7 March 2014

From the Principal

Welcome to the year of the Horse, 2014 and our 50th anniversary year. Yes, 50 years ago the first students arrived in year 7 to start their educational journey at Peakhurst High School. A number of activities are planned throughout the year with a gala weekend finale on August 29th and 30th.

The email address for the anniversary is: peakys50th@gmail.com

The facebook page is called Peakhurst High School 50th Anniversary and can be found by doing a search in Facebook or by using this link: https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Peakhurst-High-School-50th-Anniversary/1400028540216062?fref=ts

New Staff

We welcome the following new staff to GRC Peakhurst:

Ms Chang – Science (replacing Mr Ryan, who has moved to GRC Penshurst)
Mr Morley – PDHPE (replacing the retired Mr Watts)
Mr Fisher – English (replacing Ms Tami, who has moved to GRC Oatley)
Ms Tamang – Mathematics (for Ms Chua, who is on maternity leave)
Mr Harris – Christian Studies (replacing Mr Hall, who has taken a church pastors role at a suburban church)

Returning Staff

Mrs Gualtieri has returned to the school as Head Teacher TAS
Mrs Hill has returned from maternity leave for three days per week
Ms Johnston (nee Gray) and Ms Crammond – Support/Dance (replacing Ms Picone) are with us for the year.

Mr Bousaleh – Science (has returned from an extended absence). Thankyou to Ms Hudson for filling this position so superbly during this time. Ms Hudson is now working in the HSIE faculty

Mr Haydar – PDHPE (for Ms Kundrus-Little who has taken twelve months leave)

Still on staffing, Ms Osmond has been with us on a temporary basis for a number of years doing an amazing job in the English faculty. She has now been successful in the merit selection process and been appointed permanently as a fulltime English teacher to GRC Peakhurst. Congratulations on a thoroughly deserved promotion.

New Hall

We are nearly there. The date set down for the school to have access to the new hall is March 17th. All going well, the demolition company will begin removing the Dome approximately two weeks later. This demolition will be followed by the construction of two outdoor multipurpose courts and new landscaping of the entire area.

The big question has been; how will they bring the Dome down? Well, it is not going to be as spectacular as many had hoped. No Port Kembla chimney stack explosion here. After the interior has been cleared, a large machine with a long arm will be set up on the outside and will nibble into the top of the Dome, breaking pieces off as it moves towards the ground. This process should take a number of days.

Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop, which is run by our incredibly supportive P&C, has been established for twelve months now within the school to sell previously owned uniform items to help parents and students purchase items at a reasonable price. The shop will be open every Wednesday from 8.00am to 8.40am. Any donations of old school uniform items, washed and in good condition, would be welcomed at any time.

Parents and Cars

I would ask that parents dropping off or picking up their children please use the Samuel street entrance as much as possible. Cars entering, leaving and turning at the front gate in Rona street are causing a safety and congestion concern.

DO NOT DRIVE INTO THE RONA STREET ENTRANCE TO DROP OFF YOUR CHILDREN.

Hurstville Council has asked me to inform parents that they and the local police will regularly monitor and patrol schools within the area, particularly in the busy morning and afternoon periods. Infringement notices and fines will be issued for those breaching parking restrictions around schools.

Balance is the Key to Happy Kids

Recent research shows that extra curricula activities can add a lot to children’s social and intellectual development, but too
much emphasis on achievement can create stress. Balance can be beneficial for all involved.

Many parents simply get caught-up – starting with soccer coaching, then introducing a music class etc. and the next thing the week is packed.

It’s important for parents to learn that it is OK to sometimes say ‘no’ to activities. They shouldn’t feel guilty. Children are at school five days a week already, they need to get out and play on their own sometimes rather than being involved in structured activities all the time. Of course, when parents are no longer ferrying kids from one activity to the next, there’s the added bonus of more family time for everybody.

I look forward to a year filled with opportunity and success.

Neale Harries
(Rel) Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7th March</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11th March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting - Boardroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th – 14th March</td>
<td>Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th March</td>
<td>Geography Excursion to Cronulla</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 8 Advisors Report

Welcome to the new school year and new experiences for the students.

