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5 May 2017

From the Principal

Welcome back to the start of Term 2 at GRC Peakhurst Campus. After a restful and relaxing break from school, I am sure everyone has enthusiastically returned for another very exciting and productive term of learning. As is always the case at GRC Peakhurst, there will be numerous learning opportunities for students to engage and enhance their skills and understanding in a variety of key learning areas. A wide range of student assessments, in the respective key learning areas will provide students with ongoing opportunities to demonstrate and continue to develop their skills and understanding at all levels and courses.

Through mainstream media, there has been plenty of coverage surrounding the NSW Government's decision to implement a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy achievement for students to qualify for the award of the Higher School Certificate (HSC) credential from 2020 onwards. This announcement is in addition to the existing requirements as set out and already in place by the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) HSC policies. NESA, formerly known as BOSTES, is currently the governing educational body formed through the amalgamation of the NSW Board of Studies (NSW BOS) and the NSW Institute of Teachers.

The current cohort of Year 9 students (in 2017) will be the first group required to comply to this additional level of HSC qualification. These students will be commencing their Stage 6 (Preliminary and HSC) studies in 2019 and sitting for the 2020 HSC examinations. These students will be sitting for the 2017 NAPLAN assessments in mid-May. Year 9 students achieving Band 8, Band 9 or Band 10 in each of Reading, Writing and Numeracy in the 2017 NAPLAN tests will automatically qualify as having met the minimum Literacy and Numeracy standards. This level of student achievement will automatically qualify students for the award of a HSC credential in 2020, pending completion of all other course requirements. All students who do not attain this level of success in the 2017 NAPLAN tests will have multiple opportunities in Years 10, 11, 12 and afterwards

to successfully complete online literacy and numeracy tests to attain the required standard.

Rest assured, every student currently in Year 9 will have the opportunity to sit for the HSC exams in 2020 regardless of their 2017 NAPLAN results. However, every student will need to demonstrate a minimum standard of attainment in Reading, Writing and Numeracy in order to be awarded with the HSC credential. Multiple opportunities will exist for students to sit for short online tests that specifically address these skills. These online tests will take place at school and will be available twice a year.

Students will continue to work with their respective teachers and decide when will be the appropriate time to attempt these online tests. These online tests will be available from 2018 and onwards. Please take the opportunity to visit the demonstration site to view sample test questions. The site is available at the link below.

<https://hscliteracynumeracy.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>

Students who have not attained the minimum literacy and numeracy standard by the end of the 2020 HSC, will receive a Record of School Achievement (ROSA). The ROSA will include grades in all courses successfully completed in Years 10, 11 and 12. Students will have the provision to undertake and successfully complete the online literacy and numeracy tests for a period of 5 years after completing the HSC exams in an attempt to qualify for the award of the HSC credential.

It is very important to note that some students, including Life Skills courses, will not be required to attain the minimum standard for the award of the HSC. Students who have been diagnosed with a learning disability and have had their coursework and assessments modified, in consultation and agreement with their parents / carers and the school, will be exempt from the minimum standards requirements. Also, no student will be prevented from continuing their studies into Years 10, 11 or 12 on the basis of the 2017 NAPLAN results. At the very least, all students who successfully complete course requirements in Years 10, 11 and 12 will have access to a ROSA credential. All students will continue to develop their literacy and numeracy skills throughout their school studies and

course work. Additional support from the school and teachers will ensure everyone is given the opportunity and preparation to successfully meet these minimum standards. For more information please visit the NESA website:

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/home>

In conclusion, this HSC minimum standard has been introduced to help ensure that all students will have the basic literacy and numeracy skill-set to be able to successfully participate, effectively communicate and actively contribute in the wider community.

Terry Vallis
Principal

Deputies' Report

At Georges River College Peakhurst Campus, we consistently incorporate our school values of respect, responsibility and excellence into all areas of our school. As Term 2 unfolds, a focus on students achieving excellence by working to the best of their ability is particularly relevant with many students currently completing a number of assessment tasks and with the upcoming NAPLAN and half yearly exams.

