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5 August 2016

## From the Principal

GRC Peakhurst was afforded the honour and pleasure of being the official host of the Education Week Launch in NSW for 2016. The spotlight was firmly on our entire school community as leaders in politics, education and the wider community assembled at GRC Peakhurst Campus on Monday 1st August 2016 to celebrate the official launch of Education Week. Our school was deeply honoured to welcome dignitaries and people from all over NSW to celebrate the importance of Public Education.

Our school was buzzing with excitement as we opened our school gates and welcomed everyone to share this momentous occasion. The official ceremony featured highly talented artists from Public Schools all over NSW. The performances were simply amazing and truly showcased the diverse talent of students in NSW Public Schools. Also, the ceremony featured a significant number of Public School Stories that highlighted the numerous opportunities provided to students and the successful achievements of schools in NSW Public Education.

The guest speakers included: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley Governor of NSW, The Premier of NSW Mr Mike Baird, Cindy Berwick as President of NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, prominent author Libby Gleeson AM and Peter Riordan Acting Secretary NSW Department of Education. All the speakers were very inspirational in highlighting the importance and value of education for individuals, sections of communities and the entire world. The importance of education is the greatest gift for people to develop their minds with knowledge and skills required to become productive citizens of the world.

The theme for Education Week 2016 is "Shared stories, better learning, and stronger communities". Public Education provides all students with the opportunity to shape their future within a socially inclusive society. Our Public Education system models the values of our Australian community and ensures equity,

excellence and the promotion of a caring, fair and civil society that contributes to shaping our future.

The entire ceremony was inspirational and full of high-energy as it was streamed live and free throughout NSW. Please click on the link below to view the entire ceremony:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOVK5RxDFEA>

Our students were given the honour of performing major roles in the official ceremony. Congratulations to our school captains, Caleb Round and Erica O' Brien, for their excellent work in professionally hosting the entire ceremony. Tallis Brown was given the honour of delivering the Acknowledgement of Country with motion and poise. Numi Tugaga had the honour of powerfully and purposefully leading the singing of our National Anthem. Also, our highly talented Aerobic Dance team performed to the delight of the entire audience. Well done GRC Peakhurst students!

Special congratulations to all the performers for showcasing their amazing talents during the ceremony. Schools represented included Kirrawee HS, Cammeray PS, Greenway PS, Epping BHS and Hoxton Park PS. Also, congratulations to all the public schools for sharing their amazing achievements and successes in supporting students striving towards performing to their potential. These schools included Lomandra School, Randwick BHS, Greenway PS and Aurora College.

Personally, I would like to thank all the staff and students of our school for their amazing work and tireless efforts in hosting this important event. Our teachers are committed to "raising the bar" and "closing the gap" in student learning. Teachers and support staff ensure high student expectations and better learning for everyone. Their dedication is exemplified by all the educational opportunities that are constantly being made available to all students in and beyond the classroom. Our students proudly engage in their learning and are willing to challenge their limits. Their enthusiasm and excitement in successfully hosting this important occasion demonstrated their willingness to learn and create a stronger community. GRC Peakhurst clearly demonstrates that "together everyone achieves more" – well done TEAM!

Finally, on behalf of GRC Peakhurst Campus, I would like to thank all the official guests that attended our school for the official launch of Education Week in NSW for 2016. Everyone's presence was greatly valued and appreciated by the entire staff and students of GRC Peakhurst. The presence of our guests highlighted the high priority and importance placed on the value of Public Education. I would like to particularly thank: all the parents of our amazing students, Mark Coure MP, Executive Directors Murat Dizdar and Cheryl Best, Directors Anne Ross and Craig Smith, College Principals Joanne Jarvis, Anna Girginis, Noeline Ross and Carol Spittles, Primary School Principals Tanya Sarafovska and Ross Angus, venue manager Robert Thurlow, caterer Carolyn Giles, SRC coordinator Lauren Osmond, photographer Michelle Walton, Deputies Scott Wilson and Holly Northey, school events manager Thankam Rhystrand and every single member of our school staff. The sum of everyone's ongoing support and collaborative spirit goes a long way in making GRC Peakhurst Campus a very special school for sharing stories, better learning and showcasing an excellent example of a very proud and connected public school community.

