



Rona Street
 Peakhurst NSW 2210
 Subscribe: <https://grcpeakhurst.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: peakhurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
 Phone: 02 9153 9966
 Fax: 02 9534 6346



1 June 2020

From the Principal

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?”

-Martin Luther King Jnr

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members”

- Coretta Scott King

As we come to the close of a uniquely challenging and certainly unprecedented term and semester, I have personally and in discussions with students, staff and parents, been reflecting on the value of community and the amazing strength of our school community. It has become abundantly clear that the act of doing for others and compassionate actions of the community is at the very core of the positive and supportive culture we have here at GRC Peakhurst.

All NSW Department of Education (DoE) schools develop School Plans related to school improvement, measured to the School Excellence Framework. Our current School Plan 2018-2020 was established in 2017 through staff, student and community feedback. Influencing each School Plan is the DoE Strategic Plan 2018-2022. This plan lists 10 goals, one being that **‘every student is known, valued and cared for in our schools’**. This goal is a foundational priority in our daily practice and to the strategic directions of GRC Peakhurst’s 2018 – 2020 School Plan, for not only our students, but our entire school community. This has been evidenced in the numerous exemplary wellbeing practices and outstanding student voice and leadership opportunities provided for our students. Some of these include Social Emotional Learning during PEAK Learning, and the extension of various vertical PEAK Learning groups including the Media Crew and Student Wellbeing Team, which are just some of the many processes we have at GRC Peakhurst to promote student voice.

An indicator that this priority of our students and school community feeling valued and cared for, is our students and community then also valuing and caring for others. As we have

returned to school following COVID-19 restrictions, our staff have been inundated with gestures of gratitude for the creativity and dedication they demonstrated with the various changes and challenges that were thrown our way. This semester, we have successfully managed Learning from Home and then returning to face to face teaching and operating ‘ordinary school days’ in what has been extraordinary times.

It all began on a miserable and wet Friday mid-term, when our generous P&C delivered individual pizzas with an individual message of thanks. We had cold, exhausted staff who were very grateful for being warmed up and fuelled by the very kind act from our P&C. The following week, as staff headed to the hall for our ‘new normal’, social-distancing staff meetings, they were presented with a Thank You board, filled with messages to each and every teacher and support staff. Our Student Wellbeing PEAK Learning group, who secretly approached their student body to write personalised messages on multi-coloured post-its to create the thank you board, coordinated this amazing gesture. While all of this was going on, our Media Crew PEAK Learning group, directed, filmed and edited a video of students and staff pledging their messages of appreciation to a variety of staff. This was then shared with our whole school community as part of our Week 6 Formal Assembly, again via our ‘new normal’ PEAK Learning Google Classrooms (I recommend you ask your child to log-in and show you this video, it is very heart-warming and reflective of our great community). The following week, our Student Wellbeing PEAK Learning group continued with their generosity by attending our weekly Monday Morning Meeting to deliver beautiful pens, engraved with each staff member’s name and a thank you message. Meanwhile, our SRC had been secretly working on their own thank you project, unveiled the following week as we had our first outdoor assembly of the term following a lifting of restrictions. As teachers went about their business of marking rolls and checking uniforms, the SRC headed about to hand deliver hand written, personalised messages (together with a chocolate) for each and every staff member. Finally, the Media Crew continued their generosity and creativity and delivered mysteriously wrapped brown paper packages to our Senior Executive. Inside the mystery package, were some very impressive (and scarily accurate) individually framed drawn

portraits with lovely and inspiring messages scribbled on the back.

I am sharing these gestures with you, as this is the true spirit of our community, our true culture. I feel very excited and fortunate to be part of such a positive and inspiring community and know that many staff, students and parents feel the same way. While there has been plenty of firsts, unprecedented and historic moments due to impact COVID-19 has had on our lives, I can guarantee that the memories of these gestures will live in the hearts and minds of all that were involved for years to come, and will continue to grow the strength and positivity of our school community and culture.

As we move into the second half of the year we will continue to reflect, review and evaluate as a community as we get ready for our next Strategic Improvement Plan 2021-2024. Your contributions are valued and we thank you in advance for any feedback you may give us during this process.

“Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much”

- Helen Keller

Have a safe and restful break. Looking forward to a new semester of opportunity, challenges and community!



Ms Kim Osborne
Acting Principal

Deputies' Report

The last few months have been unprecedented in terms of the changes and disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. We would again like to thank the school community for their continued support under some very difficult circumstances. Despite the challenges encountered, it has been fantastic to witness the resilience of our students and their enthusiasm in returning to school.

As the term draws to a close, staff are busy finalising Semester 1 reports. Under the NSW Department of Education's *Curriculum planning and programming, assessing and reporting to parents K – 12* policy, schools are required to provide parents/carers, throughout the school year, with formal and informal opportunities to receive information about and discuss their child's learning. Formal opportunities include written reports each semester and parent teacher nights. However, temporary changes to this policy have been put in

place for Semester One 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At GRC Peakhurst Campus, the Semester One 2020 report will provide a summative account of student progress and achievement on learning covered during Terms 1 and 2, at school and at home. In line with NSW Department of Education and NESA advice, Semester One Course Learning Outcomes have not been graded and will show on this report with "Not Applicable". Therefore, students will not receive an Overall Grade Achieved or Grade Point Average for this report. However, teachers have reviewed and assessed all work that has been completed across the semester and have completed the Personal Learning Profile based on this work. This assessment has also provided the basis for teachers to identify strategies for parents and students about what might need to be done to support learning growth as we commence Semester Two.

Reports for Years 7 + 10 will be issued by the end of Week 10 of Term 2, while reports for Years 8 + 9 will be issued by the end of Week 1 of Term 3. An SMS notification will be sent on the day of report distribution for your reference.

Due to the current COVID 19 restrictions, dates and times for parent teacher interviews will be provided early next term.

As students get ready to begin a new semester of learning, it is a timely reminder of our online study skills program at the link below as a support resource. A direct link to the site and our school password can be easily located on the Sentral Parent Portal. The site has great tips like those posted below and many other resources suitable for students of all ages and year groups.

