4 April 2014

From the Principal

New Hall

Construction of the new hall is completed and demolition of the Dome is imminent. A few issues need to be resolved regarding new furniture for the Hall before we can actually take ownership but I expect these issues to be finalised in the short term.

Year 7 Meet the Teacher Evening

Thank you to all the parents who attended our Meet the Teacher Evening. Staff and parents meeting informally at these types of events helps to strengthen communication and relationships, which in turn supports our students in their endeavours to reach their potential.

Our wonderful P&C were once again on hand to attend to the BBQ and parents were thankful for the opportunity to stay after the BBQ to attend the study skills session and hear from our Head Teachers regarding subject assessment policies, schedules and organisation tips.

Mural

Our staff and students are in the process of producing an enormous mural spanning nearly forty metres. The design and planning for this activity has taken place over a long period of time in association with a professional artist, Gabriel Somers from Somers Salt Gallery in Gosford. As it turns out, Gabriel, while not a student at this school, was local to the area as a child. The creation of this massive work has required a lot of planning and assistance from staff and students.

Following is an email we received from the artist after working with our students.

Dear Thankam and the Art Department,

I would like to thank you for the invitation to Peakhurst Campus and the warm welcome I received from your Principal, you, the art department and all your art students.

The Somers Swimmers mural project was a very ambitious task. And the work that was produced on Friday is nothing short of extraordinary, not forgetting the work behind the scenes in preparation, without which we would not have had a chance.

The diligence, collaboration and communication displayed by your students is a credit them, your art department and Georges River College.

You may recall in my opening talk to the students, I cited the need to go beyond our comfort zones in order to succeed.

The hall was cramped, crowded and very hot and everyone got on with it with the minimum of fuss. In fact this discomfort (due to unpredictable weather) provided the need for a collective rhythm a rhythm that was kept on beat by your inspiring leadership.

I went on to challenge the students to move outside of their normal artistic practice and they did just that and the result is now a historical artefact. This makes the painting all the more unique because; this is what the painting is all about; pushing through comfort zones to achieve the amazing!

Congratulations!
Gabrielle Somers

Primary Links

For a number of years, GRC Peakhurst has been running programs to support Transition from Primary School to High School.

These programs included:

Orientation

- Mandatory day in early December each year. For all Year 6 students who have enrolled at GRC Peakhurst in Year 7 for the following year.
Transition

- New student enrolments in the Special Education unit at GRC Peakhurst

Primary Links

- Offered every Thursday for the whole day during Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4 for up to 20 Year 6 students from a mix of Primary Schools.

GRIN

- Offered every Wednesday afternoon for two hours with each partner primary school making two visits.

GRC Peakhurst conducted an evaluation of all our offerings and we are now in the process of developing a more integrated approach.

Year 7 teachers from GRC Peakhurst and Year 6 teachers from our local Primary schools met in Week 10 Term 1 to draft a plan which will include proposals for curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, resources, etc. that can be implemented which will provide opportunities to facilitate transition, improve teaching and learning and enhance community relationships with our Partner Primary School students, teachers and parents.

Using the school website

Our school website has a substantial amount of information regarding all aspects of school. Notifications for excursions and activities, assessment booklets, assessment tasks and course content can all be found.

Please access the information available so you can stay informed on your child’s education.

School Funding

The P&C have been looking into Government, business and community grants to help the school with funding for projects, resources, maintenance, etc. What they have found, is that most grants only open for a short period of time and require very specific and comprehensive information in the applications. Most grants are overlooked because of the timeframe or the need to try and quickly find something which matches the grant. Funding is also available through Council, Lions Clubs, Community Clubs, etc. upon request. There are an enormous amount of sources out there which are an untapped goldmine of funding support.

The P&C has suggested that a committee be formed to evaluate our school/faculty priorities so that we have a list of priorities with associated targets, outcomes, resources etc. BEFORE any grants are announced or so we can REQUEST funding.

A number of parents and staff have started to meet to plan funding requests.

This is a great initiative presented by the P&C and is another example of the collaboration within the school community helping to improve opportunities for our students.

Neale Harries
(Rel) Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11th April</td>
<td>Last Day of Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29th April</td>
<td>Term 2 begins for Students</td>
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<td>Tuesday 13th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN - Language Conventions &amp; Writing</td>
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<td>NAPLAN - Language Conventions &amp; Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20th May</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
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<td>Monday 26th May</td>
<td>School Vaccinations Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 30th May</td>
<td>School Athletics Carnival</td>
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Year 7 Advisors Report

Congratulations Year 7 you have almost completed your first term of High School. It has been a very busy term with many activities occurring.