The NAPLAN tests are conducted Australia wide over three days next week – Tuesday 9th May, Wednesday 10th May and Thursday 11th May. A catch up day for students who may have been absent for a NAPLAN test is scheduled for Friday 12th May.

The NAPLAN tests are designed to assess the skills of all Australian students in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide data on the achievements of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 for reporting to parents/carers and schools and for systematic reporting.

The following areas of **literacy** are assessed:

- Language conventions – spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Writing
- Reading.

In **numeracy**, the content areas assessed are:

- Number
- Measurement, chance and data
- Space
- Algebra, function and pattern.

At a year group assembly on Wednesday 26th April, all students in Yr 7 and 9 were provided with information about the 2017 NAPLAN Exams.

The Year 10 Half Yearly exam period will commence on Monday 15th May, running through until Monday 22nd May. Year 10 students have received a detailed Half Yearly Exam Timetable which can also be found on the schools web site. Year 10 students are reminded to return their permission slips allowing them to return home to study following their last exam on each day during the exam period.

Now that the days are starting to become a little cooler, it is important that all our students continue to wear full school uniform. Full school uniform includes a GRC Peakhurst school jumper or jacket, especially for those cooler mornings / days. GRC Peakhurst Campus Uniform can be purchased new at Lowes Hurstville or Roselands. The school also has a second hand uniform shop that is run and supported by the P&C. The second hand shop is open on Wednesday mornings from 8am-9am.

Mr Scott Wilson Ms Christine Keir
Deputy Principal Relieving Deputy Principal

Year 7 Student Advisor Report

Welcome Year 7 to 2, an extremely busy term. I hope you all enjoyed your end of term holidays and are refreshed and ready for a new term. There are many different events happening this term so it is important students remain organised so they are best prepared for what lays ahead. Expectations remain and we hope all year our Year 7 students continue to strive for excellence during Term 2.

Year 7 Camp

What a great camp and experience for our happy campers! Students arrived to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens on Wednesday the 1st of March full of excitement. Immediately students were able to experience the great activities prepared for them by the camp staff. The activities would test students' mental capacity as well as challenge their fear of heights.

Our happy campers were involved in a wide variety of activities such as pioneering, canoeing, raft building, indoor rock climbing, archery and leap of faith just to name a few. At the end of night 1, our campers were breaking down their best dance moves at the disco. Mr Haydar decided to stay well away from the dance floor as he has 2 left feet!!!

Day 2 was jam packed from morning to night with more activities, lunch breaks and story time. At the end of the day, all Year 7 got together for a talent quest challenge night where they were able to show off their amazing talents. By the end of night 2, our happy campers were exhausted and ready for bed.

At the start of day 3, our campers cleared out their bunkers and prepared themselves for one more activity before heading back home. It was a great way to round off what was an amazing 3 days. To the credit of our students, camp staff members commended GRC Peakhurst on their amazing behaviour throughout the duration of the camp. I hope all our happy campers made memories that will last them for a long time and created friendships which will flourish.

Year 7 Naplan

Naplan tests are around the corner. They begin May 9th and end May 11th, which falls during Week 3 of our school calendar. It is important students are prepared by bringing all necessary equipment for the tests and have adequate sleep the night before to be able to focus. Year 7 Naplan tests will fall on periods 3 and 4 for Tuesday and Thursday and period 2 on

Wednesdays. We wish all Year 7 the very best in their Naplan tests and hope they achieve their best.

School athletics carnival

The school athletics carnival is a blue-ribbon event on the school calendar. It is an exciting day where students get to compete in athletics as well as enjoy a school day in a different environment. This year the school athletics carnival runs on Week 5, Term 2 on Friday the 26th of May. Students are encouraged to dress in their house colours in the spirit of the carnival and compete in as many events as possible.

I would finally like to wish all our year 7's a productive term. It is important that they continue to adhere to the school values of **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY** and **AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE**. I would also like to take this chance to remind our Year 7 students that I am there for them anytime they may have questions or may be unsure about something. All the best for the following term, I am looking forward to continue working with you.

Ibrahim Haydar
Year 7 Advisor



Year 8 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to Term Two. This is a very busy term with NAPLAN in week 3.

