7 August 2015

From the Principal

This term commenced with our college professional learning day at Oatley Senior Campus. All staff from the four campuses attended and the focus of the professional learning was on Aboriginal Education, Culture and History. The day was very informative, engaging and interactive with staff exchanging ideas, teaching practices and educational philosophies as they simultaneously deepened their understanding of Indigenous culture and histories. Our keynote speakers and workshop presenters highlighted social justice and equity issues, the history of our local area, Aboriginal learning techniques, Aboriginal perspectives within the curriculum, Aboriginal art and music, cultural awareness, local stories and the work of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultant Group (AECG) as the peak community advisory body for the NSW Department of Education.

At Georges River College, Aboriginal Education is a core responsibility for all staff. All staff is committed to improving the educational outcomes and wellbeing of Indigenous students so that they can excel and achieve in all aspects of their education. Our professional learning day was one aspect of our commitment to continue increasing our own personal knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures and experiences of Indigenous people.

It was very pleasing to see the large numbers of parents taking the opportunity to conference with teachers, during our most recent Parent – Teacher evenings, regarding the progress of students during semester 1. The primary purpose of the student reports and the parent – teacher conferences is to inform families / carers about student progress in terms of academic performance in relation to the achieved learning outcomes. However, explicit and specific advice about how to improve in areas requiring further development is also an important component in this communication. Furthermore, parents have the opportunity to share relevant information with teachers to support the learning of our students. A productive and effective learning profile would consist of: being able to work independently or co-operatively within a group; completing all set tasks to your personal best; always being organised and prepared to learn in a responsible and respectful manner. It is essential that all students follow the advice of their teachers as they continue their journey in learning and developing throughout semester 2 and beyond.

There have been a number of staff changes for this semester as we farewelled Ms Peridis (maternity leave), Ms Johnston (maternity leave), Mr Rehor (retired), Mr Kontikos (Oatley Campus) and Ms Whiley (promotion). Hence, we welcome Mr Lim (Maths), Ms Francis (HSIE), Mr Devine (TAS), Mr Croucher (TAS) and Mr Kosteski (PDHPE) to our school. Also, we congratulate Ms Picone (Special Education) as our new student advisor for Year 7. We look forward to productively working with all our newly appointed teachers and thank all our outgoing teachers for their invaluable contributions during their time at our school.

The school will be advertising in the coming weeks, through the local newspaper and the Saturday Sydney Morning Herald, for tenders to privately operate our school canteen. The successful tender will secure the licence for a five year period – commencing in October 2015. A school panel has been formed to conduct the selection process and more information will be available in our next newsletter.

We have recently concluded celebrations for the official recognition of Public Education Week. An entire week in each academic year is devoted to the celebration and promotion of numerous educational activities by all public schools. Our inspirational and dedicated teachers continue to provide numerous learning opportunities, throughout the year, for our talented students to continue developing their learning experiences, knowledge and skills. Our numerous and extensive learning opportunities continue to showcase the academic, sporting, social and creative talents of our students. These learning programs, within and beyond the classrooms, continue to positively promote our school and student achievements within the wider community. The following list of school activities, during the past few weeks, is a snapshot of the various educational experiences enjoyed by our students:

- Lion King Performance by Year 7 students
- Zone & Regional Athletics representation
- Dance teams competing in the upcoming National Finals
- Debating & Public Speaking competitions
- Academic Competitions in English, Maths & Science
- Musical performances during school assembly
- Primary Links programs
- Gifted & Talented workshops in Science, Maths & Visual Arts
- Cultural & Educational Exchange Programs with Hong Kong & Chinese student groups
- Students presenting at GRC Penshurst Campus NAIDOC assembly
- Students presenting at school assembly on Anti – Bullying & Digital Citizenship
Congratulations to all the teachers and the students for their commitment to Public Education and Georges River College Peakhurst Campus. Everyone deserves to be proud of their achievements. Well done to everyone and keep up the good work!!

Mr Terry Vallis
Principal

From the Deputies

Following the distribution of Semester 1 reports, our parent teacher interviews were well attended. Staff provide parents and students with valuable feedback through reports and interviews. As we move into Semester 2, students are encouraged to use this valuable feedback to work to achieve personal excellence. There are a small number of student reports that have yet to be collected. The reports are available from the front office.

It is a Department of Education requirement that students attend school every day on time. Presently, there are a number of students where attendance and lateness are a concern. Following initial intervention from the school, if there are no significant improvements to lateness and attendance, students will be referred to the Home School Liaison Officer. Interviews are currently being undertaken by the Home School Liaison Officer to improve lateness and attendance.

GRC Peakhurst Campus is a uniform school. All students are expected to wear full school uniform including black leather shoes to school each day. Due to the recent cold weather, a small number of students have been wearing non uniform items. The school would like parents to support our uniform policy and ensure that their children are wearing correct uniform when they leave each morning. Students are encouraged to wear layers during colder weather – including both the school jumper and jacket. The P&C operates a second hand uniform shop each Wednesday morning at the schools front office. Items of uniform on sale are heavily discounted. The P&C would welcome any donations to the uniform shop as all profits are returned to purchase school resources.

