5 June 2015

From the Principal

This term has been highlighted by the continuous and ongoing assessment of student learning as we lead into the Semester 1 reporting for all students. The presentation of the various modes of formal and informal assessment tasks is an opportunity for all students to demonstrate their learning and understanding of the learning experiences that have taken place in the respective classrooms. The emphasis in evaluating and assessing student performance is not about “being the best” but “in doing your best” and being resilient when attempting to engage and succeed in a multitude of learning tasks.

Student reports will highlight student achievement in every subject using the A - E grade scale. The grade for each course will be supplemented by the overall grade distribution within each course. The grade will determine the standard achieved during the reporting period. The standard achieved in each course is determined by matching a set of performance descriptors against the course learning outcomes. The course learning outcomes determine the standard of knowledge and understanding demonstrated by the student during the reporting period. It is also very important to analyse the personal learning profile of the student for each course within the report. Usually, there is a very strong correlation between the standard achieved and the learning characteristics displayed by the student within the classroom. Learning characteristics that will assist in enhancing student achievements include: ability to work independently, being a cooperative learner, completing all set tasks, being well prepared and organised, being respectful and responsible at all times, managing time efficiently and always working to achieve a “personal best”.

It is very important for parents and carers to discuss student achievement with respective teachers. Parent/Teacher conferences are an ideal opportunity for parent/carers and teachers to discuss possible strategies to assist students in reaching their potential. Teachers and parents/carers are partners in providing the best strategies and opportunities to support students in their learning.

When approaching Parent/Teacher conferences, it is very important to remember that both the stakeholders are partners in the student’s learning. Everyone needs to be positive and work towards developing an agreed plan on how to best manage the implementation of strategies that will assist in developing student learning. Establishing plans for communication are essential. It is also very important to ensure the management of issues causing concern for the student are addressed together at all times. At the conclusion of the conference, it is vital that the outcomes of the meetings are discussed with the student and the student is congratulated on the strengths and positives achieved during the reporting period.

The strength and quality of a question will assist in determining the quality of the information derived. Common questions at a Parent / Teacher conference could include:

- How is my child engaging in the classroom?
- What are students currently working on in class?
- Is there anything about my child’s learning needs that I should know?
- Does my child ask questions and participate in class discussions/activities?
- How is my child progressing according to the course standards?
- What activities does my child enjoy most in class?
- Who does my child work with and are the learning strategies appropriate?
- What topics will be studied in class over the next term?
- Do you have any concerns about my child’s learning within the classroom?
- Can you tell me the best time and way of contacting you if I have a query or concern about my child’s learning?

The above questions are simply examples to stimulate conversation about a student’s learning within the classroom. Information derived from the above questions will develop a common understanding on how to best work together in supporting and assisting the student in their learning.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone at our upcoming Parent / Teacher evenings at the end of term 2 (Tuesday 23rd June 2015 for years 7 & 8) and the beginning of term 3 (Tuesday 21st July 2015 for years 9 & 10).

Mr Terry Vallis
Principal

From the Deputies

Students Aiming for Excellence

We have been impressed with the way in which students applied themselves during the recent NAPLAN assessment and half yearly examinations. Students have embraced our school value of aiming for excellence through their preparation and settled approach during the exams. Students now need to take
on board the feedback provided by their teachers in order to improve next semester to reach their potential.

Parent Teacher Evenings
Semester 1 reports are currently being written. Parents/caregivers will be given the opportunity to discuss their child’s progress with their teachers at our annual Parent/Teacher evening.

- Parent/Teacher interviews for Year 7 and Year 8 students will be held in Term 2 (Week 10) on Tuesday 23rd June 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Parent/Teacher interviews for Year 9 and Year 10 students will be held in Term 3 (Week 2) on Tuesday 21st July 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

As in previous years, bookings will be made online and interview times will be strictly limited to 5 minutes. More information will be provided via SMS and the school app closer to the date.

School Uniform
GRC Peakhurst Campus is a uniform school. As winter approaches, it is important that students continue to take pride in their school by wearing the correct full school uniform and appropriate footwear each day. We do, however, understand that some uniform items are currently out of stock in some sizes and we are working closely with Lowes to rectify this situation.

