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9 September 2016

From the Principal

Reach for the Peak! Celebrations and performances for our annual 2016 Peakform were held on Friday 2nd September 2016. It was a professional and high class production that showcased the exciting array of student talent at GRC Peakhurst Campus. The high volume of positive feedback from the audience was synonymous with the words: Brilliant! Fantastic! Sensational! Amazing! Unbelievable! Wonderful!!

Staff and students worked collaboratively to produce an evening of entertainment that included 28 high quality performances ranging from high energy dance routines, drama acts, and an exciting mix of toe-tapping musical items. The audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they enthusiastically cheered and applauded all the students. The performances showcased iconic Australian music as well as original compositions from Australia's future icons – the students of GRC Peakhurst Campus.

Congratulations and many thanks to all the students in the Year 9 & 10 Music classes and every student who performed on stage. Congratulations to Ms Crammond and her talented teams of dancers. Well done to all members of our school CREW (the creative, reliable, energetic workers) who were tireless in their collective efforts, behind the scenes, to ensure the smooth running of the show. Congratulations to all the families and friends for their constant support and encouragement of our student performers as they pursue their dreams and passion. Also, we would like to acknowledge and thank all the GRC Peakhurst staff for supporting the event by investing their valuable time to ensure its success. Finally, everyone would like to congratulate the masterminds behind the show – our school music teachers, Mr Holloway and Mr Page. Both Mr Holloway and Mr Page are excellent ambassadors of music for both our school and our students.

All these wonderful educational opportunities continue to be made available by our dedicated staff for our motivated and engaged students. This week, our PDHPE staff will be taking

Year 9 and 10 students on a specialised sports camp at Narrabeen Sports centre. Next week, all members of our Student Representative Council will be taking part in a specialised Leadership camp to be held at the Royal National Park. Students' academic motivation and engagement is closely associated to school engagement and participation. It is important to establish success building behaviours associated with work-ethic, class participation and enjoyment of school. Our school has a holistic emphasis on learning and wellbeing.

All students need to be motivated and engaged if they are to reach their potential and achieve their personal-bests. Positive motivation and engagement factors are the thoughts and behaviours that increase motivation and engagement. Positive motivation factors include: self-belief, valuing school and exhibiting a focus on learning. Positive engagement factors include: planning, task-management, persistence and resilience. Negative engagement factors include: disengagement and apathy. Negative motivation factors include: anxiety, failure-avoidance and uncertain control. The most important message for everyone to understand is that positive motivation and engagement factors are learnable, and the negative motivation and engagement factors are changeable!

The 2016 subject selections for Year 10 into Year 11 and Year 8 into Year 9 have been completed by our students. All students researched and enquired about all the possible curriculum patterns that could be personally constructed. The breadth of curriculum available in Stage 6 at GRC Oatley and in Stage 5 at GRC Peakhurst is extremely wide. GRC Oatley has approximately 85 possible courses available for students and GRC Peakhurst had approximately 20 courses available for students. Final subject selections for each student will be confirmed by the end of this term.

The 2017 National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) were conducted on 10th – 12th May 2017 and the results were recently distributed to schools and students. NAPLAN assesses aspects of literacy including reading, spelling, punctuation & grammar, writing and numeracy. The results are shown in skill bands which indicate the level of achievement. These results provide schools with

assessment performance data on the literacy and numeracy skills of students that are beneficial in the development of specific teaching strategies to improve the learning of students. For example, analysis of our 2014 NAPLAN results clearly indicated the need to implement a reading and comprehension program to improve the reading capabilities of our students. A component of our strategic direction in our 2015 -2017 School Plan, was to develop and implement a centralised and coordinated whole school reading and comprehension program called "Super 6". The targeted improvement measure was to increase the number of students exceeding the expected growth rates in Year 9 NAPLAN Reading when compared to the respective Year 7 results (this is a measure of value-added progress in student performances).

In 2015, the percentage of Year 9 students achieving the minimum standards for Reading was 89% and in 2016, the percentage of Year 9 students achieving the minimum standards for Reading was 92% (an increase of 3%). Also, in 2015, the percentage of Year 9 students achieving the proficiency standards for Reading was 10% and in 2016, the percentage of Year 9 students achieving the proficiency standards for Reading was 13% (an increase of 3%). It is very pleasing to note that the targeted improvement measure clearly indicated that there was a 10% increase in the number of students that exceeded the expected growth rate in Year 9 Reading for 2016 NAPLAN. Further analysis of the targeted improvement measure indicated: a 7% increase in the number of boys, a 14% increase in the number of girls and an 18% increase in the number of students identified with a Language Background Other Than English.