On Tuesday 8th April Brainstorm productions will be presenting the play Cyberia for year 8, a play that highlights some of the complex issues surrounding the misuse of technology and the damage caused by cyber bullying. This is an entertaining way to promote discussion and to give the students guidelines about what constitutes cyber bullying, the effects of too much screen time and violent computer games, internet safety, digital citizenship and protecting our on-line reputation.

This show will assist in creating a safe harmonious environment for students and staff at school and online. For more information about the company go to www.brainstormproductions.edu.au.

Notes have been sent home for this so please make sure that your child returns the permission note and money ASAP. The note has also been added on to the website as well for your convenience if it is lost by your child.

Kind regards

Harmeet Sandhu
Year 8 Advisor

YEAR 9 Advisors Report

Welcome back Year 9 to a year full of new and exciting pathways. It is a time in your lives where you need to be making the right decisions for you. It is time to, if you haven’t already started to, focussing on your studies and doing the best you can, to achieve a ROSA. PBL was launched for the first time and it is exciting to be part of this positive new start at GRC Peakhurst.

It is already week 6 of term 1 and your assessments and half yearly exams are approaching. We have a busy year ahead of us. Some of the activities that have been set for you as a year group in term 1 are: Study skills program run by the Pole Depot and Take 2, which is a Welfare program.

It’s great to see you all behaving in a mature way and respecting each other. Keep up the great work, be responsible, respect everyone and strive for excellence. Have a great year.

Congratulations to Samuel Attard, Talei Holmes, Alex Margetson, Amber-Jane Presland and Claudia White for making the Zone Swimming Carnival.

If Parents or Carers have any queries don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sophie Favuzzi
Year 9 Advisor

YEAR 10 Advisors Report

Welcome back to all students and their families. I am very excited to return as your Year Advisor for your final year at Peakhurst! Welcome also to our new Year 10 students. I hope that your transition to your new school has been a smooth one.

Assessment Booklets:

All Year 10 students have now been issued with an assessment booklet, which outlines assessments for all core and elective subjects. This booklet will allow for careful planning for the RoSA. Both students and parents need to take the following into consideration:

- All assessment tasks have due dates which must be adhered to. Failure to complete tasks by the due date will result in “N” warnings being issued.
- Plan your time carefully to accommodate all tasks due and prepare for each thoroughly through research, reading, drafting and editing your work.
- All tasks must be completed as well as all coursework.
- Behaviour and attendance can also impact upon you attaining your RoSA.

Formal:

Whilst it may seem a little early, preparations have already commenced for the formal for the Year 10 class of 2014. Details are as follows:

Date: Wednesday 26th November
Venue: L’Aqua, Cockle Bay
Cost: $120 in total. An initial payment of $30 and a permission note is due by Friday 4th April to secure a place. Payments can be made in instalments up until the 13th October.
Students will receive an information package and permission note on Thursday 6th March. This information will also be uploaded to the school website.

**Exchange program:**

Any student who is interested in completing a student exchange program to fulfil a dream of travelling overseas and immersing themselves in another culture and/or language is encouraged to see Miss Whiley for more information and an application form. Rotary International is offering our students this fantastic opportunity.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me at school if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child. Please also check the school website regularly for updates regarding Year 10 activities.

**Elise Whiley**  
**Year 10 Advisor**

**From the Special Education Faculty**

Welcome back! I hope all of our students have had a very relaxing holiday and are ready to start 2014 with plenty of energy and enthusiasm. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all our new students and their families starting at GRC Peakhurst this year.

We have a few changes to our staff this year. We welcome both Ms Crammond and Mrs Johnston to our faculty. They, together with Mrs Wagener will work with our Red and Blue Support Classes Mrs Holm will continue to work in the Physical Support class.

All of our students have received a variety of information outlining requirements, plans and programs for 2014. Thank you for your promptness with these forms being completed and returned to us already. Parents are also reminded to regularly check their child’s communication book as they will often contain important messages or notes from teachers.

