



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

Email: [peakhurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:peakhurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
 Phone: 02 9153 9966  
 Fax: 02 9534 6346



9 June 2017

## From the Principal

The recent Higher School Certificate reforms have resulted in the introduction of new syllabuses for HSC English, Mathematics, Science and History. These sweeping changes were released in February 2017 and include a renewed focus on writing and grammar skills. The NSW Government's, 'Stronger HSC Standards' reforms for the 19 new Stage 6 syllabuses, released by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), will be updating the knowledge and skills that students will be developing for the future workplace and further study.

The aim of these reforms is to provide HSC students with a richer learning experience and provide time for students to engage with subjects in more depth as they develop a greater mastery of knowledge and skills. The introduction of these 19 new syllabuses will ensure currency, reliability, continuing integrity and significance of the HSC credential. There will be a major shift towards greater depth, rigour and mastery of content learning.

Feedback from more than 7000 teachers, students, professional associations, industry representatives and academics indicates overwhelmingly support for the new syllabuses. According to NESA, these changes will reduce the scope of subjects and allow students to think more critically.

### **The 19 new Stage 6 syllabuses will be taught to Year 11 students from 2018 and to Year 12 students from 2019.**

Some basic features of the updated content in the courses are briefly highlighted below. English students will no longer be required to study texts through a theme such as 'Journeys' of 'Belonging' and instead focus more on the text itself. There will also be a compulsory unit on writing in all English courses. In the Mathematics Extension courses, statistics will be included in the calculus units. This is a reflection of the growing importance of data analysis in the modern workplace. The

calculus based Mathematics syllabuses have been released in final draft to allow for further, targeted consultation. For science, there will be a greater focus on maths and quantitative analytical content. For History, the importance of Australia's western heritage will be emphasised under topics including the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolutions. The focus on World War One will be expanded to look at the years between the wars and examine events from a European and an Asian perspective. New Life Skills syllabuses have been developed for English, Mathematics, Science, Modern History and Ancient History to ensure the content and skills in all syllabuses is appropriate for students with special educational needs.

These changes are imperative as people need to prepare for change resulting from emerging technologies. In the modern workplace, people must become part of the process of continual reinvention – reinventing the person, reinventing the role and reinventing areas of interest. How can people best prepare for the future of employment? Soft skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership, agility of mindsets, creative problem-solving and resilience are still very important, as are motivation, an openness to learning and a willingness to change. These skills, combined with specific professional / industry expertise, are the keys to adapting to the multiple roles one is likely to experience throughout their career. A broad range of skills will always assist in supporting and equipping people approaching work differently within a variety of workplace settings.

Everyone needs to continue improving due to the profound changes that are taking place in both society and the workplace. Our world is becoming increasingly complex. Therefore, higher levels of educational achievement will be needed to simplify this increasing level of complexity. Through education, people deepen their understanding and add meaning to their life through growth mindsets, the development of new skills and competencies.

As a school, we continue to ensure all our efforts are based around lifting the quality of teaching and learning to improve the educational outcomes for all our students.

**Terry Vallis**  
**Principal**

## Deputies' Report

### Students Aiming for Excellence

We have been impressed with the way in which students have 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 examinations. Students now need to take on board the feedback provided by their teachers in order to improve next semester to reach their potential.

### Year 10 Oatley Taster Courses

Earlier this term, students in Year 10 were invited to attend our Oatley Senior Campus for the opportunity to experience senior classes in action. Students were given the opportunity to observe four different sessions and gain a truer understanding of some of the many senior subjects on offer to enable a smoother transition into Year 11, prior to selecting their senior courses for 2018. From all accounts, Year 10 students found the visit to Oatley Campus extremely valuable and worthwhile as they witnessed and experienced our senior campus culture first-hand.

To follow on from these taster courses, students and parents will be required to attend the **Oatley Campus Subject Selection and HSC Information Evening** at GRC Oatley Campus on **Monday 19th June 2017 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Students and parents are also highly encouraged to attend the **Oatley Subject Selection Market Evening** at GRC Oatley Campus on **Tuesday 27th June 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

### 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 evenings.

- Parent/Teacher interviews for **Year 7 and Year 8** students will be held in Term 2 (Week 10) on **Monday 26th June 2017 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 25th July 2017 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 will continue to track whether or not students are wearing the correct uniform through our electronic marking system. Students who are 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.

