11 December 2015

From the Principal

The curtain is about to fall on the 2015 academic year at GRC Peakhurst Campus. It has been a phenomenal year where staff and students have created wide-ranging learning experiences and achieved positive learning outcomes throughout the year. It has been the outstanding commitment, dedication and passion of the teachers to develop and promote the various learning opportunities for all the students. This has been complemented by the students showing great initiative to engage in the learning experiences and challenge their learning potential at all times. Our constantly school encourages and promotes participation in expanding the learning horizons for everyone.

As a school community we are entitled to be proud of our achievements in 2015. Congratulations to all the teaching staff for their productive contributions within and beyond the classroom. The efforts of the teaching staff continuously demonstrated expertise in teaching their respective subject areas and more importantly, a high level of care for the wellbeing of their students. Also, we must collectively thank our school administration staff for their ongoing professionalism in ensuring the excellent operational systems within our educational organisation. Our industrious general assistant and the entire cleaning staff have been instrumental, throughout the year, in ensuring we all work in a very safe and clean educational environment. Finally, we would like to thank all the families of our students for their ongoing support when working with all the students. The sum of all these stakeholders working productively and collaboratively equals a high – achieving school community! Congratulations to everyone for a fantastic 2015 and we are all looking forward to a well-deserved rest.

The entire school community congratulates our graduating Year 10 – Class of 2015. All the students have worked well throughout their four years at GRC Peakhurst Campus. They have laid the foundations for their future at our campus and are now ready to position themselves in the next phase of their educational journey. As their student adviser, Ms Favuzzi, has been outstanding in supporting their learning and wellbeing throughout their time at school. We celebrated this special milestone with a formal celebration, on Thursday 26th November 2015, at Darling Harbour. It was a lovely evening of fine dining and dancing. All the students were impressive in the way they prepared, dressed and celebrated a very momentous occasion. We will be concluding the celebrations during their Graduation Ceremony on Friday 11th December 2015.

We would like to congratulate our school leaders for 2015:

Samuel Attard & Hayley Chick (Captains) and Adam Daizli & Lauren Chappell (Vice – Captains)

All four school leaders represented the school and performed their duties with distinction. They represented the school in numerous sporting events and in public relations. Our school leaders represented our school with distinction at all times and were a credit to themselves and their families.

Simultaneously, we take the opportunity to announce our recently elected 2016 School Captains and Vice Captains. Congratulations to:

Caleb Round & Tamara Reynolds (Captains) and Stelios Gletos & Erica O’Brien (Vice Captains)

Our school leaders for 2016 are highly respected amongst their peers and feel honoured to be proudly representing our school community at all times. We wish them all the very best in their respective roles for 2016.

On behalf of our school, I would like to acknowledge the enormous educational contributions of two very special educators who will be retiring from Public Education at the end of 2015. Firstly, our GRC Principal and inspirational leader, Ms Carol Spittles has been the driving force, the heart and soul behind GRC during the last ten years. Carol has dedicated her entire working life in Public Education. Her sole aim throughout her career was to teach and support staff and students towards better learning outcomes at all times. As many people can attest – Carol was very successful in achieving her aims and objectives throughout her distinguished career in education. Secondly, Mr Geoffrey Taylor has been our longest serving teacher at GRC Peakhurst Campus. Geoff has taught in the Technological Applied Studies faculty for 37 years. He has been
Mr Terry Vallis  
Principal

Deputies Report

As the end of the year approaches, we would like to thank parents for their support of the school throughout the year. We have a number of end of year ceremonies that will occur between now and the end of the year to celebrate the successes of GRC Peakhurst Campus students.

Last Friday 4th December, we celebrated the sporting achievements of 2015. It was wonderful to see so many students receiving awards. Congratulations to all students in the winning house ‘Beachley’.

The Year 10 Presentation Day will be held on Friday 11th December. Year 10 students are required to be at school at 8.15am in preparation for a 9am start. All students are reminded to be in full school uniform on the day. Parents are requested to be seated in the Hall by 8.45am. Morning Tea will be served in the Hall at the conclusion of the ceremony.

The Year 7,8 and 9 Presentation Day will be held on Monday 14th December, commencing at 12.30pm. Parents are requested to be seated by 12.15pm. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are also reminded to be in full school uniform. Students will receive their Semester 2 report following the Presentation Day ceremony.

The P&C operate a second hand clothing pool each Wednesday morning. They rely on parents donating uniforms that their children have outgrown. All money raised by the uniform pool is donated back to the school to purchase additional resources. The P&C would appreciate further donations.

