6 March 2015

From the Principal

Welcome to the start of the 2015 academic year at GRC Peakhurst Campus. This year has commenced full of promise and excitement with the development of our new 2015 – 2017 school management plan and the full implementation of the Australian Curriculum in years 7 – 10 for English, Mathematics, Science and History.

The school welcomes the appointment of three new teachers to our staff. The new members of our staff are: Julia Picone in Special Education, Steve Smith in Science and Joshua Holloway in Music. These newly appointed teachers come to our school with a wealth of educational experiences that will enrich the learning experiences of our students.

We are currently in the final phases of completing our 2015 – 2017 School Management Plan. After extensive consultation with all key stakeholders within the school learning community, we are ready to unveil our simple and streamlined School Plan that will guide us into the future. This document will focus on three strategic directions that will further empower our students, staff and community partners. Our students will learn to become lifelong learners and develop skill sets to become global and productive 21st Century citizens. Our staff will enhance their capacity to professionally develop best learning practices within a collaborative learning community. Also, our community partnerships will provide real - life learning links and connections for our students. The primary focus will continue to be on responding to the wellbeing and individual learning needs of our students.

The introduction of the Australian Curriculum in years 7 – 10 for English, Mathematics, Science and History has resulted in a review and development of teaching programs, learning activities and assessment measures designed to promote 21st Century skills and knowledge for the contemporary workplace. These new programs are designed to cater for learning in a world where knowledge itself is constantly growing and evolving. Our students will need to develop knowledge, skill sets, behaviours and dispositions, or general capabilities, which apply across the curriculum and assist them to become lifelong learners able to live and work successfully in the diverse world of the 21st Century. The general capabilities forming the foundation of these new teaching programs are: literacy, numeracy, information & communication technology capabilities, critical & creative thinking skills, personal & social capability, ethical behaviour and intercultural understanding. Furthermore, each syllabus document will contain, where applicable, learning opportunities that address relevant and contemporary issues in the lives of our students. These cross – curriculum priorities are: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, sustainability, civics & citizenship, difference & diversity, work & enterprise.

Our school Professional Learning days, in December 2014 & January 2015, were very productive as teachers engaged in the sharing of ideas, best teaching practices and educational philosophies in productive pedagogies. Themes covered during these days included: strategic directions for the school plan, school vision and purpose, implementation of specific teaching strategies to enhance student learning, data analysis and the use of data to validate learning goals, Positive Behaviour Learning for students, mandatory Anaphylaxis training and Child Protection updates. These interactive School Development Days are very valuable opportunities for staff to collectively align individual and faculty practices to our school plans and DEC policies.

We are all very excited and looking forward to a very productive, uplifting and rewarding 2015 as we all – school staff, students, parents & caregivers - continue to work together with a unified vision and the sharing of common goals so that our students can achieve their potential. Always remember – it is not all about being the best but giving your best!

Mr Terry Vallis
Principal

From the Deputies

Welcome to 2015. In particular, we would like to welcome the new parents to our school, especially our new Yr. 7 parents. We trust that over the next four years, we can develop a positive relationship with you to ensure the best learning outcomes for your child are achieved.

On Tuesday 10th March, we will be holding the Year 7 Meet the Teacher afternoon/evening from 5-7pm. This will be held outside the school hall and will include a sausage sizzle, informal discussion with staff followed by an information session in the hall where Head Teachers will discuss assessment and homework expectations. We hope that you take this opportunity to meet with your child’s teachers and gain valuable insight into how we will assist your child to achieve their personal best.

All year groups have now been provided with their 2015 Assessment Guide. This guide contains important and valuable information on assessment procedures and outlines specific assessment tasks for each subject area. Parents are requested to read the additional assessment procedures leaflet, sign and return it to your child’s year adviser as soon as possible. The assessment guides are also available on the school website.
This term, GRC Peakhurst will be participating in the ‘Tell Them From Me’ student survey. The aim of this survey is to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. Students will complete this confidential survey between now and the end of the term. A consent form about the survey was sent home to parents in mid February.

By sending your child to Georges River College Peakhurst Campus, you would be aware that we are a uniform school. It is the student’s responsibility to wear their full uniform to school each day. We encourage parents to ensure their child / children comply with our uniform policy. Students who take pride in their uniform also show pride in their school.

Positive Behaviour for Learning is an integral part of Georges River College Peakhurst Campus. Through consultation with staff, parents, students and the wider community, a set of values has been developed and agreed upon that underpin the day to day operations of our school. We value, Respect, Responsibility and Excellence at GRC Peakhurst. We encourage parents to discuss these values with their children. Specific information regarding our values and expectations can be found in student diaries and on the school website.

We look forward to working with you and your children this year and invite you to contact the Year Advisor or the Deputy Principals if you have any concerns.

Ms H Northey & Mr S Wilson

**Year 7 Advisors Report**

Welcome to all our new Year 7 students and their families. The transition from Primary School to High School is an exciting, yet challenging experience; however, all students are settling in nicely and finding their feet here at Peakhurst.

**Meet the Teacher BBQ**

GRC Peakhurst Campus staff are looking forward to meeting the families of Year 7 students at our annual Year 7 Meet the Teacher BBQ. The BBQ will be held on **Tuesday 10th March from 5-7pm**. It is an informal afternoon that will provide you with an opportunity to meet other Year 7 families and build a support network, which will continue through your child’s years at GRC Peakhurst Campus. Following the BBQ, there will be an information session in the hall, where Head Teachers will present key assessment information.

All students were issued with a note regarding this evening. Please ensure your child has returned their slip to the PDHPE staffroom for catering purposes.

**Verbal Combat**

Verbal Combat, a play about cyberbullying and harassment, will be visiting our school on **Tuesday 24th March**. Please ensure your child has returned their note to the PDHPE staffroom and $6.50 to the front office no later than Friday 6th March.

**School App**

I strongly encourage all Year 7 families to download the school app. This is an excellent tool to keep you informed about upcoming events and assessment tasks. Details on how to download the app have been included in this edition of Peak.