<http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au/>

As a school we are also preparing for 2021 with Subject Selection Information Evenings. The Year 10 transition to GRC Oatley is well underway. Students received their Oatley subject selection folder on Friday 19th June. This folder contained valuable information on a huge range of subjects offered at the senior campus along with enrolment information and a timeline for the subject selection process. Students and parents had an opportunity to participate in the GRC Oatley Campus Subject Selection Information Zoom Meeting on Tuesday 22nd June where a range of important information was discussed about the HSC and the subject selection process.

The Careers Advisor at GRC Peakhurst – Mrs Toni Arfanis has commenced preliminary subject selection interviews with all Year 10 students. These interviews will run through until Thursday 30th July. Students will be required to have all subject selection and enrolment forms completed and handed in to Mrs Arfanis by Thursday 30th July. Final subject selection interviews will then be scheduled for all Year 10 students between Monday 3rd August and Thursday 6th August. These interviews will be conducted by GRC Oatley staff at the Peakhurst Campus. Students will receive a roster outlining their interview times in early Term 3. Parents are also most welcome to attend these interviews.

For Year 8 students moving to Year 9 in 2021, a Subject Selection Information evening for elective subjects will be held on Tuesday **11th August 6:00 – 7:00pm**. Further information

and details about this event will be provided to parents in early Term 3.

Later in Term 3 (Wednesday 2nd September), all Year 7 and 8 students will be participating in a Study Skills session developed and delivered by Elevate Education. The seminar will break down the transition process into secondary education, introducing students to the fundamental skills that they need to be using over the coming years. The session will focus on:

- how to read a text and pull out the key points,
- how to get the ideas extracted from readings into organised sets of notes that will facilitate effective learning.
- how to break down information into its relevant parts as opposed to simply rote learning material.
- Independent learning

The Year 7 and 8 Seminar will be followed by a session for interested Year 7 and 8 Parents on Wednesday 2nd September (7pm – 8pm in the school hall / library). The parent session will provide parents with an overview of the seminar that their child participated in to share best practices for reinforcing these skills at home.

Further information about the student and parent sessions will be sent home in early Term 3.

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR JUNE: IMPROVING TYPING AND HANDWRITING SKILLS

So you don't have much homework tonight? Assignments and study notes up to date? Have you ever thought about spending a bit of time each night learning touch typing?

Touch Typing is when you can type without looking at the keys while you type. This means you can type much faster than if you had to look and see where each key is, and it means you can keep looking at whatever it is you are typing instead of the keys. This is an incredibly useful skill to develop – it will help you at school and later in life as well, improving your efficiency and speeding up work on assignments and essays. Once you learn touch typing, you will know where the keys are located on the keyboard through your sense of touch and you will be able to look at the screen or whatever you are typing rather than the keyboard.

On www.studyskillshandbook.com.au there is a section to get you started on your journey of learning touch typing. Click on unit Technology Tools and on the Learning Touch Typing page you will find links to lots of free software to help you develop your touch typing skills as well as some great tips to get you started. There is also a discount voucher to the professional Type Quick course. Being able to touch type will definitely make life easier for the students in the senior years and beyond. 10 minutes practice a day could end up making a big difference.

But don't neglect your handwriting skills either. As long as you have to submit handwritten work or handwrite for tests and exams it is also important to improve the legibility and speed of your handwriting. Go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and visit the Writing Skills unit and click on the Improving Handwriting section. You'll find some excellent strategies for

improving your handwriting as well as some special pens that can assist you with this.

Should students type or handwrite their study notes?

Short answer, they are better off doing whatever the exam or test will be. So if the exam is handwritten, it is better to handwrite notes. This creates muscle memory, it sets up a pattern in the brain of what they will be doing in the exam. If they do not have exams, then it does not really matter, they can choose to either type or handwrite their notes.

For students who do have written exams, they are better off getting used to writing as much as possible, especially as students do less and less pen to paper and more and more on the keyboard. It is also argued that by writing the information, you set up pathways of familiarity and recognition in your brain that will kick in when you are in an examination situation.

On the other hand, some subjects have so much content that to try and wade through it with handwritten study notes would take forever. A good compromise for students who would prefer to type is to start making initial notes on the computer as this allows you to cut and paste, group information and rearrange it with ease. Once you have a core set of notes completed, you may like to further summarise some sections on paper using a more graphical or visual form of note-taking such as mind-mapping. And when you are learning the notes, read a section, then see what you can write without looking, this way you will be testing if the information is in long-term memory and practicing your handwriting at the same time!

Given that students now have to be masters of both the pen and the keyboard it is important to develop both legible handwriting and touch typing skills. When exams all go to typing at some stage, which they will inevitably do, everything will change.

Wishing all of our GRC Peakhurst families a safe and restful term break. We look forward to continue working with you all for Semester Two!

Mr Scott Wilson
Deputy Principal –
Years 7 & 8

Ms Sophia Favuzzi
Relieving Deputy
Principal
Years 9 & 10

Year 7 Student Advisor Report

This year has certainly presented our community with many challenges and each and every time we have risen to meet these challenges. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back after possibly the biggest challenges we as not only a community but a world has faced over the past few months. Although these events are not behind us we are moving into the unknown with strength and unity.

Congratulations to all year 7 students who have worked diligently during online learning -you should be extremely proud of how you managed in these difficult and uncertain times. As Year 7 settle back into the new normal and high school life, this edition of the newsletter will recapture some of our favourite moments at camp earlier this year. The presentation is a taste

of the fun the students had in what seems a distance memory with all that has unfolded.

As a reminder, school diaries are required during each lesson these are used to record homework and assessment tasks. Students can also refer to their diary for bell times, school rules and policies, uniform requirements and behaviour expectations. GRC Peakhurst runs a Homework Centre program every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. Tuesdays from 3:00pm – 4:15pm and Wednesdays from 2:30pm – 3:45pm in our school library, which is supervised by a teacher. I encourage all students to attend so they can complete and get ahead of their work load and discuss any questions they have with the teacher in charge. Further details of future events will be forwarded to parents and students as we embark on a new adventure through these changing times.