Holly Northeys and Christine Keir

Year 7 Advisors Report
We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Welcome to another busy month for Year 7 students. I would like to remind you again that as the weather continues to get cooler, it is imperative that your child has the correct warm uniform items. Don’t forget, the lovely ladies in the uniform shop are happy to sell you pre-owned uniform items at a reduced cost. The uniform shop is open every Wednesday morning before school and it is located within the school office.

Eye Care
It has been pleasing to see so many Year 7 students taking up the offer for an eye assessment to be provided by Eye Care next term. Please ensure your child has returned their Eye Care notes to the Year 7 box in the PDHPE staff room. We would appreciate a note back from all students, whether you would like an assessment for your child or not. If you have misplaced the note, another copy can be obtained here:

Holly Space - A Healthy Self
We look forward to welcoming Head Space back for another visit this month. Brodie and Fiona from the Hurstville centre will be presenting a program to all Year 7 students on the 16th of June called ‘A Healthy Self’. The program will centre around the impacts of poor self-esteem and how to build self-esteem and discover individual strengths. There is no charge for this program, however, an information note has been sent home.

If you did not receive the information note, a copy can be downloaded here:

Merits
Many Year 7 students have been receiving merits of late for outstanding achievements in class, as well as for being model citizens who abide by our school values: respect, responsibility and excellence. Please encourage your child to place these merits into the boxes outside the Deputy Principal’s office in A Block. They are then tallied up and points are added to each individual’s point score. Students will receive the merits back once they have been tallied. Keep striving Year 7!

Ms Elise Whiley
Year 7 Adviser

Year 8 Advisors Report
The end of Term 2 is rapidly approaching. I would like to remind all students to keep working hard and setting goals to achieve. It is important to keep striving for improvement.

Half Yearly Reports
I am looking forward to reviewing the Year 8 reports. It is always pleasing to identify and acknowledge the achievements of students. Furthermore, it is pleasing to recognise improvement in application and effort. As always, I would like to congratulate the students in advance, who have applied themselves to do their personal best in all subject areas.

James Cooper
Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Advisors Report
We are almost half way through the year. There are many activities happening this Term for Year 9.

Half yearly Exams
Students are sitting their half yearly exams this term and I am hoping they have been working hard to prepare for them. Students should understand the importance of home study and revise the key concepts of all KLAS in order to achieve success in year 9. As parents and teachers we are there to support them during this time. Good wishes to all students for their exams.

Student Eyecare program during Term 3
The school is running a welfare initiative where an Optometrist will be onsite during school hours to provide students with a comprehensive eye examination. Students will get an individual report regarding their eye health and a prescription will be provided if glasses are required. The glasses can be bought from any optical store. This eye health care is available to all students and is covered by Medicare Australia so there is no cost to students.

A note regarding this was sent home. Could you please ensure that this is returned as soon as possible.

Half year reports
This term students will also be receiving their half year reports. It is always great to read the comments written by your child’s teachers to acknowledge how well they are achieving or where
they need to improve. Please read them carefully and congratulate your child on their positive achievements and help them improve on their weaknesses.

**Ms Harmeet Sandhu**  
**Year 9 Advisor**

**Year 10 Advisors Report**

**Exams**

Year 10 should now be evaluating their exams and utilising their mentors to assist them with feedback.

**Uniform**

It is important that year 10 wear the correct school uniform daily. You are reminded that you are the seniors of the school and need to set that good example for the rest of the students.

**YAP day: Wired**

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 Formal**

All students attending the Year 10 Formal should have now paid their $30 deposit. I encourage students to make small weekly or fortnightly payments at the front office, to alleviate any financial stress closer to the due date. Most students still have $70 outstanding.

Any student who has yet to return their permission note and paid for their deposit please do so ASAP.

**Ms Sophia Favuzzi**  
**Year 10 Advisor**

**Year 9 Debating Report**

On Friday the 8th of May, 2015 our Year 9 debating team left for GRC Penshurst Girls High school to compete in the Premiers Debating Challenge. Once we arrived at the school we were provided with three topics, the first being should school sports be banned, the next being should coaching colleges be banned and lastly should Universities be allowed to set their own course fees. As a team our debaters decided that the second topic, coaching colleges should be banned, was the best option for us. After a brief coin flip, our debaters were deemed the negative team.

