6 June 2014

From the Principal

Welcome to the June issue of the Georges River College Peakhurst Campus newsletter. I am very pleased to bring you this month’s report as Mr Harries is on Long Service Leave for the remainder of the term.

As reported in previous newsletters, Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) and the GRC Way were launched in February this year. The GRC Way outlines the values on which Georges River College is based and includes Respect, Responsibility and Aiming for Excellence. Our values have been embedded into the day-to-day running of the school and staff have explicitly taught lessons that outline how students can demonstrate Respect and Responsibility within our canteen, corridors and classrooms. A matrix of expected behaviours can be found in the student diary and are displayed in each classroom and around the school. Students are encouraged and rewarded for demonstrating the values that we promote within the school. The introduction of the GRC Way and Positive Behaviour for Learning have had a very positive impact on the behaviour of all students within our school and on general school culture. I would encourage all parents to talk to their children about the values and expectations of our school and about the lessons that we will continue to teach throughout the year.

2014 has been identified as the Year of Excellence at Peakhurst Campus and as a result we have introduced a number of new initiatives to ensure all students can work toward their personal best, their individual excellence. Study skills have been undertaken by all students and all year groups have been provided with detailed information on assessment and homework expectations. This year NAPLAN was conducted in class groups to help students focus and work to their personal best. The Homework Centre continues to operate each Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 3:00pm to 4:15pm with the help of staff and the P&C who provide afternoon tea at no cost to students. Students are reminded and encouraged to achieve excellence in all assessments and to always work to their personal best.

Second term is a very busy term for both staff and students as assessments are finalised and reports written. Even during this busy time, staff provide countless opportunities for students to demonstrate their individual talents and strengths through numerous extracurricular activities that are provided in our school. To highlight the opportunities that students have by attending Peakhurst Campus, I would like to outline the many and varied opportunities that were available to students last week;

14 and 16 year boys competed in the Regional Futsal Competition. The 14 years team finished second in their pool being narrowly defeated by Endeavour Sports High who progress to the State Competition. The 16 years team finished third in their pool with Woolooware High progressing to the State Competition.

Our Senior Debating team were narrowly defeated by Newtown Performing Arts High School debating the topic ‘That we should ban betting on all football codes in Australia’. As Peakhurst Campus defeated Newtown Performing Arts in the first round a third debate has been organised.

Mr Cooper took a group of Year 10 students to Yamaha to look through their facilities and discuss future employment opportunities that are available through this company.

Year 9 and 10 girls attended a talk by Nina Funnell who discussed positive relationships.

70 students attended the Zone Cross Country Carnival and represented our school with pride. 15 students will progress to the Regional level. A special mention must be made to Eden Holmes, Caleb Round and Lauren Chappell who were placed first in their age group and to Talei Holmes and Angus Shaw who were placed second in their prospective age groups. Congratulations to all students who participated at the zone level and good luck to our regional competitors.

The school welcomed parents and guests to our Year 7 Performing Arts, Lion King presentation and lunch on Friday. The students acted, danced and sang their way through the performance. Well done Year 7 and the Creative and Performing Arts staff for such an enjoyable afternoon. Thank you also to the TAS department and a number of parents for providing lunch for the students, parents and guests. The whole school was treated to Gelato and a sausage sizzle by the SRC and Poly Club to raise funds for student initiatives in the school.
The weekend saw Peakhurst Campus shine at the Sutherland Entertainment Centre. We participated in two competitions; Dance Star and the Schoolaerobics Championships.

On Saturday, our Primary Theatrical Lyrical group entitled ‘Precious Cargo’ gave an energetic performance which put them in first place. Our Dance Company’s contemporary routine wowed the judges which resulted in them placing not only first, but gaining the highest score of any section for Saturday. The Dance Ensemble team gave an outstanding performance for their Jazz/Broadway session which placed third. All three teams have qualified for the State Finals.

On Sunday, the Gold aerobics team had their debut, appearing for the first time on stage, in front of judges. Our Platinum team placed second, with only a 0.5 score difference to take first, and finally our Titanium team also placed second. Once again, GRC Peakhurst Campus dominated the competition and all three teams qualified for State Finals which will be held in 2 weeks time.

All students that represented their school last week demonstrated the values of respect responsibility and excellence and the school is very proud of their achievements.

I look forward to working with you throughout the term and welcome you to attend the P&C Meeting on Tuesday 10th June at 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom.

**Holly Northey**  
Relieving Principal

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Year 7 Advisors Report**

Congratulations to all Year 7 students Aiming for Excellence during their recent NAPLAN testing. All students used their time wisely during this exam period to ensure they completed all aspects of each test to the very best of their ability. Well done Year 7.

Congratulations to all Year 7 students who performed in the Lion King extravaganza. It was wonderful to see the large number of parents and grandparents who joined with their children to enjoy this very special Year 7 initiative. Thank you to the CAPA staff for providing this exceptional opportunity to make the Year 7 Performing Arts program come to life.

Students in Flinders recently enthusiastically participated in day one of a three day robotics program. They are looking forward to learning new skills as they progress through this extra curricula activity.