Also remember to write in your child’s communication book if there are changes to their pick up routine in the afternoon. Similarly if your child is on transport, please make sure that you inform the driver that you don’t require transport for that morning/afternoon.

Students in the Special Education Faculty are expected to wear correct school uniform on a daily basis. Correct uniform includes covered black leather shoes. Wearing the correct shoes is a work health safety requirement – especially when students are participating in practical subjects such as Food Technology or Design and Technology. Just a reminder for practical cooking lessons students need to bring their own tea towel, oven mitt and dish cloth. Please make sure these items are labelled. Aprons are provided.

Individual Education Plan meetings are being held later this term. Parents will receive information relating to these meetings over the coming week and are encouraged to attend. Please contact us if you need to change your appointment time.

If parents have any questions or queries, they are encouraged to contact me on 9153 9966 ext.129 or make an appointment to see me at school.

Don’t forget to check our school website. Google GRC Peakhurst and click on Special Education.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Peta Holm**  
**Head Teacher**  
**Special Education Faculty**

**Learning Support**

Our Learning and Support room (F17) has recently been refurbished. We now have a large work area where support programs can take place for individuals, or as a group. This room is equipped with 5 computers and a projector, along with a sensory, rest area for our students. We are very pleased with the result and know we have created yet another great learning environment for our students at GCR - Peakhurst.

In any one school there will be students who may experience difficulties with learning. These difficulties may vary in cause, nature, intensity and duration. At GRC Peakhurst, the Learning and Support team plays a key role in ensuring that the specific learning needs of our students experiencing difficulties in learning are met.

**Support** is available to everyone in need and we can help with issues of:

- Learning difficulties
- Physical disabilities
- Anxiety
- Injury
- Long & short term learning concerns
Dance Representatives for 2014:

GRC Dance Ensemble
Lauren Manners
Tamara Reynolds
Erica O’Brien
Emily Walsh
Hayley Chick
Amber Presland
Lauren Chappell
Cassie Crowder
Jasmin Konjarski
Keira Quain
Ashleigh Givins

GRC Dance Company
Jayme Presland
Ashly Harris
Anthea Tomaras
Lachlan Yuen
Rebecca Maltby
Emily Keogh
Yasmin Nikro
Rebecca Lai
Jaide Colman
Isabella Russell
Jasmin Handsaker

Our gifted and talented ‘Peak Ability’ students for 2014 possess an enormous amount of talent and are well into their rehearsal schedule, preparing for their first big competition in Term 2. We know all students will do us very proud.

Peak Ability 2014
Ally Clift
Selena Rowen
Shae Acevski
Alana Ethell
Georgia Dymond

Both Miss Crammond and Mrs Johnston are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Swimming Carnival

On Friday the 14th of February, GRC Peakhurst held their Hawaiian themed school swimming carnival at Revesby swimming pool.

It was an eventful day that involved competitive swimming races, love song dedications from the teachers, Hawaiian laws and running commentaries from Mr Zouroudis, a lolly guessing competition that came down to a three way tie, grass skirts, flowery leis, coconuts and pineapples!

Prizes were given out to the people who stood out in their Hawaiian costumes. Congratulations to Bianca Winter, Tallis Brown, Lauren Manners, Tristan Jarvis, Serene Nikro, Matthew Andrews, Carlotta Wolfram and James Gray for winning best dressed and to Talei Holmes for winning the lolly guessing competition.

Also congratulations and good luck to all students who competed in the swimming carnival and are soon to be representing our school at zone!

By Cassie Crowder and Olivia McClatchey

Assignment help (Available recess and lunch each day)
Organisation

We have a

- Lunch game room (Available recess and lunch each day)
- Sensory/rest room (Available recess and lunch each day)
- Support learning centre
- Homework Centre in Library, Monday and Tuesday afternoons

If you have any questions or would like to contact the Support Team to discuss the learning needs of your child please contact us on the school number or by email on;

Peta Holm - Head Teacher Support.
petaholm@det.nsw.edu.au

Jennifer Jarman - Learning and Support Teacher – LaST.
jennifer.jarman@det.nsw.edu.au

Monique Van De Pol - Learning and Support Teacher – LaST.
monique.vandepol@det.nsw.edu.au

From the PDHPE Faculty

Dance at GRC Peakhurst Campus has commenced for 2014, with promises of a very busy, yet successful and fulfilling year ahead.