**Mr Scott Wilson**      **Ms Christine Keir**  
**Deputy Principal**      **Relieving Deputy Principal**

## Year 7 Student Advisor Report

What an extremely busy term it has been! With holidays around the corner Term 2 is nearing its end. Year 7 students are well into their assessment periods for all of their subjects. Just a reminder it is important for students to hand in assessment tasks to their class teacher the first day they are back if they have been absent.

### NAPLAN

Big congratulations must be given to all Year 7 students who sat their Naplan exams. It was great to see so many students willing to do their very best through the examination period. The overall behaviour of students was excellent. Well done Year 7!

### School Athletics Carnival

The School Sports Carnival was held on Friday 26th May at Waratah Park, Sutherland. It was a great first time experience for Year 7 who were extremely enthusiastic throughout the day. Year 7 was out to support their house groups by entering as many events as possible and proudly wearing their house colours. I would like to congratulate all of the students who attended and participated in what is a great day on the school calendar. I hope to see this enthusiasm in carnivals to come in the future years.

### Year Assembly

Coming up in Week 9 of this term, we will be holding our first Year Assembly for the year. This will be a new experience for all of Year 7. It is a chance to not only showcase the talents of many of our Year 7 students but allow us to recognise the wonderful achievements of our students across various areas of school life. I look forward to rewarding the hard work put in by our Year 7 students.

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.

**Ibrahim Haydar**  
**Year 7 Advisor**

## Year 8 Student Advisor Report

This semester is a busy one with students undertaking examinations and assessment tasks as we prepare for Semester One reports.

Students are encouraged to keep up their consistent work ethic and to revise and prepare effectively for all assessment tasks and examinations.

All assessment task notifications are available on the school website under each Year group and subject.

Winter has begun and students are required to be in full school uniform. If clarification is needed regarding these requirements, please refer to the student diary which outlines the school uniform policy.

Parents should encourage students to use their diaries for organisation and for communication between parents and teachers.

Reports will be handed out in Week 10, Term 2 with Parent Teacher Night that same week. Relevant booking information will be forwarded when it is available.

**Mrs Alice Talevski**  
**Year 8 Advisor**

## Year 9 Student Advisor Report

Term 2 is flying by and before you know it, the holidays will be upon us. Year 9 students are currently in the process of completing exams and assessment tasks in all of their subjects. Just a reminder, that if a students were absent and have not yet caught up on any examinations they have missed, they need to speak to their class teacher ASAP to organise a time to sit the exam.

### NAPLAN

I would like to congratulate Year 9 students on their effort during the recent Naplan exams. It was great to see so many students eager to do their best and the overall attendance for Year 9 during the exams was excellent. Well done!

### School Sports Carnival

The School Sports Carnival was held on Friday 26th May at Waratah Park, Sutherland. Well done to all the Year 9 students who got into the spirit of the day, dressed up and supported their house. I would like to congratulate all those students who participated and achieved fantastic times, distances and all round results. It would be great to see more Year 9 students attend and participate enthusiastically at the next carnival.

### Year Assembly

Coming up in Week 9 of this term, we will be holding our first Year Assembly for the year. I always look forward to these assemblies as they not only showcase the talents of many of our Year 9 students but allow us to recognise the wonderful achievements of our students across various areas of school life.

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 9 Advisor**

## FACULTY NEWS

### CAPA

Over the past term and a half the Year 10 Ceramics class has been busy working on a Body of Work based on Alice in Wonderland. We were lucky enough to purchase new ceramic slip casting moulds and glazes with the generous support of the P&C. The class worked hard to create wonderful bodies of work for their assessment task and I'm very proud of the results. The CAPA department is very thankful to our P&C for the purchase of this new equipment.

Below is Laura's Report on the task.