The rest of the term will involve half yearly examinations and assessment tasks. Please ensure you check your schedules and diaries to help you be organised and confident to complete examinations and assessment tasks due.

Please ensure your homework is completed including filling in your Home Reading Diary.

Reports will be issued at the end of the term so please try your best to achieve the best results you can.

If you require assistance, please see me in the English staffroom at recess or lunchtime.

Alice Talevski
Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to Term 2. Year 9 students will be very busy this term with assessment tasks and exams taking place in all subjects. Students are encouraged to speak to their class teachers if they are unsure of what to revise and seek out any work they may have missed due to absences.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN exams for Years 7 and 9 will be held on Tuesday 9th May, Wednesday 10th May and Thursday 11th May with make-up exams for any student absent taking place on Friday 12th May. Good luck Year 9, just remember to do your best!

Assessment Procedures

There are still several Year 9 students who are yet to return the accompanying note to the Guide to Year 9 Assessment Booklet. This note needs to be read and signed by both students and their parent/carer and then returned to me ASAP. Students are to see me if they have misplaced their note and need a new one.

Attendance and absences

It is imperative that all students maintain an attendance rate of at least 85%. Please make sure that if your child is absent that their absence is explained with either a phone call to the school or a note signed and brought back to school on their return. A medical certificate should also be provided where necessary.

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 9 Advisor

FACULTY NEWS

Debating

Premier's Debating Challenge Report

During April, GRC Peakhurst Campus' Premier's Debating Challenge teams participated in their opening practise debate prior to the commencement of this year's competition. This debate was designed to provide all students with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of debating conventions and develop a rapport with their new teammates.

The Year 7/8 debating teams were asked to consider the topic, 'All school students should be provided with personal laptops for use during school hours'. Students critically discussed the benefits of ICT in the classroom and its relevance in a technologically developing world. All students should be commended on their ability to produce insightful arguments despite rigid time requirements. Overall, the A team was judged as the winners due to their sophisticated analysis of the need for the education system to better reflect the use of technology in the wider community.

In addition, the Year 9/10 debating teams were asked to consider the topic, 'That all schools should have CCTV cameras in areas where students congregate'. Both teams discussed complex social issues, including the right to privacy, the need for security and the impact of youth crime. Ultimately, the B team was judged as the winners of the debate due to their advanced understanding of the ethical importance of privacy.

Mr P Fisher and Ms L Osmond
Debating Coordinators

PASS Gala Day

At the end of Term 1, our Year 10 PASS elective students were responsible for organising a sporting gala day for Peakhurst West Public School, as a part of their Event Management assessment task. We were gifted with sunny weather in the last week of school which allowed the event to finally go ahead. Each group of Year 10 students developed a range of engaging games that were designed for enjoyment and to improve the fundamental movement skills within their year 5/6 audience. We would like to personally thank the staff and students at Peakhurst West Public School for their continued support and involvement in our Year 10 PASS Gala Days. We look forward to doing it all again next year!

House Captain Induction

Congratulations to our House Captains who received awards of merit by MP Mark Coure at our formal school assembly late last term. These students have demonstrated continued leadership and teamwork skills by assisting to run school sporting carnivals here at GRC Peakhurst and within the local primary school community.



Cross Country Carnival

GRC Peakhurst's annual Cross Country carnival was held on Monday 1st May. Having been cancelled last term due to poor weather, we were fortunate enough to run the carnival on what was a perfect sunny day. The PDHPE department would like to thank all house captains and PASS students who assisted with the carnival operations on the day. Your help allowed for the day to run smoothly and be such a success.

We would like to remind all students who received place cards on the day to check the sports notice board for the names of Zone qualifiers who will be progressing onto the next stage of school representation. The Peakhurst Campus Cross Country team will run at the zone level on the 16th May at Scarborough Park, Kogarah.

We wish all of our competitors every success on the day. We look forward to receiving your permission notes and payment ASAP!