**Terry Vallis**  
**Principal**



## Deputies' Report

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

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

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

Items of uniform on sale are heavily discounted. The P&C would welcome any donations to the uniform shop as all profits are returned to purchase school resources.

On Thursday 11th August, Year 8 students and their parents are invited to attend the Stage 5 Elective Information Evening in the School Hall between 6pm and 7pm. This is a valuable opportunity for parents and students to hear information regarding the course requirements for the successful completion of Stage 5 (Yr 9 &10) Parents will have an opportunity to speak to representatives from each of the faculty areas offering elective subjects.

In recent weeks a number of concerned parents and community members have contacted the school regarding student safety whilst crossing roads and a number of students who don't wear helmets when riding their bikes to and from school. Our students are regularly reminded about safety considerations when travelling to and from school and when alighting from buses and vehicles. A number of students have narrowly avoided injury after carelessly running or riding across roads and pedestrian crossings without due care. Parents are requested to discuss these concerns with their child.

The opportunities available to students at GRC Peakhurst are many and varied and cater for a range of talents and interests. We wish our Dance, Aerobics teams success in the upcoming Nationals competition on the Gold Coast. A number of student camps are approaching. PASS camp will occur during Week 8 and Leadership camp will occur during Week 9. Our students are also working hard preparing our annual PEAKFORM performance to be held on Friday 2nd September.

We would like to congratulate all members of the school community who contributed to the successful Launch of Education Week 2016. The Premier of NSW, the Minister of Education and the Governor of NSW congratulated our school on its positive contribution to public education and the warm welcome that they received.

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

**Scott Wilson - Deputy Principal Years 8 and 10**  
**Holly Northey - Deputy Principal Years 7 and 9**

## Year 7 Advisor

### Welcome back to term 3.

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

Parents are encouraged to help students with their organisation at home by:

- Asking to see your child's diary regularly
- Checking that diary entries are being made and followed up

- Asking your child to explain what their homework/ next assignment is about
- Helping them plan their use of time
- Encouraging a regular place and time to do homework. Students have copies of all assessment tasks placed on the school website under Year 7- Assessments.

If students need extra help with homework, please encourage your child to use the Homework centre on Monday and Tuesday each week in school library running from 3.05- 4 pm.

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

**Alice Talevski**  
**Year 7 Advisor**

## Year 8 Advisor's Report

### Year Assembly

On Thursday 23rd June, a Year 8 assembly was held in the hall. This assembly gave us the opportunity to recognise all the good work that Year 8 students have been doing in and out of the classroom. With the help of Mr Wilson, I presented more than fifty Principal's Awards to many students. Congratulations to all those students on your fantastic achievements and keep up the great work.

We also had the pleasure of having James Polutele and Michael Sassine perform an acoustic version of Rod Stewart's 'I Don't Wanna Talk About It'. Well done on an absolutely fantastic and thoroughly enjoyable performance, boys.

### Pi Day

On Friday 22nd July, GRC Peakhurst Year 8 students celebrated Pi Day. Throughout the day, students were engaged in a variety of activities across all KLA's that incorporated Pi, pie or circles in one way or another. Students made pizzas, designed mandalas, problem-solved and participated in a Sporting Carnivale before the Pi recital and pie eating competition in the afternoon. Well done to all students involved for your enthusiastic participation and fantastic behaviour on the day. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Keir for her organisation of Pi Day. Your hard work and effort is much appreciated.



### Subject Selection

In the coming weeks, Year 8 students will be attending information sessions on the elective choices for Year 9. I would like to encourage students to start thinking about their interests and their strengths and to listen out for all announcements regarding upcoming subject selection.

Finally, I would like to encourage students to come and speak to me if they have any welfare or other concerns. I can be found in the Support Staffroom in F-Block (next to the dance room).

Happy Learning!!

**Julia Picone**  
**Year 8 Advisor**

## Year 9 Advisor's Report

Welcome back to Term 3. It has been a very busy and productive start to the term.