In recent weeks a number of concerned parents and community members have contacted the school regarding student safety whilst crossing roads. Our students are regularly reminded about safety considerations when travelling to and from school and when alighting from buses and vehicles. A number of students have narrowly avoided injury after carelessly running across roads and pedestrian crossings without due care. Parents are requested to discuss these concerns with their child.

The opportunities available to students at GRC Peakhurst are many and varied and cater for a range of talents and interests. We wish our Dance, Aerobics and Peakability teams success in the upcoming Nationals competition on the Gold Coast. A number of student camps are approaching. PASS camp will occur during Week 8 and Leadership camp will occur during Week 9. Our students are also working hard preparing our annual PEAKFORM performance to be held on Friday 28th August. We have recently hosted students from both Hong Kong and China as part of a cultural exchange program.

Reference to this visit is made via a student article in this edition of PEAK.

Please feel free to contact either one of the Deputy Principals should you have any concerns. We look forward to seeing you at PEAKFORM.

Holly Northey / Scott Wilson

Year 7 Advisors Report

Farewell from Miss Whiley

It is with great sadness that I bid farewell to students and staff alike, after 8 years of teaching at Georges River College. It has been a privilege to be a part of the school Wellbeing Team, as Year 7 Advisor 2015. The students have provided me with many positive experiences and challenges and it has been a pleasure to work with such a vibrant year group and their families, if only for a short time. Year 7, I wish you all the very best as you continue to make good choices and achieve your personal best. I leave you in the very capable hands of Miss Julia Picone, who will take over as your Year Advisor.

Elise Whiley

Headspace – A Healthy Self

On the 16th June, all Year 7 students participated in a YAP program presented by Scott and Fiona from Headspace, Hurstville. The program entitled ‘A Healthy Self’ allowed students to think deeply about the importance of good self-esteem and was a follow up from the introductory program which was conducted in term one. Throughout the session, students were presented with many tips and strategies to ensure they present with positive self-esteem. It was fantastic to see so many Year 7 students engaging in discussion and asking relevant and insightful questions. What an inquisitive group of students you were! Further information on the services offered to adolescents by Headspace can be accessed here: http://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/hurstville/

Welcome back to Term 3 and a special welcome to all our new Year 7 students and their families. It is my pleasure to have taken on the role as Year 7 Student Advisor for 2015 and I look forward to working with all Year 7 students and getting to know them better. I can be located in F-Block in the Special Education Staffroom.

As we settle in to Term 3, I would like to encourage all Year 7 students to maintain a consistent and hard-working approach to their school work. I would also like to remind students that it is essential to complete ALL tasks in class and at home so that teachers can observe as many of their skills, knowledge and abilities as possible.

Parents are encouraged to help students with their organisation at home by:
• Asking to see your child’s diary regularly
• Checking that diary entries are being made and followed up
• Asking your child to explain what their homework/next assignment is about
• Helping them plan their use of time
• Encouraging a regular place and time to do homework

Finally, if there is a welfare concern or issue that needs to be addressed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Julia Picone**  
**Year 7 Advisor**

**Year 8 Advisors Report**

**Year 8 YAP Day (Headspace)**

As part of the Year 8 Advisor Program (YAP Day) was held on Monday July 20th. All Year 8 students participated in a one hour workshop presented by Head Space called ‘A Healthy Self’. The students were informed about mental health issues, and management techniques. The focus of the session was for the students to identify their strengths to improve their self-esteem, and positive thinking. The students were also reminded that Headspace is an organisation that can provide support and help if they need it. Overall, it was a very valuable and informative program.

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

**Year 10 Advisors Report**

The term has started and already week 4. It has been fantastic to see so many students involved in the academic and extracurricular initiatives offered to students. I hope that students found the subject selection evenings held at the Oatley Campus helpful and informative. Year 10 are in the process of having their interviews with the Careers Advisor and Mr Vallis making sure students are on the right path to subject selection for Year 11.

**YAP Session – Wired Production**

At the end of term 2, Year 10 viewed the production WIRED presented by Brainstorm. The production focused on issues commonly faced by young adults including stress, worry and anxiety and explained some very useful coping mechanisms.

I would like to congratulate Year 10 students for their mature behaviour and engagement during the production.

**Year 10 Formal**

Please continue to make regular contributions to your formal account at the front office. Preparations for this exciting evening are moving very quickly. Congratulations to the following students who have successfully applied to be on the Formal Committee:

- Taneisha Dormido
- Layla Abrahams- Patel

**Alyssa Hill**  
**Marie Elias**  
**Vivian Yau**  
**Jasmina Gorigao**  
**Stella Maragkaki**  
**Jessie Lee**  
**Elisha Fakaosi**  
**Jamal Yaghi**  
**Amber Regan Presland**

If you have any concern, please don’t hesitate to call.

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

**From the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty**

Welcome back to yet another busy yet exciting term for the Creative Arts department. All classes have been working hard in completing major works for our annual Peakview art exhibition which is due to take place on Tuesday 15th September in the school library so make sure you save the date!