Earlier this term, auditions were hosted for both our Aerobics Teams and Dance Ensembles. The quality of our students auditioning this year was second to none, proving a very arduous audition process.

This year we are excited to announce three aerobics teams, which will represent GRC Peakhurst in highly competitive competitions throughout the year. The girls are already training hard, to prepare for their first competition in May. We wish them all the very best.

Aerobics Representatives for 2014:

GRC Peakhurst – GOLD
Mariah Vergoulis
Nicoletta Liaris
Jazmin Hunt
Aqeelah Toefy
Faysal Yasmin
Mansour

GRC Peakhurst – PLATINUM
Cassie Crowder
Anne Truong
Lauren Manners
Tamara Reynolds
Lauren Chappell
Hayley Chick

GRC Peakhurst – TITANIUM
Isabella Russell
Rebecca Maltby
Emily Keogh
Jasmin Handsaker
Olivia Florance
Rebecca Lai
Yasmin Nikro

Due to the tremendous talent exhibited at our dance auditions, we have introduced both a Junior Dance Ensemble, as well as a Senior Dance Company to add to our already sterling repertoire. We are delighted to have two very talented male contemporary dancers accompany us this year.

By Cassie Crowder and Olivia McClatchey

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Aerobics Representatives for 2014:

GRC Dance Ensemble
Lauren Manners
Tamara Reynolds
Erica O’Brien
Emily Walsh
Hayley Chick
Amber Presland
Lauren Chappell
Cassie Crowder
Jasmin Konjarski
Keira Quain
Ashleigh Givins

GRC Dance Company
Jayme Presland
Ashly Harris
Anthea Tomaras
Lachlan Yuen
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By Cassie Crowder and Olivia McClatchey
From the Maths & Computing Faculty

Faculty Changes

The Mathematics Faculty has undergone some change over the past few months with Ms Felicity Chua taking 12 months maternity leave. On behalf of the entire Mathematics Faculty, I’d like to congratulate Ms Chua on the birth of her beautiful daughter and wish Ms Chua and her family the very best over the year ahead. I’d also like to warmly welcome Ms Prisca Tamang to our faculty, Ms Tamang will be replacing Ms Chua for the remainder of 2014.

Arriving Prepared for Lessons

There are a growing number of students who are starting to arrive to their Mathematics lessons unprepared (without calculators and general stationery). This heavily impacts on all aspects of the classroom environment and on the learning of all students and is contrary to two of our three core PBL values of being responsible and aiming for excellence. It negatively impacts on the student without their equipment, on other students feeling obliged to loan their equipment and on the teacher trying to teach their class with minimal disruption to the delivery of their lesson.

Stationery requirements for all subjects were sent home at the end of last year. In Mathematics, students require an exercise (grid) book, text book (if issued), a scientific calculator (fx 82AU PLUS) and general stationery (pens, pencils, ruler, eraser) for each and every Mathematics period. Students will be advised when geometry sets will be utilised.

Please ensure that your child is fully equipped for their class so as to maximise their chances of gaining the most out of each and every Mathematics lesson and to minimise the risk of missing out on understanding and applying the concepts being taught.

Homework

Homework is a key component of succeeding in Mathematics. It is vital to help students revise previous topics and to reinforce new concepts taught during lessons. The completion of homework is essential if students are going to retain the concepts taught in the long term and be able to apply existing knowledge to any new concepts being taught.

Students will generally receive Mathematics homework after each lesson. Any activity that is not completed in class is expected to be completed for homework. Additional homework, including Mathletics, may also be assigned. To gain the most out of the homework, students need to attempt all assigned questions and mark their answers to ensure they have understood the concepts for that section of work.