Meet the Teacher Night

Thank you to all the parents and guests that attended this very successful evening. It was great to see teachers and parents discussing important matters in a relaxed atmosphere. During the night the Year 7 assessment booklets were distributed. This will help parents keep track of what assignments are due and the assessment weightings. Remember a copy of this booklet can also be found on the School website as well.

Cyber Bully Incursion

Year 7 were presented with a very informative presentation addressing the key issues related to Bullying via social media. During the drama presentation bullying was very clearly identified and explained. The legal consequences of bullying were also investigated. In addition, the effect of bullying on victims was explored.

Year 7 Camp

The Great Aussie Bush Camp was an excellent experience with all students attending having a wonderful time. I was highly impressed with the efforts of all students participating in a variety of very physical activities. It was a great way for students to initiate and further develop friendships.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff members that participated in the Camp.

Thank you, Ms Stodart, Ms Whiley, Mrs Murray, Ms Hudson and Mr Miller.
Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful holiday. I look forward to seeing you return energised and ready to learn.

Kind Regards,
James Cooper
Year 7 Adviser

YEAR 8 Advisors Report

I can’t believe Term 1 is coming to an end and it went so quickly. Students have been busy with lots of activities around the School.

Assessment booklets

Last week assessment booklets for year 8 went home. I hope all the parents have received those and hopefully keeping an eye on what is coming up next. This booklet provides detailed information about the assessments students have to go through this year for year 8.

A copy of this booklet can be found on the School website as well.

Cyberia performance

The Cyberia, Cyber bullying performance is scheduled for 8th April. This is a compulsory incursion and more information about it is on our School website.

I wish everyone a wonderful and safe holiday. Hoping that students will return refreshed and ready to face new challenges in term 2.

Kind regards
Harmeet Sandhu
Year 8 Advisor

YEAR 9 Advisors Report

The term is moving at a rapid pace and the holidays are approaching. In week 10, year 9 will be involved in their YAP session, Take 2 program. Week 11 year 9 will also have their online maths exam. Students should be organising their study program for their exams, striving for excellence.

On the return, the weather will be a little cooler so make sure you organise yourselves with the correct uniform for winter.

Good luck on all your exams and assessments. Have a wonderful and safe holiday. Happy Easter.

If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to call.

Sophie Favuzzi
Year 9 Advisor

YEAR 10 Advisors Report

"The dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Work is the key to success and hard work can help you accomplish anything." Vince Lombardi.

As the Year 10 examination block looms near, it is vital that Year 10 reflect back on the goals they set at the beginning of the year in order to drive their success. Every student has the potential to shine, however, hard work and determination are the keys to personal success. Students should ensure that they find the right balance between study and enjoyment over the April holidays. Now is a good time to create a study time table if this hasn’t already been done. Students are invited to speak to me if they need assistance with this. Don’t forget that assessment notifications can be obtained from the Year 10 section of the school website.

Talk About It

On Friday 28th March Year 10 participated in an informative and engaging YAP session entitled ‘Talk About It’. The session, presented by John from St George Youth Services, discussed issues that may affect young people and encouraged students to seek support early for any potential problems they may have.

If any students would like further information about the services offered at St George Youth Services they can see me in the PDHPE staffroom at recess and lunch.

Furthermore, students are to be commended for their impeccable behaviour during the session. John spoke highly of our students and once again this displayed how great students at GRC Peakhurst really are!

Elise Whiley
Year 10 Advisor

From the Special Education Faculty

Term 1 is drawing to an end. This term has been extremely busy with meetings, school visits, vaccinations, sport, Enclave and community access. I think we are all looking forward to the school holidays!

Throughout this term students have received a variety of information outlining requirements, plans and programs for 2014. Thank you for your promptness with the majority of these forms 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.

Next term we will be involved in the Work Experience program. This program gives students an opportunity to experience a work environment, learn new skills, new rules and a different routine. Notes and information will be sent home at the beginning of next term.

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 an occupational health and safety requirement –
The workshop allowed students to learn and utilise the stopmotion / claymation process and to story board, animate, edit and burn their movie onto a DVD.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the 5 hour workshop and gained a lot of insight into creating animations using clay, Dragon Stop Motion and iMovie.

Photos of the day, as well as the animations produced, can be viewed below.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WIMwdiX3Fs
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppgzDDLv5Y8
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCddV38CD-o
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxOBDCH30zl
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lBrGhhUpKFE
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwZOGaS6gcM
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9LL-q299n4

Christine Keir
Head Teacher Mathematics and Computing

SRC News

The SRC has had a busy start to 2014. Our Year 10 SRC attended Year 7 Camp and worked tirelessly to help teachers and encourage Year 7s to participate in a huge range of activities and make new friends along the way. Our Year 8, 9 and 10 members ran events on Friday 21st March in support of Harmony Day and Crazy Hair Day. Together we raised over $1400 for the Leukaemia Foundation and have the community of GRC Peakhurst to thank for such generous support. Samuel Attard, Lachlan Beccaris and Jade Kearsey were brave enough to shave their heads in support of World’s Greatest Shave on the day: take a peek at the before and after shots: Congratulations on making such a difference in support of families dealing with blood cancers. Special thanks goes to Mrs Leeke for spending the time shaving their heads, Mrs Rydstrans, SRC members, anyone who coloured their hair, as well as all staff and students who supported the cause and showed immense school pride in cheering on our students on the day.