**School Diary**

All students have been issued with a school diary. The purpose of this diary is to aid student’s organisational skills. They are expected to write all homework and assessment reminders in their diary. It can also be used as a communication tool between parents and teachers. Please ensure you check your child’s diary regularly to ensure they are staying on top of their homework and assessment tasks.

**Year 7 Camp**

Our happy campers have just returned from Year 7 Orientation Camp with new friendships formed and notably, an increase in self-confidence! Look out for our camp report and some great photos in the next edition of Peak!

**Elise Whiley**
**Year 7 Adviser**

**Year 8 Advisors Report**

It has been a very productive and busy start to Term 1. I am very pleased with the excellent effort and attendance Year 8 has demonstrated. Keep up the good work.

**Mini Elective**

Overall I have had great feedback from students enjoying their chosen electives. I have visited some elective classes and I am very impressed with the student’s attitudes and the work being completed.

**Year 8 Welfare**

This term all of year 8 were involved in a special welfare related lesson. Starr Productions will be visited on Tuesday 3rd of March to present a play. The theme of the Play was cyber bullying. Students were informed of the dangers and legalities of bullying via social media and electronic devices.

**James Cooper**
**Year 8 Advisor**

**Year 9 Advisors Report**

Welcome to 2015 Term 1. We are half way through the term already! The time is flying as we are all getting through so much work. The students are all settled in their new classes for this year and are working to the best of their ability.
Year 9 and 10 are the building years in the life of our students and we will be guiding them throughout this year yet again to help them achieve their best both academically and emotionally.

**YAP DAYS 9th and 10th February 2015 (TAKE-2 program)**

A three hour session run by a specialist group of people to help students learn about respectful relationships and wellbeing was attended by all year 9 students. It was a successful day and many students gave positive feedback about the program.

**Ms H Sandhu**  
**Yr. 9 Advisor**

**Year 9 Visual Arts Report**

On Thursday 4th of December 2014 the Year 9 Visual Arts Elective class enjoyed creating and displaying their group tasks based on the theme Installation and Site Specific Art. Students during term 4 had to work in groups of 3 or 4 and come up with a proposal which was submitted to the class as part of their assessment before the final work was exhibited. This class was heavenly influenced by artist Andy Goldsworthy and I would like to congratulate the following now Year 10 students for their commitment and dedication to the outdoors project. Showing respect and responsibility and aiming for excellence always.

Congratulations to:-

1. Maddison Bladen  
2. Kimberley Chignell  
3. Caleb Fenech  
4. Lisa Fleming-Conlon  
5. Annabelle Hamilton  
6. Alyssa Hill  
7. Belinda Macaluso  
8. Tiana McLennan  
9. Jack McLuckie  
10. Hasan Mourtada  
11. Riley O’Connor  
12. Jayden Senior  
13. Angus Shaw  
14. Adeen Sowinski  
15. Jack Want  
16. Siddha Xian

**Ms Walton**

**Year 10 Advisors Report**

Welcome back for our final year at GRC Peakhurst High. We are already in week 6 and so much has been covered.

Congratulations to our first House Captains at GRC Peakhurst Campus.

**McGrath** – Elisha Fakaosi, Alicia Spinola, Tyson Martin and Jeremy Connelly.

A special thanks to Witeriana Koopu for also being a great leader on the day of the carnival for McGrath.


A special thanks to Zach Jneidi for also being a great leader on the day of the carnival for Beachley.

**Freeman** – Belinda Macaluso, Amber Jane Regan Presland, Craig Emmerson and Brandon Marcal.

**Goodes** – Talei Holmes, Elise Maynard, Sebastian Pentespitis and Jack Brown.

A special thanks to Aidan Sillato for also being a great leader on the day of the carnival for Goodes.

**Congratulations to the Year 10 SRC 2015**

Layla Abrahams-Patel  
Samuel Attard  
James Burt  
Lauren Chappell  
Hayley Chick  
Adam Daizli  
Fletcher Hall  
Serene Nikro  
Peter Senavellis  
Elisha Sequeira

**Vice Captains**

Lauren Chappell  
Adam Daizli

**Captains**

Samuel Attard  
Hayley Chick

**Formal**

Year 10 was also given their end of year formal note. This is another big event to celebrate the completion of year 10. The formal is being organised by me on behalf of the school and it would be great to see all the year 10 students attend this occasion. Formal notes and a deposit need to be in by Thursday 2nd April 2015.

**RoSA**

Mr Vallis and Mrs Northey spoke in great depth to the students regarding their RoSA and what the requirements are. By now all parents and Carers should have read and signed the yellow form and have your child return it to Mrs Favuzzi.

**Attendance**

It is imperative that your child attends school and is on time. Please make sure that your child has a note signed and brought back to school on the return of their absence.
Time Organisation

Students need to put a study timetable together and plan carefully when assessments are due. It has come to my attention from students the pressures they may be feeling. Please support and help your child, if you can, to organise some sort of study timetable. Ask them to speak to me or any other teacher for some help if needed.

Year 10 I wish you all a successful year. Use your time wisely and effectively. If you need help or support with anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sophia Favuzzi
Year 10 Advisor

From the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

Music

Exciting Plans in store for our students in 2015

There are just too many amazing events and activities to talk about in one Peak Article. From Performance Tours for our students, further adventures to the recording studio, auditions for Schools Spectacular and excursions and incursions that are planned to bring our music students to another level both academically and practically. Keep your eyes and ears on the next few editions of PEAK and our School Website for all the details and information about how your child can be involved in all these great experiences.

We would also like to take the time to welcome Mr Holloway to our Music Staff. Mr Holloway is a talented and accomplished teacher and musician and has already made a great impact here at GRC Peakhurst.

Elective Music classes have hit the ground running with so many amazingly talented students joining from years 8 to 10. We are really looking forward to seeing every student reach their full potential.