Several weeks ago, all students received information relating to equipment requirements for 2016. ‘Student Packs’ have been developed by Kookaburra Educational Resources in consultation with Peakhurst Campus that includes all the necessary equipment (stationery, exercise books, folders etc) should parents wish to purchase a book pack, it may be done so online or through mail order. This process will need to be completed by Tuesday 5th January 2016. Copies of the student pack information can be found on the school website.

The 2016 school year commences on:

Thursday 28th January - Yr 7 students only  
Friday 29th January – Yr 8, 9 and 10 students

Students are expected to arrive at school by 8.40 on the first day. They should be in full school uniform and with the necessary equipment to begin their new academic year.

We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday and look forward to working with you in 2016.

Holly Northey and Scott Wilson  
Deputy Principals

Year 7 Advisors Report

YAP Session on Teen Skin and Sun Care

On Monday 16th November 2015, Year 7 attended a seminar in the school library, delivered by FreshEd. The seminar addressed the issue of teen skin and sun care and provided students with lots of relevant and helpful information as well as providing students the opportunity to ask important questions. I hope that each student took something valuable away from it.

Rewards Excursion

On Friday 20th November 2015, I had the pleasure of accompanying Miss Walton and close to 100 students on the Rewards excursion to Jamberoo. We all braved the 40 degree heat and had an incredibly enjoyable day. I would like to congratulate the Year 7 students who attended on their outstanding behaviour and I would like to encourage all of Year 7 to continue demonstrating respect and responsibility and aiming for excellence so that more of you will have the opportunity to attend Rewards Excursions next year. Don’t forget to submit all your merits for processing to ensure that your points are updated.

As we near the end of 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 7 on their achievements throughout the year. This year has seen you grow, learn, face new challenges and succeed. It has been a pleasure to get to know Year 7 this past semester and I wish all of Year 7 and their families a safe and happy holiday.

Julia Picone  
Year 7 Advisor
Year 8 Advisors Report

Congratulations to Parents/Guardians and Year 8, you have almost completed your second year of High School. It has been great to watch Year 8 continue to progress through the year and actively engage in a variety of learning experiences. Students can now look forward to study in Year 9, it will be exciting because they get to study and specialise in their chosen elective subjects.

Yearly Reports

Firstly I would like to congratulate all students for striving to achieve their personal best in all subject areas. I did enjoy reading the reports, identifying the success, improvements and excellence that students have achieved for this reporting period. In addition, please take note of your Teachers advice for areas to improve and strive to make changes and adjustments so you can achieve your personal best.

Finally, I would like to wish all Parents/Guardians and students a safe and happy Christmas Holiday. I look forward to working with you next year.

James Cooper
Year 8 Advisor

Year 10 Advisors Report

Year 10 Advisor Report

It is with great sadness and happiness that I write my final Year Advisor report for this group of students. Year 10, It feels like yesterday that you entered the Peakhurst gates for the first time, filled with excitement or perhaps trepidation about what the next four years would bring. It has been my absolute pleasure to watch you grow and foster your welfare needs. We have travelled this road together and I can’t believe it is time to say farewell, as you begin your new challenge at the senior campus. My advice for you is to continue to set yourself challenges, pursue your dreams, remain humble and always remember Peakhurst fondly as your stepping stone to the future!

Year 10 Formal

On Thursday 27th November, Year 10 students attended their Year 10 Formal, held at Dockside, Cockle Bay! Students and their families gathered at school at 5pm for many, many photographs, before heading into the city via bus. Upon arrival, students were greeted with a mocktail on the balcony overlooking picturesque Darling Harbour. Dinner was delicious and the dance floor was packed as the DJ belted out the students favourite hits! The photo booth was big hit too, with a range of funny photos taken throughout the night! No one wanted to leave when it was time to call it a night! Students took their sore and blistered feet back to the bus and chatted eagerly about the evenings events the entire bus ride home! What a night! You were wonderful, Year 10! Such a glamorous group of students!

Sign Out

Sign out for Year 10 will occur in week 10. All outstanding fees must be finalised and any faculty equipment must be returned in order for your child to be signed out.

Mrs Sophia Favuzzi
Year 10 Advisor

Careers Report

Coffee School Excursion

The training day was very successful. The students involved had a very fun and informative day. In addition, speaking on behalf of Ms Seidel, it was a pleasure to take all students involved due to their excellent behaviour and attitude. I am planning to repeat this activity with Year 10 next year.