Our original Harmony Day assembly was washed out with the wet weather, so this was held on Wednesday 26th March instead. The SRC spoke beautifully, popped (to symbolise getting rid of) balloons with words inscribed such as ‘bullying’, ‘racism’ and ‘conflict’ and got everyone’s attention with the message ‘Harmony Day Every Day’ before releasing party poppers and distributing stickers for everyone. Well done team.
Fletcher Hall and Samuel Attard assisted me in discussing the role of the SRC and its members at GRC Peakhurst with our Year 7 cohort last week. Interested Year 7 students need to submit their applications by Tuesday 1st April in order to be considered for the 4 positions open in Year 7 for 2014.

The 2014 SRC was officially inducted at Formal Assembly on Friday 28th March. Members looked particularly sharp in their new blazers and after one false start, recited the SRC pledge beautifully.

Before the end of term, our Captains and Vice Captains will be involved in a photo shoot showcasing the new hall being finished and the rest of the SRC will be working on our major events for Term 2.

Have a great holiday, Happy Easter and we look forward to bringing you more events later in the year!

Miss Osmond

WELFARE REPORT

This term we offered a special program for selected Year 9 boys called Jump Start in conjunction with the Pole Depot Community Centre. This program ran for 5 sessions each Wednesday morning from Periods 1 and 2.

The students that participated in many activities which included:

- Time management
- Building self-esteem
- Personal goal setting
- Anti-Graffiti
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Law

Myself and the conveners of the programs Janet McEwen, Mark Hunn and Traci Sii from Youth Zone would like to thank the following students for their positive attitude and contribution to the program.

- Jamie Holbrook
- Zak Gardiner
- Yadi Holmes
- Liam Kanis Parker
- Jeremy Connelly
- Khali Abdullah
- Mohammed Afzal
- Jack McLuckie
- Karim El-Arfjaoui

Congratulations boys!

I have included a report written by Yadi and Mohammed on what they learnt during the Alcohol and Drugs talk by Paul from St. George Youth Services.

Drugs and Alcohol Talk

On the 26th March we were lucky enough to have Paul from St. George Youth Services to come into our school to present an Alcohol and other Drugs Program. During the two hour session we learnt about what drugs are illegal and legal. We also learnt about what drugs harm you (well all of them do!) We also learnt about alcohol and what affects this has on a young body. Smoking can cause long term effects such as many types of cancers as well as loss of limbs due to gangrene and many more harmful effects. We also learnt it is easy to get hooked on it.

Some useful tips are as follows:

1. If you are planning to drink at a party always have a plan B. Don’t drive your car, arrange to be picked up by a responsible person.
2. Look after your friends make sure everyone is safe and can get home safely.
3. Take a first aid course just in case
4. Be your own boss don’t be a follower
5. Think about a comeback if someone starts trying to encourage you to drink or take drugs and you don’t want to.

We would like to thank Paul for coming into our school and talking to us about this topic.
Just to finish off this report we will leave you with a quote by Paul.

“The choices you make note the chances you take determine your destiny”

By Mohammed Afzal and Yadi Holmes Year 9

Study Skills

On Monday 24th and Monday 31st of March, all Year 10 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 Year 10. 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.

I will also add to Peak this month two very useful worksheets from the Pole Depot that students in all years can use to organise themselves.

1. After School Activities – Homework Planner
2. Assignment Chart

I suggest each student prints these sheets out and place them up in their study area to help them. I would like to thank both Mark Hunn and Janett McEwen once again for running these worthwhile sessions. I would also like to thank the whole of Year 10 for their attention and engagement on these days.

I will also include some flyers for more information about how the Pole Depot can assist your child.

HOMEWORK CENTRE

Just a reminder that at school we have a homework centre that runs each Monday and Tuesday afternoon during the school term in the school library for interested students to complete homework and assessment tasks. The homework centre is supervised by teachers who will be available to assist students to complete these tasks. Students will be provided with light refreshments at the beginning of the session.

Students who attend on Monday and/or Tuesday afternoons from 3:00pm will be required to bring their homework and/or copies of assignments to complete. Students will be required to remain within the library until 4.15pm unless a note is received indicating they can leave early or they are collected by their parents.

Michelle Walton
HT Student Welfare