauren Osmond
Year 10 Advisor

GRC Peakhurst Year 10 Formal Report
On Wednesday the 27th of November, the GRC Peakhurst Campus held their Year 10 Formal at WatervieW, Bicentennial Park in Homebush. Everyone rolled up in their very best attire to attend, hair was styled, dresses were bright and vibrant, suits clean and crisp, and shoes shined. Parents accompanying their kids proudly took photos of them and their friends, while wishing them the best for a great night out. When the time finally came after every name had been marked off, it was time to say farewell to parents and siblings and board the buses.

After a noisy half-hour long bus trip to the venue we arrived at WatervieW ready to party the night away. Prior to entry, all were gathered for a group photo to show off their finery, poses were many and varied but all wore smiles. Drinks were served shortly after in the courtyard, located just outside the function building. After a swift pat-down check by security we were admitted to the room and seated at our allocated tables. A short announcement was given by Miss Osmond, our esteemed formal organiser and then we witnessed a trip down memory lane in the form of a slide show put together by the formal committee. While the slide show was running, the entrées were served, wetting the appetite of the attendees for the mains.

Features in the function room included a DJ, a photo-booth (highlight of the night), a professional photographer setup at the back for more refined photos and a shiny wooden dance floor for laying down some sweet moves. When the location of these features were pointed out and used to a certain extent we were recalled to the tables to indulge in a sumptuous main meal composed of a variety of chicken, lamb, and vegetables all cooked to culinary perfection. This was followed shortly by a delicious round of desserts and some cupcakes for our two birthdays of the night. After courses were consumed, the venue’s many features were available for the remainder of the night.

Before the night wound down there was a number of awards distributed to students for many varied achievements from best self-taker to best couple, including a few awards for the formal committee in recognition of their organisational prowess. Then the lights dimmed and the DJ pumped the music louder and everyone took to the dance floor: grooving and jiving and sliding to the sound of our favourite songs. Several students and

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th December</td>
<td>Year 10 Presentation Day 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th December</td>
<td>Year 7, 8, 9 Presentation Day 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18th</td>
<td>Last Day of School</td>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Last Day of School
GRC Gifted and Talented day

On Tuesday the 19th of November selected students across all three junior campuses went to GRC Oatley Campus to attend a Gifted and Talented workshop. Twenty students from GRC Peakhurst attended the event.

The event was held to help the gifted and talented students to learn to cope with the stresses they would be facing in year 11 and year 12, as well as to allow them to get to know each other and mix between campuses before next year.

After a brief opening statement from the principal of GRC Oatley, Deidre Bedwell, the students were split into nine groups. We played a number of games to break the ice between campuses, including activities like chants, puzzles and other games.

This was followed by a talk from Oatley’s Philosophy teacher, who taught us about the techniques of ‘mindfulness’ and ‘critical thinking,’ both of which he said will help us greatly on our journey through senior school. Mindfulness is a breathing and posture technique that will hopefully keep us calm in the stressful times that await us on the road to the HSC and critical thinking refers to forming your own opinions on different subjects and not just accepting everything that is told to you.

After a vegetarian lunch, we began a very fun section of the day, where we focused on improving confidence and building our public speaking skills. We did this through a series of impromptu speeches on various ‘silly persuaders’ including the topics, ‘eat the dead’ and ‘we should kill the old and infirm.’

After three debates based on some very interesting scenarios, all students got involved in our final activity, theatre games. The theatre games were enjoyable to watch and a lot of fun to get involved in and all students watching and playing had a great laugh.

The GRC Gifted and Talented day was a lot of fun and helped many of the students to break down some barriers, meet new people and learn new skills such as mindfulness and critical thinking. All students enjoyed the day and it was a great advantage to be able to mingle with students from Hurstville Boys and Penshurst Girls before going into senior school with them next year, especially in such a fun, gifted and informal environment as we had on the day.

By: Daniel Crowder

GRC Peakhurst Debating Excursion

On the 8th of November our 2013 Debaters as well as other students selected with debating skills attended the 2013 Year 9 and 10 Debating State Final of the Premier’s Debating Challenge. This was held at William Wilkins Gallery, Department of Education and Communities, Bridge Street, Sydney.

