8 May 2015

From the Principal

Welcome back to everyone for the start of term 2. The wet and stormy weather during the first week of the school term certainly did not dampen the energy, enthusiasm and spirit of staff and students upon their return to school. Everyone is “off to a flying start” as staff prepare for formal assessments, reporting on student progress and organising a multitude of co – curriculum activities to complement student classroom learning.

Our school Staff Development Day, held on Monday 20th April 2015, focused on the new Performance & Development Framework and Explicit Instruction in the Classroom. The newly developed Performance & Development Framework has been implemented to support all teachers in the continued development of their knowledge, skills and practices. Effective teaching continues to evolve and further develop through continued, deliberate and focused practice combined with clear feedback, expert advice and time for reflection. Colleagues will become mentors and peer coaches as they share a range of strategies to enhance learning environments and simultaneously improve student learning outcomes. This will lead to constant interaction between professionals, rigorous and on-going evaluations, effective feedback, adaption and refinement to existing teaching practices. Teachers will pursue continuous professional learning opportunities to support their professional development. These are exciting times for all teachers within a changing educational landscape.

The Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has completed the 2015 – 2017 School Management Plan and it is available on our school website. Many thanks to all the key stakeholders – staff, parents and students – for their collaborative and highly valued contributions towards the development of the school plan. This plan is the blueprint to our future. It clearly states our school vision, the purpose of our strategic directions, the processes that will be implemented and the outcomes that will be achieved by all our stakeholders as a result of our practices. Everyone is encouraged to take the time and reference this document online. Also, the Georges River College 2014 Annual School Report will be online. This report highlights the achievements of all four campuses within the college during 2014. Finally, the Georges River College Peakhurst Campus 2014 School Report will also be published online. This report will comprehensively highlight all the academic, sport, creative & performing arts achievements during 2014.

All of the above publications focus on celebrating the achievements of all our students and outlining the strategic development of a continuous improvement plan. The focus is on continual improvement in relation to student learning, motivation, engagement, achievement, wellbeing and management. Our strategic planning in continuous improvement towards excellence is underpinned by the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. The respective domains within our school framework are: curriculum design, productive pedagogy, student assessment, student reporting, professional practices and learning relationships. We will continue to promote high expectations and a commitment to personal excellence. Everyone must continue to strive towards realising their unique potential!

Student assessment is continuous and ongoing. Formal assessments provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their learning, knowledge and skills. Currently, our years 7 & 8 are undertaking formal assessments in most subject areas. Years 9 & 10 will be commencing their formal assessment period during weeks 4 & 5. It is imperative that students prepare for all formal assessments. Effective preparation involves being organised, managing time effectively and doing extra work in terms of research and summarising of all class work. Teachers continue to support and advise students in their preparations for all upcoming assessments. The school also provides the Homework Centre, every Monday and Tuesday afternoon between 3 – 4 pm, to assist students with assignments and preparations for assessments. It is highly advisable for all students to utilise these valuable resources.

Personal success is achieved through sustained focus and extensive preparation!

Mr Terry Vallis
Principal

From the Deputies

At Georges River College Peakhurst Campus, we consistently incorporate our school values of respect, responsibility and excellence into all areas of our school. As Term 2 unfolds, a focus on students achieving excellence by working to the best of their ability is particularly relevant with many students currently completing a number of assessment tasks and with the upcoming NAPLAN and half yearly exams.

The NAPLAN tests are conducted Australia wide over three days next week – Tuesday 12th May, Wednesday 13th May and Thursday 14th May. A catch up day for students who may have been absent for a NAPLAN test is scheduled for Friday 15th May.

The NAPLAN tests are designed to assess the skills of all Australian students in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide data on the achievements of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9
for reporting to parents/carers and schools and for systematic reporting.

The following areas of literacy are assessed:

- Language conventions – spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Writing
- Reading.

In numeracy, the content areas assessed are:

- Number
- Measurement, chance and data
- Space
- Algebra, function and pattern.

At a year group assembly on Wednesday 6th May, all students in Yr 7 and 9 were provided with a specific timetable outlining where and when their NAPLAN Exams will be conducted here at GRC Peakhurst on Tuesday 12th May, Wednesday 13th May and Thursday 14th May.