As a school community, we will continue to analyse student performance and ensure the implementation of specific teaching strategies and learning programs in an effort to improve student learning. Our purpose is to focus on the development of ethical, productive and socially responsible citizens who are both literate and numerate life-long learners. This will enable our students to graduate from GRC Peakhurst Campus with the confidence to learn independently, problem-solve creatively and work collaboratively in any given environment.

Terry Vallis
Principal

Deputies' Report

Year 8 Subject selection information sessions were held for students on Wednesday 10th August during periods 2 and 3 and for parents the following evening in our school hall. The parent session was very well attended and information regarding subjects, available in 2017, the subject selection process and the successful completion of the Record of School Achievement (RoSA) were discussed. Parents and students had an opportunity to speak to staff about the electives on offer and staff were able to highlight the many courses available to students in 2017. Next year, Year 9 will complete 3 electives which they will continue in Year 10 2018. A number of new courses were offered bringing the number of courses available to 18, a very impressive variety and number for a school of only 640 students.

GRC Peakhurst is a uniform school and students are expected to wear the correct uniform to school each day. We can only maintain our high standards with the support of parents. Please ensure your child/children have the correct uniform and wear it to school each day including the correct footwear. If you are unsure of correct uniform items, please look in your child's diary or on the schools website or contact the school. We expect that all students take responsibility for their uniform and wear it with pride each day.

Lateness to school has become an issue for some students. Unfortunately, when students are late to school they are missing valuable information and learning time. We encourage parents to ensure that students leave home each morning in time to arrive at school prior to the 8:40 a.m. bell.

Parents are reminded that GRC Peakhurst has developed a smartphone App to alert parents to the provision of assessment tasks to students. An alert is sent to your phone via the app when an assessment task is provided to your child. The alert will provide a direct link to an electronic copy of the assessment task on the school website. Instructions on how to download the school app can be found on the school website.

We would like to encourage all parents to attend a free workshop here at GRC Peakhurst Campus focussing on what parents can do to support their children with anxiety and depression. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 14th September between 6.30pm and 8.30pm in the school library. The workshop is being presented by Learning Links.

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

Year 7 Advisor's Report

Year 7 have had a productive term. They have been encouraged to use the current term to reflect upon academic achievements in the first half of the year and to incorporate good study habits and work ethics to improve.

Last term they were recognised with over 60 Principal awards handed out in recognition of these efforts. They are encouraged to continue to strive for excellence in all areas of their academic, sporting and performing arts subjects.

Many parents have enquired about homework. Students are given individual class homework and assessments tasks from each subject to complete. If you have any concerns please contact your child's individual subject teacher to discuss your child's performance and refer to the school website or app which has the individual assessments listed for each subject area under Year 7 assessments for your reference.

NAPLAN results were handed to students to take home in Week 5. If you have not received your child's NAPLAN results please contact school. You are encouraged to reinforce and help your child develop their literacy and numeracy skills through reading (compulsory English Home Reading homework), revision, study and editing of work.

Students can come and speak to me in the English staffroom if they have any concerns about issues they are experiencing.

Alice Talevski
Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Advisor's Report

We are already at the tail end of Term 3 and Year 8 students have been busy selecting their three elective subjects for Years 9 and 10. I would like to thank all of the parents and caregivers that attended our information evening. It was great to meet and speak with you. There is a lot of excitement amongst students as they are given the opportunity to choose their own subjects, which is very encouraging. Students who are yet to return their signed elective forms are asked to do so ASAP.

I would like to encourage Year 8 students to maintain a conscientious work ethic for the remainder of the term. It is essential that you bring all the correct equipment for every subject and complete all homework and assignments on time. I strongly urge students to make use of their school diary and if anyone would like help in improving their organisational skills, please come and see me in the Support Staffroom.

Finally, I will be on leave, returning Week 2 of Term 4. If parents or students have any welfare concerns, please see Ms Chang in the Science Staffroom.

Happy learning!
Julia Picone
Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Advisor's Report

Year 9 Report

Year 9 has worked productively this term. I would like to take this opportunity to remind your child to reflect upon their half yearly reports. Please listen to the advice of your teachers and work hard on study and revision practices in order to keep improving your results. In addition, keep in mind the yearly exams are approaching fast being held Week 3 Term 4.

