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10 June 2016

From the Principal

We have reached the halfway mark in the 2016 academic year and the educational opportunities, expectations and commitments continue to present themselves in various forms across all areas of learning for students at GRC Peakhurst. Currently, all our students are completing their formal assessments across all the Key Learning Areas. Although this is the formal assessment period for all students, the emphasis at GRC Peakhurst is that various forms of assessing student learning and understanding occur in every lesson during every day. Assessment is both formal and informal and presented in various forms throughout the learning cycle. Teachers continue to provide timely and ongoing feedback to students about their learning. This ensures students are highly engaged in the classroom, committed to their learning and performing to their potential at all times.

Although the present focus is on the academic development for students – GRC Peakhurst is committed to ensuring every aspect of education remains a priority at all times. Individual student development is about achieving standards in learning and being provided with opportunities to participate and excel in life - learning experiences throughout the year. This is clearly exemplified by our most recent events. Select students were seriously competing and attempting “personal bests” as everyone enjoyed a colourful and wonderful carnival atmosphere during our recent annual Athletics Carnival. Our experienced coaches from the PDHPE faculty, Mr Miller, Mr Morley and Mr Haydar, are currently coaching and preparing three very competitive school teams to compete in the annual St George Rugby League carnival.

Our school debating teams, under the coaching of Mr Fisher and Ms Osmond, continue to thrive and excel in their respective competitions as they progress through to the finals. A select group of Year 9 students, under the guidance of our Student Representative Council coordinator, Ms Osmond, attended a Leadership Conference and presented their findings and experiences to the entire school during our recent formal

assembly. Ms Walton continues to mentor our Wellbeing committee of students as they continue their campaign within the school to raise awareness and deepen understanding about social issues relating to multiculturalism, anti-racism, anti-bullying and anti – violence. Also, our school had thirty five students volunteer their time to represent our school and participate in the annual Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.

Finally, the Lion King performance was another spectacular event that provided every student in Year 7 with the opportunity to perform on the big stage and in the presence of an audience comprising of parents, relatives and friends. There was plenty of singing, dancing and drama performed by a galaxy of Year 7 stars. The energy and excitement generated within the performance was simply breathtaking. Congratulations to Ms Rydstrand and her talented teams of teachers that included the Visual Arts faculty (costume design & stage craft), the Music faculty (musicians) and the TAS faculty (hospitality). Also, congratulations to the teams of students in Years 8, 9 & 10 for their commitment and expertise in their roles as support crews (creative, reliable & energetic workers).

This array of educational activities exemplifies the purpose of the school to always provide educational opportunities that encourage students to participate, develop and excel in every aspect of education. Our school values and promotes participation and excellence in academic studies, sport, creative and performing arts, leadership, political and social awareness. The greatest challenges are trying to provide today the educational attributes, skills sets and knowledge for the unknown future of tomorrow. We have all noticed a rapidly changing world with technology, community structures and the changing nature of professions workplaces along with the shifting nature of skill sets. This means we need to focus on providing knowledge, skills and attributes that will best place our current students in an advantageous position of competency for the society and workplace they will inhabit tomorrow.

Our school values a quote from Franklin D Roosevelt (1940):

“We cannot always build the future for our youth but we can build our youth for the future”

We will continue to further explore this concept in another edition of our school newsletter.

Finally, on the eve of the upcoming Federal election – it is imperative that everyone lobbies all candidates, in their respective electorates, about the importance of committing to the agreed funding proposal of the Gonski needs – based school funding model. An undertaking to commit to the fifth and sixth years (2018 & 2019) of funding (worth \$31m to the schools in the Banks electorate and \$1.4b for schools in NSW) is imperative in ensuring every student has an equal opportunity to realise their full potential in life through the provision of a well-resourced and high quality education. The Gonski funding model is designed to lift all schools to a national minimum resource standard and provide targeted funding for individual students in need of greater support.

Terry Vallis
Principal

Deputies' Report

Students Aiming for Excellence

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

Parent Teacher Evenings

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

- Parent/Teacher interviews for Year 7 and Year 8 students will be held in Term 2 (Week 10) on Tuesday 28th June 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Parent/Teacher interviews for Year 9 and Year 10 students will be held in Term 3 (Week 2) on Tuesday 26th July 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

School Uniform

GRC Peakhurst Campus is a uniform school. As winter approaches, it is important that students continue to take pride in their school by wearing the correct full school uniform and appropriate footwear each day. We have recently introduced a new electronic roll marking system that also enables us to track whether or not students are wearing correct uniform. Students not in correct uniform will have a text message sent to their parents indicating that this is the case. Direct communication will be made with parents of students who are continually out of uniform.