Soon after the team planned their key ideas, points and speeches over the next hour. As time moved forward our debaters found more and more ideas that incapacitated any opposing arguments. They were very confident in their ideas and so they worked on the following points: online establishments supply free online learning accessible to everyone, these online establishments provide for the underprivileged or people seeking further work past their current level and finally these establishments do not increase stress, but reduce it as there is no strict timetable.

The opposition (Penshurst Girls) also had one hour to prepare their ideas. Until the debate itself our team could not predict the opposition’s ideas and so it was a waiting game. The Penshurst Girls first speaker spoke about the expenses and stress involved with such coaching colleges. Our first speaker swiftly rebutted the opposition by stating that with the online colleges in place with no strict timetable or fee one can experience infinite learning online for free.

Next, the first speaker for the negative team spoke about how free and stress free these sites are. After a brief speech and a round of applause the opposition’s second speaker was up. The ideas put forth made the other team stutter as they could not supply a rebuttal or idea capable of destroying the case.

During the second speaker’s speech, she spoke about third world countries and that because they do not have access to these colleges that no one should. By going off topic on a tirade about unfairness in underdeveloped countries our second speaker had prime material to rebuttal with. By having only two small points to counteract the Peakhurst debating team, it looked to be a sure win.

After the third speakers from both teams sum up their team’s case, they must wait for the adjudicator to decide the winner and provide reasons as to why. After a tense five minute wait, the decision was made. Penshurst Girls were the winner. The adjudicator stated that the Peakhurst team’s case was very strong but they did not attack the opposition enough: so our arguments were very strong but we needed to rebut their other team more and not hold back on our attack.

The Peakhurst team were shattered but they moved on and shook the hands of the opposition. A good gesture showing our school’s graciousness in defeat. Although they lost this debate, our team decided to take a group photo including both teams. Although our team lost the debate, some say we won the heart of many spectators who looked on at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus!
From the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

Music

Georges River College is definitely a school where where student’s are provided with authentic learning opportunities. We have so many talented and amazing students and staff and we are always excited when our students have the opportunity to display that talent.

On the last weekend of May we travelled, with our GRC Stage Band, to Port Macquarie for the 'Big Band Blast'. What an amazing weekend it was! The weekend started on the Friday night with an all in ‘Jam Session’ on the waterfront. The Big Band festival, hosted by John Morrison and Ed Wilson, proceeded with performances, across the weekend, from students and musicians from all over Australia. This included an outstanding effort from our own Stage Band, who were privileged to perform with Australian Jazz legend Ed Wilson. Our students excelled in their behaviour and performances and at the same time had a massive amount of fun. After a Saturday night Mambo extravaganza the weekend was rounded out on Sunday by some informative seminars and performances from the key players involved in the festival.

Our own Concert Band is about to embark on a series of performances and will go into the recording studio in term 3 to record some of their music. Concert Band is made up of students from each of our Campuses and is directed by Mr Reidy from the Peakhurst Campus. The band performs contemporary and classic band music and students can audition for the band at any time during the year by contacting Mr Reidy or Mr Holloway in the CAPA staffroom. Our band program is always open to new players joining us at any time.

From June 16 -18 several of our students are going to be involved in the Arts Unit Boys Vocal Workshop and Recording session. The workshops are hosted by the Arts Unit who organise the Schools Spectacular and other key public school music events throughout the year, along with the various State and Sydney wide ensembles.

Rehearsals commence this month for our premier creative arts event ‘Peakform’. This year’s show is shaping up to be the best ever and tickets will be available towards the end of June. Last year’s show was a sell out and a great celebration for our schools 50th anniversary.

David Reidy
Band Coordinator

From the Mathematics and Computing Faculty

Year 8 Pi Approximation Day

Earlier this year, we celebrated Pi Day of the Century. Traditionally, Pi Day is celebrated on March 14 (3.14), while Pi Approximation Day is celebrated on 22nd July (22/7). Due to several school calendar events on this day, Year 8 students will be celebrating Pi Approximation Day on Tuesday 4th August 2015 (Term 3, Week 4B) this year.

Students will be placed into eight groups that will rotate through eight cross-curriculum lessons related to circles, followed by a Carnivalé of fun physical activities. There are also various competitions being run in the afternoon, with prizes being awarded for best dressed male, best dressed female, a lolly guessing competition, a timed pie eating competition and pi recitals.