Year Meeting

Last Term over 50 students received Distinction Certificates from the Mr Vallis and Mrs Northey. Please remind your child to keep striving for improvement and success. It is great to be able to formally acknowledge improvement in effort/ application and excellence.

James Cooper
Year 9 Advisor

From the CAPA Faculty

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 Peakview 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 7 Visual Arts Report

In Visual Arts this term we have been creating clay fish using the pinch pot technique. We started off by creating a sphere with the clay, pushing our thumbs into make a hole right through the middle like a bowl and smoothing it all out. Then we started making the other features like fins, eyes, tails etc. Now at this point we are letting them all dry and we are waiting to paint them with the unique and different designs and bright colours. Overall, it was a fun learning task for Year 7 to do.

By Kayla Dimitrijovski 7VA9



Year 9 Ceramics

In Year 9 ceramics we are working on our next Body of Work based on our topic 'Monster Mash'. We need to produce two monsters out of a new type of earthen ware clay called 'Special K' no not the breakfast cereal but a type of clay that has pieces of ground up brick in it called 'grog'.

We are building up our skills and combining the three techniques we have so far used in ceramics which are pinch, coil and slab.

First we went to the computer lab to research some ideas for our monster design, and then we watched the movie Monsters Ink for inspiration. Then we started to design our monsters using the ideas from all this research.

Using the pinch techniques we made the body of our monsters, using the coil and slab technique we added the detail for our monsters by using scoring/cross hatching method for attachment.

Using slip we smoothed areas that have been connected from scoring/cross hatching, and then we smoothed the body of our monsters and left it to dry. This is the step we are currently up to with our BOW's

After drying for a week or so we will use under glaze to colour our monsters by applying 3 coats of under glaze then we put it in the kiln for the first firing called Bisque.

After the firing we will apply clear glaze on our ceramic work and then we will fire it again for the last time to make it shiny called glaze firing.

Here are some of our works in progress!

Don't forget you will be able to see other completed pieces in our up and coming Peakview exhibition!

Zhengkao Liu & Julie Khuyag



Year 10 Visual Art Term 3 Work

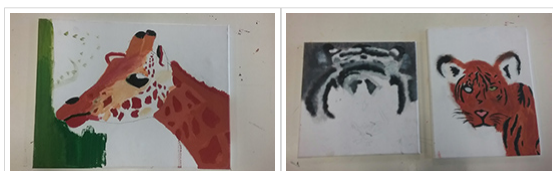
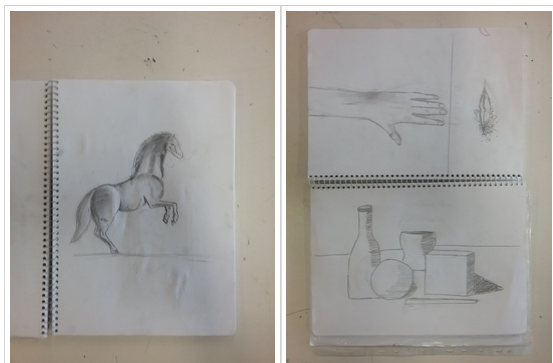
After finishing up their 'Seven Deadly Sins' major projects, Year 10 have begun work for their next painting project, based on landscapes. They have been researching the work of Lin Onus, Katsushika Hokusai, Russell Drysdale, and Wang Hui, in preparation for the creation of their own watercolour landscapes.

Ms Michelle Walton



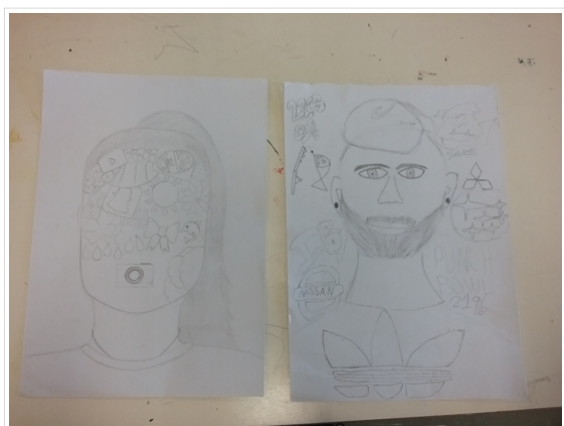
Year 7va8 Painting

Across Term 3 Year 7va8 have been working through a series of drawing activities based on the Elements of Art. This has been in preparation for their Animal Painting, where students have begun painting an animal of their choice on to an A3 canvas.