Year 10 Transition Activities (Orientation Days and Big Day Out)

The event was very productive and successful due to the excellent attitude of the Year 10 cohort. The orientation days were very valuable, helping students to make a successful transition to the Oatley Senior Campus. Important administration procedures and activities took place on these days. Furthermore, students had the opportunity to meet with their peers from Penshurst Girls Campus and Hurstville Boys Campus.

Work Placement and GET INTO VET

Recently selected Year 9 students and Year 10 students have engaged in work placement with Local Businesses. The students involved have done an excellent job. Some students have gained part-time work and have had offers for apprenticeships in the future, which is outstanding. In addition, selected students have engaged in TAFE short courses and have gained very valuable experience.

Part-Time Work / Tax File Numbers

Students have been working with me to create and develop their Resumes. If your child needs assistance with this process and applying for jobs please send them to me. I can also provide the information needed to complete a Tax file number application.

Finally, I would like to wish all Parents/Guardians and students a safe and relaxing holiday. I look forward to working with you next year.

School based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Five Year 10 students have been successful in gaining an SBAT. This is an excellent way to fast track study into Trades or the Nursing profession. The areas of study are; Plumbing,
Construction and Nursing. These students will complete Year 11 and 12. However, they will attend TAFE one day per week, employment one day per week and school three days per week.

James Cooper
Careers Advisor

From the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

Ilford Student Photo and Digital Imaging Competition 2015.

In our last edition of Peak I was happy to report that Grand Lee of Year 8 won the Year 7-8 category for the traditional black and white category.

Grand Lee will be awarded a winner’s plaque on presentation day and he has already received $75.00.

Also I’m happy to report we also received two merit Certificates awarded to Jezebel Edwards and Elizabeth D’Ortona also of year 8. Congratulations!

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has also won Second Place for “Best School for the Term, Photo Category” award and for this we received a voucher for $100 to spend on Ilford materials. We also won 3rd place in the “Best School for the Year 2015” and received a second $100 voucher.

Well done to my Year 8 Mini Elective Photography and Digital Media class for your fine efforts!

Ms Walton

Dance and Aerobics

Congratulations to our talented and dedicated Aerobics students who won their competition in Newcastle recently. The girls from Titanium aerobics team competed in the NSW Schoolaerobics Spring Challenge and received a total score of 80.1. It was our highest score of the season!

Both our aerobics teams are continuing to train throughout the off season, even participating in some Yoga lessons at Gannons Park! Auditions for our teams for 2016 will be conducted early Term 1 next year.

Well done girls on the fabulous achievements you have made throughout the year, you have made GRC Peakhurst Campus very proud.

Mardi Crammond
Dance Coordinator

From the Mathematics Faculty

It has certainly been a busy year in the Mathematics faculty with the continued implementation of the NSW syllabus for the Australian Curriculum.

I would like to sincerely thank the entire Maths staff for their enthusiasm and dedication in supporting students to achieve course outcomes as well as strengthening the ties between home and school. As a result, students are experiencing greater realisation of their potentials and working more actively to achieve them.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers to continue supporting their children over the Christmas break by encouraging their children to:

- Revisit study skills strategies outlined in the various Mathematics Curriculum Newsletters over the course of the year. Newsletters are available for download on the school website under the Mathematics faculty page.
- Attempt to complete the revision booklets (which will be distributed to students during clearance procedures prior to Presentation Day) in preparation for next year.
- Continue using Mathletics and other numeracy apps (listed in the above revision booklet) to bridge any gaps in their existing knowledge and maintain their understanding and functional knowledge of key concepts already learnt and mastered.

There will be significant changes to staffing next year with Ms Chua taking up a teaching position at Oatley Senior Campus and Ms Stodart and Ms De Angelis taking extended leave. We wish them all the very best in 2016. Additionally, Mrs Ho has taken up an opportunity outside the college. I would like to especially thank Mrs Ho for her commitment and tireless efforts, which have added enormous value to both the faculty and the college, over the past five years. She will be sorely missed. As staffing is yet to be finalised at this stage, details will be announced in the first edition of PEAK next year.

On behalf of the Mathematics faculty, I would like to wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year. We look forward to working closely with you again in 2016.

Christine Keir
Head Teacher Mathematics/Computing
From the Special Education Faculty

Hard to believe this is the last newsletter for the year. Where has the year gone? The next few weeks are going to be extremely hectic for the Support Unit, with Year 6’s and Year 10’s having orientation days as well as assemblies, a movie and picnic day and hopefully some renovations beginning, to make way for our new IO/Autism class for 2017. A note full of dates has already been sent home for your calendars.

Last week we had the Year 10 Formal! What a fabulous night! Leo, Nathan and Roger all looked very dapper... the staff looked pretty great too. A special thank you to Mrs Campion!