The debate was between Caringbah High School and Northern Beaches Secondary College, Manly Selective Campus. The topic was ‘That all motorcycle gangs should be outlawed,’ Manly Selective Campus being affirmative and agreeing with the set topic. They made the point that motorcycle gangs bring danger to the community and that they should be removed from the streets for their community’s safety. Caringbah, being on the negative team and disagreeing with this topic made their point that only 0.6% of all crimes are caused by motorcycle gangs.

Both high schools put forward an outstanding case and succeeded to their best but unfortunately Caringbah High School lost (despite saying ‘SWAG’ to conclude the debate), allowing Northern Beaches Secondary College, Manly Selective Campus the win on the day. All the students from our school had a great time in the gallery and having lunch afterwards in the city. Hopefully this will influence more students at GRC Peakhurst to be a part of the Premier’s Debating Challenge in years to come.

A big thank you to Ms Osmond, Ms Dunstan and Ms Nguyen for organising the day and taking us.

From the Special Education Faculty

Welcome to Term 4 Week 9! Nearly at the end! Our faculty has been very busy this term and we still have the Presentation Day (Year 7, 8, and 9 on 17th Dec), the Year 10 Presentation Day (12th Dec), our last Community Access and our end-of-year picnic. The last day of term is Wednesday 18th December.

Our Support Unit camp was great fun. Thanks again to Ms Picone for all her hours of preparation! We had a wonderful three days! We did lots of new activities including a disco and visiting a farm as well as lots of old favorites like the camp fire and the giant swing. Check out the photos on our web site.

From the PDHPE Faculty

Year 9 PASS Surf Excursion

Year 9 PASS have been ‘hanging ten’ down at Cronulla Beach as part of their Aquatics and Outdoor Education units! They participated in a Learn to Surf program with Cronulla Surf Academy, learning valuable ocean safety and beach awareness skills. With the beach on our doorstep, it’s so important that our students are armed with the skills and knowledge to ensure not only their personal safety, but those around them too. Thank you to Mr Miller for his organisation and Miss Kundrus-Little for assisting with the delivery of the program. Well done, grommets!

The Year 10 Formal was a fabulous night. Both Symeon and George looked particularly dashing. Thank you to George’s mum for our corsages. Both the boys had professional photos taken. We’ll let you know when they arrive.

The Thank You morning tea was fantastic and it was wonderful to have so many parents join us this year. There were special awards for our Enclave and Work Experience students, as well as our Year 10 students who are leaving us. Thank you to Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Leeke and Mrs. Campion for all their effort and organisation for the morning tea. More photos on our web site.

From all of us in the Support Unit, thank you for your on-going support throughout the year. Have a relaxing and wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing you all in 2014!

Regards,

Peta Holm

Merry Christmas

St George Zone Grade Sport

The summer sport season is over and boy do we have some extremely talented and enthusiastic young sportspersons. Congratulations to our 7 grade sport teams who made it through to the St George Zone Grand Finals. The following teams won their summer sport grand final:

14 Boys Mini Soccer: Coached by Ms. Osmond
15 Girls Volleyball: Coached by Mrs Ho
15 Girls Mini Soccer: Coached by Ms. Hudson
15 Boys Basketball: Coached by Mr Hall and Mrs Verma
14 Boys Touch Football: Miss Picone and Fred

Well done to all teams who played winter and summer grade sport this year. You have done your school proud! Thank you to also to our coaches. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure grade sport is a fun experience for our students.
Year 10 PDHPE – The Story of Tom Brennan

A reminder to all Year 10 students that they must return their loan copy of The Story of Tom Brennan. Students will not be allowed to sign out until their copy of the novel is returned.

2013 Sports Presentation Day

A reminder that the SRC Peakhurst Campus Sport Presentation Day is on Friday 6th December in the dome. Start time is 9am and we warmly welcome families who wish to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the school community a safe and prosperous holiday season.

Miss Elise Whiley
Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE/LOTE

From the TAS Faculty

Year 9 Child Studies Excursion

On Monday 4th November, students in Year 9 Child Studies went on an excursion to the maternity ward at St George Hospital. It was here that we were able to see and experience what midwives do to care for both the mother and baby.

We were first introduced to two midwives, which told us a little bit about their job and what role they play. We were also lucky enough to see a newborn baby have its first bath. We then ventured to an actual delivery room where we got to see and learn about some of the equipment that is used to assist the mother during delivery. We also saw how the bed could transform in order to cater to the needs of the patient. Some students were even lucky enough to see a real placenta.