The cost of the day will be $5.00 to cover the necessary materials for all the scheduled activities. Payment must be made to the front office by no later than Friday 24th July 2015.

Year 8 Pi Approximation Day will be a Mufti Day for Year 8 students ONLY. Students must:

- Wear suitable and appropriate clothing, preferably with a circle or a number theme.
- Wear enclosed and supportive footwear (either school or sports shoes).
- Come to school equipped with their school bag, diary and pencil case.

A note outlining this information was distributed last week and sent via the school app. We look forward to an enthusiastic response from all our Year 8 students.

ICAS Mathematics Competition

It is not too late for students to participate in the ICAS Mathematics Competition to be held on Tuesday 11th August 2015. The competition is open to all students.

Students interested in participating in the Mathematics competition can still pick up an information note and permission slip from their Mathematics teacher. The cost is $8.00. Payment will need to be made to the front office and permission slips are to be returned to Ms Chua in the Mathematics Staffroom by the end of Week 8.
Doodle 4 Google Competition

It’s back! The Doodle 4 Google competition (last run in Australia in 2013) is back!

This year’s theme is “If I could travel back in time I would…”

The competition is open to students in Years 1-10. The winning doodle will be hosted on Google Australia’s homepage at www.google.com.au for 24 hours on a date yet to be announced in 2016.

Submissions close on the 21st August 2015. Any student wishing to participate in this competition is to see Mrs Keir for more information and sample Google templates.

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

Christine Keir
Head Teacher Mathematics and Computing

From the PDHPE Faculty

NSW Waratahs School March Past

On Saturday 25th May, 39 GRC Peakhurst PASS and Gifted and Talented students donned their school uniforms (yes, on a Saturday!) and headed out to Allianz Stadium, Moore Park to cheer on the mighty NSW Waratahs in their Super Rugby match against the Sharks.

Prior to the game, our students joined schools from across NSW in a march past across the field. We waved our school banner proudly and waved to the crowd as our school name and rich rugby history, most notably with current Waratahs player Rob Horne, was announced. We then took to the stands and watched intently as the Waratahs demolished the Sharks from South Africa 33-18. Some of our students were lucky enough to catch the ball after conversions and we were frequently shown on the big screen! Students also had the opportunity to meet players after the match and some were fortunate enough to get photos and signatures.

Many of the Peakhurst students in attendance had never attended a live rugby match before. It seems the experience has created some new union fans here at Peakhurst.

On behalf of Mr Kosteski and myself, we would like to thank the students who attended for not only giving up their Saturday to represent their school but also for their respectful behaviour and enthusiasm on the night. Once again, GRC Peakhurst Campus is shown in a positive light in the wider community!

Zone Cross Country Carnival

Written by Ashley Pak – Year 7 La Perouse

GRC Peakhurst Campus Zone Cross Country representatives travelled to Scarborough Park on Tuesday the 19th of May to compete with other schools in the St George District. When we arrived at the largely expansive field, many schools had already assembled themselves and were preparing for their races. Each of the schools were taken to walk the track around Scarborough Park. It was extremely different to what some us were expecting. After returning from the walk, we had a short break and received our bright blue GRC singlets to run in.

Firstly, we had the all age races before running the younger year groups later on in the day. Our contestants headed over to run in their races with a few others, always coming back to us flushed in the face, but happy with their results.

The last race to be held was mine. The girls 12 year old 3 km run, which was equivalent to one lap of the park. I could feel the adrenaline pumping through my veins as I spotted some of my friends running along with the constant stream of excellent runners. We ran passed the dirt track, to the grass lane where horses were spotted, along the little pond, around the grassy field until finally, we reached the finish line! When my age group’s race ended, we were hurried back to the bus so we could return back to school.

So many achievements were made on the 19th of May, not just from our school, but from all the other schools as well. Peakhurst did exceptionally well, and we’d all like to congratulate everybody who participated. But those who went home with the biggest smiles on their faces were the triumphant ones who made it to the Regional Cross Country carnival. Congratulations on an excellent day, Peakhurst!

GRC Peakhurst Regional Qualifiers

Boys

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<th>16 Years</th>
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<td>Luke</td>
<td>Brendan</td>
<td>Caleb</td>
<td>Jaden</td>
<td>Basri</td>
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<td>Munzone</td>
<td>Steptoe</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Anveski</td>
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<td>Taccetin</td>
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<td>Patrick</td>
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<td>Kumsuz</td>
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From the Special Education Faculty

Welcome to another busy term in Special Education.