Carnival helpers: Sofia Valverde-Koulis, Mark Younes, Luka Djeric, Luke Hawkes, Kirsten Beccaris, Tallis Brown, Alexis Malizis, Aqeelah Toefy, Billy Adams, Jayden Marcel, Lily Ernst, Fatima Halidovich, Arran Buncle, Jeremy Alysandratos, Eden

Holmes, Maria Minas, Victor Fan, Daniel Cha, Whare May & John Ledua



Ms Neridah Hill
Head Teacher PDHPE

GAT Health & Fitness

During Term 1, a select group of students underwent training in First Aid & CPR. Students were provided with the opportunity to develop extremely valuable skills and knowledge which will enable them to effectively respond to an emergency situation. Within the program, students completed a 3 hour online learning module on how to appropriately administer FIRST AID and CPR. CPR or cardiopulmonary resuscitation can be a truly lifesaving technique and is an important part of any first aid course and it is something that each student will truly benefit from.

Congratulations to the following students: Tallis Brown, Kirsten Beccaris, Alexis Malizis, Billy Adams, Jayden Marcal, Peter Tufevski, Arran Buncle, Alessio Benedetti, Luke Djeric, Mark Younes, Fatima Halidovic, Sofia Valverde-Koulis, Jack Flaherty, Luke Hawkes, Daniel Cha, Anthony Logozzo, Eden Holmes & Erik Attard.

This term, our GAT students will be given the opportunity to analyse their current of levels physical fitness. The class will work towards increasing these levels of fitness through structured and engaging lessons that will see students develop personalised training programs in an attempt to reach their targeted health and fitness goals.

Aaron Morley
GAT Health & Fitness Teacher

Special Education

Welcome to Term 2! It is already shaping up to be very busy and cold! Many programs running this term so please make sure you check your child's communication book.

On the last day of Term, Peakhurst Primary came and spent the day with us. We had great fun and did lots of Easter activities together. Some of the things we did were craft, made an Easter card and played games. It was heaps of fun. **By Daniel**

We did some Easter activities on the last day of term with our friends from the primary school. It was great. I hope they come again next year. **By Ben**

Some students from PPS visited us on the last day of term. They did our egg hunt with us. It was great fun and I hope we do it again next year. **By Maili**

The Support students from Peakhurst came on the last day of Term 1. We had fun together. My favourite was eating the hot cross buns! **By Matthew**

Just a reminder that if there is a variation to your child's drop off/pick up routine, please let us know via the communication book.



Peta Holm
Head Teacher Special Education

SRC

Welcome back to a busy Term 2!

Our student leaders have been incredibly busy so it is difficult to know even where to begin. I am very blessed to be working with each and every one of them. I am impressed each day at their amazing initiative, emerging confidence and passion for our school.

Last term our major fundraiser supported the Leukaemia Foundation by SRC holding Crazy Hair Day and World's Greatest Shave. As a school we raised \$777.50, so a huge thanks you to everyone who participated. Special thanks goes to Miss Crammond and Miss Francis, along with Miss Leeke for their support on the day and in my absence.

SRC and a small team led by Katerina Pegios (Yr 8) also coordinated a birthday gift and a giant birthday card for our sponsor child Simret Desta. Simret is a 12 year old girl from Ethiopia who we, as a school, support through World Vision. Stay tuned for more information at a future formal assembly for how you can be a part of helping Simret too. To celebrate her thirteenth birthday Katerina and the team sent Simret some lovely stationery and other incredibly useful things for her to use at school in Ethiopia.

Our Leadership By The River team (see below) has been successful in achieving one of their first goals for the year. On Thursday 6th April, teams coordinated by our School Captain Jack Appleby and his team, collected 33 bags of rubbish as well as 9 boxes of recycling. Overall this shows the huge impact we have on our environment and also impressive numbers of students who helped out. Thank you to all who participated and you all should have received your Principal's Certificates on assembly during week 2: see me if you missed out or were absent.

Leadership By The River

GRC Peakhurst is participating in a newly founded program named 'Leadership by the River'. This program will develop the leaders within our school. This program will be run throughout the year but GRC Peakhurst will be attending three events. One was held in February, another held in March and the last one will be held in November. GRC Peakhurst will also be working on a project of its own in-between these events. Our projects will be environmentally based, more details about these events will be told throughout the year.