The Year 10 Half Yearly exam period will commence on Monday 11th May, running through until Friday 15th May. Year 10 students have received a detailed Half Yearly Timetable which can also be found on the schools web site. Year 10 students are reminded to return their permission slips allowing them to return home to study following their last exam on each day during the exam period.

The Year 9 Half yearly exam period will commence on Monday 1st June running through until Friday 5th June. Year 9 students will be provided with a detailed Half Yearly Exam Timetable shortly.

Now that the days are starting to become a little cooler, it is important that all our students continue to wear full school uniform. Full school uniform includes a GRC Peakhurst school jumper or jacket, especially for those cooler mornings / days. GRC Peakhurst Campus Uniform can be purchased new at Lowes Hurstville or Roselands. The school also has a second hand uniform shop that is run and supported by the P&C. The second hand shop is open on Wednesday mornings from 8am-9am.

Ms H Northey & Mr S Wilson

Year 7 Advisors Report

Welcome to Term 2! There is a lot happening this term, so please ensure you are checking the school calendar, available on the school website and app, so that you don’t miss out!

As the weather cools down, please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform each day. Non-uniform items are not accepted, as per the school uniform policy so please confirm your child has enough warm uniform items to survive the winter months.

Year Meeting

On the 26th of March, our first Year 7 Meeting was held. This was an opportunity for all Year 7 students to come together to celebrate various student achievement that had occurred during term one. Students listened to a talk from Year 9 SRC Representative Erin De Fraine Murphy. Erin informed Year 7 students about the World Vision child which they will be sponsoring later this year. Students also reminisced about the great experience they had at their orientation camp earlier in the year. The short film showcasing the camp, that was shown at the assembly can viewed at the end of this report. Finally, academic achievement across all subject areas was acknowledged, with many students receiving distinction awards for their classroom efforts. Well done to all students who received an award. If you did not receive an award this term, use that as motivation to work harder this term. A conscientious approach to your learning may pay off!

The NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge

All Year 7 students will participate in The NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge, as part of the PDHPE program. The NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge aims to engage young people in sport and physical activity and encourages them to lead healthy, active lifestyles. In the next few weeks, students will bring home a physical activity monitoring card which will need to be completed daily. Please encourage your child to be active citizens as they participate in this state wide initiative!

HeadSpace Visit – Term 2

On the 16th of June, Fiona and Brodie from HeadSpace will be visiting again. After the success of the ‘Introduction to HeadSpace’ program which they ran in term, they will be running a session called ‘A Healthy Self’. The program primarily addresses self-esteem and ways to enhance an individual’s self-esteem. A note will be distributed about this program in the coming weeks.

Year 7 Camp – ‘The Great Aussie Bush Camp’

A summary of Year 7 Camp – Written by Ashley Pak of Year 7 La Perouse

Let’s start off with a few words that could describe the camp we attended, shall we? Fun, exciting and adventurous? No, no! Action-packed, exhilarating and a camp to remember for the years to come? Totally! During this camp, Year 7 learnt how to step out of their comfort zone, create new friendships, participate in fun activities and most importantly, how to make smile-worthy memories.

The bus ride was long but when the replica of Ayers Rock that served as the dining area popped out from around a bend on the highway, staff or student, we were all eager to venture to this long-awaited campsite. A number of Year 10 SRC students had accompanied us to share the fun we’d have. After exploring our new cabins and getting to know the
place, we were soon whisked off to our first of many activities. Our instructors were lenient and trust-worthy people, guiding us to the very end. Each activity was unique and often created a sense of nervousness as we escaped our comfort zone. Take ‘The Giant Swing’ for example. Just staring at its sheer height got you feeling so nervous to the point you’d be wondering, ‘Is this even safe?’. But once we experienced the adrenaline rushing through our veins as we dropped down, you wanted to do it again! Other activities like ‘Rock Climbing’ and ‘Canoeing’ tested our strength, endurance and accuracy to their very extents, while others such as ‘Archery’, ‘Survivor’s Challenge’ and ‘Orienteering’ required more of a focused and higher level of thinking.