Always remember that whilst change is difficult it is an opportunity to start new things, make new friendship, challenge yourself, change your mindset and importantly be grateful for all we have.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmH_pa6iLp8



Ms M Seiner
Year 7 Student Advisor

Year 8 Student Advisor Report

What a busy term it has been! With holidays around the corner, Term 2 is nearing to its end. A reminder it is important for students to keep up to date, both with past online learning activities and class work set now that we are back to full-time face-to-face teaching and learning. If you were absent and have not yet caught up on any tasks missed, remember to speak to your class teacher ASAP to organise a new due date.

Uniform

As the weather continues to cool, I would like to remind students to wear the correct uniform, including the school jumper or jacket to keep warm. Students who are out of uniform must report to the Science staffroom at recess and lunch. If your child is out of uniform, please write them a note explaining the individual circumstances.

School Diaries

Students and parents are reminded that school diaries must be brought to school every day. Diaries are a useful resource that allow students to maintain their organisation across the working day. Parents are also encouraged to check their child's diary for information regarding homework and assessments.

Homework Centre

Staff will continue to work closely with students during Homework Centre on Tuesday from 3:00pm – 4:15pm & Wednesday afternoons from 2:30pm – 3:45pm. Students will be provided with light refreshments and will be given access to an abundance of resources, including the computers. Students are simply required to turn up to the library with work to complete.

Merits

It is great to see many Year 8 students have been receiving merits this term for outstanding achievements in class, as well as for being model citizens who abide by our school values. Please encourage your child to place these merits into the boxes outside the Deputy Principal's office in D Block.

Finally, students are reminded to see me to discuss any issues or concerns they may be experiencing. I can be found in the TAS staffroom in A block. Wishing you a productive and enjoyable remainder of term 2!

Ms Giulia Testa
Year 8 Student Advisor

Year 9 Student Advisor Report

We have definitely experienced a term like no other, and thankfully we have the holidays just around the corner. In the final weeks of term, it is important for all students to continue attending class on time and completing work to the best of their ability. It is important that students take on the responsibility of keeping up with work and asking teachers for any work they may have missed during their absences.

Uniform

As winter continues, I would like to remind students to wear the correct uniform, including the school jumper or jacket to keep warm. Students are not permitted to wear hooded jackets and black socks. Students who are out of uniform must report to the Science staffroom at recess and lunch. If your child is out of uniform, please write them a note explaining the individual circumstances.

School Diaries

Students and parents are reminded that school diaries must be brought to school every day. Diaries are a useful resource that allow students to maintain their organisation across the working day. Parents are also encouraged to check their child's diary for information regarding homework and assessment tasks.

Homework Centre

Homework Centre continues to run on Tuesdays 3:15pm – 4:15pm and Wednesdays 2:30pm–3:45pm with staff to support and assist with the completion of any work that needs to be completed. Students will be provided with light refreshments and will be given access to an abundance of resources, including the computers.

Students are reminded if they require to discuss any issues or concerns, they are more than welcome to see me in the TAS

staffroom in A block. Finally, I would like to wish everyone a productive end of term 2 and a safe and relaxing holiday.

Ms Fotini Tzoumas
Year 9 Student Advisor

Year 10 Student Advisor Report

With all that has been happening, we are nearly at the end of Term 2. Now that we are back to full time face-to-face teaching, it is extremely important in their ROSA year that students' attendance is a priority and they are keeping up to date with their coursework, as Assessment Tasks will start to go out from the beginning of Term 3.

2021 Oatley Campus Subject Selections

The GRC Oatley Senior Campus has put together PowerPoint presentations for each key learning area as well as a booklet that was distributed to students to assist in providing them with the information they need to choose the right subjects for their senior education. Students have also been having interviews with our Careers Advisor to assist with their selections as it is a decision that needs careful consideration and one that can help shape their futures.

For those who want to view the presentations:

Step 1: Go to the Oatley Senior Campus Moodle at the link below.

Step 2: Click on Oatley

Step 3: Click on Students

Step 4: Click on Student Transition Program

Step 5: Login with your Portal username and password

Step 6: Click on enrol me

Step 7: Scroll down to select which Presentation you would like to watch. Choose your Presentation by clicking on the Play triangle.

<https://web2.oatleysnr-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/moodle/>

Uniform

As we are in the middle of winter, I would like to remind students to wear the correct uniform, including the school jumper or jacket to keep warm. Students who are out of uniform must report to the Science staffroom at recess and lunch. If your child is out of uniform, please write them a note explaining the individual circumstances.

Year 10 Formal

At this stage the formal is still going ahead as planned. The venue will be re-opening July 1 and are confident restrictions will be eased from September onwards; however we will just have to wait and see what the government allows at a later date. For those who are planning to attend and haven't paid their \$50 deposit, you will need to do this ASAP or risk missing out as the next instalment of payments is approaching.

Mr Matt Hoggett
Year 10 Student Advisor

FACULTY NEWS

CAPA

Dance

I am excited to announce that our dance groups at GRC Peakhurst will be back rehearsing from Week 1 of Term 3. All dancers will be returning to their before school rehearsals to further enhance their technique and flexibility. On return, both the company and ensemble groups will continue to practise and perfect their routines for future performances. Keep an eye out for updates regarding up and coming performances for Term 3 and 4.

A reminder that ALL dancers must attend the Monday morning strength and conditioning class (7:30AM – 8:15AM). Company dancers rehearse on Tuesday morning (7:30AM – 8:30AM) and Ensemble dancers rehearse on Wednesday morning (7:30AM – 8:30AM). Ensure dancers bring a change of clothes for dance rehearsals. This can be their sports uniform OR comfortable and appropriate dance clothes.

Ms Amy Johnson
Dance Coordinator

HSIE

The H.S.I.E. faculty thanks students and parents for their support and commitment to learning during the period of isolation earlier this term. We were all happy to see our students returning to class and thank them for adhering to the hygiene practices that are in place.