### Parent Teacher Night

It was great to discuss with parents the progress and improvements that that students have made this year. It is now a critical time to review your child's performance and reflect upon the Teachers comments so further improvements can possibly be made.

### Brainstorm Productions Presentation

Last term, all Year 9 participated in this very informative incursion. Student feedback has been excellent with a sound knowledge of the theme, "cheap thrills" being demonstrated through discussion. Students were informed of strategies and coping mechanisms to avoid risk taking behaviour.

### Year Meeting

Late last term, Year 9 conducted a year meeting with Mr Vallis and Mrs Northey present. It was an opportunity for Mr Vallis to present students Distinction Certificates. As always it was great to acknowledge the hard work and effort that students had demonstrated last term.

**James Cooper**  
**Year 9 Advisor**

## Year 10 Advisor's Report

The term has started and already week 3. It has been fantastic to see so many students involved in the academic and extracurricular initiatives offered to students. Congratulations to Caleb Round and Erica O'Brien for hosting the opening of the 2016 Education Week successfully. I would also like to congratulate all the students who made the day run successfully. Well done to our Dancers and Fenumiai Tugaga on their performance.

### Subject Selection

I hope that students found the subject selection evenings held at the Oatley Campus helpful and informative. Year 10 are in the process of having their interviews with the Careers Advisor and Mr Vallis making sure students are on the right path to subject selection for Year 11.

### Year 10 Formal

Please continue to make regular contributions to your formal account at the front office. Preparations for this exciting evening are moving very quickly. A Formal Committee will soon be



formed so if you are interested please listen out for the announcement.

## Fees

Students should be making payments towards their school fees as we are in the last semester of the year. If there are any financial difficulties please do not hesitate to speak to the Principal Terry Vallis.

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

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

## From the CAPA Faculty

Welcome back to yet another busy yet exciting term 3 for the Creative Arts department. All classes have been working hard in completing major works using various art mediums and materials such as paintings on canvas and paper, clay, found objects, wet and digital photography for our annual Peak View art exhibition which is due to take place on Tuesday 13th October in the school library so make sure you save the date!

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

**Ms Michelle Walton**  
**Acting Head Teacher CAPA**

### Year 10 Photography and Digital Media Report

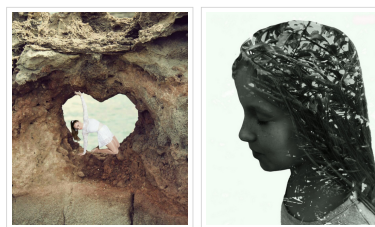
Year 10 Photography and Digital Media class has been working extremely hard on a number of assessment tasks so far this year. Their latest task on the topic – 'People and Places' demonstrated their amazing skills they have learnt using the program Photoshop and the use of the DSLR camera. Each student produced a Body of Work consisting of 6 photographs of themselves, other people, places they have visited as well as everyday objects. I would like to commend each and every student in the class for presenting outstanding work and being successful in completing this assessment.

I will leave you with a report from one of our very talented PDM student Alex to give you a rundown of the assessment task:-

Both Year 10 Photography and Digital Media classes have been very busy this term working on a number of assessment tasks and completing work for our annual exhibition 'Peakview'.

Our Year 10 Photography and Digital Media class researched many techniques of Photo editing and watched various YouTube demonstration videos and applied them to many images that they had taken. The themes researched were Multiplicity, the Invisible Man, Levitation, Double Exposure, Tiny Planet, Fake Spoke, Hands to Face, Illusion photography and various filters and APPS on I pads were all used in different ways. We all really enjoyed using Photoshop to edit our photographs and we really loved the final outcome.

**By Alex Holley**  
**Year 10**



### Year 9 Ceramics Report

Our assessment task for Ceramics is worth 25% of our total mark. Our task was to design and create a coil hand built ceramic form. Some of the class decided to make plates, bowls and even vases. I decided to use a mould to help with my construction.

First, I designed my clay form in my ceramic diary. I then started with rolling clay out and feeding this into a machine called a clay extruder to create even in thickness clay coils. To join these together I scored the clay with a clay tool and put it in the mould and connected the clay together and I was careful to smooth my joins and edges. I then repeated this process over, until I got the result I needed. Once completed, I needed to leave my clay out in the open to dry for at least a week and a half. My clay ceramic form measured 20 cm tall and 15 cm wide.