Any questions that students find too difficult, should be addressed with the classroom teacher during the next lesson or at recess or lunch.

Mathletics

Mathletics is an interactive online computer program which includes activities, support lessons and tests the Australian curriculum content K – 12. It also provides an excellent animated mathematics dictionary as well as basic numeracy challenges against students from all over the world.

Over the past few years, the Mathematics Faculty has been utilising Mathletics and incorporating its use into teaching, homework and assessment programs. The cost of this valuable resource is $10 per student per year. If you have not already done so this year, please arrange for your child to pay $10 at the front office as soon as possible and ensure that they show their receipt to their class teacher.

Regular use of this online tool will help students:

- Consolidate their learning during lessons.
- Revise in preparation for examinations at home.
- Receive assistance at any time, using the support button, when struggling with specific concepts.

Students who do not have access to the Internet at home may use the school library during recess and lunch or arrange a time with their class teacher to use the A7 computer lab.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is fast approaching for students in Year 7 and Year 9. This year the Numeracy component of NAPLAN will be held on Thursday 15th May 2014. Students are encouraged to practise as many NAPLAN-style questions as possible to familiarise themselves with the style of questioning and the format of the paper.

There are many different ways to access NAPLAN-style questions through varying mediums. These are outlined below:

Hardcopy: Excel / School Zone / Learning Express
Tablet Apps: Numerous – Search for ‘NAPLAN’ and ‘EXCEL’

Year 7 and Year 9 students have been / will continue to be receiving Past NAPLAN papers in Roll Call and during Mathematics lessons and are encouraged to attempt these papers under examination conditions and to see their class teacher regarding any questions they are having difficulty with.

ICAS Competitions

The following competitions will be offered to students this year.

The ICAS Computer Skills Competition will be held on Tuesday 20th May 2014.

The competition is open to all students. All IST students are expected to participate while all Web Publishing and Robotics students are encouraged to participate.

The ICAS Mathematics Competition will be held on Tuesday 12th August 2014.

The competition is open to all students. All students in 7F, 8Z, 9M1 and 10M1 are expected to participate, however, all other students are highly encouraged to participate.

Any student interested in participating in both/either the Mathematics or Computer Skills competition can pick up an information note and permission slip from their Mathematics or Computing teacher. The cost of entry is $8.00. Payment will
need to be made to the front office and permission slips are to be returned to the Mathematics Staffroom.

**Digi Ed**

Later this term, as a part of the Option Topic ‘Digital Media’, all students from Year 9 IST (Information and Software Technology) will be taking part in a Digi Ed incursion. Students will be using the stopmotion / claymation process, to storyboard, animate, edit and burn their short clip onto a DVD.

Students are excited about this incursion. More information will be provided to students in the coming weeks. Photos and animations will be published in a later edition of Peak.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns regarding matters in Mathematics or Computing classes, please don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

**Christine Keir**

*Head Teacher Mathematics and Computing*

**MUSIC NEWS**

The year has already begun in earnest with some amazing events including the visit of Andrew Oh, one of the World’s leading Saxophone players, our very own music tutors recital, the commencement of Concert and Stage Band rehearsals, PBL and Open Night performances from some of our amazingly talented students and the start of our 2014 music tutorial programme.

There are so many opportunities on the horizon over the next few months for all of our students including various performances with the Concert Band, Vocal Group, Guitar Group, Drummers Group and Year 9 and House Bands, Auditions for the 2014 Schools Spectacular, a tour to South Australia with our Stage Band and ‘Peakhurst’s Got Talent’ our annual talent show.

**IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN ONE OF OUR AMAZING PERFORMANCE GROUPS**

Joining one of the Schools Bands or Groups is really easy and it's still not too late to join. You simply need to get an application form from school (the forms are available from outside of D11) sign it and hand it in to the CAPA staffroom.

At GRC Peakhurst Campus we encourage solo performers and students to form their own bands and performance groups as well as our organised groups. Here is some key information about those groups...