Australian Geography Competition

The Australian Geography Competition, usually held in April every year, was postponed this year. Instead, we will run the competition with the students in the first two weeks of Term 3. This national competition attracts upwards of 60,000 participants every year. GRC Peakhurst has an outstanding record of achievement in this competition and we look forward to seeing similar results this year.

H.S.I.E. subjects change to Geography

Next semester will see Year 7, 8 and 9 H.S.I.E. changing from History to Geography. Studies in Year 7 will begin with an introduction to Geography and a mapping skills unit. Learning will progress on to a core topic called 'Landscapes and Landforms'. Year 8 Geography will begin with the 'Water in the World' topic, while Year 9 will begin Semester 2 with the 'Sustainable Biomes' unit.

Year 9 HSIE (History) Propaganda Task

Year 9 has been learning about World War II this term. Their studies included a focus on how propaganda was used by the Allied and Axis powers during the war. Included below are some outstanding examples of student work:

Aimee D.



Amy Y.



Matthew H.



Victoria R.



Ms H. Diamond
Head Teacher H.S.I.E.

PDHPE

Our students have embraced a return to full time face to face learning, sport and physical activity programs.

Our modified Wednesday sports program has been enjoyed by students who have been given the opportunity to participate in a rotating modified sport program each week. Students have participated in a variety of modified non-contact sports like Cricket, Volleyball, Swedish Longball, Table Tennis and Mini Tennis. This modified program will continue for the remainder of term. Students and parents will receive further information about the resumption of normal school sport and physical activity during PDHPE/PASS lessons as we begin Term 3.



In an effort to restrict large gatherings within the change rooms, students should come to school wearing their sport uniform and appropriate footwear on allocated days they have a practical PDHPE/PASS lesson for the immediate short term. Student will be notified when change rooms will become operational again before & after practical lessons.

Students are not required to wear their sports uniform on days that they have a theory PDHPE or PASS lesson. Students will be marked as out of uniform if they wear their sports uniform on days in which they do not have a practical lesson. If students are unsure of their allocated practical lessons, they are required to speak to their PDHPE teacher to clarify this.

During practical PDHPE/PASS lessons and School Sport, students are still encouraged to:

- Practice good hygiene –Students are required to wash their hands prior to and at the conclusion of sport and physical activities.
- Do not share items such as drink bottles – Students should provide their own personal items such as water bottles and towels.
- Maintain respiratory hygiene whilst participating in sport and physical activity – encouraging coughs or sneezes to be covered and tissues to be disposed of immediately. Always wash your hands after having coughed, sneezed or blown your nose.
- Students should not be participating in practical PDHPE/PASS lessons or sport if they are unwell. A note should be provided to their PDHPE teacher explaining the circumstance, should this be the case.

PASS camp 2020

During Week 7, Term 3, Year 9 & 10 PASS students are scheduled to attend a PASS camp at the Great Aussie Bush Camp – Kincumber. At this point in time, we are still awaiting information about the resumption of school-based camps. We still hold a booking; however, camps are non-operational at this point in time. Students and parents will be advised of further information as it is made available in the coming weeks.

As we draw close to the end of Term, the PDHPE faculty would like to wish students and families a safe and enjoyable school holiday period.

Mr Aaron Morley
Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE

Sport

It's been a very quiet term on the sport front! On advice from the NSW Government and Department of Education, all inter-school sport activities were cancelled for Term 2. This included our much-loved Cross Country and Athletic carnivals, at school, zone, region and state level. All CHS trials have also been cancelled for 2020 with a plan to pick back up bigger and better than ever for 2021!

Some good news though – inter-school grade sport will be starting back up again in Term 3. We will be having an extended Summer Competition running during Term 3 and Term 4. Students should check the noticeboard out the front of the hall as a reminder for which sport they have selected.

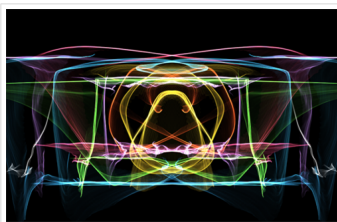
Depending on restrictions and guidelines, we are also looking to still compete in the annual Oz Tag Gala Day. Please keep an ear out for announcements of dates for trials and for when this competition will be held.

If you have any questions about sport, please feel free to contact Mr Kostaski (Science) or Miss Yates (PDHPE) and they will be happy to help out.

Mr Stojan Kostaski
Sports Coordinator

Special Education

It's great to see everyone returning to school post lockdown. Students are settling well into the routine and structure of school. Again, congratulations to everyone, parents and students, for their efforts during remote learning. We had some brilliant work posted.



NDIS therapists are beginning to return to face-to-face sessions at school. Please make contact if your child's therapist is wanting to return to this mode.

Unfortunately, the Support Unit/Leadership camp has been cancelled this year. It has already been booked for 2021.

Just a few reminders.....

Please write in your **child's communication book** if there are changes to your son/daughter's pick up routine in the afternoon. Similarly, if your child is on transport, please make sure that you inform the driver of these changes.

Students in the Support Unit are expected to wear **correct school uniform**, including shoes and white socks. This means no converse or canvas shoes. Wearing the correct shoes is an

occupational health and safety requirement – especially when students are participating in practical subjects.

For extra winter warmth there are GRC pull overs on sale from the Front office for \$20.

NB these are Campus not College uniform.

Review Meetings are being held next term. Information relating to these meetings will be sent home via the Communication Books.

Don't forget to check our school website and download the school app!

Thanks for ALL your support this term.

Happy hand washing!

Ms Peta Holm
Head Teacher Special Education

SRC News

It has been refreshing to see so many students returning to school with a positive mindset and a drive for not only their studies but also our extra-curricular opportunities.