Before we knew it, the day came to an end and we found ourselves on the way back to school. From this experience we have learnt lots of valuable information that will be helpful to us in future.

By Amelia Kalaiziovski
Year 9 Child Studies student

Year 9 Food Technology

Year 9 had lots of fun completing a Food Assessment Task in which they had to include at least 1 fruit to make a dish of their choice. Students applied an amazing effort to come up with some superb dishes! Congratulations Year 9.

Ms K Willis
TAS faculty

SRC Report

On Friday the 22nd of November the SRC held a spectacular mufﬁ day, including a cake stall, gaming tournament and sponge throwing.

The cake stall was a great success being run during recess, with many SRC members donating cakes, cookies and other sweet treats to the stall, which sold out in record time. The gaming tournament (run by Jesse Donlevy) was a unique event for us and we would like to thank the technical crews for assisting with the professional and speedy set up for that event. We had never run a gaming event before and it was great to see so many people getting involved in it and enjoying playing Super Smash Bros Brawl on the school’s Wii. The winner of the tournament was a year 9 student named Jai Ghorpade, who played the tournament as the character Ike.

Despite a wet start to the day, the sponge throwing went ahead. It drew in a huge crowd to see some of our favourite teachers get slapped in the face by sponges. Many of the students enjoyed getting in and throwing sponges at some of the teachers, including Mr Miller, Ms Favuzzi, Mr Haydar, Ms Whiley and our principal, Mr Harries. After the teachers came in we even had some students get in front of the target. Jessica Cracknell, Natalia Kuirintinus, Tennesy Holtz and Cara Bancroft all got hit by sponges in the name of raising money for the Student Representative Council of our school.

All in all it was a great day that raised the SRC a lot of money to put towards our future projects leading in to next year. The day raised a total of $580 for the SRC. A big thank you to all students who ran events, donated or participated as well as all the teachers who helped out in any way throughout the day, it wouldn’t have been as successful without you.

By Daniel Crowder
Miss Osmond
SRC Coordinator

WELFARE REPORT

As the school once again approaches its conclusion for 2013, it is time to reflect on the achievements and the involvement our students have had, in the vibrant life of our school. There are so many of our students who have been involved in these different activities and programs over the year, which has been a testament to their commitment and efforts at GRC Peakhurst.

I would like to especially thank our year advisors - Harmeet Sandhu (Year 7), Sophie Favuzzi (Year 8), Julia Picone (Year 9), Lauren Osmond (Year 10) and James Cooper (Year 6 transition Coordinator) for all their hard work and commitment to their year groups, throughout the year.

I wish all out students and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Many thanks
Michelle Walton
Head Teacher Student Welfare
**BULLY-PREVENTION REPORT**

Earlier in the term the Year 9 Bully Prevention committee attended a talk about bullying which was then followed by the viewing of an American documentary on bullying. This talk taught us a lot of things about bullying we didn’t know and the documentary was a great insight into just how bad bullying can affect the victim.

About a week later we met at school to discuss writing up a new anti-bullying policy for the school. It took us about two more meetings but finally came up with a new, improved and positive anti-bullying policy to put in place at school.

We, as a team, are currently working on designing posters. These posters will be put up around the school and in every classroom to discourage people from bullying. We are aiming to produce two new posters each. Each poster will focus on mainly cyber bullying and other forms of school yard bullying. We will be having one more meeting before the end of term to finish designing these posters and they will then be printed and laminated to be placed around all areas of the school and in each and every classroom.

Being part of this committee has really opened up all of our eyes to the seriousness of bullying. We have learnt how much bullying can affect an individual both physically and emotionally. Our aim going forward in the future is to reduce bullying within our school and create a safe and positive environment for all students. We would like to thank Ms Walton for organising and working with the Bully Prevention Team.

*By Jasmine Handsaker and Olivia McClatchy*

**PBL REPORT**

As a student in the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) forum, I would like to report that over these few meetings we have all developed skills to improve our school behaviour in a fun, positive way.

In the PBL student meetings we are working in 4 groups consisting of representatives from years 7-10 which are each focusing on two particular areas in our school to improve such as school canteen, classroom, playground and toilets, corridors, assemblies and rolcall, transport and last but not least community and public spaces.