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

Year 8 Advisor's Report

Cyberia Performance

In the second week of this term, Year 8 viewed a drama performance by Brainstorm Productions titled 'Cyberia'. The live performance investigated the pitfalls of technology, including cyber bullying, stress, lack of privacy and de-sensitisation. It mainly focused on the use of social media in young peoples' everyday lives and how technology and social media sites have become a catalyst for many young people to bully each other. The performance was delivered by two young actors who were able to engage the audience in a scripted social media/cyber bullying presentation.

"The performance was very entertaining and made me laugh (a lot). I learnt a lot about social media and how dangerous it can be and how it hugely impacts people's lives." – **Andee, 13**

"I believe it was a great experience and it truly showed the aspects of cyber bullying. I learnt quite a lot about being sympathetic towards people who have experienced this as I have also been cyber bullied." – **Jeremy, 13**

"Cyberia was a great experience and filled the students' minds with cyber bullying information. Not only was it a physical and entertaining experience, but it's definitely going to help you with life when in need." – **Lleyton, 13**

"Cyberia was an amazing production. Its content was raw and straight to the point. It was outstanding and it had me drawn in and interested the whole time." – **Valandou, 13**

"Cyberia tackled key information for today's day and age, in a way that appealed to adolescents." – **Zachary, 13**

I would like to congratulate all of those students who attended the performance on their fantastic behaviour and I hope that each student took something valuable away from it.

School Sports Carnival

The School Sports Carnival was held on Friday 20th May at Barden Ridge. Well done to all the Year 8 students who got into the spirit of the day, dressed up and supported their house and also to the students who participated and achieved fantastic times, distances and all round results. Go Beachley!

Schools Spectacular

A huge congratulations and good luck to our very own Numi Tugaga who has been successful in three rounds of auditions for the Schools Spectacular. Numi is into the final round of auditions to be a featured artist at the Schools Spectacular 2016, to be held at Qudos Bank Arena, Sydney Olympic Park on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November. Good luck in the final round Numi, we know you will be amazing!

Finally, as the weather cools, I would like to remind students to wear the correct uniform, including the school jumper or jacket only, to keep warm.

Happy Learning!

Julia Picone
Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Advisor's Report

We are almost half way through the year and this year seems to be moving faster. Lots of activities have been happening this term as well.

Year 9 Incursion

Brainstorm productions will be presenting "cheap thrills" to all Year 9 on Tuesday 28th of June. This is a very important show exploring risk taking behaviour and drug use etc. I am expecting all students to attend. The cost of this show is \$6.00 per student. I will be issuing a permission note and payment information in Week 8.

Half Yearly Exams

Students are sitting their half yearly exams this term and I am hoping they have been working hard to prepare for it. Students should understand the importance of home study and revision. As parents and teachers we are there to support them during this time. Good luck to all students for their exams.

Half Yearly Reports

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

James Cooper
Year 9 Advisor

From the CAPA Faculty

GRC Stage Band – Port Macquarie Tour 2016

The GRC Stage Band has returned from another successful tour to the Big Band Blast in Port Macquarie. This 3 day tour included activities such as:

- A studio recording session where we recorded 5 tracks

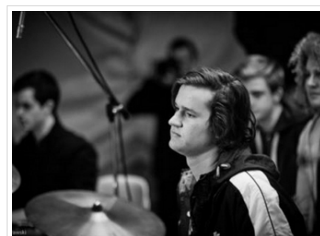
- Performing a 45-minute set on the main festival stage with Australian jazz legend and composer, Ed Wilson
- Being the studio audience for a recording session of Judy Bailey's Jazz Connections – a professional jazz orchestra
- Workshops on rehearsal technique, vocals and big band development
- Concerts featuring Lionel Cole (The Voice 2015), John Morrisson, Jacki Cooper and Ed Wilson
- A New Orleans style parade involving over 300 players.
- Creating our very own 'GRC rock' in Port Macquarie's famous breakwall, which contains hundreds of painted rocks.

There was lots of fun to be had in between activities, mixing with other schools, epic UNO games and jam sessions by the water.