NAPLAN, exams, special provisions (assisting students), assessments, Work Experience, Community Access.....along with these, this semester we have also had two students participating in the Enclave Program. This program is similar to Work Experience. The main difference is the level of independence expected of each student. Each work site has five or six students from local Support Units supervised by a Transition teacher. Part of this program also, is encouraging students to independently travel to and from the work site. We are extremely proud of our two students.

This is what they have to say about their experience.....

My name is Nathan. On Thursday I go to Enclave and work at Coles, Hurstville Westfield. I catch the train by myself to and from work. My job is to collect and stack baskets and work in the recycling of cardboard boxes. I have KFC for lunch in the Food Court with John.

My name is John. On Thursdays I go to Enclave and work at Coles at Westfield Hurstville. I work in the fresh food section. I pack the new fruit and vegetables on the stands. At lunchtime I go to the Food Court with my friends from work. I really like working at Coles.

Well done boys! This week is the last week of enclave for this semester. Let’s apply again in Semester 2!

Don’t forget to look at our web page for any ‘missing’ notes, school information and our calendar.

Peta Holm
Head Teacher
Special Education

From the TAS Department

The TAS department has been extremely busy over the past few months, with students producing outstanding food products. Year 8 have been presenting their Café Foods and Egg Design Task while Year 9 Food Technology have been producing some amazing Food Art.

The support class have learnt new skills on using the sewing machine as well as computers to produce amazing cushions. They have also decorated and personalised calico bags to use for their day trips.

Year 9 & 10 Food Technology

Don’t forget to bring in your permission note and pay for the Sydney Tower excursion coming up on Tuesday 16th June, 2015 – it will be fantastic!

Mrs M Seidel and Mrs Gualtieri

Careers Advisors Report

Yamaha Partnership

Year 10 students were engaged in two excursions to the Yamaha Australia headquarters located in Wetherill Park
Sydney. The first visit was called the ‘Work Inspirations’ day. The students were separated into groups and given a guided tour of the factory. The focus of the day was to learn about the different jobs and tasks that the employees complete on a daily basis. In addition, students interviewed employees to investigate the career pathways they had taken. It was a very informative day with the students learning about the value of transferrable skills, workplace experience, communication, and sound work ethics.

The second visit was a technical challenge with students competing in problem solving, repairs and diagnostics. The tasks were completed on a variety of Yamaha road and watercraft. The students got hands on experience and learnt basic skills related to the motorcycle mechanics and outboard mechanics. Overall, it was excellent work experience for the students involved.

**HSC and Careers Expo**

On Thursday May 28th Year 10 students went on an excursion to the HSC and Careers Expo held at Moore Park Sydney. The students had the opportunity to visit information stalls from Universities, TAFE, and private colleges. In addition, they had the option to visit seminars providing key information from industry experts. The feedback from the students involved indicated that the visit was extremely valuable.

**James Cooper**

**Careers Advisor**

**From the Learning & Support Team**

**Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)**

**Notification to Parents and Carers**

From 2015, all Government and non-Government schools across Australia are required to participate annually in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

All Australian schools will collect data on their students who are receiving adjustments to meet additional learning and support needs in accordance with their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Disability Standards for Education 2005. This data will be provided to the Australian Government to assist in the development of a consistent, national picture of the educational needs of students with disability. The data provided to the Australian Government by the NSW Department of Education and Communities is provided in such a way that it cannot be used to identify any individual student or school.


**Privacy Protection**

The NSW Department of Education and Communities follows the requirements of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002. Schools collect, record, store and use data about individual students in line with these requirements. Data security and protection is a priority and students’ personal details will be kept confidential.

Under Clause 52 of the Commonwealth Australian Education Regulation 2013, data collected by the NSW Department of Education and Communities for the NCCD must be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. This includes the number of students at each level of education, the number in each category of disability and the number at each level of adjustment. The information is provided to the Commonwealth as a series of number sets that cannot be used to identify any individual student or school.

The Australian Government Department of Education and Training follows the requirements of the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 when handling any data provided by NSW Department of Education and Communities in connection with the national data collection. A privacy notice has been developed by the Australian Government to provide students, parents and carers with important privacy information in relation to the data collection.