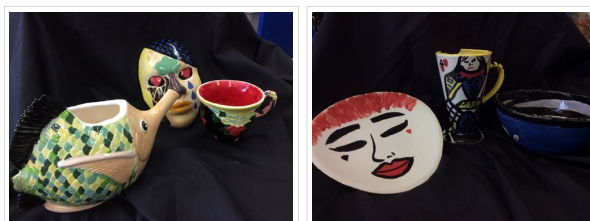
**Ms Michelle Walton**  
**Ceramics Teacher**

*I have been working on two slip cast ceramic items and one press mould ceramic item. My first slip cast mould is largely based on the 'Queen of Hearts' from the movie Alice in Wonderland. It is a large coffee cup that has been under glazed with this pattern. The painted detail is intricate and took a lot of time.*

*My second work is another slip cast mould that is also based on the 'Queen of Hearts'. It is a subtle more natural version of her face. My third work is a bowl that is a press mould. On the inside of the bowl is a swirl of purple and black, to symbolise when Alice fell down the rabbit hole. On the outside my work is painted summer blue, there are various elements of Alice in Wonderland such as bunny ears, a clock and a bottle of potion that Alice drinks.*

*As a class, we really enjoyed working on this practical assessment task as we learnt a new technique of slip casting which was fun and creative.*

**Laura Bancroft**



### Music

Here at GRC Peakhurst we have spent the past few years trying to help students see that anything is possible with a little talent and lots of hard work. We have been helping students discover their musical potential, gain a sense of self-confidence and achieve in this subject area at an academic level. This is borne out in some excellent results in the HSC. Our very own Ben Adams achieving a band 6 in Extension Music in the 2016 HSC Exams.

Although we have achieved a lot of things, we have so much further to go. There are many people who are under the false impression that you either have musical ability or you don't. Being a musician is not a finite skill. Music is a skill that you learn and develop. Some of us have a good measure of natural talent whilst others have less. This often bears no relation to



how skillful or successful someone could become in this arena of study.

The most important ingredient, when it comes to playing and understanding music, is not having the best instrument in your hands, nor is it automatically being able to play or sing without being given the requisite knowledge. This ingredient is one that is available to anyone who decides to use it. This ingredient is called 'Passion'. Passion doesn't require anyone to chase you up to turn up at a rehearsal, or to attend your music lesson. Passion means that you love something so much that you will sacrifice other things to follow this thing that you love to do.

Our goal here at GRC is create an environment where every student who is passionate about music can develop their skills, confidence and capacity whether it be for their own enjoyment or the enjoyment of others. Every recess, lunchtime and in every music class, our rooms in D Block are filled with passionate students who are pursuing the development of their gifts and talents.

### Coming Soon: Date to be announced

An invitation only Pizza Lunch for potential new instrumentalists and vocalists for our performance groups and tutorial program. If you don't get an invitation, you can apply to attend this lunch and information session by filling out the 'Expression of Interest' form available from the CAPA Staffroom.

### What have Year 7 been doing in Music?

It's hard to believe that we are almost half way through the year. We've discovered some very talented Year 7 students who have already started to get involved in some of the musical activities outside the normal classroom setting. Year 7 music classes are exciting as the students are involved in learning some guitar, keyboards, drums and vocals and have been given the opportunity to put their own small groups together to perform for their latest assessment task. The main idea is that you 'have a go' at something! Some students have discovered, for example, how much they like playing the drums and in their class performance test showed us how they had arranged their own version of a well-known song, adding dynamics and their own musical ideas. They were having far too much fun and learning something in the process. I'm hoping that all these boys all join our new drummers group, commencing in Term 3.

### GRC On the Road

#### The Big Band Blast

On the last weekend of May, I travelled with our GRC Stage Band to Port Macquarie on the New South Wales North Coast to take part in an amazing music festival called 'Big Band Blast'. This festival draws student bands from as far away as Western Australia. In fact, our School partnered with our friends from Australind Senior High School Bunbury Western Australia to travel and stay together in Port Macquarie.