We recently received the news of our School Vice-Captain Mollie H who is being nominated for a prestigious award – 'The National Council of Women of NSW – Dame Marie Bashir Peace Awards 2020'. The nomination was given in order to acknowledge Mollie's ongoing and significant contributions to harmony, social justice and leadership. If selected by the committee, she will represent our school at the 'United Nations International Day of Peace' in September at Parliament House. She is a highly worthy recipient and is busy preparing her application for this award, so please congratulate her if you see her.

Congratulations must also go to all of our 'Students of the Week' – it is fantastic to see so many students adapting to and thriving in our ever-changing learning and teaching environments.

I would also like to commend our SRC members for creating individualised and personal letters to each member of staff of GRC Peakhurst. These letters acknowledged all staff and their hard work and commitment to student learning and our school during this time. Many staff have approached me to express their gratitude and explained how much the gesture meant to them. Many staff have laminated their letters and they now take pride of place on many staffroom walls that I have visited. I am very proud to work with such a strong team that continues to thrive as well as show kindness, empathy and an inherent sense of community spirit.

Year 7 SRC Elections – These are upcoming in Term 2 Week 9 and results will be announced as soon as possible. Congratulations and thank you to all of you who have ensured that your applications made their way to me – via email, post or in person!

Leadership By The River – this highly valuable extra-curricular program for Year 9 and 10 leaders continued On Monday 22nd June, Ms Cvijetic and the team held a planning day.

The Leadership By The River team for 2020 are:

Year 9

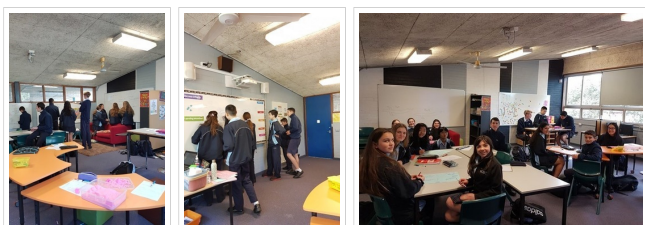
- Cameron A
- Alivia B
- Jake G
- Arden-Lee H
- Zemina I
- Nicole L
- Emma M
- Abbey R
- Chloe S
- Ashleigh S

Year 10

- Mitchell B
- Kayley B
- Nina D
- Andrei E
- Leon J
- Skye S
- Chloe T

Our student leaders utilised this time to brainstorm many project ideas that would support our school and its environment. Please consult the team with any questions or ideas that you may have that are related to environment and sustainability.

Please see below for some photos of them working on the day.



SRC Training Day – this will be held in Term 2 Week 10 – Wednesday 1st July. All Years 8-10 SRC members previously identified at least one area of strength that they personally have as a leader and are subsequently delivering workshops and activities surrounding that aspect, e.g. taking initiative, planning and implementing projects, assertive communication and working in efficient teams. We will also be planning our events for Semester 2, so please approach the representatives in your year cohort with your ideas or utilise the Suggestion Box which is next to the merit boxes near the Deputy's Office in D Block.

Please remember to reach out to your peers and teachers when you need it, as well as with any suggestions you may have for our school – have a safe and healthy holiday!

Miss Osmond and the GRC Peakhurst Campus Student Representative Council 2020

TAS

Our return to Term 2 at school has seen students back into the practical rooms and students have relished making things again.

Year 7 Technology- Textiles have started their long stitches and cushions while Food and Agriculture have loved making Tasty Pasta, Thankyou Hamburger, Hot Corned Herb Roll and Sausage Rolls. Hopefully they are practising and cooking at home as well!

Year 8 Technology too have enjoyed cooking Low GI Brownies, Anzac biscuits, Honey Soy chicken and Cheesy Gozleme. Year 8 have also started their mobile toy and lamp units in the industrial arts block.

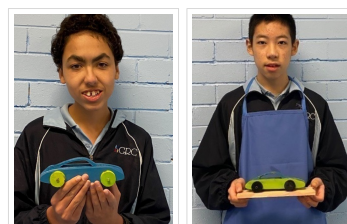
Year 9 Food Technology have been studying Food in Australia. They have progressed through the timeline of Australia's food history and prepared foods reflecting our indigenous origins such as Lemon myrtle cupcakes moving onto our rich multicultural presence such as Spaghetti Bolognese which is considered the Australia's national dish.

Year 9 Food also cooked Spinach triangles and utilised the spinach grown in the school garden, reinforcing the paddock to plate benefits of flavour, nutrients and sustainability gained from paddock to plate. Indeed, the school garden, headed by Mrs Willis is flourishing. Any donations of seeds and plants for the garden would be much appreciated, particularly as we are looking at growing food crops and herbs that reflect our multicultural community.



Year 10 Food Technology have examined the Australian food service and catering industry. They too have cooked the number one dish on Australian menus- Chicken Parmigiana and debated whether the chips should be under or beside the parmi!

Year 10 Design and Technology finished their timber cars in the workshop. During their time at home they were provided plastic models to complete where they had to carefully follow instructions and used cement glue to make a scaled military tank or plane. In this project, students learnt about plastics as a material as well as how models and scaled designs are beneficial in the design process.





Year 9 DT are making speakers which they designed while they were online learning. Year 10 timber have completed their step stools and timber drawers while Year 9 Timber are working on a jewellery box.

Unfortunately, we were not able to complete cushions, cars and lamps from Term 1 rotation due to Covid-19, however, they have been stored away safely and these will be completed the last 4 weeks of school this year.

Ms Rosalie Gualtieri
Head Teacher TAS

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus is committed to and passionate about Aboriginal Education and provides a culturally inclusive learning environment, not only catering to their educational engagement but ensuring that a diverse curriculum and breathe of extra-curricular opportunities are availed to meet the cultural needs of our Aboriginal students.

Congratulations to all students who have worked diligently during these challenging times you should all be extremely proud of yourselves. For the remainder of the year we have a number of initiatives planned to ensure we work to promote a positive, respectful and responsible environment. In ensuring this collaboration we have engaged the Aboriginal team Adam and Lisa from 3 Bridges who bring their expertise in cultural engagement and education to GRC Peakhurst. The team will be working with our Aboriginal students once a fortnight to engage culture and identity among our students.