Overall, ‘The Great Aussie Bush Camp’ was a very enjoyable and educational experience where we got to learn and laugh in new places, bond with our fellow students and we will surely think back on it as a camp we’ll never forget. It’s true. I’ve been there three times now, and still love it every time I go. Thank you to Miss Whiley for organising this special experience, as well as Ms Walton, Mrs Hill, Mr Morley, Miss Crammmond, Mr Miller and Mrs Murray for taking the journey with us!

http://vimeo.com/127212811

**Miss Elise Whiley**
**Year 7 Advisor**

**Year 7 Visual Arts Report**

All year 7 classes have been working extremely hard so far this year. Last term Year 7 completed the topic ‘Elements of Art’. In this topic students explored the 5 main elements of art consisting of Colour, Line, Tone, Texture and Shape. With each element students learnt how important these elements are in all the different types of artmaking.

Once this was completed two classes Year 7A Visual arts and 7R Visual Arts completed a watercolour painting based on positive adjectives about themselves. All students gained skills in colour mixing, worked on painting technique and design. Well done Year 7! Your paintings look wonderful!

**Ms Michelle Walton**

**Year 8 Advisors Report**

**Year 8 Report**

Welcome back to Term 2.

**Term 1 Year Meeting**

It is always great to acknowledge the outstanding progress and achievement that students have made. I would like to congratulate all the students that received Distinction Certificates. Mr Vallis and Mrs Northey attended this meeting and were extremely impressed with the number of students that have applied themselves to their studies.

**Half Yearly Exams**

I would like to wish all students the best of luck for this reporting period. Parents/Guardians please encourage your child to study and complete exam preparation. In addition, please check your assessment booklet carefully in order to complete tasks on time.

Kind Regards,

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

**Year 9 Advisors Report**

I hope you all had a relaxing and wonderful holiday and ready for another busy term.

**Half yearly reports**

Half yearly reports will go home at the end of this term and students will be busy completing their half yearly exams and other assessment tasks for all subjects before that. I will ask caregivers to encourage your child to do their best and achieve their true potential.

**Assessment Booklet**

Please also make sure that you have looked at the Assessment booklet for year 9 and sent the acknowledgement note back to school. It gives a detailed information about the tasks and their expected due date.

I would again like to congratulate students who have received Principal’s award last term for their outstanding achievement and consistent effort in different subjects. I also want to encourage other students who missed on this opportunity last term to work hard and stay focused in class for further improvement in their studies.

A reminder that uniform shop is still running for your convenience.

If you need to ask any other questions, please call and I will be happy to help you.

**Ms Harmeet Sandhu**
**Yr. 9 Advisor**

**Year 10 Advisors Report**

On Thursday 11th June 2015 students will be part of a Year Advisors Program ‘Wired’ presented by brainstorm productions. This is a play exploring the reasons why young people can become stressed and/or depressed. The show will also act as a springboard for discussion about physical and emotional wellbeing.

The play looks at the lives of a 17 year old girl preparing for her Year 12 examinations, and an 18 year old boy who has left school last year and is trying to deal with the consequences of some of his decisions. Two adolescents with extremes of behaviour, metabolism, hormones, goals and perspectives are spiralling in different directions - one into stress and overload, the other into depression.
The show addresses the symptoms of stress, depression, university entrance, subject choices, setting long and short term goals, planning, study habits, relationships, support services and networks, communication, positive self-talk, mental illness, fear of failure or success, peer pressure, motivation and decision making.

Year 10 should be well on their way being organised with their study timetable. Exams start next week Monday 11th May 2015 and will conclude on Friday 15th May 2015.

Good luck to all Year 10 students

Ms Sophia Favuzzi
Year 10 Advisor

Year 10 Visual Arts Report – Art Express

On Friday 20th March Year 10 Visual Arts were lucky enough to go on an excursion to Hazelhurst Gallery in Gymea. At this excursion we viewed the ‘Art Express’ exhibition. ‘Art Express’ is an exhibition made up of a selection of the very best HSC Visual Arts - Body of Works developed for the art making component of the HSC examination in Visual Arts, 2014. These works were made from a range of different mediums. These mediums or art materials included painting, drawing, collection of objects, photography and digital media, documented forms, ceramics, graphic design and printmaking just to name a few!