Congratulations Stage Band members on a fantastic and memorable tour.



Lauren Hewett



Ben Adams on the kit



Luke LeValliant



GRC Dabbing



Careers Report

The Year 10 cohort has been actively engaging in a variety of Careers activities this term.

Year 10 Careers Classes

All Year 10 students have been engaging in Careers Lessons. The focus area this term is for the students to determine their skills, interests and personal traits and how they relate to specific careers. In addition, students have analysed their personality type and which Careers are suited to them. Using careers resources/tools in this area is helping students to develop a “sense of self” and encourages them to explore a variety of Career options.

Yamaha Partnership Training day

This year the training day will be held at the Yamaha Australia Headquarters, Wetherill Park. Selected students will engage in the training day, aimed at identifying new talent and prospective apprentices for the Marine and Outdoor Industry. The students will learn servicing and diagnostics working on Yamaha Motorcycles and Marine Craft.

The Sydney HSC and Careers Expo

On Thursday 16th of June, Year 10 students will have the opportunity to participate in an excursion to Sydney Olympic Park for the Careers Expo. Students will have the opportunity to visit information stalls from universities, TAFE, and private colleges. In addition, they will be able to select and visit seminars of their interest. The cost of the event is \$12.00 and students have been issued with the permission note.

James Cooper
Careers Advisor

Debating

On Friday 27th of May, our Year 7 and 8 Debating teams participated in Round 2 of the Premier's Debating Challenge at Sydney Technical High School. They demonstrated a strong understanding of current events to debate whether 'We should suspended bystanders of bullying' and if 'All school subjects should be taught on computers'. Both teams performed exceptionally well, displaying outstanding critical thinking, teamwork and oral communication skills. Ultimately, each team was victorious and the results guarantee that one of them will be Zone Champions. All students should be congratulated on this exceptional achievement in a highly-competitive zone.

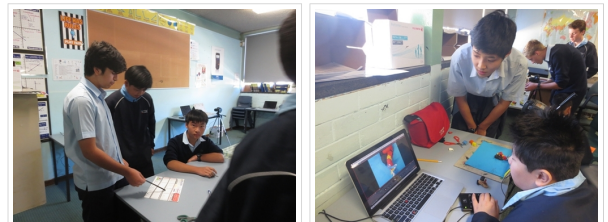
From the Mathematics and Computing Faculty



Digi Ed

Digi Ed is a company that specialises in using digital recording devices to create frame by frame motion picture. All animations require painstaking patience to manipulate, photograph, compile and compose each frame of an animation and bind it all together into a seamless sequence. On Friday 27th May, nineteen Year 9 IST students had the opportunity to partake in a hands-on project to create their own custom animation. Students were required to design their own storyboard, construct their specialised characters from clay, slowly animate their models frame by frame and compose their final animation using the latest movie editing software and post production tools.

The incursion was a great opportunity for the students to get first-hand experience in what is required to produce a quality animation, the most famous example being Wallace and Gromit. Students had a lot of fun and appreciated the effort and detail required to turn 2 hours of positioning and photographing into a 20 second animation! Congratulations to the Year 9 IST class for producing quality work, some of which is showcased below.



ICAS Competitions

Just a reminder that the **ICAS Mathematics Competition** will be held on Tuesday 16th August 2016. The competition is a requirement for all GAT classes, however, it is open to all students.

Any student interested in participating in the ICAS Mathematics Competition can pick up an information note and permission slip from their Mathematics or Computing teacher. The cost of entry is \$8.00. Payment will need to be made to the front office and permission slips are to be returned to the Mathematics staffroom.

Joseph Ndaira
Head Teacher Mathematics and Computing
(Relieving)

From the PDHPE Faculty

Athletics Carnival 2016

GRC Peakhurst held our annual Athletics Carnival at the Ridge Athletics Track on Friday the 20th May. It was a nice sunny day and everyone had plenty of fun! Students were grouped up into their age groups and they got to travel around and compete in each of the events throughout the day. To start off the day, us Year 7 boys competed in high jump. Many of the boys competed with the better competitors fighting it out for the top places. Each jump was proving to be better and better! After a few minutes, we had a winner. He achieved an astonishing height of 1.30m. Next we competed in the javelin event, this

was another difficult event. It was great to see everyone keen to have a go and scoring points for their houses. Soon after, we competed in the sprint events over 100m and 200m distances. There are some amazingly fast sprinters within our school who could be racing in the Olympic Games one day! We got to finish the day by watching the teachers versus students relay race. It was great to see the students beat the teachers this time around. Overall, it was an awesome day and it was great to see everyone in their house colours cheering for their team. We would like to congratulate all the students who have progressed and will represent our school in the Zone Carnival in a few weeks.