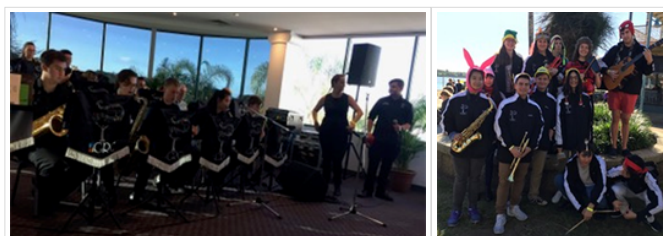
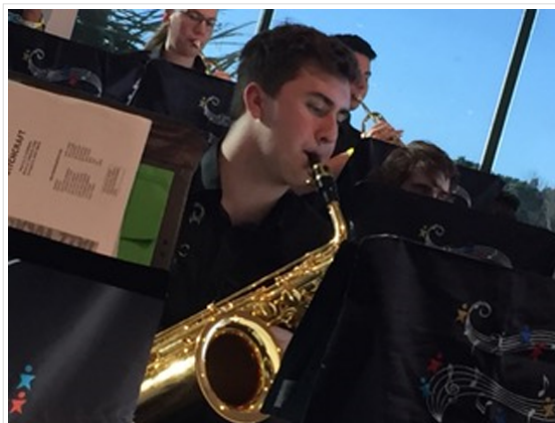
At the beginning of this school year, the Stage Band lost 10 students when they graduated Year 12. After only 16 weeks, they have recruited several new players and started to rebuild

a strong band. Our Stage Band performed, to great acclaim, in one of the major venues during the festival and were joined, in their performance by the one and only Ed Wilson (from the famous Daly-Wilson Big Band) and a couple of other significant young musicians who relished the opportunity to work with our team.

The bands repertoire was fun, funky and full of musical flavour. Across the weekend, the students participated in jam sessions, improvisation and vocal workshops and the infamous 'New Orleans' style musical march on the foreshore on the Port, led by the colourful John Morrison, the director of the festival. It was an exciting weekend with lots of tired but satisfied students and staff members. We were joined over the weekend by our College Principal Ms. Jarvis who has provided inspiration and an incredible level of support for our Stage and Concert Band program.



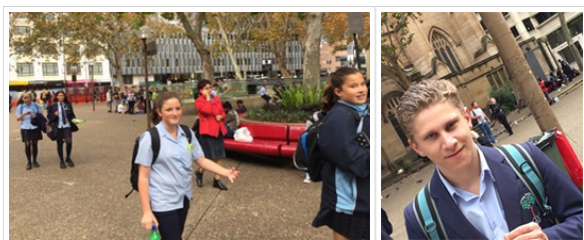
*Joanne Jarvis GRC College Principal and John Morrison  
(Organiser of Big Band Blast Port Macquarie)*



How do I join one of the GRC Bands? Simply ask one of your music teachers and they will help you to arrange an audition time and work out with you the most appropriate band or group to join....

## Vocal Group

This year our Vocal Group were privileged to be involved in the Schools Combined Choir for the NSW Department of Education's Arts Unit 'In Concert' show at the Sydney Town Hall featuring special guest star Felix Reibl from the Cat Empire. Students attended rehearsals in the city and performed to an enthusiastic audience on the opening night of the show. The songs were a mixture of Felix's originals, a work from a local composer called Jandamarra and some art music pieces including a selection from Faure's Requiem. Jeremy Alysandratos (Year 10), Michael Sassine, Valandou Contzonis (Year 9), Taya Iverach, Lilyah Reddy, Tamara Davis, Rose Mekonen (Year 8), Imogen Randall, Jessica Worsley and Joy Holmes (Year 7) all took part in this stunning event.



## The Schools Spectacular 2017

As I write this article two of our year 9 students, James Polutele and Numi Tugaga are taking part in the final round of auditions to be featured artists for the 2017 Schools Spectacular. This is a very exciting prospect for our school. There are only a small number of elite Creative Arts High schools who produce more than one candidate in a year.

Earlier this year we took five very talented students including; Valandou Contzonis, Jeremy Hockings, Marianne Finau, James and Numi to a local recording studio to professionally record their first video auditions. Whilst two of our students were successful this was a great experience for everyone involved. We were joined on the day by Michael Sassine and Meihana Nelson who assisted with camera work and encouragement for the others.