We also had a talk given by an art curator who explained the selection process of this exhibition and also went through the meanings behind some of the student’s works.

Viewing this exhibition gave us many ideas for our own major works due towards the end of term 2 as well as opened our eyes into just what to expect if we do decide to pick Visual Arts at Oatley Senior Campus next year.

We completed a booklet on the day as part of our assessment to record our experience and gain some ideas for our future art making body of work.

We also had a very relaxing time in the gardens surrounding the gallery and were able to plan out our next practical assessment task.

Our Year 10 Visual Arts class would like to thank Ms Walton for organising the excursion and opening our eyes into what we can possibly achieve in the future.

Thank you

Belinda Macaluso Year 10

From the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

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 (buttermilk, 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
Photography News.....

Woronora Memorial Park Photography Competition

We are pleased to announce that Alex Holly of Year 9 Photography and digital media entered the Woronora Photography Competition. The theme this year was ‘Celebration of life, embracing love and hope’. Entries were on display at the Woronora Memorial Park Open Day on Saturday, April 11.

Even though Alex was not a finalist we are very proud of his achievements in Photography and Digital Media so far. Congratulations Alex in representing GRC Peakhurst.

Ms. M. Walton

From the HSIE Faculty

HSIE: Archaeology in the Rocks

On Friday 20th March, Year 9 Elective History attended the Big Dig Archaeology program in The Rocks, Sydney. We got to hear a professional archaeologist discuss their latest work.
in the field and reflect on the roles of archaeology, science and history in contemporary society. Then we went to Parbury ruins, a site where foundations of a cottage was built during the 1820s. On this day, we also went to Susannah Place museum to look through a row of four terraces that were built during 1844. While we were there we had to look at how the past can be reconstructed by a museum.

After lunch we went to the Rocks Discovery Museum. It was here that we learnt about the site which the Big Dig Centre was built on and about all the artefacts that were found in a well on site. After learning about the Big Dig Centre, we used the information that we had been given to try and understand how the man died that lived there. We also tried to work out why he was throwing rubbish in a well. We were then given some artefacts and asked to try and work out their origin and purpose.

It was a great day and we all had an amazing time. Thank you to Ms Diamond and Ms Spiteri for taking us.

*By Erin De Fraine-Murphy
Photography by Amie Leask*

**From the Mathematics and Computing Faculty**

![Mathematics and Computing Faculty](image)

**Mathematics Curriculum Newsletters**

The Term 2 Mathematics Curriculum Newsletters were distributed last week to all year groups. Please take the time to read the information provided on Study Tips for Mathematics as well as the topics being delivered to each year group this term. Any student who is yet to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter should ask their class teacher for one. Alternatively, students may pick up a copy of the newsletter from the Mathematics Staffroom during recess or lunch. The newsletter is also available for download via the school app and on the school website.

**Arriving Prepared for Lessons**

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

Stationery requirements for all subjects were sent home at the end of last year. For Mathematics lessons, students require an exercise (grid) book, text book (or booklet, if text books are not yet available), a scientific calculator (Casio fx-82AU PLUS, which can be purchased from the front office for $20.00) and general stationery (pens, pencils, ruler, eraser, glue etc) for each and every Mathematics period. Students will be advised when geometry sets will be required.

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

**Homework and Assessment Tasks**

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

Students will generally receive Mathematics homework after each lesson. Any activity that is not completed during class time is expected to be completed for homework. Additional homework, including Mathletics, may also be assigned. To gain the most out of the homework, students need to attempt all assigned questions and mark their answers to ensure they have understood the concepts for that section of work. Any concepts that students find too difficult, should be addressed with the classroom teacher during the next lesson or during recess or lunch time. Students are also encouraged to attend the Homework Centre which operates each Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 3:05 p.m. to 4:05 p.m. in the school library.