Reports will be coming home very soon. The envelopes will also contain important information – one form is about camp and the other is regarding our book packs that we are trialling next year. You have the opportunity to order and buy on line or by mail. Either way, they will be delivered to your door in time for the students to have them on their return to school. We hope this initiative is stress free and convenient.

Our Year 10 boys have 13 days left at Peakhurst! On behalf of all the Support Unit staff we wish them the very best of luck! Work hard in Year 11 and 12, keep in touch and know that we will all really miss the 4 of you! Keep striving for Excellence!

Thank you everyone for a fantastic year. On behalf of the staff in Special Education, I wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer holiday and look forward to doing it all again in 2016!

Regards,
Peta Holm and the Support Unit team!
Rel. Head Teacher Special Education

SRC News

The SRC have had a busy term representing you and our school. Students have also been involved in welcoming many visitors to the school, Remembrance Day ceremonies, formal assemblies and Year 6 Orientation programs. We have had a visit from Libby, our World Vision liaison officer and will have more exciting news for you regarding our sponsorship of a very special child. Hayley Chick and Samuel Attard spoke beautifully at the Riverwood Remembrance Day service and did our school proud: well done to the two of you.

Nominations and elections for SRC Years 8-10 2016 have commenced and it gives me great pleasure to be able to announce our successful Year 10 2016 SRC members:

Isaac Cooper
Stelios Gletos
Nikhil Kumar
Lauren Manners
Erica O'Brien
Tamara Reynolds
Caleb Round
Rhys Sandy
Charlotte Sutton
Mariah Vergoulis

Five Year 9 students also underwent a rigorous application process for School Captains 2016. This included the usual nomination process as well as speeches to their peers and presenting in front of a panel interview comprising of our two outgoing School Captains, a representative from the P&C, myself, Mr Vallis and Mr Wilson. Each student is to be commended on the efforts throughout the process, as presenting and answering questions to a panel of 6 people is no easy feat!! They all performed much better than I would have at their age: Congratulations!

As a result of the interviews, the panel were thoroughly impressed by all candidates and their ideas they have for our school and were happy to support the student/staff vote.

I am proud to announce that are Vice Captains and Captains for 2016 are:

Vice Captains
Erica O'Brien
Stelios Gletos
Captains
Tamara Reynolds
Caleb Round

Congratulations!! I look forward to working with you all next year.

Applications will close for Year 9 2016 on Friday 27th November and applications for Year 8 2016 are due to me no later than Wednesday 2nd December. Please see me or any of our current SRC members for questions or suggestions you may have.

I now leave you with our Leadership Camp video: courtesy of Year 8 SRC members, in particular Jack Appleby: thank you so much for making this! Check out these technology skills.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0kvfkV8Hg4

Lauren Osmond
SRC Coordinator

Student Wellbeing

WELLBEING REPORT

It was an exciting and extremely busy Term 4 with the, Year 9 Peer Support Training, Strength Program, White Ribbon presentation, Rewards Excursion to Jambaroo, Student Eye Care program and the Year 6 Pathfinders Transition program.

Firstly I would like to report on the 32 Year 9 students that took up the opportunity to become Peer support Leaders in
On the day these students demonstrated excellent skills in leadership, were responsible and respectful came up with new initiatives for team building exercises and will be a true asset to have as leaders for our new Year 7 cohort. It gives me great pleasure to announce our Peer Support Leaders for 2016. Congratulations to the following students:

**Peer Support Leaders for 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Erica O’Brien</th>
<th>Curtis Hardie</th>
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<tr>
<td>Julius Nesevski</td>
<td>Nathan Osborne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angelica Esdaile-Watts</td>
<td>Annaleise Mitreska</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte Sutton</td>
<td>Caitlin Hale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tammy Vansteen</td>
<td>Anahera-Aroha Rapata</td>
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<td>Anastasia Gaskell</td>
<td>Jewel Vrbanc</td>
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<td>Andy Qian</td>
<td>Ashley Harris</td>
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<td>Harrison Breen</td>
<td>Amie Leask</td>
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<td>Rhys Sandy</td>
<td>Ashley Totten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murray Bushby</td>
<td>Kaylan Rata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Benson</td>
<td>Lauren Manners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mariah Vergoulis</td>
<td>Brooklyn Wu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daisy Bescos</td>
<td>Tamara Reynolds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Boots</td>
<td>Verity Randall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Round</td>
<td>Kemel Reda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Christoulakis</td>
<td>Quinn O’Conner</td>
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I will now leave you with a student report about the day’s activities.