*James Cooper*  
Year 7 Advisor

**YEAR 8 Advisors Report**

Congratulations to Year 8 for embracing the school values of Respect, Responsibility and Aiming for Excellence.

Half yearly assessments have now been completed and reporting is now being undertaken.

Parents are reminded that the Year 8 Parent/Teacher evening will be held on Tuesday 24th June between 4 – 8 p.m. in the new school hall. Procedures for booking Parent/Teacher interviews will be distributed to students in the very near future. This is an important time for parents to discuss their child’s progress and how we can work together to improve the learning outcomes for their child in the future.

*Harmeet Sandhu*  
Year 8 Advisor

**YEAR 9 Advisors Report**

It’s term 2 and already so much has happened.

During week 3, all the year 9 students sat for their NAPLAN testing.

On Tuesday 20th May, year 9 and 10 girls were involved in a presentation about how to engage in positive relationships (read more in year 10 report and see image).

On Monday the 26th May, year 9 boys had their follow up vaccinations.

Year 9 students are currently sitting their half yearly exams in the new hall. It’s great to see all students taking their exams seriously, arriving on time and in appropriate uniform. Well done to all students.

Congratulations to all Year 9 students who participated in the Athletics Carnival at the Ridge.
Year 9 students should have a busy diary with all of the events, assessments and exams that are being held. Could parents please check that students are using their diaries effectively.

If you have any concerns about any issues, please do not hesitate to call or write a letter.

Mrs Sophia Favuzzi
Year 9 Advisor

YEAR 10 Advisors Report

Nina Funnell Talk

On Tuesday 20th May, well known Sydney Morning Herald journalist and TV presenter Nina Funnell visited our Year 9 and 10 female students to speak about how to engage in positive relationships. Her talk was well received and we thank Nina, as well as Angus from Hurstville Council for presenting to our students.

Formal

How are those instalments coming along? Don’t forget that students can contribute a small amount at the front office each week to ease the financial strain.

Miss Elise Whiley
Year 10 Advisor

From the Special Education Faculty

4 weeks down and 5 to go!

Next Friday we will be participating in the Athletics carnival. Notes have been sent home with a few reminders. Please make sure all clothing is labeled. Don’t forget to wear your favourite team colours!!!! Photos will be posted on our web page.

This term for sport on Friday we have been bowling at Ten Pin Bowling at Southgate Sylvania. The energy and enthusiasm displayed whilst bowling has been fantastic and there have been some very impressive scores achieved!

This semester Eva has been attending work at Coles, Hurstville. I’ve heard she is to be commended for both her work ethic and exemplary behaviour. Congratulations Eva!! We are so proud of you!

Term 3 will see us participating in Work Experience at Arncliffe. This is offered to students in Years 9 and 10. Notes will be sent home this week.

Peakform is fast approaching… 19th August. Last year we had a fabulous time dancing on stage at Revesby Workers Club! We want to do it again. Expressions of interest will be sent home next week as we need to start getting organised. We really would like everyone to participate.

The Special Education Faculty has organized a 3 day camp for our students between 5-7th November (Term 4). The purpose of the camp is to develop our student’s independent living skills as well as provide a range of exciting activities and experiences to develop self-confidence and self-esteem.

*Save-The- Date*

Peakform 19th August
Camp – 5-7th November
Formal- 26th November

Have a great term!

Peta Holm
Rel. Head Teacher
Special Education Faculty

From the TAS Faculty

Socceroos!

Congratulations Georges River College Peakhurst Campus on being selected to participate in the Socceroos vs. South Africa March Past at ANZ Stadium!

Students from the Year 7, 8 and 9 Gifted and Talented classes and Year 9 PASS were able to experience life behind the scenes of a major event and took part in a march across the pitch with other schools from NSW. We then donned our green and gold and took to the stands to cheer on Australia in their last game prior to embarking on their World Cup campaign in Brazil! Whilst the score wasn’t what we were hoping for, all students embraced the atmosphere of live sport and had a fun night out!

Congratulations to the 35 students who represented our school with pride and excellence. You were a credit to yourself and your families. Well done! Special thanks to Mr Haydar, Miss Hudson and Miss Osmond who assisted me on the night.

R Gualtieri
HT TAS
Elise Whiley
PDHPE Teacher

Dance

On Saturday the 24th and Sunday the 25th of May, six teams from GRC Peakhurst Campus competed at the Preliminary Finals of the Dance Star and School aerobics Competition. The students went up against many schools and dance companies from around the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong regions.

All teams were successful in making it through to the State finals to be held on the 14th and 15th of June. This is an amazing feat as the other schools were of a high standard and the competition was tough.

A notable accomplishment from the weekend was our Dance Company’s lyrical contemporary routine which received the highest score of the whole day.

A special mention to our reserve student in the Gold aerobics team who stepped in at the last minute to boost our score. Without her we wouldn’t have been able to receive the score that has resulted in their entry to State Finals. She acted professionally in an extremely pressured environment, with the judges commenting on how lovely she presented herself on stage.