This notice is available on the department’s website at http://education.gov.au/notices

If you have any questions about the data collection, please do not hesitate to contact our school Learning and Support team.

**SRC News**

Congratulations to all our SRC members who were officially inducted into the 2015 SRC last Friday 29th May at Formal Assembly.

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<tr>
<th>From Year 7</th>
<th>From Year 8</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ally Clift</td>
<td>Dillon Amor</td>
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<td>Volandou Contzonis</td>
<td>Jack Appleby</td>
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<td>Deniz Dogan</td>
<td>Kirsten Beccaris</td>
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<td>Dimitriy Esdail-Watts</td>
<td>Jack Bergin</td>
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<td>Jackson Hall Best</td>
<td>Rebecca Faysal</td>
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<td>Ali Yatim (absent on Friday)</td>
<td>Bianca Winter</td>
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<th>From Year 9</th>
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<tr>
<td>Erin DeFraine-Murphy</td>
<td>Layla Abrahams-Patel</td>
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<td>Stelios Gletos</td>
<td>Samuel Attard</td>
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<td>Lauren Manners</td>
<td>James Burt</td>
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<td>Julius Nesevski</td>
<td>Lauren Chappell</td>
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<td>Erica O’Brien</td>
<td>Hayley Chick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan Osborne</td>
<td>Adam Daizli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamara Reynolds</td>
<td>Fletcher Hall</td>
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The team looked amazing in their badges and blazers and look forward to continuing to represent you. Blazers and badges are expected to be worn each day in the cooler months (except Sport day Wednesday) as if you have any questions or suggestions for your SRC members or if they can help you in the playground in any way, just have a look out for their blazers and badges: they are your point of contact if you need assistance, a chat or have an idea we could explore to make sure our school is as great as it can be.

Our Year 9 members Erin, Nathan and Erica spoke beautifully at our ANZAC day ceremony as I’m sure you all remember their insights into the ongoing importance of ANZAC day.

Our Wellbeing committee, led by some of our Year 10 members grows in number each week and has spoken to you about some very important issues for our school.

Our Year 7 members along with some Year 9s are working steadily for you on our World Vision Mufti day which is to be held Friday 5th June so next week: make sure you bring your money for this worthy cause and dress up with 1950s, 60s, 70s or 80s clothing! Prizes for best dressed on the day.

**LEADERSHIP CAMP! Is also coming up in week 9 term 3!!!** Notes and information on payment is coming home in the next week. We also take approximately 10 additional students from Year 7-9 on Leadership Camp who teachers and year advisors have nominated as students with Leadership potential. Students are also encouraged to see me and nominate themselves if they feel this is an opportunity that would benefit them!

Please see myself or your Year 7-10 SRC members for any questions or suggestions you may have.

**Ms L Osmond**
**SRC Coordinator**

**Student Wellbeing**

**Rewards Excursion - Kingpin Bowling**

Just a reminder that all places have been filled for the rewards excursion to Kingpin Bowling Darling Harbour on Friday 12th June. A prompt to students who are going to assemble at 9am on Friday 12th June at Mortdale station, at the bottom of the stairs near the bus shelters for roll call. Instead of purchasing train tickets students are encouraged to use their existing/ or purchase an Opal travel card available at the convenience store next to the rail station.

Students will return and be dismissed from Mortdale Station at 3pm. Your Year Advisors look forward to a wonderful day of activities with you!

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

**Welfare Notice Board**

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

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

**Student Wellbeing Report**

The student Wellbeing Committee has shown dedication and commitment to providing awareness to issues that need to be addressed to the school cohort. This group of students speak regularly at each formal assembly and have a range of activities planned for the duration of the year.

I would like to share with you a few speeches by three Year 7 members of the team that spoke beautifully on Friday 8th May at the formal assembly on the topics Bullying, Cyberbullying and the Role of the Bystander.

Well done Kamuran Guerra, Jackson Hall Best and Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts you are an inspiration to Year 7 and the rest of the school!

**M. Walton**

Good morning everyone, I’m Kamuran and this is Jackson and Dimitriy and we are members of our schools student wellbeing committee.