After it completely dried, I put my work into the big clay oven called a kiln to bisque. After this firing process, I rubbed black oxide on the clay work, giving my work an 'aged' finish. I then added a top coat of clear glaze on the inside of the work and placed my work in the kiln again to glaze fire. This gave my piece a shiny finish.

Here pictures of some of the processes.

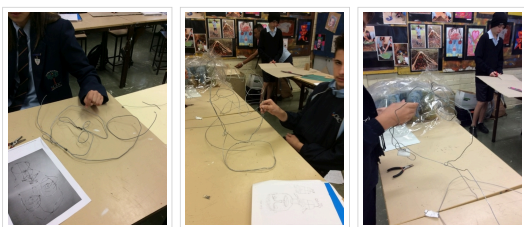
### Zhenghao Liu Year 9



### Year 8 Visual Arts Report

In Visual Arts our class is working on a cool sculpture unit. Some of us are making continuous Wire Face Sculpture. The materials we used were coat hangers or wire and used pliers to shape the wire. The other half of the class made cardboard sculptures. The materials they used were cardboard rolls, corrugated cardboard, cardboard boxes, PVA glue and hot glue. We looked at Naum Gabo for ideas and inspiration. As a class we all learnt how to draw continuous line drawings and we drew portraits of each other using this technique. Here is some of our work you will see more of our art creations on display in our art exhibition Peak View coming up on Thursday 13th of October in the library from 5:00-7:30 pm.

**Josephine Konjarski & Dean Tufevski – Year 8**



## MUSIC

There has never been a better time for music than now, at Georges River College. With such an amazing array of talented students coming through the school, our achievements will only continue to grow.

The Concert Band has had a fantastic time this year performing at a variety of functions and competitions. We won Gold at the Engadine band festival during term 2 showing that the combination of students from all campuses can achieve great things together. The Concert Band can only get better and we welcome anyone wanting to join. If interested, contact either the director of the band Mr Reidy at the Penshurst campus or Mr Holloway from the Peakhurst campus.

The big news in Music for Term 3 is the ever popular Peakform returning on Friday the 2nd of September, with the theme this year being "Reach for the Peak" demonstrating an array of Australian Music and Students' Original Compositions. This year will demonstrate the amazing talents of students coming through the GRC Peakhurst campus and their original compositions, as well as the arrangements of many popular Australian songs from past and present. Tickets will be available soon through trybooking.com, so keep an eye out to make sure you do not miss this year's extravaganza.

Finally, the launch of Education Week saw some of the extremely talented students performing and entertaining an array of distinguished guests. Students from across a range of years provided easy listening music in the library of GRC Peakhurst and also had our own Fenumiai Tugaga sing the National Anthem as part of the official assembly as well as the nationally acclaimed Dance Ensemble showcasing their tremendous talent.

We now look forward to the future and all the great opportunities on the horizon for Music at Georges River College.

## Careers Report

### Subject Selection Information Night

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, guardians and students for attending the evening at GRC Oatley Senior Campus. This is an extremely important time in your child's education. Please work actively with your child to support their decision making processes over the coming weeks. Please do your research and read the course descriptions on the Oatley GRC Senior Campus website. In addition, please use the information gathered at the Oatley Curriculum Expo to make informed decisions.

It is also very important for students to discuss with their Teachers their subject choices. Questions around suitability

for particular courses are important. Mr Vallis and I will be interviewing all Year 10 students to assist with the process. In the interviews, we will strive to ensure the subjects students select match up with their plans for the future.

Finally, please stick to the deadline and submit all applications on green paper on or before Tuesday the 16th of August.

**James Cooper**  
**Careers Advisor**

## Debating

### Debating and Public Speaking Report

Welcome back to an incredibly busy Term 3. In two short weeks we have already hosted the local Legacy Public Speaking final at our school with two of our own students (Laura Bancroft and Tayanytah Iverach) participating and doing us proud. Please read on to hear Jack Appleby's report on the day.