**M.Walton**  
**HT Student Welfare**

**PEER SUPPORT TRAINING DAY 2015**

On Thursday the 29th of October, 32 year 9 students participated in the Peer Support training day for 2015. This day was to prepare the soon to be year 10 students on how to run a lesson for the year 7’s of 2016. On this day we had learnt many things, including; a series of icebreakers, name games, and lessons on PBL. We had also learnt how to participate and teach, this had been done by being separated into groups and we took turns leading the lesson and being the students (some of us being disruptive one too!). This involved lots of laughs and giggles and just a good time in general.

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We had watched a sequence of videos which changed our views of being a leader and really inspired us all. We realized we wouldn’t just be hanging out with a bunch of year 7 but making them feel safe and secure in their new environment. This is also beneficial to us as we are enriching our communication and team work skills. To do this we were provide a booklet which will be filled out during our many Wednesday sessions soon to come next year. These booklets included sessions on bullying, confidence and our school expectations.

To conclude this day, we were rewarded with a surprise lunch of sandwiches, cupcakes and juice poppers. The 2016 year 10 students are looking forward to the experiences to come and meeting our fellow year 7 students. Thank you to Ms Osmond and Ms Walton for giving us the chance to be leaders in 2016 we had an amazing day!

**By Lauren Manners and Erica O’Brien**

**Strength program**

The Strength Program has been a new partnership with Georges River Life Care and as I have previously reported in it has been very successful for selected Year 9 boys. I would like to thank Glenn Power the Manager of Georges River Life Care for giving us this opportunity and look forward to building on this partnership in 2016.

Congratulations to the following Year 9 students for completing this very worthwhile program –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP A</th>
<th>GROUP B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Alex Nave</td>
<td>1. Isaac Cooper</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Braden Holmes</td>
<td>2. David Dunn</td>
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<td>3. Adam Podbury</td>
<td>3. James Brennan</td>
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<td>5. Jason McGuinness</td>
<td>5. Tyrece Nguyen</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Anfu Huang</td>
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**By Lauren Manners and Erica O’Brien**

**M.Walton**  
**HT Student Welfare**

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**By Lauren Manners and Erica O’Brien**

**M.Walton**  
**HT Student Welfare**

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**By Lauren Manners and Erica O’Brien**

**M.Walton**  
**HT Student Welfare**

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**By Lauren Manners and Erica O’Brien**

**M.Walton**  
**HT Student Welfare**
White Ribbon Presentation

During the last formal assembly held on Friday 13TH November the Student Wellbeing team worked very hard to present a moving assembly on White Ribbon Day. This committee sees students from Years 7-10 coming together every Tuesday at recess to discuss various issues and topics that have affected students throughout GRC and have been instrumental this year to address the whole school on issues such as Bullying, Cyberbullying, R U OK Day, PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) and White Ribbon Day just to name a few. I would like to the student wellbeing committee for their numerous hours of work and commitment to being positive leaders and I look forward to working with this committee in 2016. We celebrated our last session with a special rewards Pizza lunch.

Congratulations to the following students –

Year 10
- Ansaar Baig
- Domenico Logozzo
- Ali Reda
- James Burt
- Fletcher Hall
- Alyssa Hill
- Marie Elias

Year 8
- Bianca Winter
- Bianca Cruize

Year 7
- Jackson Hall Best
- Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts
- Matthew Sanders

I will now leave you with some speeches prepared by the Wellbeing Student Committee that they said during our White Ribbon Assembly.

M.Walton
HT Student Welfare

On Friday the 13th of November, GRC Peakhurst campus had a White Ribbon assembly. Ms Walton the head of student welfare gave a presentation about how the wellbeing committee had been working very hard to run the formal assembly and how we had been making and selling white ribbons. The wellbeing committee members Bianca Cruise, Bianca Winter Alyssa Hill, Marie Elias, Mathew Sanders, Jackson Hall Best, Dimitriy Esdaile Watts, James Burt and Fletcher Hall researched white ribbon day and spoke about it during the formal assembly.

We had Bianca Winter and Bianca Cruise run the assembly. We had two other guest speakers Mr Vallis and Mr Hayder talk about how they feel about domestic violence against women. Mr Hayder spoke about how he has lots of important women in his life and that he would never do anything to hurt them, Mr Vallis spoke about how everyone should be respectable, responsible around not only women but everyone. The wellbeing committee gave their oath about how they swore never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.

We had a presentation video that was put together by Anssar Baig and Dominic Loggozzo we asked students and teachers what they thought being a man meant and they all said that it was about being respectable, responsible, strong, confident, standing up for what they believe in and caring for each other. I will now share with you our speeches that we said for the formal assembly.