Here are few student reports on what our talented Visual arts, Photography and Digital Media and Performing arts students have been up to.

**Ms Walton**

**Year 10 Visual Arts Report - 3D Sculpture**

Our class, 10VA, constructed a 3D sculpture based on the theme ‘Street Art’. Each of us created a fence in which we could construct and paint as we wished. During the construction of the fences, there were a variety of materials used such as paddle pop sticks, PVA glue, wooden boards, paint primer and acrylic paint. There was no particular limit on how big we could make the sculpture.

We first had to create the pieces of the fences with paddle pop sticks. We did this with scissors by cutting and shaping the sticks to create our fence pieces. Then, the pieces of the fence were glued together with PVA glue. In order to make the fences stable we had to create bases so that they wouldn’t fall when standing up. After the fences and bases were dry we could then prime the surface with white gesso.

Once the primer had dried each of us could paint our unique street art designs onto the fence. To make sure the paint job would stand out we painted 2-3 layers of paint onto the sculpture. Painting the back of the sculpture was optional as the backs would not be shown.

After the paint had dried we could then glue the bases of the fences onto our wooden boards with PVA glue, however the PVA glue took a long time to dry so we had to be patient. Then we could decorate our bases using a range of materials such as saw dust, sand, pebbles, sticks, fake plants and other found and/or brought materials.

Overall creating this sculpture was a fun and enjoyable experience for our class as we explored the themes of street art and could express our creativity in our sculptures. Thankyou
Ms Walton for letting us be so creative and exploring art of our society. Hers is a few examples of some of our classes work. All of which will be on exhibition later in the term for Peakview as well as the other artworks we have been working hard on during the year.

The Painting of a Phoenix

The process of creating a phoenix for art is a complex yet satisfying one which takes time, passion and heart to create. It requires articulate skills and techniques which can be acquired during art lessons. My painting is very unique, original and can be separated from other artworks as it uses various patterns which are perfected with skills and techniques used to blend into the phoenix itself to its advantage.

To begin with, this is an animal themed painting of the domestic, mythological animal/creature, ‘The Phoenix’. I chose this animal because it intrigued me by giving me the vision of creating something special. Something I could refer to as true art. I used acrylic paint for my project as it was perfect for the job and looks great on my canvas. The acrylic paint allowed me to put warm and cool colours together for good use which was very useful.

I started the process of creating my artwork by projecting my image of a phoenix onto the school whiteboard which I found on the website, ‘Google’. I then placed my canvas onto blu-tack on the white board and enlarged the image so that it fitted perfectly in the position I wanted it to be in. I traced the outline of the phoenix leaving its body empty for my design and once I finished my drawing I removed the canvas from the whiteboard and I started to work on the background. I painted my background black to emphasize the beauty of the phoenix itself which was an advantages move as it made the phoenix and its colours stand out like wildfire. After which, I began to work on the design. I began to draw checkers inside of my phoenix’s body and after I had drawn all over the animal’s body I started to paint various checkers red and all of the remaining checkers orange. After I coloured the body I then painted the phoenix’s eye yellow and its face and beak red and orange much like its body. This made the eye of the phoenix articulate and eye catching. I then used a lightning effect using light blue paint to make striking lines onto all of the orange sections of the body after which I used purple paint to outline the checked body sections of my phoenix as well as the outline of the phoenix itself. I then blended the purple outlines into my orange and red paint to give a blending effect as feathers blend with each other in real life so for realism I added this effect. To conclude my painting I perfected my points/tips whilst blending them into the body for realism and I was very satisfied with the spectacular end result. The painting was made using a variety of both short and long strokes as the background used long strokes whereas the body used short strokes.

The painting and creation of my phoenix took seven whole weeks to complete as it was a lengthy task however every second was worth it and it all mattered and went towards the end product which is quite amazing. I personally only encountered one problem which was time as I had to rush my work towards the end to finish on time. Nevertheless no problems were too hard to conqueror as I finished perfectly on time by limiting all distractions, keeping quiet and finishing my work in silence.

So with a magnificent end product of the beautiful phoenix creature as it flies into the pitch black sky I am proud to see that my work has been finished and perfected and I suggest that in

Year 8 Photography and Digital Media Report

During the 1st semester of the year I was lucky enough to be in Photography and Digital Media, it was a really good experience and I had learnt so much.

I learnt how to make photographs without the use of a camera in the darkroom. We learnt to make a Photogram, how to use the enlarger and how to make a Photomontage and how to use a very cool technique called selective development. Before we went into the dark room, we all had to learn the safety rules, and how to take care of ourselves if something happens.

One of the assessments we did during photography was learn about an Australian Photographer by the name of Fiona MacDonald. It was a fun and interesting assessment, we got to learn about a famous artist and what type of artworks she does. We also got to apply her artist practice and make a similar artwork to hers which we all enjoyed.

Halfway through the semester, we started to learn Photoshop and Digital Manipulation of Photographs, which was also another fun experience. I learnt how to use the Photoshop program, how to edit photos and much more.