Regularly completing homework will in turn help students prepare for upcoming assessment tasks. Please refer to the relevant assessment booklet for your child’s year group and the ‘School Years’ tab of the school website for more information pertaining to tasks and dates. Push notification alerts for all assessments are also sent via the school app, so please keep an eye out for those too.

**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 so as 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. Students are advised to see their class teacher regarding any questions they may be having difficulties with.
Mathletics Award

Congratulations to Bryan Yang of 7L for his outstanding achievement in Mathletics.

On the 20th March 2015, Bryan ranked Number 1 in the World in the Mathletics Hall of Fame. This is quite an accomplishment and Bryan is to be congratulated on his dedication and commitment leading to this impressive result. Well done, Bryan!

Bryan will be presented with a certificate and a prize at the Mathematics formal assembly later this year.

Pi Day of the Century Celebrations

This year, National Pi Day held special significance because not only was it March 14 (3.14) in the year 2015 (15), but at 9:26:53 a.m. (92653) and p.m. (in 12-hour time), the date and time were written as 3.141592653 – which are the first 10 digits (9 decimal places) of the irrational constant, Pi (which represents the ratio of any circle’s circumference to its diameter). For the majority of us, this is a once in a lifetime event, as it will not happen again for another 100 years!

GRC Peakhurst Campus celebrated the lead up to this special day by holding a Pi Hunt as well as Pi Hoop, Pi Recital and Pi Sprint competitions, to honour our irrational constant friend, Pi.

The following staff and students are particularly worthy of mention:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pi Hunt</th>
<th>Elise Maynard (Yr 10)</th>
<th>Finding the hidden chocolate in under 48 hours.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pi Hoop</td>
<td>Stella Maragkaki (Yr 10)</td>
<td>Spinning the Hula Hoop around their waist for: 0:4:17.69 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Aqeelah Toefy (Yr 8)</td>
<td>Over 4 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Gordon Liang (Yr 8)</td>
<td>Over 3 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pi Recital</td>
<td>Thomas Cheah (Yr 9)</td>
<td>Reciting Pi to: 194 decimal places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Stella Maragkaki (Yr 10)</td>
<td>144 decimal places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jessie Lee (Yr 10)</td>
<td>100 decimal places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Mrs Keir</td>
<td>56 decimal places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Ms Diamond</td>
<td>50 decimal places (off-camera)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Jeremy Hockings (Yr 7)</td>
<td>124 decimal places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Jeremy Alysandratos (Yr 8)</td>
<td>58.53 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please click on the link to the 2015 Pi Day photo gallery below to view the photos of the competitions and activities staff and students participated in over the course of the week.

http://vimeo.com/127212591
http://vimeo.com/127213356
http://vimeo.com/127212589

Digi Ed Incursion

On Friday 20th March, Year 9 IST and PDM students participated in an engaging Claymation Digital Animation workshop to further explore animation.

The workshop, which was facilitatated by Digi Ed, allowed students to learn and utilise the stopmotion / claymation process and to storyboard, animate, edit and burn their movie onto a DVD.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the 5 hour workshop and gained a great deal 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://vimeo.com/127212595
http://vimeo.com/127212810
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.

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

Support PDHPE

Congratulations to the Red Support class, who have been working very hard in PDHPE practical lessons this year. They look forward to their weekly Physical Education classes with Mr Haydar and Miss Whitey. This term, they have been testing their endurance and strength in the school gym! Check out the photos below to see what they have been up to.

PASS Camp

A reminder to all Year 9 and 10 PASS students and their families, that regular monetary contributions towards PASS camp can be made at the front office. A small contribution each week, will ensure a lighter burden when camp rolls around next term.

NSW Waratahs March Past

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has successfully applied to participate in the NSW Waratahs March Past, to be held prior to the NSW Waratahs vs. Sharks (South Africa) game on Saturday 16th May 2015. This experience will allow students to march around the football field at Allianz Stadium. Students will then remain at the stadium to watch the Super Rugby game under teacher supervision. The school is thrilled to have the opportunity to show case our students at this televised event. This experience is being offered to Year 9 and 10 PASS students as part of their course work and the Year 7 and 8 Gifted and Talented (GAT) classes, as part of the GAT extra-curricular program. We hope many of you can join Miss Whitey and Mr Kosteski at this exciting event!