- The House Band - Rehearsals On Call - With Mr Reidy
- Our premier senior rock band performed for the first time at Peakform in 2013 backing a majority of our soloists and group performers. Students are selected for this group by our music staff and are going to be involved in key performance in 2014. No Fees Involved
- Vocal Group - Tuesdays 3.00pm - 4.00pm in D15 - With Lucy Fisher

Last year some of the members of our vocal group were privileged to be involved in the Schools Spectacular and our own Peakform major concert event along with various school performances.

If you are a singer or have an interest in being a singer sign up for this group and come along on a Tuesday after School.

Fees: $20 per term or $75.00 for yearly membership

- Drummers and Percussion Group - Tuesdays Lunchtime in D11 - With Luke Herbert
- Guitar Group - Fridays Recess - With Doug Zeigenbein, Ben Adams and Andrew Robb

Guitar group is an exciting group designed for students of every level of ability from beginner to advanced. Guitar group performed at Peakform in 2013 and some exciting things are planned for 2014.

Fees: $20 per term or $75.00 for yearly membership

- GRC Concert Band - Mondays 3.45pm - 5.15pm - With Mr Reidy

Concert Band is one of the premier bands and is a part of our cross- campus college music programme. Students are admitted to the band after completing a simple audition. You can get hold of an expression of interest form at the tutors recital or from the CAPA staffroom.

Fees: $90.00 per semester (2 terms) $170 per year
- Only 1 fee is payable if you are in both the Stage Band and Concert Band

- GRC Stage Band - Wednesdays 4.00pm - 5.45pm - With Ms Pryce

Stage Band have performed both internationally and interstate and in venues such as the Sydney Opera House. Stage Band is the premier performance ensemble at Georges River College. Admission to the Band is obtained by recommendation from a tutor or by audition. Expression of interest forms are available at the tutors recital or from the CAPA staffroom at any time during the year.

Fees: $90.00 per semester (2 terms) $170.00 per year
- Only 1 fee is payable if you are in both the Stage Band and Concert Band

**UPCOMING MUSIC PERFORMANCE EVENTS**

**Concert Band @ the Riverwood Community Festival**

Saturday March 8th
**Concert Band, Year 9 Band, Vocal Group @**
From the TAS Faculty

We’d firstly like to welcome back Mrs Rosalie Gualtieri as our Head Teacher TAS and we all look forward to working with her again for 2014 and we thank Ms Peta Holm for her assistance during 2013.

As you can see the TAS Department had a very busy end to 2013. Year 9 Food Technology classes made some outstanding Ginger Bread Houses to take home for Christmas. This year we are establishing a “Hospitality Crew” to assist in the catering of school functions. The first being our Open Night on February 25th, so keep your eye out for students in their new hospitality uniforms.

The Year 10 Child Studies class left a beautifully painted room as their parting gift!

The Year 10 Child Studies students carefully designed and painted the Child Studies room to reflect the happy atmosphere within the Child Studies classes and hope that future Child Studies classes will be able to enjoy the room!

We would be grateful for any donations of spare tea towels for the Food Laboratories. If you have any queries regarding requirements for practical lessons please do not hesitate to contact the TAS Staff as we look forward to another great year!!

Mrs Michelle Seidel & Mrs Kristy Willis

Rosalie Gualtieri
Head Teacher TAS

Peer Support Report

Peer Support

During this term, the Welfare Team has planned many exciting activities for each year group. We have had our Peer Support sessions involving Yr 7 and thirty one Yr 10 Peer Support leaders. This program is considered highly valuable and rewarding for all students. The Yr 7’s are in small groups of between ten- twelve with two-three Yr 10 Peer Support leaders. The objective of this program is to foster friendships and allow the discussion of many issues that the Yr 7’s may be experiencing. It also creates a bond between the new students at the school with our senior students. Year 10’s have also gained strong leadership skills. I would like to thank the following Year 10 students for running the four one hour sessions over a four week cycle. It was a wonderful program and effectively implemented around our school values, Respect, Responsibility and Excellence.