### Legacy Junior Public Speaking Comp

Today's final of the Legacy Public Speaking Award was a great day that began with a few late comers, but was overall a successful day. The day started off with a bang with a student named Hazel. Hazel gave a speech on Generational Theft and Inequality. It was a very interesting speech that brought up very contemporary ideas on how we as the millennial generation cannot afford things and how we are stereotyped as lazy. She believes that all political decisions are short-sighted.

Next up was one of our own students, Laura Bancroft, speaking about a prevalent issue, that being the Miscarriage of Justice towards Sexual Assault victims. She put forth many alarming statistics, like how 1 in 5 victims of sexual assault reports their assault. This means that 4 in 5 victims stay quiet. She also gave examples of when the justice system fails its victims.

After Laura, was a student from Meriden School, and her topic was on Energy Poverty. It was a riveting speech that gave us all an insight into how many people live without energy: that figure being around 1.2 billion people. That roughly equates to 60 times more people than the population of Australia. This is an alarming number of people in the world that do not have the things that we take for granted.

Next up was Lara, with her topic on Family Migration. She gave a personal account of how her grandparents arrived in Australia. She continued to outline the advantages of multiculturalism.

Next up was a student with a topic on how Laughter is the Best Medicine. She outlined what laughter is, while also proposing famous theories on how laughter can make you feel better, and also how laughter can sometimes burn more calories than when you run for an hour. She also said how laughter in a group can help strengthen bonds.

After that was Michael, from Sydney Grammar School, with a topic that was about 'Movies that Matter'.

Next up was another one of our own, Tayanytah Iverach, with a topic on Autism. She outlined the struggles of Autistic people,

while detailing the causes. She gave a personal account of a family friend that has autism. She proposed a way that all human beings can understand autism better.

Next up was Alana from Meriden School, with a speech on Food Wastage. She outlined the danger of food wastage, while detailing the environmental effects. She outlined how in France, they have passed laws to prevent companies from banning perceived 'ugly' foods.

After that was Shanny from Sydney Girls, with the topic Zero to Hero. She outlined how everyone can be a hero, no matter what you do. It's the little things that make a big difference.

Next up was Sophia, with a topic of Chequebook Journalism. She gave a personal account of how her brother earned a little cash by filming a fire for the news. She also gave the example of Tara Brown's failed kidnap attempt, and how Channel 9 paid their way out of it. This was a very interesting speech that was my personal favourite.

That was the most informative hour of my life.

Impromptu speeches followed. The topic was 'The road not taken', which was quite a difficult topic for all the contestants to speak on for 2 minutes, after only receiving 5 minutes of preparation time.

The adjudicator then retired to a room to decide the result of the contest.

In the end, the three winners were Hazel, Shanny and Sophia. Laura and Tayanytah were commended on their outstanding participation in reaching the local final of the Legacy award and did GRC Peakhurst incredibly proud. Well done!!

**By Jack Appleby**

All debating teams have debates coming up to finalise zone winners so stay tuned to see how we progress.

All debaters/public speakers are also invited to attend the state final of the Year 11&12 Premier's Debating Challenge on Friday 5th August, 2016 at the Great Hall at the University of Sydney. Next newsletter we will give you the results of this day as well.

All students are encouraged to notify us if they are interested in learning more about debating and public speaking competitions. We have an active crew who assist behind the scenes and run the show on debating days as well so please come and see either of us, or ask debaters in your year group to find out more.

**Miss Osmond**  
**Debating Coordinator**

## From the Mathematics and Computing Faculty

### Mathematics Curriculum Newsletters



A reminder to all parents and carers to check the Term 3 Mathematics Curriculum Newsletters which have been distributed this term. Please be mindful of the topics being delivered this term so that you may assist your child in their

organisation and study of these units in preparation for upcoming assessments. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you wish to discuss your child's progress.

Pi Day is celebrated around the world on March 14 (3.14) and Pi Approximation Day is held on 22nd July (22/7).



Earlier this year, we celebrated National Pi Day with a Pi Prize Wheel and Pi Recitals. A few weeks ago, we celebrated our annual Year 8 Pi Approximation Day on the 22nd July 2016.