One of the assessments we did was the ‘Digital Portrait’ assessment task. It was a fun assessment, we got to learn how to add the double exposure effect to our portrait and how to manipulate our image.

Thank you to Ms Walton for running this Year 8 mini-elective and we look forward to learning more about Photography and Digital Media next year.

Rebecca Faysal Year 8

Year 7 Visual Arts Report

Year 7 have just finished a canvas painting based on the topic ‘Animals in Art’. 7VAA was asked to write a recount text type of their paintings. I would like to share with you a few samples. Congratulations Ally Cliff, Ali Naser and Lieyen Tran for your wonderful responses.

M. Walton
ANIMAL PAINTING

This semester in Visual Arts our class was assigned to create an artwork on a canvas of an animal of our choice either wild or domestic. Our theme was using patterns in our artwork and I decided to leave my background plain and have the animal filled with the patterns. The animal that I chose was a pig and stereotypically with a pig you think of the colour pink so that why I used pink as my background colour on the canvas. We were allowed approximately 5 weeks to complete this artwork and I believe that I did use my time wisely with my background and the pig. I spent a couple of lessons on the pink background because I wanted my pink to be opaque. Using acrylic paint and a Taklon flat brush I was able to reach the opacity that I was aiming for to make my pig stand out on the canvas. All the patterns in my artwork are in sections of all different shapes and sizes. Throughout the patterns and shapes there is no repetition that has been used, the only feature where I used repetition is in the colours on the whole canvas. On my canvas I loved to use a whole variety of colours including primary, secondary, cool and warm colours. I also like to use different shades of each colour. Some of the colours I used include blue, pink, purple, yellow and green. When sectioning off where each colour went with the paint you had to be very slow and precise and using a small Taklon round or flat brushes between the sizes around 1 – 4. If you were painting very slowly and with such precision it would’ve been pretty hard to make a mistake but if you did you would have to go over it. It also was very important to use small brushes because of the different lines that I used. Different lines that I used include swirlly, curved and straight. Last but not least the key idea of this task was to learn about different painting techniques. I only decided to use one technique, which was blending. I used blending on the nose of the pig in which I used different shades of pink. That was a summary of my artwork.

By Ally Clift 7AVA

My Visual Arts task was to complete an animal themed painting. The animal that I had chosen was an eagle soaring through the sky and the completed artwork not only looked really good, but however, made me feel proud of myself. The process of the artwork took around two terms to finish and used a lot of hard work.

The first step to making the animal themed painting was to bring all the right equipment including a canvas, pencil cases to draw and design our animal and visual art books. The equipment we used to make the artwork were acrylic paint, paintbrushes, water colour paints, cup of water to wash paint off brushes, newspaper and magazines as pallets. Step two was to trace my chosen animal with a pencil onto the canvas. The canvas was stuck on the whiteboard whilst the projector projects your chosen animal onto the canvas. With the picture shining on the canvas, I traced the animal onto the canvas and would result your animal drawn on the canvas.

When my animal had been traced onto the canvas, I used blue water colour paint to wash around my animal as a base layer. This layer would be the format of the background. When the blue wash was completed (the blue is the sky) I needed to let it dry which would be dried till the next day. The next day, it was time for layer two. Layer two creates a thicker and illuminate colour using acrylic paint instead of water colour. As I painted the blue acrylic paint around the animal, the motion of the brush stroking in one direction created a realism effect to the sky. After layer five of constantly applying blue acrylic paint, it was time the now design and paint the animal.

Using dark brown acrylic paint, I carefully painted zigzag lines just behind the head, painted the half of the wings brown, painted the claws and some of the body. Now using a bright yellow acrylic paint, I covered the other half of the wing and cover the edges with yellow dots using the end of the brush. Then mixing purple and white together I created a light purple colour to paint the other half of the eagle’s body.

Risking the time to create the artwork, the canvas was now done. I was so happy with how and what I did to create the artwork. It looked so amazing and colourful and I was not expecting to pull that artwork off. From this experience I was able to learn and use different types of textures, primary and secondary colours and how to create different type of textures.

Lleyton Tran Yr 7
Year 7 Performing Arts Report

The Lion King Day

On the 25th June, all of year 7 participated in a stage production of ‘The Lion King’. It was a huge success. Many parents and grandparents came to watch their children perform, whether they were in drama, dance or stagecraft. Some parents even made some food for the party we had after the performance. Some parents even kindly helped out with the costumes, makeup, set up and pack up. It couldn’t have been such a great day without all the helpers and parents bringing in food and helping out in all aspects of the day. Also a big thank you to the crew behind the scenes who ensured that the play ran smoothly. Also we should thank Ms Walton, Ms Rydstrand, Ms Seinor, Ms Johnston and Ms Crammond for choreographing the classes dance moves, teaching the kids in drama the scripts and how to perform on stage and the stagecraft kids creating wonderful birds and masks. The food we ate at the party was delicious. Isha’s parents’ BBQ chicken had a very good taste to it. Finally, we were all involved in singing songs from the Lion King we learnt in Music class or playing instruments under the musical guidance of Mr Reidy and Mr Holloway.