**GRC Peakhurst High School is committed to creating a safe, caring and effective learning environment for its students. Our schools Anti –Bullying policy aims to prevent bullying from occurring and to have effective methods for dealing with any bullying situations. Bullying behaviour is not acceptable at GRC Peakhurst.**

**What is Bullying?**

- Bullying is a series of actions by an individual or group against another.
- Bullying can take the form of physical, verbal or emotional torment.
- Bullying is an abuse of power.
By Kamuran Guerra Yr 7

Hello my name is Jackson and I will be talking about Cyber Bullying.

Cyberbullying is the use of information technology to repeatedly harm or harass other people in a deliberate manner. Cyberbullying could be limited to posting rumours or gossip about a person on the internet bringing about hatred in others minds or it may go to the extent of personally identifying victims and publishing materials severely defaming and humiliating them. With the increase in the use of these technologies, cyberbullying has become increasingly common, especially among teenagers.

Cyberbullying involves repeated behaviour with intent to harm, cyberstalking, impersonation, and exclusion. It can be as simple as continuing to send emails or text messages harassing someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender.

Cyberbullying usually happens on websites such as Facebook, Instagram, twitter; Kik and Snapchat just to name a few.

It is always wise to not except any friend requests from people you don’t personally know.

If you don’t want to get cyberbullied, this is what you have to do: tell the cyberbully ‘I don’t want to make any connection with you’ then leave, if that person somehow hacks into your social media account or finds something personal about your life, you tell either your closest friends, tell your parents or report it to the police.

Stay safe because anyone is out there. Thank you for listening.

By Dimitry Esdale-Watts Yr 7

By Jackson Hall-Best Yr 7

Hi my name is Dimitriy and I’m going to tell you what you can do if a friend is being bullied. That is called being a bystander.

What is a bystander? A bystander or witness is anyone who sees a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation. Bystanders may or may not know what do, or may expect someone else to do something to help. A lot of times, we don’t want to admit that violence is happening. We often choose to ignore the situation, look away, or call it something else. It is important to remember that no one has the right to act violent, even if two people are dating. Examples of violence include: grabbing someone, hitting, pushing, yelling or name calling.

Bullying can be planned or organised or may be unintentional

Bullying Includes:

• Physical violence, e.g. hitting, kicking, pushing and shoving
• Property damage
• Teasing, name calling, threatening and spreading rumours
• Hurting others from groups
• Writing offensive notes or graffiti about others
• Ridiculing others appearance, clothing, background, behaviour, viewpoint, sexuality, religion or forcing others to act against their will.

Cyberbullying:

Hello my name is Emilie and I will be talking about Cyberbullying.

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Couch Surfing is when you don’t have a home to go to so you crash at friends or relatives or a
strangers place and sleep on their couch, floor or bed...even crash out in their shed.

- The Urban Dictionary refers to Couch Surfing as one who defeats homelessness by relying upon a series of friends’ couches. A friend or acquaintance that frequently crashes at your house. Can be due to inability to pay his own rent, frequent and/or persistent intoxication, or reluctance to return to his own dwelling.

The definition of homelessness is broken down into 3 groups:

- **Primary homelessness** - is experienced by people without conventional accommodation (e.g. sleeping rough or in improvised dwellings).
- **Secondary homelessness** - is experienced by people who frequently move from one temporary shelter to another (e.g. emergency accommodation, youth refuges, and “couch surfing”).
- **Tertiary homelessness** - is experienced by people staying in accommodation that falls below minimum community standards (e.g. boarding housing and caravan parks).

- If you’re sleeping on a couch this still makes you homeless....

The support that Project Youth can provide includes the following:

- Housing to Health
- Education and Employment
- Alcohol and other Drugs
- Other personal matters
- Information
- Referrals
- Support
- Court Support
- Advocacy

Thank you again to Skye Lewis and Emilie Rennie from Project Youth for giving up their time to speak to our students.

Michelle Walton  
Head Teacher Student Welfare

What to do if you find yourself or a friend homeless?  
Who can you speak to?

- School Teachers
- Student counsellor
- Police
- Youth workers
- Doctors
- Trusted Adult
- Older sibling
- Family
- Kids helpline
- Youth centre
- Community centre
- Op-shop (vinnies, salvos etc.)
- Employment centres
- Centrelink
- Yfoundations

Referring to Project Youth
If you find yourself OR someone you may know homeless then you can contact Project Youth on 9525 7919.