Year 8 Pi Day is a whole school numeracy initiative aimed at celebrating the many uses and mysteries of circles and the mathematical constant, Pi. The day involves all faculty areas and comprised faculty sessions and carnivalé activities, followed by a timed pie eating competition (sponsored by Red Rooster) and pi recitals.

I would like to personally thank all the staff involved in running the different Pi Day activities and also all the staff who took extra lessons to allow this day to run smoothly. This day would not have been possible without their support, contribution, enthusiasm, time and effort.

Thank you to **Mr Sun** (English); **Mr Ndaira, Mr Lim, Ms Yates, Mr Smithard and Mr Williams**, (Maths); **Ms Tamang, Ms Ashfaq and Mr Smith** (Science); **Ms Hamilton and Ms Watts** (HSIE); **Mr Miller and Mr Haydar** (PDHPE); **Mrs Giles, Ms Testa and Mr Devine** (TAS), **Ms Walton and Mr Page** (CAPA) and **Ms Picone** (Support).

**An extra special thank you to Mrs Giles and Ms Testa** for making so many Pi-shaped cookies for all of Year 8 to enjoy!

Year 8 students who participated are also to be commended on their outstanding behaviour on the day and for the respect and gratitude they showed towards each of their teachers.

Students worthy of special mention are:

- For their Pi recitals: **James Polutele** (62 decimal places), **Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts** (111 decimal places) and **Jeremy Hockings** (180 decimal places).
- For guessing exactly 413 lollies in the guessing competition: **Jacob Hilton** and **James Roach**
- For demolishing his Red Rooster chicken pie and apple pie in under two minutes in the Pi Eating Competition: **Memphis Timihaou Falwasser** (Sorry, Mr Smith ... Memphis beat you fair and square!)
- For finding the elusive gold coin in the Pi Hunt: **Ezra Faatoia-Muaiava**
- For their Pi-themed attire and accessories: **Sarah Gibson** and **Zachary Naumcevski**

Please click on the links below to view the photo gallery and pi recital videos.





<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-L7qxF323O8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHcPD1scnog>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05X81I2Y2JI>

**Christine Keir**

**Head Teacher Mathematics/Computing**

## From the Special Education Faculty

Welcome to Term 3!

During Term 3, students will be participating in Muay Thai for Sport each Friday, Week B. Community Access will be on Week A. A Friday Program note has been sent home.



Peakform and Peakview are fast approaching. Please keep a look out for notes and information regarding these school events.

We are extremely grateful to Hurstville Council for their generous plant donation. We will be planting these throughout the term around the school. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Have a great term !

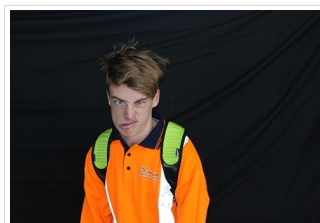
**Peta Holm**

**Rel. Head Teacher Special Education**

## SRC News

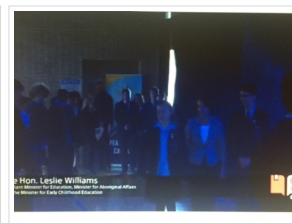
Welcome back to an incredibly busy term 3, with Leadership Camp (Week 9 of this term: Wednesday 14th – Friday 16th September)!!! on the horizon.

Last term SRC raised \$715.50 for the Picton Flood Relief Fund which was our focus for the term: assisting many flood victims who lost their homes in recent floods in Sydney. Congratulations to our entire school community who helped us achieve this goal.



This term on Wednesday 3rd August we are holding a cake stall to assist our amazing dancers fundraiser for their important trip to Queensland to attend Nationals: good luck dancers and we hope we have helped you as you do us proud on the weekend of August 6th and 7th!

We have also had the incredibly opportunity of launching Education Week here at our school, with our impressive dancers performing, School Captain Caleb Round and Vice-Captain Erica O'Brien MC'ing the event, Tallis Brown reading the Acknowledgement to Country and over 45 helpers guiding our special guests around the school. To everyone I say a massive THANK YOU for your assistance on the day: the event could not have been the huge success that it was without each of you.