Overall, the day was very fun and enjoyable.

By Jacob Saville and Imanuel Slatinec Yr 7PA


**Careers Report**

**Year 10 Subject Selection**

All year 10 students have been actively engaged in the subject selection process over the past two weeks. It was great to see Year 10 students and parents at the subject selection information night and subject market. It is important to remember to make informed decisions, to do your research about subject content. In addition, students should make a concentrated effort to consult with their Teachers to get subject recommendations. Mr Vallis and I have been very impressed with the students we have conducted interviews with to date. It has been evident they are making informed decisions and listening to advice. Please continue to engage in the process, and plan for your child to attend the interview with a subject selection draft and school report.

James Cooper  
*Careers Advisor*

**Dance**

Congratulations to our GRC Peakhurst Dance Company, Aerobics teams and PeakAbility Gifted and Talented Dance ensembles who recently competed at the Dance Star and School aerobics State Championships in Sydney. We are thrilled to announce that our Dance Company, Titanium Aerobics team and PeakAbility Dance Group birthed a place through to the National Championships, held at the Gold Coast, Queensland, later in the term. We wish them the very best of luck, and know that they will make GRC Peakhurst Campus extremely proud.

Another fantastic achievement was our students in our Dance Company who competed at the Sydney Eisteddfod, at the University of NSW, Science Theatre, last weekend. Our school competed in the Secondary Schools Contemporary Dance Section, and were amongst some of the top ranking private schools in the state. We received a mark of ninety out of one hundred, two marks away from a Highly Commended placing. Our students were commended on their maturity and adaptability at such competitions and continue to uphold the GRC Peakhurst Campus name.

All GRC Dance ensembles and Aerobics teams are continuing to work hard and we wish them the very best of luck in all future competitions and performances this term.

Mardi Crammond  
*Dance Coordinator*

**Year 10 Debating Report**

On the 20th of July, Dimitri Esdaile-Watts and Jeremy Hockings were the hosts for the years 9 and 10 debate as the chairperson and timekeeper. The debate was between GRC Peakhurst and GRC Penshurst and was held in Peakhurst’s hall. The topic was *that we should ban horse racing*, and the teams were Penshurst as Affirmative and Peakhurst as Negative.

As we listened to the team’s points, we picked up on a few things:

- The Affirmative team stated that horses are punished and pushed on even if they are unwell or hurt.
- Gambling is addictive and this leads to betting on horses, this is unnecessary and horse racing encourages this.
- Every year, horses are tortured and trained for our entertainment.
- Every Melbourne Cup, at least two horses pass away, last year, this was proven: A Japanese horse had a heart attack mid-race, and another had a flag waved in its face and was so shocked that it ran into a wall and broke its leg. No matter how hard doctors tried to help this horse, it ended up being put down.
- They finished with a simple and strong team line, *‘Is our entertainment worth these beautiful creatures?’*

We agreed that these points were very strong and persuading. These were the Negative team’s rebuttals and points:

- The Negative team stated that horse racing unites communities and is a fun way of bringing people together.
- If we ban horse racing then this will cause a downfall of tourism which will result in economic levels lowering.
- Pharlap the horse was the hope for the Australian people from the Great Depression to hold onto.
- If we ban horse racing, we ban the hope that people hold onto.
- The Negative team’s team line was, *‘Why ban what’s helping? Why ban what’s inspiring? Why ban horse racing?’*

These points were also strong and persuading.

Finally, the adjudicator gave reasons to why one team’s points were better than another. She stated that the Affirmative team gave a great argument and gave some specific examples for the animals.

She also said that the Negative team presented several well-prepared arguments.

Luckily, the Negative team were more successful in preparing and arguing a stronger case, therefore the Negative team from GRC Peakhurst won the 1st debate of the day. They are now one debate away from being declared Zone Winners!!!

Overall it was a great day and it felt very rewarding when the food came out, mainly because most of us hadn’t eaten for a few hours. I would also like to thank the debating team, the audience, teachers and everyone who helped set up and debate.

By Jeremy and Dimitri
From the Special Education Faculty

Hi everyone. Second half of the year already!!!

There is lots and lots happening this semester. Please make sure to check your child’s communication book AND our website for coming events. Luckily our students had a relaxing holiday as this term is busy! Upcoming events include; Peakform (thank you to the parents who have returned notes and are supporting their child’s participation in this whole-school production), the inter-school boccia competition (on this Friday 7th Aug) Enclave program and Muay Thai for sport.

As well as all that….last week we have farewelled Mrs Johnston as she prepares for the birth of her first child. We wish her and her husband all the best and will keep you all posted. In her place, we welcome Ms Stodart. I know our students will make her feel most welcome.

*** Save the date***

PEAKFORM – Friday 28th August (approx. 6pm TBC)

Our annual review meetings will take place on Thursday 3rd September. Please put this date in your diaries. A note will be sent home shortly regarding times.