Recording Studio Excursions in December 2014

In November and December last year each of our Elective Music Classes engaged in a unit of work on Songwriting. Each student was challenged to be a part of a songwriting competition for their class. The winner of each class competition was then able to see their song recorded in a professional recording studio. The whole class joined in the recording process and I must say the results were amazing!

The tracks from each of the recording sessions will be available for download very soon……

Music Tutoring @ Peakhurst

This term started with a fantastic evening where students and parents were able to meet our music tutors. A substantial number of students are now booked in to have music lessons every week. Everything from vocals to drums to violin just to name a few options. It’s never too late to join and we are always thrilled to see new students finding their potential as a vocalist or instrumentalist. We have two brand new spaces for our tutoring program with our Piano/Vocal Studio and Drum Studio set up and ready to go!

‘Talent in the House’

Over the past few years we have held a talent competition here at Peakhurst. This year we have decided to do this a little differently and will be basing the competition around our new house system. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details about this fresh new talent comp.

The GRC Band Program

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Georges River College is a four campus school of close to 3000 students and 250 teaching staff. The school focuses on three values, Respect Responsibility and Excellence. To achieve these values for all students we encourage opportunities in all the creative and performing arts. The students at GRC come together to perform in either the College Concert Band under the direction of the acclaimed Mr David Reidy or in the GRC College Stage Band under the skilful direction of Mrs Angela Pryce.

These conductors ensure fantastic opportunities for students to perform, develop and refine their skills and showcase their talents. I have been proud of their successes, they were invited to represent the Department of Education in China, they have performed at the Sydney Town Hall, The Opera House and Angel Place. They have competed in Adelaide and toured to Canberra and the North Coast, winning many awards and gaining valuable experience.
I welcome you and your child to our fantastic endeavours and encourage you to support the band by getting involved.

*Ms Carol Spittles*  
*GRC College Principal.*

**How to Join the Band Program**

**Step 1**  
Talk to your music teacher and ask them for the expression of interest form. Fill it out and return it to the teacher at your campus.

OR

Simply come to one of our rehearsals.

**Rehearsal Details**  
Concert Band Rehearses @ The GRC Peakhurst  
Campus Terms 1 and 2  
Address: Cnr Rona and Isaac Street, Peakhurst  
Day: Mondays  
Time: 3.30pm - 5.00pm  
Conductor: Mr David Reidy

Stage Band Rehearses @ The GRC Oatley Senior Campus  
Day: Wednesdays  
Time: 4.00pm - 5.45pm  
Address: Cnr Oatley Ave and Hurstville Rd, Oatley  
Conductor: Mrs Angela Pryce

**Step 2**  
Once you meet the band conductor at the rehearsal they will arrange a time with you to listen to you play individually. It is a good idea to prepare a short piece to play for this purpose.

The Band Conductor will then invite you to continue coming to band rehearsals. When they feel you are ready to play in performances with the band they will let you know.

**Sign the Band Permission Form and Contract and Pay your band fees.**

The Band Contract and Permission note provide permission for your child to be involved in all of our local performances, rehearsals and school events. Interstate and overseas trips will require an additional permission note. The contract is an acknowledgement that each student will be committed to every rehearsal, being punctual and being available for every performance.

You must return the permission slip to the relevant Band Conductor.

Concert Band: Mr David Reidy  
Stage Band: Mrs Angela Pryce

**Join the 'Parents Management Team'*

Every parent whose child is involved in one of our bands is eligible to join our Parents Management Team. This team is led by Tracey Dillon. Please email Mr Reidy at the School for more information about how you can be involved as a parent.

david.reidy@det.nsw.edu.au

**Rehearsals**

Rehearsals are held every week of term. The only exception will be at the start of the year. Rehearsals are designed to be fun and assist us to make improvements to our playing. On some occasions the band will be split up into sections, with a tutor, to learn specific sections of the songs being played. We are also planning some Rehearsal Days for the Concert Band.

**Concerts, Tours and Performances**

Both the Stage and Concert Bands perform at a variety of functions across our College, for Community Events and Groups as well as competitions, tours to other cities and even overseas.

Our Bands have performed at prestigious events, by invitation, in places such as the Sydney Opera House.

**Fees**

Band fees are very reasonable and can be paid either up-front or in smaller amounts across the year. Fees are available on application.

**What if I don’t have an instrument?**

There are a variety instruments available to hire across the college campuses. You pay a yearly fee to rent the instrument from school and should consider being involved in your campus music tutorial program.

From Saxophones to Violins, Clarinets, French Horns and more. Simply ask your music teacher for an instrument rental form. It should be noted that we don’t hire guitars or keyboards or any of our other classroom instruments.

Instrument hire can be arranged at your own campus. If your campus does not have an instrument available then one will be sought from one of the other campuses.

**From the English Faculty**

The teachers on the English faculty include: Ms L. Osmond, Mr P. Fisher, Ms K. Eleos, Mrs A. Talevski, Ms K. Nguyen (EAL/D) and Mr N. Zouroudis.

Teachers responsible for co-ordinating the English courses for Years 7 to 10 include:

- Year 7 English - Ms L. Osmond  
- Year 8 English - Ms K. Eleos  
- Year 9 English - Mr P. Fisher  
- Year 10 English - Mrs A. Talevski  
- EAL/D - Ms K. Nguyen (EAL/D - English as an Additional Language or Dialect)  
- Head Teacher - Mr N. Zouroudis

The English faculty works very closely with Ms K. Nguyen who is the school’s EAL/D (ESL) teacher. Ms K. Nguyen is an experienced EAL/D teacher who works closely with the ESL and international students. She works collaboratively in a team teaching environment as well providing assistance in an individual and small group environment.

The various members of the English staff offer a diverse range of experience as well as immense enthusiasm to their roles as English teachers. Mr P. Fisher is a targeted graduate who
taught at Menai High School before his appointment at GRC Peakhurst. Ms L. Osmond has taught at GRC Oatley Campus as well as GRC Peakhurst Campus. Mrs Talevski, Ms Eleos and Mr N. Zouroudis bring a wealth of experience to the faculty having taught Years 7 to 12 at their previous schools, including marking of the School Certificate and HSC English.