NSW Swans Cup - AFL

Well done to the boys who competed in the Swans Cup AFL competition, held at Waratah Oval at the end of last term. This year we entered the Opens division and our team was supplemented with students from the Oatley Campus.

We were successful in our match against Engadine High School, however, lost to Aquinas and Port Hacking, who went on to win our division. As always, it is such a pleasure coaching this group of boys. They consistently show respect on and off the field and define the meaning of a true sport!

Cross Country Carnival

The College Cross Country Carnival was held on Monday 30th April. Combining with the Oatley and Hurstville campuses increased the competitive nature of all races and proved positive in providing motivation and allowing students to work towards set goals. We braved the elements: wind, rain, cold temperatures and then soaring heat and luckily were able to complete all races at Gannons Park.

The PDHPE department would like to thank all PASS students who assisted with the carnival operations on the day. Your help allowed for the day to run smoothly and be such a success. THANK YOU!

The Peakhurst Campus Cross Country team has now been selected and students will run at the zone level on the 19th May. We wish all of our competitors every success on the day. We look forward to receiving your permission notes and payment ASAP!

Athletics Carnival

A reminder to all that the GRC Peakhurst Campus Athletics Carnival will run on 22nd May at The Ridge Athletics Track. A note will be distributed to students next week.

Miss Elise Whiley
PDHPE Teacher
From the Special Education Faculty

Welcome to Term 2!

Term 1 was extremely busy. All our new students have settled in well, are adjusting to high school routines and are forming new friendships.

During the last week of last term the students from the support class at Peakhurst Public school came to visit. The students participated in Easter activities, including our annual egg hunt. We look forward to meeting up with them again this term.

During Term 2, students will be participating in a variety of sport activities at Hurstville Aquatic Centre, each Friday (Week B). Community Access will be on Week A. A Friday Program note has been sent home. The Work Experience program will be running this term on Wednesdays. This year, due to our numbers we have two groups – Group A and group B.

A special thanks…. To the parents (and staff) who planted out the garden on the Isaac St side of F Block! It looks fantastic. The Support Unit students have been busy maintaining it.

We are extremely grateful to the following clubs for their generous donations for our annual camp; Club Central and Club Rivers. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Have a great term!

Peta Holm
Head Teacher
Special Education

Careers Advisors Report

Tax File Number Applications

The process of acquiring a Tax File Number has changed. The School is no longer permitted to complete these applications on behalf of the students. I will be providing the information to students on how to complete Tax File Number Applications.

Yamaha Training Days

The first activity with Yamaha is approaching quickly. It will be held on Tuesday the 19th of May. The first visit is the Work Inspirations Day. On the day students will get to visit the different sectors of the Yamaha Australia Company. The students will be interacting with employees to ask questions and learn about their jobs/roles within the company.

The HSC and Careers Expo 2015

Year 10 students will have the opportunity to attend one of the biggest Careers Expos offered in Australia. The excursion will take place on Thursday 28th of May. On the day students will receive information from Universities, Tertiary institutions and training colleges.

Work Experience

I would like to encourage Year 10 students to search for a Host Employer in a career interest area. The experience can be extremely valuable for identifying future employment pathways. In addition, it can help students identify which subjects they will need to study in the HSC. Students should consult with me to book in placements towards the end of this term.

James Cooper
Careers Advisor

Dance

It has indeed been a very successful Term 2 in Dance at GRC Peakhurst Campus.

Our Dance Company were successful in their audition for the 2015 Dance Festival Series. Their performance entitled ‘Playful Hearts’ have been selected to perform on Tuesday 16th June 7:30pm at the Everest Theatre, Seymour Centre. Tickets can be purchased online via the Seymour Centre website. We wish our boys and girls the best of luck in this performance.