Year 8va1 Silhouette Portraits

Year 8va1 have been working through a Silhouette Portrait task, where they have drawn a silhouette and filled it with visual clues about their identity, hobbies, and favourite things. See if you can guess who the students are!



From the Careers Advisor

Year 10 Subject Selection

The subject selection process is now complete, with all applications being handed over to the Oatley Senior campus. Mr Vallis and I enjoyed doing the subject selection counselling /interviews with all Year 10 students. It was great to engage in discussion with students about their future career plans and aspirations. In addition, Mr Vallis and I were impressed with the amount of research and thought that all students had put into this process. This was clearly evident during the interviews. The next stage will be for students to check their subjects on the draft timetable. I will inform students when the draft is released.

Work Experience

I would like to remind parents that work experience will be available to all Year 10 students during Term 4, week 7 or week 8. Work experience can be extremely valuable in helping students identify career interest areas. If your child is interested in this program please encourage them to visit me to get the necessary paperwork and information required to engage in this process.

James Cooper
Careers Advisor

Debating

Year 9 & 10 Debating

On Thursday, 11th August, GRC Peakhurst's Year 9 and 10 debating teams travelled to Newtown High School of the Performing Arts to participate in the Inter-Zone final for the Premier's Debating Challenge.

Students were asked to debate whether 'We should increase the minimum entry requirements for university teaching degrees'. Both schools displayed a sophisticated understanding of the topic by critically discussing the merits of the current system and offering plausible alternatives. Each speaker displayed a deep understanding of complex issues and managed to communicate their opinion in a clear and detailed manner.

After careful deliberation, Newtown High School of the Performing Arts was awarded victory, although the adjudicator was full of praise for both teams. Ultimately, our students should be congratulated on their incredible achievement in reaching this stage of the competition.

Miss Osmond
Debating Coordinator

From the HSIE Faculty

2016 Australian Geography Competition

Earlier this year students from Ms Francis' 7R, Ms Hamilton's 8R and 9R and Ms Watts' 10R class participated in the 2016 Australian Geography Competition.

This competition, run by Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teacher's Association, allows students to demonstrate their understanding of current global issues in competition with students from the public and private education system.

This year GRC Peakhurst had amazing success with numerous students receiving High Distinction, Distinction and Credit awards. All students who participated will receive an award and summary of their results.

Students who received a High Distinction award are:

Aiden	Hudson	Year 7
Jason	Giamoukoglou	Year 7
Jacob	Saville	Year 8
Peter	Christoulakis	Year 10
Stellios	Gletos	Year 10
Ashley	Totten	Year 10
Benjamin	Mo	Year 10
Caleb	Round	Year 10
Conor	Cassidy	Year 10

Students who received a Distinction award are:

Edward	Mwanyalu	Year 7
Luke	Mitropoulos	Year 7
Nathan	Shayler	Year 7
Afan	Baig	Year 8
Jaden	Ametson	Year 8
Maddison	Mitchell	Year 8
Caitlin	Guilfoyle	Year 9
Joshua	Saad	Year 9
Marc	Gabriel	Year 9

Students who received a Credit award are:

Jana	Benedetti	Year 7
George	Nisyrios	Year 7
Shresth	Prasad	Year 7
Bailey	Russell	Year 7
Benjamin	Webber	Year 7
Jackson	Chen	Year 8
Dimitry	Esdaile-Watts	Year 8
Jacob	Hilton	Year 8
Fredrick	Ke	Year 8
Ashley	Pak	Year 8
Immanuel	Slatinec	Year 8
Lleyton	Tran	Year 8
Lizzie	Van De Pol	Year 8
Zachary	Zoabi	Year 8
Jason	Lui	Year 9
Kevin	Yuan	Year 9
Ho Ming	Cheung	Year 10
Alistair	Leong	Year 10
Celine	Li	Year 10
Julius	Nesevski	Year 10
Charlotte	Sutton	Year 10
Elias	Swaiy	Year 10
Eric	Tao	Year 10
Amy	Trieu	Year 10

Congratulations to all award winners on these fantastic results.