Our annual Support Unit camp (3-5th November at Stanwell Tops). We chose this site this year due to its proximity, so that all our students have the opportunity to participate in this fantastic experience. I will be contacting some parents in the coming weeks asking them to consider sending their child as a “day camper”.

P.S. As I submit this article, it’s only 70 sleeps until camp!

Peta Holm
Head Teacher
Special Education

SRC News

The SRC have been working steadily to organise activities and events for you. Together as a school we raised over $800 to support World Vision and begin to sponsor our own child. We had a cake stall, sold zatars, ran basketball and handball comps last term to support this cause.

The SRC can only continue to provide events like these if all students of our school community assist us in our other projects such as maintaining and improving the school bathrooms. Students voiced this as a priority, so money and time has been allocating to improving this. Please continue to consult with your SRC members with any suggestions you may have.

Thank you to our many students who were buddies and assisted with our many visitors from Hong Kong and China. The students enjoyed their time here immensely and learned a great deal from each other.

Recently the SRC participated in a photo shoot to showcase our school, looking great and staying after school to assist; thank you!

Leadership Camp is coming up soon and I will be finalising payments and numbers very soon. Those SRC members and additional students invited to Camp need to bring back their medical forms and pay ASAP to the front office in order to guarantee their position at camp.

Year Meetings and our next Formal Assembly is coming up in week 6: make sure to consult with your SRC members if you feel you have something to contribute.

Have a great term 3!

Student Welfare

Welcome back to a busy term 3 with many new and exciting programs being made available to all students. This term we are pleased to offer two new programs in partnership with Georges River Life Care Centre in Boundary Road Peakhurst. The ‘Shine’ program and the ‘Strength’ program.

The ‘Shine’ program has been offered to a selected group of Year 7 & 8 students and will run each Thursday afternoon for the next 8 weeks. The benefits from this program include as it will build on their strengths and also look at respect for themselves and others, personal appearance, health, resilience, managing emotions and cyber bullying. These activities will help empower your child with the positive tools for success in the future.

Thank you to Mrs. Joy Scipione from Georges River Life Care for running this worthwhile program.

The second program ‘Strength’ will run with a selected group of Year 9 students each Friday morning and will look at building on the students strengths and also looks at respect for self and others, resilience, partying safe, valuing and respecting women and planning for school studies. Thank you to Glenn Power and several youth workers from GRLC for running this program.

Year 7 Year Advisor Changes

I would also like to officially farewell our Year 7 advisor Ms Elise Whiley and wish her all the very best in gaining a promotion to Head Teacher of PDHPE in the private sector. Ms Whiley was instrumental in the schools wellbeing team over a number of years and will be truly missed by both staff and students. However, Year 7 will be in good hands with the appointment of Ms Julia Picone as Year Advisor for the rest of 2015. Ms Picone can be found in the Support Unit staffroom in F Block. Feel free to contact her to discuss your child’s progress.

Student Eyecare program

Just a final reminder that the school is running a welfare initiative where an Optometrist will be onsite during school hours due to commence week 5 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.

Have a great week!
A permission note regarding this was sent home last term. Could you please ensure that this form has been returned to your child’s year advisor. You can download the permission note from the school website or students can get another note from their Year Advisor.

**Student Wellbeing Report**

During our formal assembly on Friday 31st July Matthew Saunders of Year 7 and James Burt of Year 10 gave a wonderful speech on what to do if you are being bullied and the role of the bystander. Also Domenic Logozzo and Ansaar Baig launched our GRC Peakhurst anti bullying cards. I would like to thank theses students as well as the student Wellbeing committee for their countless hours and given up lunch times in the production of these wonderful cards. Well done team!

*Ms Walton*

*HT Student Welfare*

Here is Matthew Sanders speech:-

Hello my name is Matthew and I’m part of the student wellbeing committee. A few assemblies ago Kamura Guerra, Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts and Jackson Hall Best of Year 7 talked about cyber bullying, being a bystander and bullying in general ‘I’m just going to refresh some of those main ideas that they talked about.

Firstly about cyber bullying, Cyber bullying can be easy to do and more secretive but that does not mean you should do it. And if you do get cyber bullied you should see a parent, teacher or if it gets worse call the police or kids help line at 1800 55 1800 or go to www.kidshelp.com.au.

Bullying in general is not a good thing especially physical bullying because people can get majorly hurt. Verbal bullying can be less harmful in physical but hurting mentally can make people feel sad and lonely. Someone once said "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me".

Being a bystander when bullying is taking place will only make the situation worse because the bully will have more attention and will feel more powerful and think they are better than the victim. By not being a bystander you can stand up for the victim, go tell a teacher, Head teacher, Deputy Principal or Principal.

And please remember to never bully or be a bystander because this school is a bully free zone.

Thank you.

*Matthew Sanders Year 7*

Here is Ansaar Baig and Dominic Logozzo’s speech and what our anti bullying cards look like:-

Hey everybody, as you may already know my name is Ansaar and this is Domenic, and we’re here from the student wellbeing committee. We wanted to talk to you about our anti-bullying cards that promote anti-bullying.