The faculty offers Debating and Public Speaking as extra-curricular activities. The teachers responsible for selecting, training and managing these teams are Ms L. Osmond and Mr P. Fisher. In recent years, the school has achieved great success in debating, highlighted by the success of our senior team which made the state quarter finals for the Premier’s Debating Challenge in 2013.

The staff prides itself on offering a differentiated curriculum which meets the needs of the diverse students in the school. In Year 7, there is a renewed focus on text types, grammar and punctuation as well as extensive reading within the course work and through the Home Reading and Homework programs. Whilst in Year 10, the focus is on completing Stage 5 work but also on preparing students for Year 11 and 12 course work.

If parents or guardians have any questions regarding their child’s progress in English, they should contact the school and speak to their child’s English teacher.

From the HSIE Faculty

The HSIE (Human Society and Its Environment) Faculty consists of a dedicated and innovative teaching staff. They pride themselves on their commitment to excellence and strive to further their students to achieve the best of their ability. In addition to the relevant subject content, the HSIE Faculty focuses on developing student’s literacy, numeracy, technology and research skills. The wide range of experiences run by the HSIE faculty supports students to develop into successful 21st century global citizens.

The teachers on the H.S.I.E faculty includes: Ms H. Diamond (Head Teacher), Ms M. Hamilton, Mr M. Harris, Ms R. Peridis, Mr A Sarandos and Ms A. Watts.

Teachers responsible for co-ordinating the H.S.I.E courses for Year 7 to 10 include:

- Year 7 History/Geography- Ms A. Watts/ Ms R. Peridis
- Year 8 History/Geography- Mr A. Sarandos/ Ms M. Hamilton
- Year 9 Geography- Ms R. Peridis
- Year 9 History- Ms A. Watts
- Year 9 Commerce- Mr A. Sarandos
- Year 9 Elective History- Ms H. Diamond

Members of the H.S.I.E. faculty offer a wealth of teaching and life experience, as well as a dedication to education and meeting the diverse learning needs of all students.

Ms H. Diamond taught at Moorefield Girls High School prior to her appointment as Head Teacher in 2011. Ms Diamond specialises in Ancient and Modern History, Legal Studies and Society and Culture. She has recently completed an additional degree in Archaeology/Palaeoanthropology and in 2009 received an overseas scholarship to write and deliver Holocaust teacher training courses. In addition, Ms Diamond launched Moodle, a framework for the delivery of online learning across GRC Peakhurst.

Ms M. Hamilton, a specialist in Geography, Commerce and History, brings an unparalleled depth of knowledge and commitment to teaching through her consistent and thorough approach in the classroom. Through extensive travel through Europe, Asia, South America and teaching in London, Ms Hamilton brings a wealth of real life experience to supplement her teaching.

Ms R. Peridis worked in the corporate sector developing advertising and marketing strategies for various mediums prior to entering the teaching profession. Specialising in History, English, Commerce and Society and Culture, Ms Peridis has worked at GRC Peakhurst since 2012, but also taught Year 11 and 12 Society and Culture from 2012 to 2013 at GRC Oatley. Over recent years, Ms Peridis has begun competing in triathlons, giving her a great understanding of the human spirit and it’s potential. She also assists in the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Mr A. Sarandos, specialising in History and Commerce, is highly experienced teacher with thorough knowledge of the subject matter. Prior to entering the teaching profession he worked in promotions and advertising. His calming demeanour has enabled him to foster a strong rapport with his students. Mr Sarandos has dedicated nearly a decade of his professional career at GRC Peakhurst.

Ms A. Watts, specialising in both Ancient and Modern History, has worked at GRC Peakhurst since 2012. In addition to teaching English to students in Japan, Ms Watts has also demonstrated her dedication to humanitarian causes by teaching at an orphanage school in India and assisting in the delivery of healthcare programs to children in The Philippines. Ms Watts also co-ordinates the Duke of Edinburgh Award at GRC Peakhurst, a program that gives students the opportunity to develop their skills in leadership and resilience, and build confidence in their own ability.
Mathematics and Computing Faculty for 2015

The Mathematics and Computing Faculty comprises experienced and dedicated staff who are committed to providing quality teaching in a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Staff are enthusiastic about utilising innovative technology which meet both the needs of 21st Century learners and industry standards to prepare students for any senior mathematics and computing courses they may wish to pursue and for the use of skills developed in the areas of literacy, numeracy and technology beyond the classroom. This year, we have a total of eight teachers in the faculty, pictured below (from left to right), Ms F. Knezevic, Mrs M. Ho, Mr J. Ndaira, Mrs C. Keir, Ms L. Stodart, Mrs S. Verma, Ms F. Chua and Ms A. De Angelis.

We look forward to working closely with you and your child again this year and to continue strengthening the partnership between school and home.

Curriculum Newsletters

As you may be aware, the new NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum is now being implemented across all years (7 – 10). Students will develop understanding and fluency in Mathematics across all stages through inquiry, exploring and connecting mathematical concepts, choosing and applying problem-solving skills and mathematical techniques, communication and reasoning.

The Mathematics Faculty distributed its first Curriculum Newsletter earlier this term outlining the topics being delivered during the term. An updated newsletter will be distributed to students at the beginning of each term to assist parents in further supporting their children in keeping up to date with the course content being delivered. Parents are also encouraged to closely monitor the completion of homework and assigned tasks in preparation for assessments (as outlined in assessment books distributed) over the course of the year. Please note that all assessment task notifications will be uploaded to the school website and a push notification alert will be sent via the school app.

Students who continue to find the content too difficult are encouraged to attend the Homework Centre on Monday and/or Tuesday afternoons in the school library and are advised to speak with their classroom teacher as soon as possible, so that additional support can be provided.

Mathletics

Mathletics is an interactive online computer resource 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.