Congratulations to all of our Dance and Aerobics teams who qualified for the Schoolaerobics and Dance Star State Championships over the weekend. Our teams competed in exceptionally hard divisions but came out with fantastic results. Our girls have already begun training hard in preparation for the next competition in June. Well done to all of our girls!
A final note: I’d like to personally congratulate our entire school community for raising over $1200 for the Leukaemia Foundation last term during our World’s Greatest Shave/Crazy Hair Day event. It is only with everyone’s generosity to this great cause that we could achieve this so thank you!

As always, you are encouraged to see myself or any one of your SRC members for any ideas or issues. Thank you!

Ms L Osmond
SRC Coordinator

STUDENT WELLBEING

Welcome to another busy term ahead. This term sees students rewarded for all their hard work both inside the classroom and out in the community, demonstrating respect, responsibility and aiming for excellence. We will be rewarding students in two ways. The first, with the Rewards excursion for students who have reached 80 plus points on the schools Welfare and Discipline system, as well as having special rewards morning teas, in which small groups of students will be invited to attend a morning tea, in recognition for school service, in various ways.

The first of which, we will be rewarding the ‘Crews’, consisting of students helping out with the schools lighting, sound, stage, media and chair crews. These students do a wonderful job in the preparation of our Hall for formal assemblies, year meetings and guest speaker presentations, just to name a few.

Other Wellbeing activities to look forward to, will be several YAP (Year Advisor Program) sessions, organised by our dedicated and enthusiastic Wellbeing Committee. Keep an eye out for advertising of these events, through our school App and Website.

Community Partnerships

Towards the end of term 1, all students participated in a free, 1 hour presentation by Headspace – National Youth Mental Health Foundation.

The presentation gave all students vital information about the following:-

- what is mental health.
- understanding the difference between mental wellness, a mental health problem and mental ill health.
- how to seek support early.
- increased knowledge of mental health resources and information.

I would like to thank Fiona Read and Brodie Clarke from Hurstville Headspace, for delivering this program and providing useful information for all our students.

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**SRC News**

The SRC has had a busy start to the term. We have welcomed our 6 new members from Year 7! After voting on over 20 applicants, the following students were successful. Congratulations!

- Ally Clift
- Volandou Contzonis
- Deniz Dogan
- Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts
- Jackson Hall Best
- Ali Yatim

These Year 7s have already been working steadily on our Term 2 Mufti Day (save the date: **Friday 5th of June**) with Erin DeFraine-Murphy of Year 9. The day will have as its focus the idea that we, GRC Peakhurst are going to begin sponsoring a child through World Vision. Students who would like to join this planning committee are encouraged to meet on **Thursdays at lunchtime in E21**.

All SRC will be officially inducted into the 2015 SRC at our week 6 Formal Assembly; Friday 29th May. All parents and family are welcome to attend!

All students should have received their blazers by this date; these are to be paid for via the front office ($50). SRC members are expected to wear the school blazer each day in cooler months in order to raise their profile within the school. Plus, they look amazing!

The Student Wellbeing Committee also meet on **Tuesdays at lunchtime in D19**. We are looking forward to hearing more from them during our Formal Assemblies.

The rest of our SRC are currently researching ways that we, as a school can begin to support Nepal in the wake of their earthquake tragedies.

A reminder that leadership camp for all students on the SRC will be held this year: Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th September, 2015. Further information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

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**Miss M. Crammond and Mrs A. Johnston**
**GRC Peakhurst Campus – Dance Coordinators**
Just a reminder any information regarding the general health and wellbeing of young people can be found on the Headspace website. We look forward to having Headspace come back into the school to work with our students in the future.

REWARDS EXCURSION

We will be rewarding those students who have reached Bronze, Silver and Gold levels with an excursion. (i.e. students who have reached and maintained 80 points or more) in the school’s Welfare and Discipline system. This Rewards Excursion will be to Kingpin Bowling Darling Harbour on Friday 12th June, 2015. The cost for this excursion will be $27.00 plus $5.00, to be brought with them on the day for train fare or alternatively, if students have an Opal Public Transport Card, they are welcome to use this.

The cost of this excursion will cover all of the following activities:-

• 1 game of Ten Pin Bowling
• 2 games of Laser Skirmish
• 1 hour of arcade games

Permission notes will be handed out to the students from Monday 4th May and must be returned to Ms Walton in the Welfare Office (A3). All money needs to be paid to the front office no later than Wednesday 27th May 2015. Places are limited! So get in your money fast, to avoid disappointment!