Bullying can occur in a vast variety of forms including, verbal, physical and mental. Regardless of whatever situation may result from if you do get bullied, just remember to never be silent.

These cards were designed by Domenic and I with the intention of achieving one aim and it was to promote anti-bullying via cards. The cards display a great anti-bullying slogan and that is ‘Bullying? Be smart, don’t start’. Our anti-bullying cards feature what you should do if you get bullied and where you can call for help. These include steps you can take in order for you to escape the bullying nightmare. Whenever you get bullied or are being bullied you can refer to our cards for information on how to stop the bullying from occurring or just simply to seek help from the suffering.

Together we have designed these cards but could not have achieved 600 of them without the help of the committee so we would like to thank Ms Walton and the entire wellbeing committee for their efforts towards the cards as they had spent numerous hours cutting pasting and laminating these. We would also like to thank the executive for their approval of the cards. A big round of applause for everyone please.

We have arranged for you to receive your very own anti bullying cards on your way out. Please collect them and put them in a safe place.

*By Domenic Logozzo and Ansaar Baig Yr 10*

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**Rewards Excursion Report - Kingpin Bowling**

On Friday the 12th of June, around 40 students who were either on bronze, silver or gold in the merit system attended a Kingpin Bowling rewards excursion in Sydney Harbour. At 9am we all met at Mortdale station to catch a train to the city and then walk our way down to the harbour.

When we arrived at the Kingpin bowling centre, we participated in many fun activities, such as arcade games, bowling and laser skirmish. First we did arcade games for an hour or so, and then we split up into teams for two games of bowling. After that, we had our recess and then played two games of laser skirmish where we built on our teamwork skills and had lots of fun!

After burning off lots of energy we were able to eat lunch altogether at Darling Harbour food court.

Overall, the rewards excursion was a fun experience that has encouraged us to keep aiming for excellence at school as we get rewarded with these exciting opportunities to take part in.
We would like to thank Ms Walton for organising the excursion and Ms Favuzzi, Ms Sandhu and Mr Miller for taking us. We look forward to the next rewards excursion day in term 4.

**Tamara Reynolds and Lauren Manners Year 9**

**Zone Athletics**

It was a little while back now, but on the 22nd and 23rd of June around 30 of our quickest and strongest students and classmates accompanied two of our teachers to the zone athletics carnival. The carnival was to be held at E.S. Marks Athletics Track, which is a fair way from school so we were to have ourselves at GRC Peakhurst Campus bright and early, 8:15am to be exact. This was a bit of a shock to the system for many as it was absolutely freezing, a brisk 18-19 degrees. Clad in school jumpers, jackets, track pants and shorts, for the crazy few, we got our names marked off by Mr Haydar and Ms Whiley, and we filed into the bus preparing ourselves for the day ahead. Day one was to be filled with many events such as hurdles, 200m sprint, 800m, discus, javelin, shot put, long jump and high jump. We were competing against 17 schools and some of their best athletes. It wasn’t going to be easy. We arrived pumped and ready for what the day was going to bring, but there was no doubt nerves were creeping up especially as events started to be announced. Our base camp was set up, GRC flag and all, and our team singlets were distributed, nothing like a bit of team spirit to spur us on. From that time forward it was a waiting game, waiting for that moment where your event was called and Mr Haydar ushered you off. Nothing is like those nerves, whether you were nervous for yourself and your own event, or nervous for a friend hoping they would win or come close to it. Many events were won and lost on the first day and it was quite successful. Nothing like a few victories to encourage us for day two. Day two was much the same, cold but sunny and nerve-racking, except this time Mr Morley had the pleasure of accompanying us in place of Ms Wiley. In true GRC Peakhurst fashion we turned up late to the carnival, I admit it wasn’t hours late but it was truly a rush to get a few girls off the bus and onto the track. Events during this day were 1500m walk finals, 400m, 3000m final, 100m, 4x100m relay, javelin, discus, shot put, high jump and long jump. Results for day two at the zone athletics carnival were very positive; we won many events and broke a few records while we were at it. While on the bus home there were many smiling yet exhausted faces. When the notes for the regional carnival were handed out there was no stopping the pride and happiness creeping in.

On behalf of the 30 odd students I’d like to thank the teachers, Mr Haydar, Ms Whiley and Mr Morley, for taking us and putting up with our overly excited bodies for the two days. I’d also like to congratulate those who went to the carnival, as it is hard enough to get in but I’d like to especially congratulate those who made it to the next level. It is days like those that prove this school and the teenagers within are truly talented.

**Charlotte Sutton Yr 9**

**Legacy Public Speaking Competition Local Finals**

On the 31st of July, two students from GRC Peakhurst Campus entered the Legacy Local Finals Public Speaking Competition. The students were: Ashley Pak from Year 7 and Laura Bancroft from Year 8. Ashley’s speech was about multicultural education and emphasis and how there should be a multicultural subject implemented in our schools. Laura’s speech was about racial stereotypes and that if people use racial stereotypes, it should be seen as a form of racism and be put on your permanent record, thus making it harder for you to apply for jobs. Both these speeches were phenomenal and captivating and the adjudicator had even more praise to offer.