Regular use of this online tool will help students:

- Consolidate content taught 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 14th May 2015. 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 Digital Technologies (formerly Computer Skills) Competition will be held on Tuesday 19th May 2015 while the ICAS Mathematics Competition will be held on Tuesday 11th August 2015. The competition is open to all students.

Any student interested in participating in the Mathematics and/or Digital Technologies competitions can pick up an information note and permission slip from their Mathematics or Computing teacher. The cost of entry (per competition) 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, on Friday 20th March, 2015 (Week 8B) 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. Students have been provided with a letter outlining the necessary details. Please ensure payment is made to the Front Office and permission slips are returned to me by no later than Friday 13th March 2015. Photos and animations will be published in a later edition of Peak.

Open Night
Earlier this term, on Tuesday 24th February, GRC Peakhurst held its annual Open Night. The Mathematics and Computing Faculty showcased many of the wonderful resources utilised in lessons on a daily basis in Mathematics, Web Publishing, Robotics and Information and Software Technology. A special thank you to the following students for helping us set up and promote our displays and for so proudly representing our wonderful campus and faculty.

Year 8: Solomona Tohovaka
Year 9: Conor Cassidy and Abishai Takarangi
Year 10: Ansaar Baig, Domenico Logozzo, Ali Reda and Lucas Williamson

Please click on the gallery of photos below to view some of the photos taken of our Mathematics and Computing displays.

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

From the PDHPE Faculty

Welcome to another year in PDHPE at Georges River College, Peakhurst Campus. It’s been an incredibly busy and productive start to the term. We introduced our new house system during week one and students and teachers showed their passion and commitment to their respective houses at our swimming carnival.

The purpose of the house system is to develop in all students a sense of belonging and pride with the school by associating with a house team and to promote and encourage participation in all our school carnivals. It’s a great way for students to get to know other students across different year levels and extend their group work skills. For students who do not participate in carnivals competitively, it gives them an opportunity to contribute to their house in a fun way by dressing up, cheering, dancing or entering events just for fun. The house with the most points at the end of the year wins the GRC Peakhurst House trophy. In the near future we are hoping to extend the house system to include events such as debating, public speaking, performing arts and team sport competitions.

Our four houses have been named after sportspeople who have achieved success both on and off the sporting field. Each of the following sportspeople is passionate and dedicated to their chosen sport and for their respective foundations. They have the ability to overcome obstacles and inspire others.

Our four houses are:

Layne Beachley – World Champion surfer and founder of Layne Beachley Aim for the Stars Foundation that supports aspiring females around Australia. The Foundation is all about empowering and enabling individuals to take control of their lives, to invest in their future and fulfill their potential. House colour: Blue. House Captains 2015: Khalil Abdullah, Mitchell Cliff, Tiana McLennan and Shakira Scarfe.
Cathy Freeman – Australian Sprinter and Olympic gold medallist. The Cathy Freeman Foundation’s purpose is to close the education gap between indigenous and non-indigenous children and to provide pathways to a brighter future. House colour: Yellow. House Captains 2015: Craig Emmerson, Brandon Marcel, Amber Regan-Presland and Belinda Macaluso.

Adam Goodes – Professional AFL player with the Sydney Swans. Adam is co-founder of the GO Foundation which exists to empower young Indigenous Australians, giving them a brighter future through the benefits of a quality education and mentoring. House colour: Red. House Captains 2015: Jack Brown, Sebastian Pentespitis, Elise Maynard and Talei Holmes.

Glenn McGrath - Australian cricketer renowned for his fast bowling. Glenn is co-founder and President of the McGrath Foundation a breast cancer support and education charity which raises money to place breast care nurses in communities’ right across Australia, as well as increasing breast awareness in young Australian women. House colour: Green. House Captains 2015: Tyson Martin, Jeremy Connelly, Elisha Fakaosi and Alicia Spinola.

Neridah Hill
Head Teacher PDHPE

The swimming carnival was a great experience that all of us at Peakhurst High extremely enjoyed. The atmosphere of the place was one where you would see that everyone was happy, smiling and getting active. Freeman, Goodes, Beachley and McGrath were the houses that everyone were placed in. Because of this, everyone was very competitive, swimming in the races with such fierce energy, and everyone was cheering for them. All in all, the day was a great day that everyone enjoyed. Great sportsmanship was shown by all houses whether their competitors were in the lead or not, and a great effort by the teachers for organising and supervising the day. Can’t wait for next year!

By Brandon Marcal and Craig Emmerson

From the Science Faculty

The Science faculty is looking forward excitedly to the year’s learning. All topics have been updated for the Australian Curriculum and aim to create enthusiastic, scientifically literate students. To facilitate this, we provide a broad range of experiences including practical and computer activities to maximise student engagement and learning.

This year Mrs Alexander, Mrs Sandhu and Ms Chang have been joined by Mr Smith and Ms Tamang in the faculty. Also teaching some Science lessons are Mr Ndaira and Ms Knezevic, all supported by the laboratory assistant Mrs Wailes.
Students have already started on some assessment tasks and are hand in weekly homework. Please encourage them to continue to complete this weekly homework and to complete all other set tasks. Asking them what they have found out in lessons is a way to encourage further enthusiastic participation.

*Michelle Alexander*

**HT Science**

**Selected Enrichment Classes**

At GRC Peakhurst we offer an enormous range of opportunities for all students, including those gifted and talented academically. In 2012 we initiated for Year 7 a Selected Enrichment Class for students demonstrating high level ability in literacy and numeracy. The program has progressed so that now there are Selected Enrichment Classes in all years, 7 to 10. Students in these classes benefit from a differentiated curriculum, offering activities tailored to their ability level. Some of their experiences in class have been to engage in extension activities and activities modified to focus on higher order thinking.

Special programs are also offered; one highlight last year was the Year 7 class entries into the RACI Crystal Growing Competition in which all crystals made the finals, with 4 crystals being placed highly commended. A Robotics program is offered to the Year 7 Selected Enrichment Class and last year’s Year 8 students engaged in a Thinking Mathematically course. Students in the Selected Enrichment Classes are offered other faculty based extension activities and participate in a range of extracurricular activities.