By Peter Kohalmi and Ryan Wu.



From the Special Education Faculty

Welcome to Term 2!

Here we are halfway through the term already. All our new students have settled in well, are adjusting to high school routines and are forming new friendships.

During Term 2, students have been participating in personal training sessions at school. Trainer Chris has been keeping our students active with boxing, fitness drills and team games. There will be some action shots for you to view in the next edition of Peak.

NEWS FLASH

Our Enclave program has been running this term at Hurstville, Coles. The boys are doing a fantastic job and the supervising teacher is extremely impressed with their work ethic and performance. This week they began travel training, with Mrs Campion. Keep up the great work. We are all VERY proud of you.

We are also extremely proud of and would like to acknowledge Maili Lindberg and John Martello for their induction into the GRC Peakhurst SRC



Have a great term!

Peta Holm

Rel. Head Teacher Special Education

Peer Support

We have just completed Peer Support for 2016, involving every Year 7 student and thirty five Year 10 Peer Support leaders. This program is considered highly valuable and rewarding for all students. The Year 7 students are in small groups with two of three Year 10 Peer Support leaders. The objective of this program is to foster friendships and allow the discussion of many issues that the Year 7 students may be experiencing. It also creates a bond between the new students at the school with our senior students. Year 10 students have also gained strong leadership skills. I would like to thank the following 35 Year 10 students, for running the 10 one hour sessions, over the semester. It was a wonderful program and effectively implemented, around our school values, Respect, Responsibility and Aim for Excellence.

These Year 10 leaders will be presented with a certificate and principals award during the next formal assembly.

Michelle Walton

Peer Support Coordinator

Congratulations go to all the following Year 10 Peer Support Leaders for 2016:-

Group Number	Group Leader	Group Leader	
1	1. Erica O'Brien	1. Julius Nesevski	
2	2. Brennan Head	2. Angelica Esdaile-Watts	
3	3. Charlotte Sutton	3. Tammy Vansteen	3. Caleb Round
4	4. Anastasia Gaskell	4. Andy Qian	
5	5. Harrison Breen	5. Mariah Vergoulis	
6	6. Daisy Bescos	6. Lauren Manners	6. Nathan Osborne
7	7. Rhys Sandy	7. Ashley Harris	
8	8. Murray Bushby	8. Tamara Reynolds	
9	9. Verity Randall	9. Caitlin Hale	9. Brooklyn Wu
10	10. Anahera-Aroha Rapata	10. Matthew Boots	
11	11. Peter Christoulakis	11. Annaleise Mitreska	11. Mackenzie Henderson
12	12. Ashleigh Givins	12. Kemel Reda	12. Quinn O'Conner

Group Number	Group Leader	Group Leader	
13	13. Curtis Hardie	13. Amie Leask	13. Jewel Vrbanc
14	14. Ashley Totten	14. Kaylan Rata	14. Frank Benson

STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

On Friday 3rd of June the Student Wellbeing committee presented at the formal assembly a talk on racism. They spoke about what racism actually is, solutions to the problem, why it happens and what we can do as a school and played a slide show of ant racism images.

I would like to thank the following members on their contributions to this assembly and share some of their speeches as well as the slide show.

Ms Walton

(Student Wellbeing Coordinator)

The student wellbeing committee:-

- Andee Hardie
- Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts
- Valandou Contzonis
- Matthew Sanders
- Kemel Reda
- Frank Benson
- Quinn O'Connor
- Jacob Turner
- Jaydan Cook
- Angelica Esdaile-Watts

What is Racism?

Racism is an ideology that gives expression to myths about racial and ethnic groups. It divides people into 'US and 'THEM' based on where we come from or the colour of our skin.

Racism is never alright, but still happens in Australia every day. Racist behavior may include when making jokes or negative comments about a particular race by bullying, hassle or intimidate them, exclude them from groups because they don't belong and/or physically abuse them because of their culture.

Angelica Esdaile-Watts Year 10

Statistics show that one out of five Australians say they have been physically attacked just because of their race. Racism is ugly, cruel, disrespectful and brutal. There are no reasons for racism it's just wrong.