In mid-February, 8 selected members of the SRC were chosen to represent our school in the Leadership by the River program. Students travelled to Hurstville Boys with Miss Osmond where we participated in activities with numerous schools from the Georges river area. The aim of the new program founded by Hurstville Boys Principal and the Hurstville Grove Infants School is to develop stronger leaders for the future generations as well as creating connections between high schools and primary schools. We spent the day engaging in fun activities to get to know other schools as well as creating a stronger team within our school. Throughout the day, we began brainstorming about the basis of the project we will be doing. As a team, we decided we would take an environmental approach to our task. This task will not only help the school to become more environmentally friendly, it will also help GRC Peakhurst to develop our knowledge of what it means to be kind to the environment, and the impact we have on it. After we finished a 2-hour day at Hurstville Boys, we returned to school to develop and define what our project is. It was a fine yet educational day enjoyed by all.

Chosen members of the SRC attended the conference 'Leadership by the River', with 32 other public schools apart of the Georges River network on Tuesday the 7th of March. The premise of the conference was to build relations with other primary and high schools within the network, to work with one another on projects to benefit their own and our school. GRC Peakhurst SRC are working with two primary schools, 'Peakhurst Primary School & 'Lugarno Primary School. As well, we the SRC, are working on our own project for the school at this present time, it's called "Peaky Goes Green Initiative", we aim to provide earth hour periods & school clean up days once every term to benefit the school & to leave an eco-friendly carbon footprint.

The project GRC Peakhurst is working on will consist of two parts. The first will consist of a school wide effort to clean the school and to rid it of as much rubbish as possible, in celebration of Clean Up Australia day. The second part will be focusing on minimizing our carbon footprint. We will have 'earth hour' sessions where all power throughout the school will be turned off for an entire period. During this time teachers, will be encouraged to have lessons outside. Teachers will be approached about the 'earth hour' in advance so they can prepare for lessons. The team of SRC founding this project consists of two year nine students and six year ten students, they are: Samantha Burford, Regan Burford, Valandou Contzonis, Arran Buncle, Luka Djeri, Jack Bergin, Jack Appleby and Laura Bancroft.

We hope to inspire future generations of this school to continue with this program and our projects to make GRC Peakhurst a more leadership driven school and a more environmentally aware school.

I would also like to acknowledge Valandou Contzonis, Rhys O'Brien, Angel Trkaljanov and Luka Djerić for speaking with incredible maturity at our recent ANZAC Day ceremony, held on Friday 28th April. Luka and Anthony Logozzo were also able to attend the ceremony in their cadet's uniform, adding to the formal and solemn occasion. The entire school were completely captivated with all of the speakers and I congratulate these students in taking on the responsibility in marking the occasion in such a respectful way. Thank you also to Luka for his moving speech and all of his hard work in creating the video montage as well.

Coming events-

Term 2 events – See your SRC representatives in your year group for more information and if you have any ideas/performance items for your year assemblies.

Year 7 elections – voting should commence early week 3. Thank you for your patience – there were 34 applicants that I have been working through!

Year 9 Leadership Excursion – Thursday 1st June

World Vision Young Leaders Conference – Tuesday 13th June

Year Meetings – June 23rd for all Year Groups

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.

Have a great Term 2!

Lauren Osmond
SRC Coordinator

Aboriginal Education

Welcome to Term 2, it has been a fantastic start to 2017. In 2016, the New South Wales Government announced plans to legislate to protect and revitalise Aboriginal languages encouraging the theme for 2017 NAIDOC. In realising the importance of preserving traditional languages, Hurstville Council and Hurstville Gallery and Museum invited GRC Peakhurst Aboriginal students to take part in a unique exhibition.

The activities encompassing this exhibition involved a one day workshop with the international photographer Sarah Rhodes and Auntie Aboriginal story teller and song writer. The students were required to write what being Aboriginal meant to them, this was translated into language and the students were required to then think about how they would like to be represented in the photographs. From there a series of postcards and images were developed and exhibited at Hurstville gallery and Museum.

This year GRC Peakhurst has committed to working with the team from AIME with our visit official school visit to Sydney University occurring on 12 May 2017.