Before lockdown began we had an amazing opportunity to meet with a group of elders from the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation. This was part of the Year 10 history class incursion regarding the topic Rights and Freedoms. The fabulous HSIE staff organised the Kinchela's Mobile Education Centre (a bus which has been converted into a cinema and exhibition space) to come to the school for a 3 day visit. During this time the students were given the opportunity to meet and yarn with the elders, share morning tea and retrace their own history and identity. Thank you to the HSIE team for providing this wonderful opportunity.

We have some exciting events in the pipeline depending on our COVID situation but the aim is to kick term 3 off with our High Potential and Gifted program, leadership project, parent morning tea and welcoming new members in joining our Aboriginal Representative Group. We will also be establishing our new acknowledgement signs and taking part in the following programs:

- Sydney Opera House work experience
- AECG cultural and Language Camps
- Campfire
- Personal Learning Pathways
- Career opportunities
- University opportunities

To end the term in a positive note we will be holding a cook up next Tuesday 30 June.

We look to another exciting term. Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns or questions.



yaarri yarraang

Ms Michelle Seinor
Aboriginal Educational Coordinator

Careers

Subject Selection Preparation for Year 10 students is in full swing. All students are in the process of undertaking a subject selection meeting with the Careers Adviser taking place from 10th June to 29th July. This will be the first of two meetings to support students with subject selection for the senior years navigating the conditions for the HSC. All students have been given access to GRC Oatley College Transition Program whereby they can access subject information online through the moodle to view presentations by senior campus teachers. This should provide some insight into courses, and possibly help evaluate its likeability. This was followed by Oatley Campus Subject Selection Night on 22th June for students and parents to attend via a Zoom meeting, at 7pm, in response to comply with the COVID-19 pandemic situation which we are currently experiencing. Students and parents will be required to attend a College and Curriculum Expo at Oatley Campus on 21 July from 4pm – 7pm. The preparation will finish up with a second meeting with one team member from the Oatley careers team to finally discuss student's subject pattern of study, for senior years. Individual interview dates will be given to students and their parents/carers are also welcome to attend which should run between 3 August to 14 August.

Furthermore, each student received a folder containing important information and **forms** which **MUST BE completed** and **given to Ms Arfanis before** the second subject selection meeting with the Oatley careers team, in order to successfully gain the pattern of study intended for each student.

Join Google Classroom for Year 10 CAREERS tasks; (Please see Ms Arfanis for the Class code).

Given the new online learning environment, a Google Classroom for Careers has been created which all Year 10 students have joined (and parents are welcome to join too). All important documents have been uploaded to support subject selection and further information related to universities, TAFE and private colleges have been uploaded in the case that students wish to read up on courses post Year 10 or [post Higher School Certificate.

All Year 10 students are to complete a Google Form titled *Pre Subject Selection Year 10 Career Profile* ASAP at the link below :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18j1Jt7oruTq9UY0lnokli82iX Yh64zAd3ep3MVwjwEw/edit>

Year 10 students were also required to go to the Job Jump website at the link below:

<https://www.jobjump.com.au/>

Register as I'm new - Georges River College Peakhurst ; (Password: grc)

Select "What HSC subjects to do?" link and consider what occupation you primarily think about doing when you finish school (More than one is OK). Be aware that you need to copy and paste this information into your google form, titled *Pre Subject Selection Year 10 Career Profile*. If a student has not done this, they can do so NOW.

You can also go to the website for more information about KLAs and subjects on offer at Oatley campus:

Step 1: Go to the Oatley Senior Campus Moodle at the link below

Step 2: Click on Oatley

Step 3: Click on Students

Step 4: Click on Student Transition Program

Step 5: Login with your Portal username and password

Step 6: Click on enrol me

Step 7: Scroll down to select which Presentation you would like to watch. Choose your Presentation by clicking on the Play triangle.

<https://web2.oatleysnr-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/moodle/>

TAFE NSW 2021 TVET Guide

A PDF version of the TAFE NSW 2021 TVET Guide is available in Google Classroom so students should bear in mind that TVET courses are also made available to them, for their senior years pattern of study but must consider going to a TAFE campus, one day a week, over the course of the two years.

Student emails sent by Careers Advisor

As said, a number of emails were sent to Year 10 students, at the end of Term 1, to help them better prepare for the upcoming subject selection for Years 11 and 12. Go back and re-read these emails, sharing it with your parents, to start the discussion of what subjects you think could be right for you. Simply do a search for "Subject Selection Preparation" in the search bar of your school inbox. It has come to my attention that some students do not check emails. This needs

to be addressed because you may be missing out on some interesting but also important information about careers news.

GRC, Peakhurst Careers Website

Parents and students should access the GRC Peakhurst Careers Website at the link below :

<https://grcpeakhurstcareers.com/>

This site will help prepare students for subject selection too, bearing in mind post school options available to students, these days.

The GRC Peakhurst Careers website aims to be easy to navigate and informative. The site reflects the premise that careers information can be accessed online. The site explains the RoSA, post school options, work experience and workplace learning and other career related information. Please feel free to have a look around the website and invite your parents to do so too.

For students to access information, you need to register as a GRC Peakhurst student firstly by going to *FOR STUDENTS* -> *STUDENT'S SECURE AREA* -> *LOGIN* (if you are doing this for the first time, you need to REGISTER first). Please keep these details in a safe place. YOUR EMAIL is your USERNAME and remember the PASSWORD (Use Peakhurst2210, using a capital P and no spaces, as your password, if you do not have a good memory. Write it down somewhere safe so that you can refer to it).

Your future lies ahead, and it will be of your making. I encourage you to **research career options** so you do something you want to do but bear in mind your likes/dislikes. Other important considerations are your abilities, motivation levels, career goals and YOUR aspirations. You may like to consider going to university websites (some are offering virtual career tours), and attending the GRC, Oatley subject selection evening and Careers Expo.

My experience is that those students who are most successful in Year 11 and 12 put thought and consideration into choosing their subjects, and they do so by seeking out and using all the information that is made available to them. These students align their subjects with their interests, their strengths and the pathways they want to follow in the years beyond school.