The competitors had to then do their impromptu speeches in which their topic was “A Close Call”. This competition was sponsored by ‘Legacy’ which is a charitable non-profit organisation that helps people in families with members who have fought in the war and passed away. They also help provide financial support for the families. Overall, congratulations on this wonderful achievement, girls!

**Talia-Rose Waldock Y9**

This is the second public speaking competition this month. On the 24th of July the Plain English National Speaking final was broadcasted to classrooms around the state. Schools around Australia were given the opportunity to watch the finals. The competitors had a prepared speech and impromptu speech. The impromptu topic was ‘Going Places’. The winner received return flights to London as well as a $550 prize. All our debaters and public speakers enjoyed the opportunity to interact with adjudicators and other schools through the use of A8 (our Connected Classroom).

**Aboriginal Education News**

This year’s NAIDOC theme is ‘We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate’ and on Friday 24th July we were treated to a fantastic celebration of the importance of NAIDOC at Penshurst Girls Campus. Three students represented GRC Peakhurst at the assembly to pay respects to country, and to those who work tirelessly to preserving land, sea and culture. The students shared the stories of our Aboriginal flag, the many sites of significance and sacred places. The students spoke very well in front of a large crowd and special quests and did our GRC College and Peakhurst Campus proud. These students were Tallis Brown, Tianna Thompson and Kaylan Rata.
The GRC Campfire meetings are proving a popular event among the students and will be continuing in term 3 at GRC Peakhurst Campus. The meeting will be held on with a number of special quests invited to attend and have a yarn with the students.

This year the ‘Speak Up’ public speaking program has grown to an outstanding 50 student participants of which 3 students will be representing GRC Peakhurst, Year 7 William Neville, Year 8 Tianna Thompson and Tallis Brown. The Speak Up showcase will be held this Friday 31 July 2015 at Parliament House and I wish our representatives the best of luck.

Three students from Peakhurst have been nominated to participate in the Great Debate this year, these students are Violet-Craven Miller, Kaylan Rata and Olivia Mirfin. The second training day for the event was held last Tuesday where students were treated by the guest appearance of Rhys Wesser a former Souths Sydney Rugby League Player. He spoke to the students about the importance of public speaking skills and how as a very shy young man, he has overcome his fear of public speaking and is now a representative for Souths at major events. The students will be taking on the role of the government in the final debate held on September 4th against the girls from GRC Penshurst, debating the hot topic of Aboriginal Educational Studies and the importance of having this subject in all schools.

CHINA VISIT

Chinese Visiting Experience Recount: Ashley Pak, Maddison Mitchell and Elizabeth Van de Pol (7L)

On Monday, 3rd of August, 39 students from Wannian No.2 Middle School, Jiangxi Province China visited our school to experience what it is like to attend an Australian school. 7L, Year 7 SRC and four students from Year 9-10 participated in this enlightening experience. They stayed for all of Monday and three periods of Tuesday.

When they first arrived, our schools introduced each other, with a few translators in action. Following that, we sang our national anthems (China’s anthem was called ‘The March of the Volunteers’) and two musicians and a dancer, from Wannian Middle School, showed us a performance of their talents, playing a traditional Chinese instrument called ‘eh hu’, a flute and an elegant Chinese dance. In return, we showcased our Year 10 students, Luke Munzone, Anthony Tugaga and Christian Mann. We then exchanged gifts, receiving Chinese tea and giving an Australian memoir in a form of a book.

Shortly after, Peakhurst students were matched up with their buddies from China and split into three groups (Groups A, B and C). Our first activity had us moving fast, because our sports teachers had organised three different games for our groups. The next activity for Group B (our group) was Science with Mrs Alexander. Here we all learnt a great deal about the force of air, how it pushes in all directions and we then made a Tumblewing glider. We had fun with the glider trying to swirl it through the air using just a piece of cardboard. Our HSIE lesson with Ms. Watts proved to be competitive, with 5 teams competing against one another in two rounds of pop quizzes about our countries, for the grand prize of... lollies! Everybody tasted some typical Australian vegemite on a cracker and not many people enjoyed that! The last lesson for the day was with Ms. Seinor, and we painted a card in an Aboriginal form: dot art depicting a campfire, children, animals and adults.

The next day, we got off to a fresh start by making chocolate spiders with Ms. Guaitieri. It was a new experience for our visitors, because they don’t have much chocolate in China, and they had never seen the noodles we used before. We headed up to our library to practise calligraphy, and it was a really educational and fun experience. The Chinese visitors gave their respective buddies a calligraphy set as a gift to take home as a token of their appreciation.

Overall, our Chinese buddies thoroughly enjoyed their experience with us and we learned fascinating things from each other such as their normal classroom consists of 80 students and NO discussion, and we taught them about the opportunities available in Australian schools. They then departed for GRC Oatley Campus, followed by GRC Hurstville Campus with some of us swapping contact details for the future.

Thank you GRC Peakhurst, Mrs Northey, Mr Vallis, Mr Wilson and everyone else involved in this unique opportunity.