Applications for the 2016 Year 7 Selected Enrichment Class will be sent during the year to those students who have nominated GRC Peakhurst Campus as their high school of choice.

*M. Alexander*

**GAT Coordinator**

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**From the Special Education Faculty**

Welcome back! I hope all of our students had a relaxing holiday and are ready for all that 2015 has to offer. Welcome to all our new students and their families starting at GRC Peakhurst this year.

Our students have received a variety of information outlining requirements, plans and programs for 2015. Thank you for your promptness with these forms being completed and returned. 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.

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 – especially when students are participating in practical subjects such as Food Technology or Design and Technology.

Individual Education Plan meetings are being held 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 webpage on the school website.*

Google GRC Peakhurst click Curriculum and Activities click Faculties click Special Education.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*Peta Holm*

**Head Teacher**

**Special Education**

**From the TAS Faculty**

The TAS department has remained unchanged this year. The department includes Mr Rehor, Mr Taylor and Mr Kontikos in Industrial Arts and Mrs Willis, Mrs Seidel and Mrs Gualitieri in Home Economics. Mr Taylor is also the school’s computer coordinator.

Students in Year 7 and 8 Technology Mandatory have been productive designing their unique cushions, house markers, stools and weather vanes.

Year 9 Food have been learning about special occasion foods and have cooked some tasty foods such as Caramel slice
and Butter Milk Pancakes. Year 10 Food has been cooking foods for different age groups with dishes such as kebabs, chicken nuggets and wedges while Year 10 Child Studies have prepared meals for children and have made play dough and finger paint. Year 9 Wood are learning wood joints on their Tongue Drench wooden boxes while Year 10 Wood are completing their detailed jewellery boxes and planning their major design projects.

If anyone is looking to off load any textile fabrics or notions such as threads, buttons and lace any donations would be much appreciated as they can be utilised by students when designing their creative works in textiles.

Mrs R Gualtieri
Head Teacher TAS

Open Night

The wonderful students that helped out on open night are not only a credit to the school but a credit to themselves. They looked amazing in their hospitality uniforms and cooked all night for our guests. They openly engaged with prospective new families and answered questions honestly and openly. They should be very proud of their efforts!

Careers Advisors Report

Careers Education Classes

I would like to congratulate the Year 10 cohort for participating and engaging in these lessons with enthusiasm. All students have developed the skills to create and tailor a Cover letter and Resume. In addition, all students have explored the following topics; Cold calling, Job search, Employment related skills, Transferable skills, what employers want, Interview questions/skills, Interview presentation.

WH&S (White Card) Training

A number of year 9 and year 10 students have already registered for the white card training day. The white card is safety training and is a mandatory requirement for any person planning to work on a building/construction site. For more information or to register for this training visit me at the Careers office during recess or lunch.

James Cooper
Careers Advisor

Dance

Dance at GRC Peakhurst Campus is off to a flying start for 2015. We have already orchestrated and hosted auditions for our Dance and Aerobics groups, as well as beginning early stages of choreography. This year, we are very proud to announce that we have a Dance Company consisting of students, as well as two Gifted and Talented ‘PeakAbility’ teams and two Sport Aerobics teams. All of which will represent our school proudly in a variety of competitions and performances throughout the year.

Georges River College, Peakhurst Campus Dance and Aerobics Groups for 2015:

Dance Company

BLUE, Georgia
BURNS, Jordyn
CALLANAN, Indie
CHAPPELL, Lauren
CHICK, Hayley
CLIFT, Ally
GIVINS, Ashleigh
HARRIS, Ashley
MANNERS, Lauren
REGAN - PRESLAND, Amber Jane
REGAN – PRESLAND, Jamie
REYNOLDS, Karina
REYNOLDS, Tamara
THOMSON, Tamara
TOMARAS, Anthea
VERGOULIS, Mariah
WRIGHT, Grace
YUEN, Lachlan

Sport Aerobics

CHAPPELL, Lauren
CHICK, Hayley
CLIFT, Ally
CONTZONIS, Valandou
HARDIE, Andee
HARRIS, Ashley
LIARIS, Nicoletta
MANNERS, Lauren
MANSOUR, Yasmin
REYNOLDS, Karina
REYNOLDS, Tamara
THOMSON, Tamara
TOMARAS, Anthea
VERGOULIS, Mariah

PeakAbility

ALDERTON, Bethany
BECHEARA, Charlotte
CHUAN, Carissa
DIMOSKI, Nina
KARATASOULIS, Anastasia
KIRLAPPOS, Chloe
LOPEZ, Giselle
MAC RITCHIE, Rhianna
MAI TING HOH, Jodie
Congratulations to all students on their selection for our Dance and Sport Aerobics Groups. It will undoubtedly be, a year of hard work and commitment, but also highly rewarding and enjoyable.

**Miss M. Crammond and Mrs A. Johnston**  
**GRC Peakhurst Campus – Dance Coordinators**

**Debating Report**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Years 7-10 Debaters for 2015. Many students tried out for our debating teams here at GRC Peakhurst on our Training Day in week 4. The list below details our successful teams for 2015, as well as a second Year 8 team of keen debaters who will assist us in preparing for home debates. Mr Fisher and I look forward to debating/arguing with you and working on how you can become more persuasive and informed in constructing those arguments (sorry parents!!)

**Year 7**

- Kamuran Guerra
- MJ Husamuddeen
- Ashley Pak
- Lizzie Van De Pol
- Reserves: Jeremy Hockings & Christopher Fella

**Year 8**

- Jack Appleby
- Laura Bancroft
- Lewis Thomson
- Bianca Winter
- Reserves: Tallis Brown & Caitlin Guilfoyle

**Year 8 B Team**

- Rosemary Bergin
- Aleesha Bishop
- Samantha Farr
- Vicky He
- Taylor Cooke-Robson
- Talia-Rose Waldock

**Year 9**

- Anastasia Gaskell
- Stellios Gletos
- Erica O’Brien
- Caleb Round
- Reserves: Nathan Osborne & Julius Nesevski

**Year 10**

- Layla Abrahams-Patel
- James Burt
- Taneisha Dormido
- Amber-Jane Regan-Presland
- Reserve: Ansaar Baig

Congratulations!