By Bianca Winter and Bianca Cruise

What is White Ribbon Day?

White Ribbon Day is a male lead campaign to end violence against women. White Ribbon is the world largest movement of men and boys working together to end violence against women and girls and to promote gender equity and healthy relationships.

It all begun in Canada in 1991 and is active in more than 60 countries.

In Australia awareness begun in 2003 as part of the United Nations. In 2007 The White Ribbon Foundation is formed in Australia as a stand-alone entity.

How men are engaged in White Ribbon Day

This event raises awareness about men who are violent against women.

Violence has been defined by the World Health Organisation as ‘the international use of physical force or power, threatening against another person or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death or psychological harm.

Often victims are not part of statistics; they are wives, sisters, daughters and friends.

Men should never be silent and watch any form of violence towards women and do or say nothing.

Research on White Ribbon Day

Often people who are around violence show:

- Increased risk of exposure to their future partners
- Exposer to children to this violence is considered child abuse
- Sexual assault and domestic violence are also the products of sexism and power inequalities. Sexism (a belief in male superiority) and patterns of male power encourage men’s violence against women.
- Research has shown that violence against women also is shaped by poverty, alcoholism, drug abuse, and mental illness.
- The good news is that most boys and men are not violent. Many men have loving and respectful relationships with women. And most men share the belief that physical or sexual violence against women is never acceptable.
Why wear a white ribbon?

Wearing a white ribbon is the simplest thing you can do to show your support. On the 25th of November is the official day, however, the weeks leading up to this day are just as important and we encourage you to purchase a white ribbon from us. By wearing this ribbon you pledge not to excuse violence against women, and you are committed to supporting community action to stop violence by men against women.

Men who wear the ribbon demonstrate their opposition to violence against women and commitment to equality between women and men.

How to stop the Violence

Through growing awareness of this important campaign there is hope for victims. We must build greater respect and equality for both genders.

If you see the violence, stand at a distance that is safe for you.

The strategies to help are:

- Call the police, get other’s support to cease the violence
- Distract the person who is abusing the woman, and tell him that it’s not ok to do that.
- Tell a trustworthy adult about the situation

Getting Back on Your feet

There are several helplines you contact to get additional help or just to talk about any problems or about the situation around you.

These are:

- Domestic Violence Line
- Kids Help Line
- 1800 Respect
- Lifeline
- Mensline Australia
- Relationships Australia
- Safe Relationships Project

We as a committee would also like to make it clear that at GRC Peakhurst we have a zero tolerance policy against any forms of violence.

Another way to show your support is to visit the White Ribbon Website www.whiteribbon.org.au and take the White Ribbon Oath:

I would like to ask all wellbeing committee members up on the stage to recite the White Ribbon Oath.

I swear never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women this is my oath.

Thank you for listening.

White Ribbon Assembly at Oatley Campus

On Wednesday 25th November I accompanied four students – Angelica Esdaile-Watts (Year 9), Bianca Winter (Year 8), Bianca Cruise (Year 8) and Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts (Year 7) to Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus to participate in their White Ribbon day assembly. I would like to congratulate our students on being respectful and responsible during the presentation and would also like to congratulate Kevin Wright the Head Teacher Student Welfare at GRC Oatley for organising a moving presentation.

M.Walton
HT Student Welfare

Year 6 Pathfinders Program

On Tuesday 24th November marked the start of the Year 6 Transition activities. 14 students from various feeder primary schools took part in a special four day program to help with the smooth transition from primary school into secondary schooling. On the first day I ran several activities based on the routine of high school, the structure of GRC Peakhurst, positive feelings and emotions and PBL. The Year 7 SRC students also ran ice breaker activities and worked as Peer mentors on this day and were a fantastic help. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 7 SRC leaders Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts, Jackson Hall Best, Ally Cliff, Deniz Dogan and Valandou Contzonis and share their speeches they wrote especially for the up and coming Year 7 students for 2016. Well done!