Please see below for some recollections from the day from one of our senior debaters Monique Ilov in Year 9 as well as one of our emerging school leaders Valandou Contzonis in Year 8. What an amazing team of student leaders I have!

It was Monday the 1st of August 2016, where the college of GRC, Peakhurst Campus to be exact, made history. The launch of the 2016 Education Week with the theme of "shared stories, better learning, stronger communities" was hosted by our very own School Captain – Caleb Round and our Vice Captain – Erica O'Brien and what a success it was.

It all started with the preparations for the day: weeks and weeks ahead. The stage was lit up with stunning lights which made it even more professional, as did our dancer's polished performance. Both of our hosts spoke amazingly, despite their nerves and did so well, I don't think anyone else could have done any better than they did on the day. What made the day even more special, were our distinguished guests which included Mike Baird NSW Premier, His Excellency General David Hurley (Governor General of NSW) and the Hon Adrian Piccoli, member for Murray (who promised to assist in donating to our next school events we organise) as well as many more, including representatives from many of our local schools which was very pleasing to see.

Many guests spoke highly of our school, its facilities, staff and student guides who were the face of our school as the VIPs entered. It made me realise what our school is truly capable of when we all join together and made me even more proud to be a member of this school's community than I already was. It really was a celebration of great public education!

**Monique Ilov Year 9**

Dear Mr Vallis, Mr Wilson, Ms. Northey and Ms. Osmond,

I would like to say a very big thank you for giving our school and school community the experience that we were very privileged to experience today.

I took on and built my own story. As of today, I sure will be sharing this day with family and friends for many years to come.

I found today very empowering and humbling all at the same time. The first thing that I told my family when I got home was just how proud I was of our school and community and that we all need to be reminded how lucky we are living in a country where education is a priority.

I was very excited that today Jeremy and I would be escorting the Premier of NSW (Mr Baird) at our school. Once welcomed at the school entrance, we then began to make our way to the school hall where the festivities were taking place. I then turned to Mr Baird and asked him, "What are your priorities for NSW?" He turned to me, smiled and answered. "Education is a big part of my priority because you have a dream and many students of your school have a dream and we know that the only way to achieve that dream is to have an education." He told me that it's vital to take every opportunity that is handed to me during my education, because "we have a wonderful education system due to our ministers that are here today and very passionate." He then turned to me and asked me what I wish to be in the future. And I told him that I would love to study Law. He then responded, "Do you want to help the people?" And I replied, "Yes, I want justice for the people."

I would not forget that moment as it has created a bigger momentum for me to strive and reach my goals. I was very proud when Mr Baird improvised his speech and shared our quick conversation. I was very pleased to hear him say that he was challenged instead of saying that he was asked a question. It meant that I did leave an impression and that I am on the right path. You never know. One day in the future, I might be pushed in the direction of politics and he might remember the very tiny but positive impression I left.

Once again thank you so very much for this opportunity.

### **Valandou Contzonis – Year 8**

Thank you once again from me for the incredible celebration of Public Education that you all assisted us in achieving. I join our students in also being very proud of our school community and the opportunities this continues to bring us.

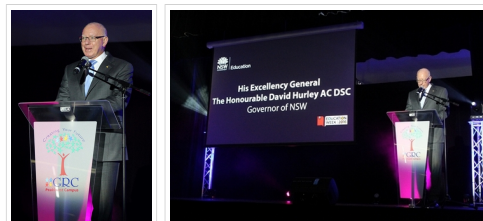
SRC's other major event this term is Leadership Camp. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks so stay tuned: although important dates are as follows:

- Leadership Camp notes due to me: Monday 15th August, 2016.
- Final payment of \$285 due to the front office: Monday 29th August, 2016.
- Leadership Camp dates: Wednesday 14th – Friday 16th September, 2016.

As always, if you have suggestions or queries about SRC, please do not hesitate to consult your peer student leaders or myself in the English staffroom.

Happy Education Week everyone!

**Lauren Osmond**  
**SRC Coordinator**



## **Student Wellbeing Report**

The Student Wellbeing Committee is a group of students from Years 7-10 who meet every Tuesday at recess in B9 to discuss and organise important events coming up. Our latest project is working on organising the White Ribbon Formal Assembly coming up in term 4. We as a committee once again have decided to make a student video and are in the process of researching and writing the speeches for the assembly.