Each group has begun to create a couple of short video clips featuring their area and demonstrating the differences in positive behaviour to negative behaviour. My group focused on the school canteen and the classroom. So, as a team last week we began to brainstorm these focus words in conjunction with the GRC Way – Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Aim for excellence. We brainstormed what does it look like to be Respectful in the canteen area? Etc. from our findings of the group brainstorm we started taking photographs of the correct way to, for example line up in the canteen area and shot some footage of how we should order our food more positively while thinking about the Georges River Collage Way.

The PBL student forum has been working very hard over these meeting times to find ways to be creative and informative to our student body. We will continue striving to create a more positive environment for all students and teachers as well as our wider community. We are a very enthusiastic group of students and we can’t wait for our next meeting.

*Tiffany Li (Year 9 PBL student member)*

**Peer Support Report**

On Friday 22nd of November 2013, 28 Year 9 students attended the Peer Support training day in the school library all day. We learnt about what makes a strong leader, what Peer Support actually is, why it is so important and what we are going to be doing next year with the New Year 7 cohort.

We worked through a group leader booklet and participated in many games in which we will be leading with our group of students next year.

We split up into 3 smaller group and all were given the opportunity to run each session as a group leader to simulate the real activities we will be using next year. We played many interactive group bonding games such as ‘The Name Game’ where everyone must remember each other’s names and something special about them. There was also an awesome icebreaker challenge which involved passing a ball around and saying someone’s name before passing a tennis ball to them. This game got a little tricky as we had to incorporate 3 tennis balls around the circle. This was a really fun activity and even tested some year 9 coordination skills.

Other group work activities were getting to know each other and talking to each other to find out information about each other such as, favourite colour, extracurricular activities, pets, siblings and what primary school each person went to. We also went through some information about important people to
know in the school, where to find them, buildings in the school and what to do in certain situations such as if you feel sick or need to go to the bathroom.

This training day was very enjoyable and jam packed with different activities throughout the day. We as leaders of the school are looking forward to meeting our year 7 groups and looking forward to run the Peer Support program with them next term. The Peer Support team is looking forward to helping these new students transition easier.

Thank you to our Year 9 adviser Ms Picone and our Head Teacher Student Welfare Ms Walton for a wonderful and informative training day.

Mikaela Collins

REWARDS EXCURSION REPORT

On Friday 29th November Sean and I were lucky enough to attend the rewards excursion to Jamberoo Recreation Park. After a long bus ride we finally arrived at our destination.

We arrived at around 10:30am and dropped off our bags at the shelter (for our teachers to mind) and made our way to the Funnel Web the newest ride. The weather was fine with a slight chance of rain and was around 20 degrees. This didn’t dampen our spirits but meant the ride queues were shortened. We waited in line for only around 5 minutes and sat in the tube. After going around several spine chilling, blood curdling, daunting bends we approached a formidable drop which led us into the frightening cylinder.

This is now our favourite ride!!!!!!!

We backed this up with the next ride the Taipan, we went on this ride 6 times and didn’t have to get out this was awesome!

It was now around 12:00pm when some other Year 9 students Olivia, Connor, Tom and others went on the Toboggans. After a 30 min wait we were allowed to go after the theme park workers dried the tracks from the rain. The Toboggans where extremely fun which left us heading to the Rapid River. It was 12.30pm when we went back to the meeting spot to have our names marked off.

After a quick lunch stop we headed to the rock, a 5 meter plummet into the water below. What a rush!!!! After several jumps we made our way to the wave pool. We had to wait 5 minutes for the waves to start. But once it started the pool was chaotic. When we managed to escape the wave pool we headed for another round of the Funnel Web. Then we went to the Splash Out – a waterslide that you could race your friends.

After a couple of close races we could determine a clear winner; Ms Osmond.

We then headed to the waterslides for some more entertainment. With only an hour left before we had to pack up and leave we headed for a couple more rounds of the Taipan and Funnel Web. When the clock reached 2:30pm we went back to our meeting place and packed up. We finally managed to get on the buses by 2:50pm and got back to school at 4.30pm.

Today was a great experience and a chance to have a break from school and spend time with other kids in a different environment. We were lucky enough to come away on this excursion to celebrate the student efforts in school and reaching Gold, Silver or Bronze level in the Welfare points system.

A big thankyou to the bus driver for putting up with us and all the teachers – Ms Osmond, Ms Walton, Mr Haidar, Ms Sandhu, Ms Picone and Ms Whiley.

We would like to give a big thankyou to Ms Walton for organising a wonderful day.

By Sean Lewis and Connor Ryan

White Ribbon Day