Prior to the commencement of the excursion, students will be having a meeting and be able to select their bowling teams for the excursion.

Students need to continue their good work and keep receiving their merits. Students can hand in their Merits, outside the Deputy’s Office, in a Yellow Box. These merits will gain the students points that will enable them to move up in our points system. We will be having another Rewards Excursion in Term 4, to look forward to.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

During Term 1, I asked for expressions of interest from any student in Years 7-10, who would be interested in forming a Student Wellbeing Committee. So far, these students have had 3 meetings and are in the process of organising events around the school, which focus on positive mental health and wellbeing of young people.

James Burt and Fletcher Hall both in Year 10, have been leading this group of students and have had the opportunity to address the school body at the last formal assembly in week 9 Term 1, as well as the Year 7-9 year meetings. Here is their speech. Well done Boys!

Hi,

I’m James and this is Fletcher. We are here to speak to you about the Wellbeing Committee. We, as a school are very interested in supporting the welfare of students at GRC Peakhurst Campus. We are asking students, if you would like to be involved from all years, to join our team. We meet every Tuesday at Lunch time in room D19 with Ms Walton. This would be a great Leadership opportunity to be part of.

We, as a school are very interested in supporting various foundations, such as the Black Dog Institute, Beyond Blue, Head Space, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, White Ribbon and many more, as the year goes on. As a committee, we would like to organise events such as fundraising for these organisations and raise awareness about supporting mental health. Once again if you would like to be involved, join us next Tuesday and let’s get started.

If you would like more information either speak to either James or myself or Ms Walton.

By James Burt and Fletcher Hall Year 10 students and Leaders of the Students Wellbeing Committee.

HOMEWORK HELP!

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.

Thank you

Ms Walton
Head Teacher Student Welfare
Year 7 & Year 9 NAPLAN

A letter informing parents about the upcoming NAPLAN TESTS was sent out with your child last week. Your child has been prepared at school for these tests.

Assist your child by ensuring that he/she

- has had a sustainable breakfast on the morning of the test, as well as a decent snack during the day. Avoid anything sugary or artificial as this can lead to a lack of concentration.
- is not over tired for the tests and has had at least eight hours rest each night.
- set realistic and attainable goals and is aware of your support; as this will aid to reduce his/her stress.

Aboriginal Education

Campfire – The idea of a “Camp fire” group was formed by Voula Alexiou in 2014 at Oatley senior campus to provide Aboriginal students the opportunity to regularly meet, discuss issues and share culture and ideas. This has developed further this year across the GRC campuses, the first of these meetings was held on. Students from year 7-12 attended the meeting enjoyed a tour by James Munroe of the cultural garden, all the students enjoyed great conversation amongst their peers and staff members and shared a pizza lunch. The group will aim to meet once a term with ideas of forming a JNRAECG in collaboration with the Aboriginal Education team and the local AECG.

Beanie Day – Students Violet Craven- Miller, William Neville and Kristina Brown attended the day and created beanies for a South Western Sydney beanie exhibition. These beanies were felted out of wool and will be decorated in another workshop on 22nd May in ways to communicate students’ opinions about modern indigenous matters of importance to them. This idea stems from The Beanie Festival (http://www.beaniefest.org/) Fund raising and grants are currently being sort with the view to enable students to participate in the Beanie Festival in Alice Springs in 2016.
Important Upcoming Aboriginal Education Events – Term 2

Speak up – 1st Training day 15 May UTS, showcase Parliament House Sydney, Friday 21 July 2015.


NAIDOC WEEK

We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect & Celebrate

S – 12 JULY 2015

Uniform Shop Request

Good condition used uniform items are needed for our uniform shop as stock is getting low on some items, particularly winter clothing.

If you have any uniform items you will not be using anymore that are in good condition could you please donate them to our uniform shop. The uniform shop is open every Wednesday from 8am; however items can be dropped off any time to the front office.

Thank you

Carmel O’Shea
School Administrative Manager