**Miss Osmond and Mr Fisher**

**Library**

In this edition of The Peak, I would like to write about one of the ways in which the school library provides support to the students at Peakhurst Campus. All Year 7 students are timetabled to attend the library once a fortnight in their English classes. This period is divided into two parts:

1. Home reading Scheme run by the English teacher for that class and the teacher-librarian. Within that time, students are expected to borrow new fiction resources and read. It is part of the required English homework, that Year 7 students read for half an hour each night. Apart from the benefits which reading gives in terms of language development (grammar, vocabulary and spelling) research has found some interesting statistics. For example,

A UK survey of 4,164 adults, including both those who read and those who don’t, found that adults who read for just 20 minutes a week are 20% more likely to feel satisfied with their lives. Also, one in five readers said that reading helps them to feel less lonely. Reading produces a statistically significant improvement in symptoms for people diagnosed with depression, chief among which can be feelings of loneliness and isolation.

In this research, readers reported stronger feelings of relaxation from reading than from watching television, engaging with social media, or reading other leisure material such as magazines. Many “down-time” pursuits – such as engaging with social media – only apparently help people to “switch off”, and may agitate as much as relax. The concentration which reading demands and the absorption into a parallel world which it produces helps personal worries recede and offers protection from the distractions and stresses of everyday anxiety. In the survey, 43% of readers said reading helped them get a better night’s sleep.

Reading also helps people to realise that the problems they experience are not theirs alone. People often experience a strong sense of recognition – “this is me”, or, “I had no idea other people felt this way” – and a feeling of sharing trouble in common with others. When people are able to recognise their own situation in another, they not only feel united to a wider world, but are more accepting of their own difficulties or trouble.

Regular readers report a greater ability to cope with difficult situations. Reading expands people’s repertoires and sense of possible avenues of action or attitude. People who read find it easier to make decisions, plan and prioritise and this may be because they are more able to recognise that difficulty and setback are unavoidable aspects of human life.

In this survey, readers were also 18% more likely to report good self-esteem. It is common for people who are coming back to reading after a long period, or even
for the first time, to feel a strong sense of accomplishment and pride.

People who read regularly feel closer to their friends and to their community than lapsed or non-readers. Previous research has shown that, in addition to enhancing willingness and ability to communicate with others, reading helps promote respect for and tolerance of others’ views. The sympathetic intuitions which reading summons can make us more open to others’ experience and make us feel more part of the wider human community.

Readers have a stronger and more engaged awareness of social issues and of cultural diversity than non-readers: their template of the world is widened and their place within it feels more secure. Research found that reading for just 30 minutes a week means you’re 52% more likely to feel socially included than those who have not read in the past week and 72% more likely to have greater community spirit. Readers are also 37% more likely to get greater pleasure out of their social lives.

‘Reading is not an over-indulgence, but a form of life-support for which we must endeavour to make time.’


2. Information Skills Program run by the teacher-librarian. In order to prepare students to fully engage in 21st century learning and to give them the skills necessary for life-long learning, this program concentrates on guiding students to master the steps of the information process. These include:

- Defining – What do I really want to find out?
- Locating – Where can I find the information I need?
- Selecting – What information do I really need to use?
- Organising – How can I best use this information?
- Presenting – How can I present this information?
- Assessing – What did I learn from this?

These skills underpin the new Australian curriculum and it is vital that all students master them.

As can be seen, the school library is much more than a collection of books. Instead, it is a centre of 21st century learning.

**SRC News**

Hello and welcome to 2015 everyone! It is my great pleasure to introduce the successful applicants of GRC Peakhurst’s SRC for this year. We are still waiting on blazers to arrive so we will officially induct all of these students into the SRC at Formal Assembly when they do.

**SRC 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dillon Amor</td>
<td>Erin DeFraine-Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Appleby</td>
<td>Stellos Gletos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirsten Beccarís</td>
<td>Lauren Manners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Bergin</td>
<td>Julius Nesevski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Faysal</td>
<td>Erica O’Brien</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bianca Winter</td>
<td>Nathan Osborne</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year 10</strong></td>
<td>Tamara Reynolds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Layla Abrahams-Patel</td>
<td>Caleb Round</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Attard</td>
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<td>James Burt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Chappell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayley Chick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Daizli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fletcher Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serene Nikro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Senavellis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elisha Sequeira</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Our School Captains and Vice Captains were recently involved in a photo shoot to showcase our school: check them out!!!

Thank you to all SRC members for assisting in showcasing our school at Open Night last week. Thank you also to our other tour guides Mariah Vergoulis, Alyssa Hill, Isaac Cooper, Dean Dela Cruz and all other students involved on the night: you really did us proud.

Thank you to Year 10 SRC representatives for assisting on what I presume will be a memorable Year 7 Camp last week. Year 10’s attendance is to assist students in meeting new friends, conquering new challenges and be role models for our younger students.

Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for some exciting information regarding World’s Greatest Shave and Crazy Hair Day – Friday 13th March. The SRC are working on exciting events planned for the day.

Year 7: I will be speaking to you soon regarding SRC Elections, so have a think about what kind of person you would like to represent your year group.

As always, make sure to see me or your SRC members for any questions ideas you have for us for the year.
Important dates:
World Compliment Day 1st March
International Women’s Day 8th March
SRC Training/Planning Day 12th March
Crazy Hair Day/World’s Greatest Shave 13th March
Harmony Day 21st March
Cultural Diversity Week 14th - 22nd of March

Ms L Osmond
SRC Coordinator

STUDENT WELLBEING

Year Advisors

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our Year Advisors for 2015.

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

If you have any concerns about your child’s progress or are planning a holiday, please notify the appropriate Year Advisor for child’s year cohort and they are only too willing to support you and your family. You may do this either by contacting the school by phone: 91539966 or alternatively via email.