Year 10 Peer Support Leaders 2014

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Clarence Villasista</th>
<th>17. Lachlan Beccaris</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Amelia Kalaizovski</td>
<td>18. Rebecca Lai</td>
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<td>5. Trinh Nguyen</td>
<td>21. Caitlin Burt</td>
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<td>6. Ryan Lewis</td>
<td>22. Isabella Russell</td>
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<td>7. Sean Lewis</td>
<td>23. Sean Bouza</td>
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<td>9. Mikaela Collins</td>
<td>25. Anne Truong</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Jasmine Handschey</td>
<td>27. Tiffany Li</td>
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<td>15. Tully Brown</td>
<td>31. Abbey Rivett</td>
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<td>16. James Gray</td>
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Merit System

Many students are beginning to gather their merits from working diligently, both in class and at home. Students can place their merits in the Yellow Box outside the Deputy’s office. These merits will gain the students points that will enable them to move up in our points system. We will be rewarding those...
who are on Bronze, Silver and Gold, with an excursion at the end of Term 2.

**Year Advisors**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our Year Advisors for 2014.

- Year 10 - Elise Whiley
- Year 9 - Sophie Favuzzi
- Year 8 - Harmeet Sandhu
- Year 7 - James Cooper

The Year Advisors dedicate valuable time in organising and coordinating special events for their students. The costs involved in some of these events, cover the special guest speakers or performers. We are looking forward to the upcoming events this semester and hope that your child benefits from these worthwhile productions. We look forward to working together, to build unity and harmony, within GRC Peakhurst.

If you have any concerns about your child’s progress or are planning a holiday, please notify the appropriate Year Advisor and they will support you.

**Study Skills**

On Monday 17th February, all Year 7 were involved in a special program called Study Start. This program was run in conjunction with the Pole Depot Community Centre. This workshop provided information about how to study, make studying easier and help to prepare students with the skills to succeed in High School. Each student took home a very useful booklet outlining these tips as well as other helpful material. Parents can assist us in referring to their child’s booklet for these tips.

*See flyers at the bottom of this Newsletter for information on Homework help.

**PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning)**

On Friday 21st February, the whole school celebrated the official launch of PBL during Periods 4 and 5. The afternoon was full of talks given by the Principal Neal Harries, to introduce the GRC way and the introduction of the PBL matrix given by the Deputy Principal Scott Wilson. This was broken up with a series of videos produced by students and staff, musical performances, student talks and a wonderful dance item. Next, was our first PBL lesson led by our second Deputy Principal Holly Northey. After the assembly, students were treated to a sausage sizzle, bottle of water, cake and a chupa chup. Students and staff played an exceptional role in all the lead up work, before the launch and on the day.

I would like to thank the PBL teacher’s team for their wonderful effort and leadership in the student PBL forum and for working on the videos and giving talks about PBL on the day.

Congratulations to the following students for giving wonderful talks on the launch day

1. Clarence Villasista
2. Tiffany Li
3. Anne Truong
4. Karla Dinclik
5. Josaiah Finau
6. Stanley Fakaosi
7. Kemel Reda
8. Ali Mourad

A second congratulation goes to the following students for being part of the PBL forum, either in the input they gave with completing our school matrix or working on the videos. A special mention must go to Clarence Villasista and Tiffany Li for their amazing video editing skills!

**Year 8**

1. Kemel Reda
2. Ashley Givins
3. Ali Mourad
4. Nikhil Kumar
5. Angelica Esdaile-Watts

**Year 9**

1. Karla Dinclik
2. Matthew Gibson
3. Alex Margetson
4. Amber-Jane Regan Presland
5. Rick Kamikura
6. Claudia White

**Year 10**

1. Tiffany Li
2. Stanley Fakaosi
3. Selena Green
Why did I get involved in PBL?

The reason why I joined the PBL forum was because it was an open opportunity for me to benefit not only my school, but my fellow peers, and to be a positive voice that yells out change.