M.Walton
HT Student Welfare
My First Days of Year Seven

When I was in year 7, I was scared too. I was scared too. I was worried about friends, homework and getting lost. Well, to start off I kind of hung out at recess and lunch looking for the right group to hang out with. Eventually, when I was playing handball some guy came up to me and said “can I play?” I said yes and before you know we were best friends. When I was in class, I was on my best behaviour, extremely frightened of the teachers. They taught us how to read our diaries, but I still didn’t get it. I asked the girl sitting next to me for some help. She happened to have an older brother who knew how to do it so she taught me, and we were friends. Another thing I was worried about was the homework. My sister said “you’ll get heaps of homework!” so I was never looking forward to high school. But when I heard that the school had a homework centre on Mondays and Tuesdays with light refreshments I was much gladder. But, what always got me the most was getting lost in the school. My primary school was a lot smaller compared to this school and I was worried that if I got lost and came to class late, I would get a detention. But when I was in class, the teacher showed me a map of the school, and taught me a cool trick. The blocks are arranged in a ‘U’ shape and labelled A,B,C,D and E blocks. So the next day I used the map and remembered the U shape. If you get lost and don’t know where you are going you can ask the friendly teachers or a student. They’re likely to help you and send you on your way.

Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts

Year 7 Orientation Speech

We can admit that moving into Year 7 can be a bit frightening, scary and intimidating, even the thought of it makes you a bit nervous and it is, but I can promise you that there is nothing to be afraid of.

To start off, trust me I know you feel scared. Just remember this though: you are the ones that determine this for yourself whether this transition is going to be one of the frightening things you have ever done or you are going to make it a fun and enjoyable experience. As it is a bit different for everyone in any way you will be with over 160 other year 7 students that feel the same way.

The second thing I would like to talk about is my experience transitioning into year 7. I would like to start with primary school, I was the vice-captain and as taking that position I was a role model, leader and someone to be there for anyone to look up to. Then as I finished year 6 and graduated from primary It all changed, I was one of those people that needed a hand, a guide and friend to help me with this new beginning. As knowing me I took this transition extremely well and everything turned out to be great. As the New Year begun I made it through audition into the dance and aerobics teams and we did very well throughout the year making it to the National Championships on the Gold Coast in Queensland. I also represented the school at zone in a variety of sports including cross country, swimming, and reaching the regional level for athletics. Lastly I have been successful with my test and happy with my progress throughout the year.

Earlier I briefly explained how you needed a guide or even a friend to help you with this change; well this friend could be anyone. A perfect example could be an older sibling who has experienced it. My brother Mitchell was my help for this and as well as myself it was his first year at GRC Peakhurst Campus, he had decided to move for various reasons. As Mitchell’s younger sister it is nice to say that his new beginning was cool, calm and collected. His year has also been successful with Mitchell representing the school in athletics and swimming as well as being selected as one of the house captains for our sporting houses and being chosen for team captain of the rugby league team which was really successful this year winning the Rugby League Grand Final as well as the Touch Football competitions.

Before I conclude I would like to give a quick mention to our YAP (Year Advisor Program) sessions that your Year advisor will organise for you in 2016. These sessions could include guest speakers or performances which are also a valuable learning opportunity.

In conclusion, just remember you are not the only one that feels the way you doing moving into high school can be a challenging experience but as a leader in the SRC I am proud to say that GRC Peakhurst will not disappoint you will experience amazing opportunities and enjoy your next 4 years here.

Ally Clift

SRC SPEECH

Good morning, my name is Deniz and I am one of GRC’S 2015 SRC members. I would like to welcome you all to our school and would like to talk to you about making friends. High school is a fresh start and a new beginning for everyone. It is a chance to improve yourself. It’s a new journey and you will meet many new people and make lots of new friends. But for some people this may seem like a challenge.

For me starting high school was a very different and exciting experience. At first, I was very nervous but that all went away after I met the kind teachers and all the fun new students. Over the year I have met many new people and have discovered lots of new friends which is always exciting.

At GRC Peakhurst we have excellent opportunities to make new friends. One of these opportunities is the Peer Support program. Peer Support is a great chance to sit down in a group with older Year 10 leaders to discuss thoughts about school, meet new people and learn interesting things about your new made friends as well as our schools expectations and PBL.

We also have many opportunities including joining such groups or teams such as the SRC, Debating, drama, dance, crew, chair crew and student wellbeing committee just to name a few. You should also be very open minded about these opportunities as they will be a great start to a new chapter of your life. Thank you very much and enjoy your transition week.

By Deniz Dogan

My Experiences at GRC PEAKHURST

I would like to welcome the Year 7 class for 2016. My name is Valandou, and last year I was sitting where you are today. While I sat and listened to the students and the teachers from GRC speak to us, I was filled with so much excitement, and at the same time I was very inquisitive about the unknown.
I am here to advise you that the transition to high school is very easy and a lot of fun. Our school offers so many opportunities. I personally am involved in the SRC, Drama Club, Vocal Group and I am in the aerobics team. Whether it is performing arts, sport, debating or being involved in our Student Well Being Committee, GRC has something for everyone. So I encourage you all to step up and reach out to very helpful supporting and encouraging teachers, students and staff at our school to direct you to the right path to take, so that you may begin your new and exquisite journey through high school that will map out your future.