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.

M. Walton
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 Year 7 and thirty two Year 10 Peer Support leaders. This program is considered highly valuable and rewarding for all students. The Year 7’s are in small groups of between ten to twelve with two-three Year 10 Peer Support leaders. The objective of this program is to foster friendships and allow the discussion of many issues that the Year 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 Aim for Excellence.

Year 10 Peer Support Leaders 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Number</th>
<th>Group Leader</th>
<th>Group Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1. Lauren Chappell</td>
<td>1. Anthony Tugaga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2. Taneisha Dormido</td>
<td>2. James Burt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5. Layla Abrahams-Patel</td>
<td>5. Andre Perez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7. Carla Younes</td>
<td>7. Domenic Logozzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8. Serene Nikro</td>
<td>8. Ansaar Baig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12. Lisa Fleming</td>
<td>12. Tyson Martin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M. Walton

YEAR 10 PEER SUPPORT LEADERS REPORT 2015

This year in 2015 all of year 7’s started their journey into high school from a range of different Primary Schools in the area. To help the new year group transition into GRC Peakhurst Campus some Year 10 students volunteered an hour of their time each Wednesday over a 5 week period to run this special program. Most groups had between 2-3 Year 10 group leaders and had between 10-12 Year 7 students each. The outcomes of this program was to help Year 7 make new friends from different classes, build confidence, work on self-esteem and be positive as well as learn about our schools policy’s and our PBL Positive Behaviour for Learning system. The program, also commonly known as ‘Peer Support’.

Each week Year 7 worked through a booklet with the help of their Peer Support Leaders, the booklet contained different activities around positive relationships, sense of self, citizenship, making the right choices, risk-taking, leadership and plenty of team building and getting to know you games to help our Year 7 students get familiar with their new environment and year cohort.

Peer Group was a lot of fun for everyone, from the Year 7 students, to the Peer support leaders. All the students agreed that it has made their transition into high school much easier
than anticipated and really appreciated this opportunity to make new friends and building self-esteem.

Thank you to Ms Walton for organising this worthwhile program and giving some Year 10 students leadership opportunities in our school.

**By Year 10 students Hayley Chick, Lauren Chappel, Sam Attard and Layla Patel**

http://vimeo.com/121316957

**PBL REPORT (Positive Behaviour For Learning)**

At Georges River College Peakhurst Campus we are strongly involved in PBL, which means we want our students to adhere to our school core values of Respect, Responsibility and always Aiming for Excellence.

This year we have re-launched our PBL values, during our first formal assembly on Friday 20th February. During the presentation, students were reminded of our expectations, which can also be found in each student’s school diary and also on the school web site. We also took a trip down memory lane to the exciting launch we had during 2014.

This year, we have formed another PBL student forum team. Students have been given an excellent Leadership opportunity to engage in school activities and to create a better and more positive environment for the school. So far, this group of motivated student met for the first time 2 weeks ago and was able to film responses to the questions - How do we as students, show respect to teachers? What does it look like? The second question was How do we show that we are responsible? – What does that look like?

This video footage was also shown at the re-launch and a special gift of a wrist band was handed out to every student, with our schools core values of Respect, Responsibility and excellence engraved.

I would like to introduce and congratulate our PBL student forum for 2015 and look forward to working with this wonderful cross section of students during the year.

**PBL STUDENT FORUM 2015**

1. Amber-Jane Regan-Presland Year 10
2. Kemel Reda Year 9
3. Angelica Esdaile-Watts Year 9
4. Erica O’Brian Year 9
5. Brennan Head Year 9
6. Harrison Breen Year 9
7. Jack Argent Year 9
8. Tamara Reynolds Year 9
9. Aqeelah Toefy Year 8
10. Marli Watts Year 8
11. Breeannan Valencour Year 8
12. Talia-Rose Waldock Year 8
13. Vicki He Year 8
14. Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts Year 7

**Ms Walton**
**HT Student Welfare**

**NOTICE FROM CAPA**

Can I get rid of that?!

Feeling the need to do some spring cleaning early? If so, please consider donating some of your common household items to the art room! We will use any of these materials for actual art projects or for art storage.

- Magazines (for collage)
- Plastic Containers washed (butter, sour cream, yoghurt etc)
- Old Wallpaper Books
- Design books
- Newspapers
- Coloured paper
- Wrapping paper
- That old dinosaur digital camera that still works but is terribly outdated...for our stop motion animation project and PDM classes

All of these items can be given to your child to give to the art department or simple leave in a bag at the front office.

**M Walton**
**CAPA**

GRC Peakhurst Campus has its own app which is developed by Skoolbag (http://skoolbag.com.au/) and is customised for our campus. It is easy to navigate and has all the necessary features (alerts, events, newsletters, news, parent info, contact details, calendar etc.) required in promoting effective communication between school and home.

The app is free for anyone to download (by searching for ‘Peakhurst Campus’) from the Apple App Store (for iOS users)
and the Google Play Store (for Android users). Windows users can access the app contents by clicking on the School App tab on the school website and visiting the Communication Centre or by pinning the site to the LiveTiles on their Windows device.

One of the key features of the app is the ability for the school to send alerts directly to smart phones and tablet devices. All parents, students and staff are encouraged to download the app. Once installed, you will be able to receive the latest assessment task details, news, newsletters and push notifications from GRC Peakhurst Campus directly to your smart phone.

If you have any questions, queries or comments, please don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

Christine Keir
Head Teacher Mathematics/Computing

School Survey on Student Learning
The Tell Them From Me - Student feedback survey

We are delighted to announce this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

We want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between the 9th March and 2nd April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey has been sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form or inform the school by Friday 6th March 2015. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the above website.

From the P&C

G’day All and welcome to a new school year.

From the first day back at school our P&C has already been busy. Kathy and Leanne have operated the uniform shop and we spoke to new parents that are looking forward to attending our first meeting for the year.

All P&C meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month – 7.30pm.