Dimitriy Esdaile Watts Year 8

Solutions to racism:-

The word racism falls deep into one of our schools values, this is respect.

A solution to racism could be to treat others how you want to be treated and not to treat them how you think they should be treated. All you have to say is 'care for me and I will care for you' or 'be nice to me and I will be nice to you.'

How about religion? I don't think there are many countries in the world that all believe in the one religion. You can just go up to someone and just assume that they are a certain religion. Here at GRC Peakhurst, our school the value respect covers all aspects of racism. As fellow human beings we should be respectful to one another enough to look into other's religions, and understand and respect them as they should respect yours. In other words, think before you speak.

So think back. Have you ever been racist? Maybe it was a couple of days ago. Think to yourself what did I say? What did I do? Why did I do this? How can I apologize?

To fix racism (again) you have to remember to treat others how you want to be treated and not to treat them how you think they should be treated. For those out there who have been hurt by this, stand up for yourself and please don't retaliate, all you have to say is stop it hurts!

So please remember racism hurts and also how would you feel?

Andee Hardee Year 8

WHY DOES RACISM HAPPEN?

Racism begins with the people and circle of family and friends that we are close to. As human beings, we learn from a young age to take on the views of the people that are close to us. When our family and friends express racist opinions and we believe what we hear and see on social media, then it is very common that we will take on those views and mindset as our own.

One of the main reasons that racism is used is to amplify fear. Unfortunately, we live in a world that uses fear to control us. We live in a world that does not want our lives interrupted, and for many, when we see humans that have different cultures and beliefs; they will see that as a threat to their own beliefs and life style.

You see, racism started as a propaganda machine to justify slavery in 1619 in America. It was created to profit the very back of slaves and now it has become the key word and tool to create fear and separation in our society all around the world.

We must become educated and intelligent enough to understand that skin colour, race and religion doesn't decide what type of a person somebody is. Nobody gets to choose what family, race and religion we are going to be born in. We should all embrace who we are as there is no right or wrong. Each and every one of us has the right to live a life that they choose. A life to be free...

Free to choose our belief system,
And free to choose our religious beliefs.

Each human being equally has the right to education, has free choice, the right to create and the right to be heard. This is equally important as the right for food and shelter. Unfortunately, this "right and limitations" that we have labelled as racism is created by the human need to feel power,

separation and that our beliefs, culture and religion is the right way and the only way.

When we adopt these beliefs, we automatically create a way of living that screams out “we are separate”.

I am personally very grateful that I live in a country that is multicultural and that I attend a school that has taken on “out of the box” thinking and beliefs to support all students and is constantly reminding us to respect and accept each other.

The friends I cross paths with on a daily basis are all different. We all have different cultures, beliefs, religions and skin colour. Each and every one of them is a gift to me and we have learnt how to appreciate others beliefs, customs and religion. It is about understanding that there is no right or wrong.

It is my wish that our world, our school and that each and every one of us, including teachers and staff are all free to express their own culture, adopt another’s, fuse and meld and develop new cultures without the fear of losing identity.

We are all humans. There is no biological difference between any of us. No race is superior or inferior to another. We are all the same and let this new way of oneness start with us. Let’s create the change as of tomorrow. Let’s wipe out racism forever and replace it with the blueprint that we are all the same.

Valandou Contzonis



Immunisations reminder

The Area Health services will again visit Peakhurst on Thursday 9th June 2016, where the following vaccinations will be offered.

- **Year 7** - HPV Dose 2 and Varicella (Chicken Pox) single dose.
- **Year 8** - HPV dose 2 or 3 for those students who didn’t complete the HPV course in 2015 (we have the consent cards). Year 8 HPV catch up consents: 28

Aboriginal Education news

Our Last Campfire meeting was held on Wednesday 1 June 2016 at GRC Peakhurst Campus. We discussed NAIDOC week celebration and possible assembly. We also starting working on Koori Art expression artwork in relation to the NAIDOC theme “Songlines”: The living narrative of our nation, which gives students the opportunity to express their understanding and appreciation of the where there identity.

Violet Craven- Miller and Gabrielle Koutsakis participated have been rehearsing for Pacfest which was held on 4 June at liverpool. Photos of the event are forth coming.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next campfire meeting will be held Wednesday 15th of June at GRC Peakhurst from 9.00am-11am.