As always, I am happy to discuss any aspect of subject selection with individual students or families. Please get in touch if you would like to meet at any point. I look forward to working with all students and families in the months ahead to help them make the decisions to set you up for successful senior study.

The Careers department will expect each Year 10 student, before the end of Term 2, to create and complete both a Resume and Get/Record USI, using the GRC Peakhurst Careers Website at the link below.

<https://grcpeakhurstcareers.com/>

These above items MUST BE emailed to Ms Arfanis when completed.

Barista Course

If students aged 14 years + are interested in undertaking this course, they need to inform Ms Arfanis (by google classroom

stream item, email, telephone or face to face) and when feasible, dates will be arranged and advised to student. To date, externally delivered courses are on-hold due to the government imposed restrictions.

White Card Training

If students aged 14 years + are interested in undertaking this course, they need to inform Ms Arfanis (by google classroom stream item, email, telephone or face to face) and when feasible, dates will be arranged and advised to student. To date, externally delivered courses are on-hold due to the government imposed restrictions.

Hard skills versus soft skills – what are they?

In a report developed by TAFE Enterprise, Hard skills vs Soft skills, TAFE NSW outlines which industries will experience skills shortages and what the Australian workforce requires. The report also highlights that successful Australian businesses need a balance of both. TAFE NSW is skilling the workforce of the future:

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/career-advice/blog/-/blogs/hard-skills-v-soft-skills>

ADF Recruiting Options for Indigenous People

Enjoy the rewarding lifestyle of working in the Army, Navy or Airforce with hundreds of Indigenous people. Meet them in the various roles they perform. Learn more about the opportunities for Indigenous Australians in your chosen Service.

<https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/indigenous/overview>

ANSTO Big Ideas Science Competition

Entries close – September 20th 2020

Hey Science buffs – Tell your teacher about this one! We are looking for teams of 2 students who are creative and passionate – you don't have to be top of your class. Young people using STEM are the ones who will take our society into the future, so present the work of an Australian scientist who inspires you and come up with an innovative Big Idea for a chance to win an awesome Science Experience at the Australian Synchrotron in Clayton (Y7-9) or at the ANSTO campus in Sydney (Y10). Prize includes flights, travel, accommodation, and meals for your team and teacher.

<https://www.ansto.gov.au/big-ideas-2020>

Should I Travel or Should I Study

Going from years of rigorous schedules and same-old school, adult life hits you pretty hard when it all wraps up. Suddenly weekdays become free, there's no need to worry about school nights and the workload alters. Also, more choices come your way while you're basking in your newfound freedom after Year 12. One key question is if and when you want to take off and travel the world. For a holiday or for a journey. For a gap year or for a tourist sightseeing expedition. Normally determined by your post-school schedule and bank account, the decision creeps into a lot of people's minds. So what should you consider when it comes to making this decision?

EA Ski & Snowboard New Canada Recruits Wanted

We are now recruiting for paid ski & snowboard instructor jobs with full training provided starting this November. Download your free Canada instructor brochure to find out how you can become an instructor at one of our world-class ski resorts.

<https://easkiandsnowboard.com/canada-instructor-jobs-brochure>

Oceans of Poetry - Write A Verse

Closes 31 July

Write a poem about **THE OCEAN**: it could be a discovery under the waves; a form of ocean life you find interesting; anything that's Ocean-related.

By the time National Science Week begins the Science Rhymes website will display a collection of your rhyming verse poems about THE OCEAN and related science discoveries that have captured our imagination.

Your poem may answer questions, such as, why it is dangerous for humans to travel deep into the ocean? What living things down there fascinate you? How can we better use and appreciate the Ocean's resources, or simply enjoy its allure and beauty?

The Science Rhymes website has a free PDF download to help you on your way.

Poems are to be submitted by email to feedback@sciencerrhymes.com.au. Include your **poem title & your name**, plus your town, school name and an adult name & email address (where appropriate). Email your submissions of 1 to 8 verses by Friday 31 July. Published poems by children will be acknowledged by first name only (and school name where appropriate).

<https://www.scienceweek.net.au/event/oceans-of-poetry/>

Lovers of All Things Science – Hold onto Your Seats – SCINEMA is here !

Enthral your secondary students and primary students. SCINEMA is the largest science film festival in the southern hemisphere showcasing the best in science cinema from around the world. It's a celebration of the power of the moving image to inspire the young, satisfy the curious, explain the baffling and ask the impossible. Sign up to watch this year's selection of SCINEMA films for FREE during August in support of National Science Week.

Whether you're watching at home, in schools, or at a local venue, all you need is a screen, computer and access to the internet - with more films than ever before, you can turn every night into movie night!

Register online now or email to arrange to host your own screening.

<https://scinema.australiascience.tv/communityscreening/>

ConocoPhillips Science Experience

UTS Postponed to January 2021 – Apply by 20 December 2020

Uni New England 12 to 14 January 2021- Apply by 20 December 2020

Uni of Sydney 13 to 15 January 2021- Apply by 1 December 2020

Macquarie Uni 18 to 20 January 2021 - Apply by 10 December 2020

The ConocoPhillips Science Experience is a fun 3 or 4 days of science activities for Year 9 and 10 students in 2020 program year. Each program is designed to provide students who have an interest in science with an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of scientists who love their work.

The program takes place in over thirty-five universities and tertiary institutions, within many different laboratories and lecture theatres. Participants perform experiments in the laboratories, meet and hear senior lecturers in the lecture theatres, attend site visits and walk around and experience what it is like to be on the campus of a university or tertiary institution. More than 68,000 students have taken this rare opportunity.

<https://www.scienceexperience.com.au/about-the-program>

Ms Toni Arfanis
Careers Advisor

Debating and Public Speaking

The Arts Unit have ensured that the vast majority of their valuable extra-curricular student opportunities for debating and public speaking have continued for 2020, and have consistently provided updates and resources for schools.