At the end of Term 1, Tiana Thompson and Talia Rata were invited to attend a week long career development program run at the Sydney Opera House for Aboriginal students. The students reported back saying that they had a wonderful time taking part in many activities including working in the box office, opera bar, and behind the scenes. They met wonderful new people visited the Contemporary Museum of Art learning about culture, attended the play *Horrible Harriet* and offered a 90 day traineeship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Speak up Training 12 May 2017

AIME mentoring meeting Sydney University 12 May

Michelle Seinor
Aboriginal Educational Coordinator

Gifted and Talented Education News

This year, Georges River Council is offering all high-school students in the local area the opportunity to participate in the *ScribbleInk- Youth Literature Awards*. This is a competition designed to showcase outstanding student achievement in creative writing. Meritorious students will receive prizes to celebrate their achievements.

In addition, GRC Peakhurst Campus will once again be participating in the annual Premier's Reading Challenge. This program is designed to foster student literacy skills by creating and celebrating a love of reading in all participants. Students are asked to read a diverse range of novels throughout the year in order to meet the challenge's criteria. Any students wishing to participate in either of these programs are asked to see Mr Fisher in the English staffroom for further details.

Mr P Fisher
Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator

WELLBEING COMMITTEE REPORT

On the 31st March, the Student Wellbeing committee presented at the formal assembly a talk on Anti Bullying. They spoke about what is bullying, statistics on bullying, what to do if you are being bullied, who to turn to for help and a story about a student who was bullied and how they overcame it.

I would like to thank the following members on their contributions to this assembly and share a couple of their speeches with you.

The student wellbeing committee:-

- Andee Hardie
- Andrei Esdaile-Watts
- Valandou Contzonis
- Lara Nusco
- Valandou Contzonis
- Tayanyah Iverach

Michelle Walton
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Good morning,

My name is Valandou.

Bullying is when an individual feels that they have the power to intentionally use negative words or actions against you. Bullying can come across in many different types of forms. It could be verbal, emotional, physical, social or even cyber bullying.

I'm here to remind us that this behaviour is *not* acceptable here at GRC nor should we condone this behaviour within or out of school.

If you are being bullied in any way or form, whether you are at school, home or within the community, you need to speak up!

If possible, the first person or people you should go to are your parents and family.

Our teachers and staff are and always will be here to help you and guide you. Please feel comfortable and take the appropriate steps to reach out and ask a teacher for help.

There are also fantastic help lines that you can call. These help lines are:

- The Kids Help Line
- Life line
- And the Teens help line

There is also the national bullying advice center website that has great advice and links to assist you and guide you in the direction you need for help.

I would like to share my beliefs here at GRC. We are not just a school that has modern walls, desks and chairs. Our school is filled with beautiful life, each and every one of us, from the students, to the staff. The students bring life into the walls that create our school. For this reason, our school is our second home. Ask yourself, would you disrespect your home? If we all come to school respecting each member that creates the GRC family, we would eliminate bullying in a heartbeat. The help lines are fantastic tools but the truth is, they are not going to stop the bullying. Bullying needs to stop with us. When we enter our gates, we need to have respect and love for each other! Yes, we are all different and that is perfect. We should not care what another's race, religion, lifestyle or dress code is. Remember, your actions create another's reaction. We need to unite if we want change in our world. We need to come together if we wish to eliminate bullying.

For anyone that ever makes a negative decision to mistreat, verbally disrespect and abuse another on our school grounds, take a moment before doing so and picture our school logo.

The tree stump representing our school, the branches being our amazing teachers and staff and the leaves shaped like stars, representing us, the students.

We might be individual leaves but the branches and trunk holds us together, making us one. Making us a GRC family.

I trust this reminder with help you walk away and be a better student and person.

Valandou Contzonis

Good morning staff, students and special guests, my name is Taya Iverach, I'm going to tell you a story about my cousin Jade.

She was a good student, did her work and behaved, she looked happy. But on the inside it was a whole different story. She was dark and sad. She was getting bullied. Some of you here may have been bullied in the past or maybe now. I have been through it too.