I remember that in the beginning of the year, Ms Whiley (our year advisor) asked me how the transition to high school is going. And my answer was that I feel like I am at home. And that is exactly how I describe high school. The feeling of being cared and nurtured by all teachers, giving you the tools to develop as unique individuals, an environment that caters for all your needs.

Our school allows you to shine and be the bright, shining star that you are. My first day of high school was very exciting. I clearly remember putting on my uniform, tucking in my shirt, wearing my tie and my hair in a bun. And 20 minutes after arriving to school, I realised that I was the only girl with a shirt tucked in and wearing a tie. I did not change to look or fit in, as I knew that I was perfect the way I was. And all my fellow students excepted and liked me for my own quirky and unique personality. High school is about finding yourself, its about reaching within, finding what you are passionate about and feeding that passion.

Picture high school as a place where you arrive 5 days a week to feed the mind and nourish your soul. Our school emblem says it all. I think of the tree trunk as being the school, the branches are the amazing teachers and the leaves are the students. This says that we are not separate, but a school community. Here to help and support each other. I wish you all an outstanding start to high school, and welcome Year 7 2016.

**Valandou Contzonis - Year 7**

**Jamberoo Report**

On Friday 20th of November 96 students attended the Rewards Excursion to Jamberoo Action Park. After an hour and a half of a long boring everlasting bus ride we finally arrived and were taken to our meeting place and covered our self with sunscreen, then we were off. There were many popular rides including tipan, funnel web, wave pool, rapid river and more. For lunch most of us bought the expensive but enjoyable hot chips and then went back in the water for a couple more hours of fun. Around 2:15 p.m. we got changed into our normal clothes and rode back to school and arrived around back at 4:00 p.m. Even though extremely hot day at temperatures around 43 degrees with the scorching sun we were all so happy to be at a water park! And we look forward to next years adventure.

We would like to thank Ms Walton for organising the excursion and accompanying us, Mr Haydar, Ms Osmond, Ms Picone, Ms Jarman, Mr Morley and Ms Featherstone also for accompanying us on the day.

**Angelica Esdaile-Watts - Year 9**

As the school once again approaches its conclusion for 2015, it is time to reflect on the achievements and the involvement our students have had, in the vibrant life of our school. There are so many of our students who have been involved in these different activities and programs over the year, which has been a testament to their commitment and efforts at GRC Peakhurst.

I would like to especially thank our year advisors – Julia Picone (Year 7) James Cooper (Year 8) Harmeet Sandhu (Year 9), Sophie Favuzzi (Year 10) for all their hard work and commitment to their year groups, throughout the year and organising a broad range of different YAP (Year Advisor Program) activities and Year assemblies for their year cohorts. I would also like to thank the rest of our Wellbeing team Lauren Osmond (SRC Co-Ordinator, Jenny Jarman (LAST and Girls Advisor), Monique Van De Pol (LAST), Christine Tsekas (School Counsellor), Toni Brown (School Counsellor), Holly Northey and Scott Wilson (Deputy Principals) and Terry Vallis for all their guidance and commitment to the schools Welfare team this year.

I wish all out students and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking forward to a wonderful 2016 year ahead.

**Many thanks**

Michelle Walton

Head Teacher Student Welfare

**From the TAS Department**

**Barista Course Report**

I had the privilege of taking 17 Year 9 & 10 Food Technology students to The Australian Barista School on Tuesday 17th November, 2015. The students were a credit to themselves & to our school as they endeavoured to master numerous Barista skills. Congratulations to the following students who successfully completed the Australian Barista workshop and attained 2 competencies within the Certificate III in Hospitality.

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<tr>
<th>Year 9</th>
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<tr>
<td>Erin De Fraine – Murphy</td>
<td>Betty Parisi</td>
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<td>Charlotte Sutton</td>
<td>Amber Regan - Presland</td>
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<td>Ashley Harris</td>
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<td>Nathan Osborne</td>
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<td>Alana Gomes</td>
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<td>Thomas Flavin</td>
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Michelle Seidel  
Food Technology Teacher

Industrial Arts - Metal

This term students have had a great time cutting, twisting, folding, drilling and joining metal to make house markers, oil burners, earring holders, toolboxes and weathervanes. I look forward to 2016 and seeing the fabulous projects student follow on and make then.

Mark Devine  
Industrial Arts Teacher

Bridgemaking as part of the Gifted and Talented Technology Day

http://vimeo.com/148303301  
http://vimeo.com/148303300