The chocolate fundraising in term one has resulted in the replacement of the sound system in the Dance room in addition to new training singlets for the aerobics teams. Well done on all of your hard work, especially those students who are not a part of Dance but who volunteered to sell the chocolates anyway.

Our boys hip hop crew is about to commence with our first training session to be held on Tuesday 3rd June. We look forward to seeing the boys engage and participate in the program and to watch the group grow. They will be working towards their first performance for Peakform, to be held later on in the year.

Congratulations to all of our Dance program students who have been working exceptionally hard. Your efforts have certainly paid off, well done.

M.Crammond
Dance Coordinator

SRC News

Term 2 has been shaping up to be a busy term with the SRC hosting events and being guides around the school in welcoming debating teams, other schools and showing parents around in showing off our new hall.

The SRC also held Gelato Day and a Multicultural Mufti Day on Friday 23rd May. We raised over $400 and indulged in many delicious treats on the day thanks to Pure Gelato and Poly Club hosting a BBQ as well.

Our Year 7 members will be inducted into the SRC in week 6 on Friday 6th June in the new hall.

Our Year 10 girls are working on their ‘Women In Leadership’ applications due at the end of June, run by the Zonta group. Also: Leadership Camp is fast approaching (September 10th-12th, 2014). I will have the Camp package ready shortly so start saving up for this incredibly exciting and rewarding experience. Students are encouraged to see me if they are interested in the opportunities that Leadership Camp can afford them, as we invite up to 30 additional students from GRC Peakhurst to accompany the SRC.

I will be on leave from Monday 2nd June until Wednesday 23rd July, so please contact Ms Dunstan in the English staffroom for any SRC suggestions in my absence.

Have a great term!

Lauren Osmond
SRC Coordinator

WELFARE REPORT

Rewards Morning Tea

The next Rewards Morning Tea will be held on Monday 16th June at recess in the Library. This time we would like to congratulate all the ‘Crews’ that is –Chair, Stage, Sound, Lighting, Technical, Quad and Media. These students are hardworking members of the school community that see to us having fantastic formal Assemblies, Year Meetings and performances all year round.

Congratulations to these students for wonderful efforts and I look forward to formally rewarding you with wonderful delights and a Principals certificate!

Kingpin Bowling

Just a reminder that all places have been filled for the rewards excursion to Kingpin Bowling Darling Harbour on Friday 20th June. I will be meeting with the 60 students next week to arrange your teams for Laser Skirmish and Ten Pin Bowling.

A reminder to students who are going to assemble at 9am on Friday 20th June at Mortdale station, at the bottom of the stairs near the bus shelters for roll call. Students will return and be dismissed from Mortdale Station at 3pm. I look forward to a wonderful day of activities!

Just a reminder for any students who missed out on this Rewards Excursion to keep handing in your merits on a regular basis so your point levels go up and you can be eligible for the next Rewards excursion in Term 4.
Welfare Notice Board

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind students to regularly check the noticeboards outside the Student Welfare Office (A3) for any upcoming welfare initiatives, such as YAP (Year Adviser Program) Days, year assemblies, examination timetables and other information specific to their year group. Please regularly check the notice board, so that you do not miss out on any important information. These notices are also posted on the school website under the Student Information link, so it is also worthwhile to check the website regularly too.

Please remember that if there is a welfare concern or issue that needs to be addressed, please don’t hesitate to contact the relevant year adviser, or contact me directly, if it is something urgent on 91539966.

Michelle Walton  
Head Teacher Student Welfare

Reforms to P&C Federation

The NSW Parliament has introduced legislation to reform the NSW Federation of Parent and Citizens Associations, which has suspended operation pending Supreme Court action. While these reforms will not affect the day-to-day operation of individual school P&Cs, they will introduce a new executive structure which will ensure the Federation operates as a modern and representative body on behalf of school P&C Associations.

Each school’s P&C Association will be asked to vote for councillors and delegates who will represent their electorate at the Federation’s Annual General Meeting and councillors who will serve on the Federation’s Board of Management. More information will be available on the Department’s website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/involvement.php.

Opportunities for Aboriginal Students to 'Speak up and Debate'

Aboriginal students attending GRC Peakhurst will again this year have the opportunity to participate in ‘Speak-Up’ a Y7 – 8 public speaking program and ‘The Great Debate’ a debating program for students in years 9 and 10.

The Speak-Up! Forum will be held at Parliament House on Monday 21st July and our students will attend a number of training sessions to develop their skills in impromptu speaking, public speaking, debating and positive feedback prior to this date.

In 2013 our school was represented by Violet Craven Miller who was the overall winner of the competition.

The Great Debate for Years 9 and 10 will take place on Monday 1st September at Parliament House and a number of training days will also be held leading up to this event. Students will work in teams to prepare information on a range of different contemporary themes, related to, but not exclusively, Aboriginal current affairs and civic issues in the 7 – 12 syllabi. At least one of the themes will correlate with the theme of NAIDOC Week in 2014: Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond.

We wish our students every success in this wonderful opportunity.

Michelle Seinor  
Aboriginal Education Coordinator