Everyday in Year 5 and 6, my cousin was bullied by a whole group of people. They constantly called her names and spread rumours about her. She hated it, she wanted to move schools. She cried every day after school, the more this happened, the more she stopped believing in herself and was always in doubt. She told her teacher about what happened, she tried to help but it didn't really help solve the problem in her opinion. She felt like she had no-one on her side. She felt all alone. Everyday she would hide and eat recess and lunch all by herself, to the world she thought she was invisible. But she wasn't. The bullies still found her and did horrible things to her. Around that time there was only two weeks left of primary school, she thought when she would go to high school she would have a new life and new friends, she was excited for the change. She couldn't wait.

High school came around and at first she loved it. Loved her teachers and her new friends. But that didn't last long. This girl and her group of friends would constantly say rude things about her and spread even more horrible rumours about her. She told me that she could never run away from the darkness, it would always catch up to her. Everyday, after school she continued to cry. She continued to disbelieve in herself. She lost confidence in herself and was scared.

This happened to her for the rest of Year 7! It was terrible. She described to me that she felt like she was stuck in a dark hole, and there would be these loud voices that echoed around her. She said that the voices would say nasty things about her and that it was constant. "You are all alone and you have no friends." Or "No one will ever be your friend; I'll make sure of that."

This upset me so much. I don't know how someone can treat someone like this! This needs to stop, 1 in 6 people are being bullied in Australian schools every year. If there is anyone here at GRC that feels like my cousin did, then please seek help. See your year advisor or deputy, or come see us at the Student Wellbeing Committee. We will help you and support you.

Tayanytah Iverach Year 8



Peer Support News

We have just completed Peer Support for 2017, involving every Year 7 student and thirty nine Year 10 Peer Support leaders. This program is considered highly valuable and rewarding for all students. The Year 7's are in small groups of between fourteen- sixteen students with two-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's may be experiencing. It also creates a bond between the new students at the school with our senior students. Year 10's have also gained strong leadership skills. I would like to thank the following 39 Year 10 students, for running the 10 one hour sessions, over the term one. It was a wonderful program and effectively implemented, around our school values, Respect, Responsibility and Aiming for Excellence.

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

Congratulations go to all the following Year 10 Peer Support Leaders for 2017:-

GROUP 1	Sofia Valverde-Koulis	Regan Burford	
GROUP 2	Vicky He	Arran Buncle	
GROUP 3	Caitlin Guilfoyle	Dillon Amor	
GROUP 4	Lewis Thomson	Chynae Prasad	
GROUP 5	Jack Appleby (SRC)	Georgia Bojlevski	Tiana Thompson
GROUP 6	Danish Baig	Estrella Burgess	Rosemary Bergin
GROUP 7	Monique Ilov (SRC)	Victor Fan	Jack Bergin
GROUP 8	Yasmin Mansour	Luka Djeri (SRC)	
GROUP 9	Julie Khuyag	Tallis Brown (SRC)	
GROUP 10	Melody Briggs	Keyanoosh Sadeghpour	
GROUP 11	Taylor Cook-Robson	Bianca Winter (SRC)	John Ledua
GROUP 12	Kristen Beccaris (SRC)	James Delios	
GROUP 13	Alexis Malizis	Bianca Cruise	
GROUP 14	Loretta Kalauni-Epati	Aqeelah Toefy	Breeannan Valencour
GROUP 15	Aliyah Trotter	Talia Rata	Edan Holmes

GROUP 16	Laura Bancroft (SRC)	Anthony Logozzo	Tori Nave
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Michelle Walton
Peer Support Coordinator

Students for Meritorious Mention

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus is an educational setting that celebrates the broad range of student achievements that are present in everyday activities. Each school day, our students display a committed attitude towards their ongoing education, advanced interpersonal communication skills and an outstanding sense of social justice.

The following students have displayed our school values in the previous weeks and are commended by each and every staff member for their achievements.

Georgia Blue
Caitlin Guilfoyle
Tayanytah Iverach
Leo Li
Christian Perpignani
James Polutele
Zac Stepto



Chloe Tzanis competing in the National Waterpolo Championships