I joined for similar reasons but I mainly joined so that I could give back to the school and create a positive environment. I also want to improve our student body’s mindset as a whole and making them think happily and enjoy each and every moment in our school.

With all this said, I believe that changing your perspective on school can really benefit the future students of Peakhurst. The PBL forum has thought of numerous ways to create a better and safer place for everyone and we achieved this through our many training activities.

The PBL forum learnt our core school values, respect, responsibility and excellence. We brought up problems that the forum had witnessed around the school and outside school grounds and found ways to counteract these problems.

Within each group, we formulated reasons why the behaviour of children differs and we concluded that this depended on the relationships they have with people and themselves which resulted in different learning styles.

Within the time period of a year, our hard work has been the result of many things, this assembly; the videos you are about to see and the Peakhurst GRC Matrix found in your diary and overall, change in our school environment.

Why did we make this video?

We made this video to show our GRC Peakhurst values and expectations. It is important to show expected behaviours in all settings around the school. There are so many areas we can spend our time in around the school so we wanted to show you them all in the video.

Ali: This video we made is to show and explain to you the right things to do and the expected way to act. We also used the matrix to provide us with information on how to behave in the right environment as these will differ around the school. As you will see in our acting abilities, PBL has allowed us to show our skills across many areas.

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Kemel Reda Year 8 and Ali Mourad Year 8

SRC NEWS

The SRC are looking forward to another productive year.
The following students will be formally inducted into the 2014 SRC at Formal Assembly later this term, once their blazers arrive.

**Year 8**
- Angelica Esdaile-Watts
- Ashley Harris
- Brennan Head
- Erica O’Brien
- Nathan Osborne
- Caleb Round

**Year 9**
- Samuel Attard
- Lauren Chappell
- Hayley Chick
- Adam Daizli
- Fletcher Hall
- Peter Senevellis
- Elisha Sequeira
- Peter Thomas

**Year 10**
- Lachlan Beccaris
- Mikaela Collins
- James Gray
- Tiffany Li
- Olivia McClatchey
- Keira Quain
- Abbey Rivett
- Isabella Russell
- Connor Ryan
- Blake Thomson
- Clarence Villasista

**Year 10 Vice Captains**
- Abbey Rivett
- Clarence Villasista

**Year 10 Captains**
- Olivia McClatchey
- Lachlan Beccaris

I look forward to working with these enthusiastic, committed students who are already displaying excellent leadership skills, as evident on Year 6 Open Night and a recent SRC Training Day.

Elections for Year 7 SRC members will take place following Year 7 camp later in the term.

This term is already shaping up to be a very busy one with the SRC involved in organising and fundraising for Crazy Hair Day which is on Friday March 21st. This is a day for the school to support the Leukaemia Foundation by donating a gold coin each to spend the day with wild and wacky hair. Teachers, parents and students are encouraged to donate online at website my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/grcpeakhurst or in person on Friday March 21st.

We are also proudly supporting Harmony Day on Friday March 21st with additional orange hair spray to be in the colour of orange: the official Harmony Day colour. Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. There will be an extended assembly run by the SRC on this day as well as other planned activities.

Our SRC has also been working hard behind the scenes at Year 6 Open Night and on their Leadership Training and Planning day and have received glowing reports on their diligence and responsible, friendly nature.

SRC members who are waiting on a blazer are reminded to pay their $50 to the front office as soon as possible. Year 10 SRC members are also reminded to pay their money for Year 7 Camp and bring in their medical forms.

If any students (particularly Year 7s in the lead up to their SRC elections) have any questions or suggestions for the SRC then please do not hesitate to approach myself or any of the 2014 SRC members.

**Miss Lauren Osmond**  
SRC Coordinator

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**Thankyou**

**Donation of Computer Equipment by Shell Australia**

The staff of Peakhurst Campus would like to acknowledge Shell Australia Ltd for the recent generous donation of computer equipment to our school. This equipment will provide the basis of an upgrade to one of our computer rooms and hence, provide valuable learning experiences for our students. This is not the first time that Shell Australia has provided support for our school and these generous donations have been greatly appreciated.