The Plain English Speaking Award became a Virtual Competition this year, with Chloe T and Brendon L representing our school in this competition. The competition is open to any student aged 15-18, so our two School Captains should be commended on taking the initiative to compete in a competition against many older students from Stage 6.

Speakers were not required to deliver an impromptu speech in the first round. However, if they are chosen to progress to subsequent live rounds of the competition next term, a 3 minute impromptu with 3 minute preparation will be a requirement.

Both Chloe and Brendon spoke for over eight minutes on topics they are passionate about. Brendon – “The Lives We Choose Not To Save” and Chloe – “You’re Cancelled”. These speeches needed to be well rehearsed and polished, then filmed in a single take with no editing or additional technological assistance. We couldn’t have completed this task without the generous guidance of Alexander B in Year 9 who assisted with positive feedback on the speeches, as well as filming and uploading our submissions.

Please view the speeches below and congratulate Brendon and Chloe!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UddRv6sVXvo>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dktrXEhTQQ>

We have just been notified that modified and reduced competitions for the Year 7&8 and Year 9&10 Premier’s

Debating Challenge will take place. We will hold another training and selections day early Term 3 to select our final teams who will participate in these competitions.

As a school, we will also undergo our own trials for the Legacy Public Speaking Competition, which is open to any student aged 14 and under as of 1st January 2020. Two successful participants will then represent us at a local final of the competition.

Finally, more resources are available for students. Each week, The Arts Unit will schedule short video lessons in a range of areas (such as debating and public speaking) to offer students a chance to engage in extra-curricular activities. All Bites will then be available on demand to revisit as often as you like. Please visit the link below for many resources that The Arts Unit have created for students.

<https://digital.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/the-arts-unit-home/art-bites>

As always, please visit Miss Osmond, Mr Maunder or Miss Ali in the English staffroom to discuss any public speaking or debating opportunities that you may wish to pursue.

Have a safe and healthy holiday!

Miss Osmond, Mr Maunder and Miss Ali
Debating and Public Speaking Coordinators

Girl’s Supervisor Report

Well Being PL Initiatives

The amazing Wellbeing PL have been working extremely hard since returning to school this term. Their wellbeing initiatives have been thoughtful and heartfelt as they have thanked all staff members for their efforts with online learning. Their first student initiative was to write “thankyou” post it notes to all staff members, which was presented to staff during a staff meeting in Week 6. These notes were written from a range of all students within the school and then collated by the Wellbeing PL and displayed on posters to be viewed in the teachers common room.



The second initiative involved the production and organisation of “thankyou” pens for each staff member as a token of appreciation for their hard work and commitment to student learning and welfare. These were distributed at the beginning of Week 8. The genuine enthusiasm and commitment shown towards these wellbeing initiatives are a true credit to all the Wellbeing PL students and I can’t wait to see what they have in store for the school Wellbeing next!



Year 10 Meningococcal Vaccinations

Please note that the new advised date for the Year 10 Meningococcal Vaccination is **Thursday 27th August, 2020**. Vaccination envelopes will be sent out a few dates prior to this date. If you have any queries please contact me on 9153 9966.

Ms Michelle Seidel
Girls Supervisor

Learning Enhancement

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT -IS FOR EVERYONE

In any one school there will be students who may experience difficulties with learning. These difficulties may vary in cause, nature, intensity and duration. At GRC Peakhurst, the Learning Enhancement Team plays a key role in ensuring that the specific learning needs of all our students experiencing difficulties are met.

SUPPORT is available to every student in need and we can help in the areas of;

- Learning difficulties
- Physical disabilities
- Anxiety
- Injury
- Long & short-term learning concerns
- Assignment help (Available recess and lunch each day)
- Organisation

We have a;

- Lunch games room – resuming term 3 in the library every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – recess and lunch
- Sensory/rest room
- Support Enhancement Centre in the Library

If you have any questions or would like to contact the Learning Enhancement Team to discuss the learning needs of your child please contact us on the school number or by email on;

Peta Holm – Head Teacher Support and Learning Enhancement – peta.holm@det.nsw.edu.au

Jennifer Jarman – Learning and Support Teacher (Yrs. 7 & 9) - jennifer.jarman@det.nsw.edu.au

Monique Van De Pol – Learning & Support Teacher (Yrs. 8 & 10) – monique.vandepol@det.nsw.edu.au

Wellbeing Team Report

Semester 1 Rewards Incursion

An incursion has been organised for students who have demonstrated positive behaviour and have achieved Level +2, Bronze, Silver or Gold level during Semester 1 2020.

As excursions are currently not permitted, keeping in line with current Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines, we will be holding a movie day here at school on Thursday 2nd July.

Places are strictly limited to the first 50 students who return their permission note. Students are reminded to check their points level on the noticeboard at the back of D Block. If you qualify to attend the incursion, please see Miss Picone in the Wellbeing office for a permission note.

Real8 Youth Mentoring Program

Samey Minkara, a Youth Worker with Street Industries who we are lucky to have working at our school, has been working with some Year 9 and Year 10 students on a youth mentoring and engagement program each Wednesday. The students spend the day undertaking some physical activity to help promote a healthy lifestyle as well as work and like skills.

The students involved are thoroughly enjoying the program and some have provided feedback:

“I enjoy the program because we can speak honestly and open with each other and Samey” – Jayden, Year 10.

“I’m enjoying bonding with the group as well as the training sessions” – Noah, Year 10.



Parenting Ideas

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has a subscription to ‘Parenting Ideas’, which includes fantastic articles and webinars on a range of important issues and topics related to parenting. In every school newsletter, I will endeavour to include some articles for you to read and some of those articles have links attached to a webinar. As we are a subscribing school, for our parents, most of those webinars will incur no cost, so be sure to check them out!

This month, I have included 3 ‘Parenting Ideas’ articles (see below) covering the following areas:

- Developing Young People’s Emotional Smarts
- Collaborative Parenting Style Wins The Day During Covid-19
- Conquering Kids Techno Tantrums

Ms Julia Picone
Head Teacher Wellbeing