Ms Hayley Diamond
Head Teacher HSIE

From the PDHPE Faculty

NSW ALL SCHOOLS RUGBY LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

This term we entered 2 teams into the NSW All Schools Rugby League Knockout competition. Each year, teams travel far and wide across NSW to be a part of the competition, with some teams travelling more than 5 hours to compete! As a result, the competition is always extremely competitive with all teams displaying a high level of skill. GRC Peakhurst sent our U/14's Rugby League team who had been undefeated all season within the St George district. Furthermore, GRC Peakhurst also sent a handful of U/16's students to play as a combined GRC College team with students from GRC Hurstville. On the day,

the U/16's battled through 3 hard fought games and just fell short on each of those occasions. On the other hand, our U/14's boys managed to win 1 from 3 games on the day and only lost the other 2 game by a combined total of 4 points. The boys will gain a wealth of experience from participating against competition of this standard and we look forward to giving it another shot next year. Congratulations to all students involved on the day.

ST GEORGE DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE 9's GALA DAY

At the beginning of the term 3, GRC Peakhurst was involved in the St George District Rugby League 9's Gala Day held at Evatt Park, Lugarno. The event is run annually each year with local schools coming together to test their skills within this modern, fast paced and exciting brand of football. Our U/14's team were undefeated on the day winning each of their 3 games convincingly, ranking them 1st overall in the division. A special mention must go to Floyd Te Paiho-Murray & James Roach who were Best & Fairest on the day. Our U/16's team also displayed great skill and determination throughout the day, winning 2 from 3 games which ranked them 2nd overall for their division. Unfortunately, injuries got the better of the U/16's, which resulted in the team being short of players for a large proportion of the day. Congratulations to Jaden Faatoia-Muaiaiva & Ali Kansou who were also best and fairest on the day. Well done to all the students who represented the school in tremendous fashion on the day.

ST GEORGE DISTRICT OZTAG GALA DAY

GRC Peakhurst had over 60 students participate in the St George District Oz Tag gala day on the 1st August, 2016. This annual event involves hundreds of students across the district who venture to Scarborough Park, Kogarah, to compete in a round robin competition. The competition is broken into a year 7/8 division and a 9/10 division with both boys and girls competing separately. This year, GRC Peakhurst entered the 7 teams across each of the divisions, with each team being successful in progressing into the semi-finals! Of the 7 teams, our year 8 and year 10 boy's teams progressed to the grand final. Both matches were hard fought games, nail biting games which came right down to the wire. Unfortunately, our year 8 boys' team were narrowly defeated, whilst our year 10 boys went on to be victorious in the final. This event is always thoroughly enjoyed by our students and we are already looking forward to next year's competition. Congratulation to all of our students on their exceptional behaviour, attitude and effort on the day!

Year 10 Road Safety Incursion

On the 29th August, Year 10 PDHPE students attended a Road Safety incursion here at GRC Peakhurst. The sessions throughout the day were designed to provide students with first-hand experience of road trauma and an understanding of their responsibilities as a driver and as a responsible passenger. A vast range of information and strategies to avoid serious injuries and death were provided to students by presenters from Bstreetsmart, NRMA and LTrent driving school. We hope that our students now have a greater awareness and understanding of the consequences that can result from

distracted driving, speeding, drink/drug driving and driver fatigue. Feedback from the students was very positive and we look forward to participating in similar initiatives next year.

Wednesday Sport Fees

If your child plays grade sport, participates in Year 7 sport or a recreational sport that incurs a cost please ensure that their sport fees are paid at your earliest convenience at the front office.

From the Special Education Faculty

The Term 3 holidays are quickly approaching!!

So here are a few things to wrap up the term

Lots and lots of students (and staff) have been sick this term! Hopefully as the warmer weather approaches we will be germ free. We welcome Ms Stodart back to the faculty for the last weeks of term. She will be taking the Blue Class while Ms Picone is away.

The **Enclave** program The Special Education Faculty is extremely proud of the mature and professional manner in which our students conduct themselves at Enclave. During Term 2 and 3, five Year 10 students participated in this program at Coles, Hurstville Westfield. A special 'shout out' to Mr Hayes, the on-site teacher. Thanks -a-million! Special thanks also to all the staff and in particular the Assistant Manager. This is what the boys had to say about their experience.

"I worked in the bakery section packing bread and rolls. I worked very hard and really enjoyed it. I even had a job interview there."

John

"This year I have been working at Coles with some of my friends. I worked hard and kept things tidy. I started catching the bus and being more independent."