We will start to film the Video next Tuesday at recess in B9 and be asking students two very important questions.

1. What does White Ribbon Day mean to you?
2. What can we do to change beliefs in society about violence against women.

So just remember we are always open to having new members join our worthwhile committee so come along to B9 next Tuesday at recess.

**Jeremy Hockings and Lara Nesco**

**Ms Walton**  
**(Student Wellbeing Coordinator)**

## **Aboriginal Education**

It has been an exciting semester for our Aboriginal students. Our campfire meetings are running every Wednesday and students are currently working on this year's NAIDOC theme 'Song lines' developing an artwork for the upcoming Koori art exhibition.

Every term the students are invited to attend the Sydney Opera House work Experience program Violet Craven Miller took up this opportunity last term and had a fabulous time meeting new people and connecting with other Koori students. Violet was involved in the Koori Careers day organisation and has been offered a traineeship with the Opera House.

The students are beginning to grow as a strong team of leaders and through our campfire meetings have expressed their passion for celebrating culture and identity, these conversations and ideas are culminating in the development of a NAIDOC celebration day at school. The day will involve a variety of workshops which will run across the school day so keep your ear to the ground for more information on this upcoming event.

Year 9 and 10 Aboriginal students attended their last training day in preparation for this year's 'Great Debate' showcase where they will join 12 other schools from across the Sydney



region to compete at Parliament House on the 26th August 2016.

GRC Peakhurst encourages all students to engage their innate leadership skills, on occasions opportunities arise for students to showcase these attributes through community awards. One such award is the **Aboriginal Student of the Year** where students are required to submit their application demonstrating community participation both in and out of school.

GRC Peakhurst nominated a student for this award and it was certainly exciting when we received confirmation that the student's application had been successful. That student is Tallis Brown in year 9, he is a quiet achiever with a repertoire of accomplishments both within the community and at school.

This prestigious award will be presented to Tallis Brown at our formal school assembly by the member for Oatley and he will join the other 19 nominees from around the county to take part in the Emerging Leaders Forum on Wednesday, 3 August at NSW Parliament House.

## Girls Supervisor

A group of Year 8 students are currently participating in the Project Youth program every Wednesday morning by the Menai youth team. The feedback so far has been positive and the girls are all starting to develop strong friendships and learning new skills.

## Year 9 Photography

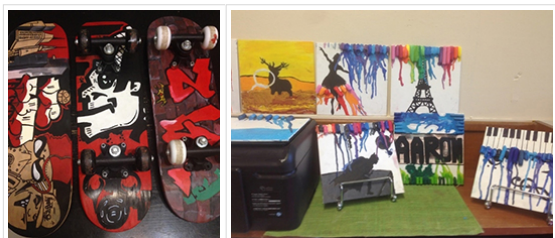
Year 9 have been working in the darkroom learning to produce images without a camera, the processes they have been working with include Photograms and Photomontages.

## Year 9 Visual Arts

Year 9 Visual Arts students have been investigating the theme 'Street Art' and have enjoyed designing their own graffiti images on skateboards decks. They have also been experimenting with various art making techniques/materials and looking forward to creating installation works around the campus this semester.

**Michelle Seinor**

**Aboriginal Education Coordinator**



creativity and literacy and has numerous cash prizes, including a first prize of \$1000.

In addition, the school will be entering a team in the 2016 East Hills Boys Mind Marathon that provides students with a chance to participate in a team-based day of academic rigour that involves challenges in English, History, Mathematics, Science and General Knowledge.

Any student wishing to participate in either of these challenges should see Mr Fisher in the English staffroom.

**Patrick Fisher**

## Gifted and Talented News

This year, the school will be participating in a series of new initiatives for our students designed to foster their critical thinking, literacy and numeracy skills in exciting and engaging educational competitions.

Any Year 7-10 student with a passion for creative writing is encouraged to enter the 'Write 4 Fun' short story competition. This is a free, national writing program designed to encouraged