Ben

"On Thursdays I have been going to Coles. I packed chips and lollies on the shelves. I really enjoyed working at Coles."

Jarrold.



This term **review meetings** will be held in Week 9 for all Year 7, 8 and 9 students. Notes outlining times will be sent home this week.

Next term will be busy....stay tuned!

Thank you for all your on-going support,

Peta Holm

Rel. Head Teacher Special Education

SRC News

This is a quick one from me as I am busily organising a camp for 50 of our students in Week 9 this term: Leadership Camp!!! Final information notes will be provided in a meeting on Monday 5th September: it is vital that students attending camp come to this meeting at lunch in the Hall.

Many of our SRC members performed or assisted at our recent Peakform performance night. It was a huge success and I am always so impressed by the amazing range of talents that our students have: whether you performed, had an MC or usher role, helped behind the scenes, manned the car park or completed the many other important roles I say a huge congratulations and thank you to you.

Year 7 SRC have been busy assisting with our Primary Links program to great success. Students from our local primary schools have enjoyed the dynamic program we offer and teachers and Year 7 SRC members are fostering strong community links as a benefit of the program. Well done to you all!

The year is passing us by quickly and it will be term 4 before our next Peak newsletter. Year 10 2017 SRC expressions of interest open early next term and quickly following that, the process for election of School Captains and Vice Captains will commence. Any Year 9 students wishing to increase their contribution to the school in this manner are encouraged to speak to myself or one of our student leaders for more information.

As always, please approach your SRC members for any suggestions you may have in ensuring our school is the best it can be.

Lauren Osmond
SRC Coordinator

Gifted and Talented News

This month, GRC Peakhurst will be running its inaugural 'Writer of the Grade' short story competition for all students. This competition is designed to foster students' understanding of creative writing whilst also providing them with an opportunity to enhance their control of spelling and punctuation rules.

All students are encouraged to submit a short story (500-1000) words to Mr Fisher in the English staffroom. There is no theme; instead, students are encouraged to write about a topic of their choice. Entries open on Monday, 29th August and close on Friday, 23rd September.

The student from each grade who submits the most interesting and engaging short story will be awarded a \$40 Westfield Gift Voucher. The winning short stories will be published in the October PEAK newsletter.

Student Achievements of the Month

At GRC Peakhurst, our students consistently excel in a variety of social, academic, sporting and extra-curricular areas, demonstrating their passion, dedication and excellence in a diverse range of activities.

The following students have been identified by staff as displaying outstanding levels of achievement in their subject area. These students have been consistently embodying our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence in their everyday behaviour and interactions.

They should be commended on their tremendous achievements this month.

English

Peter Christoulakis – Outstanding Advertising assessment task.

Ali Rajab – Diligent approach to classwork.

Maths

Caitlin Guilfoyle – Consistent application in class.

HSIE

Peter Christoulakis – High Distinction Award in Australian Geographic Competition

Maili Lindberg – Participation and application in Geography.

Science

Charlotte Sutton – Sustained academic excellence.

Ali Rajab – Consistent application in class.

PE

Ben Matthew – Outstanding school service.

TAS

Taya Iverach – 1st Place in the 'Peakfeast' competition.

Katerina Pegios – 1st Place in the 'Peakfeast' competition.

Verity Randall – Diligent approach to classwork.

CAPA

Alex Holley – Consistent academic achievement.

Aboriginal Education

We have been holding our Campfire meetings every Wednesday organising up coming events. These events included Great Debate, Koori Art Expression artwork, NAIDOC day at Penshurst Girls and our proposed NAIDOC day in term 4.

Our students have also experineced great success this semester and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tallis Brown in year 9 on his recent nomination and being awarded the Aboriginal student of the year presented by local member Mark Coure. Tallis has also been awarded the 'Deadly Kids' award taking place at UTS on Friday 9th

September and asked by our local member to conduct the acknowledgement to country at the premiers forum on Monday 12th September.

Students in both teams at the Great Debate did extremely well team 1 consisting of Violet Craven Miller, Gabrielle Koutskis, Tiana Thompson one there debating round and team 2 Tallis Brown, Lily Ernst and Talia Rata coming in a close second. The students prepared their speeches well doing GRC Peakhurst proud.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Year 7 NAIDOC day term 4 where invitations and advertising will go out shortly.

Michelle Seinor

Aboriginal Education Coordinator