## Coming Soon:

**Peakform 2017 Auditions** – Week 9, Term 2

**Peakform 2017** – September 1, 2017

**Georges River College Music Camp** – October 17 and 18, 2017 Open to all Elective Students and anyone involved in a Campus or College Performance Group.

## TAS

### Industrial Arts

During Term 1, students in the Woodwork classes have been going gangbusters.

The Year 7 classes have been producing beautiful storage units with 3D printed name tags on a sliding lid. This has instilled the initial skill sets in the young students. Year 8 students have made customised shadow boxes enabling each student to create their own style. Year 9 produced basic coffee tables and Year 10 classes made small tables with intricate table top designs. The Year 10 projects tied in all of the learning from previous years.

All students followed the design process and used both hand and power tools.

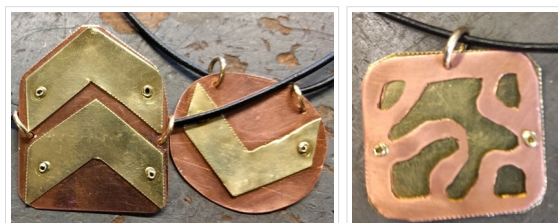
An assortment of feedback from students has been collected below and demonstrates student positivity.

*"I have enjoyed the subject because it teaches you different skills and techniques that can be used in the future"*

*"We get to learn woodwork skills and make our boxes. My favourite part is getting something right."*

*"It was really fun doing the practical lessons, as we could design anything we wanted as long as it met the design brief."*

*"I have really enjoyed Wood Tech because I love chopping wood, I also love pulling nails out of wood, and it pleases me and is very satisfying."*



STEM based maker space – Unlock, revel and learn what your creative side can be capable of!

The Industrial Arts department would like to give students an opportunity to volunteer to stay on after school hours to work on fun Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) based projects of their own.

Students, with guidance offered by qualified teachers, will make projects that are supported with documentation all relating to STEM.

The projects will cover a great range of interests including:

- Making sustainable cars run by solar panels
- How to use LED lights to support sustainability and minimising the uses of fossil fuels
- Making your very own penny board...

Expressions of interest are welcome. Please see the TAS department to collect an application form. The course is free of charge, however, the cost of (subsidised) project materials are payable by each student.



The activities will be run on a Monday or Tuesday afternoons between 3pm and 4pm (depending on which day proves most popular).

**Mr Mark Devine**  
**Industrial Arts Teacher**

## Debating

### Premier's Debating Challenge

On the 25th of June, GRC – Peakhurst Campus' Years 9 and 10 Debating A Team travelled to Picnic Point High School to participate in the Round Two of the Premier's Debating Challenge. Students were asked to consider the issue, 'All sportspeople who are convicted of acts of violence should be charged'. Both teams presented sophisticated arguments, considering the merits of punitive justice, the personal impacts of punishment and the social role of athletes. The adjudicator made repeated references to the overall quality of the debate, highlighting how both teams were able to consider a diverse range of issues in a concise yet complex manner. Ultimately, our Year 9/10 A Team was awarded the victory due to their highly developed critical thinking, oral communication skills. Each member of the team should be congratulated on a significant achievement.

**Mr P Fisher**  
**Years 9/10 Debating Coordinator**

## Dance Report

All 16 of our talented dancers from our GRC Peakhurst Campus Dance Ensemble, have been selected to feature in the 2017 Schools Spectacular. We are thrilled to be involved in this year's theme, 'Own the Moment', along with other selected NSW Public Schools.

It was stated that the standard of auditions were extremely high again this year and that the selection process had been a challenging one for the audition panel!

The show will be held at Qudos Bank Arena on Friday 24th November 2017 and Saturday 25th November 2017. Information on the purchasing of tickets will be featured in our newsletter, as soon as we have been made aware of the release dates.

Congratulations to our Dance Ensemble for being selected for this year's School Spectacular!

In other exciting news, our Dance Ensemble has also been selected via audition process to feature in this year's Ultimo's Dance Festival at the Seymour Centre. Our dancers will perform on the evening of Thursday 15th June 2017. They will be performing their item entitled, 'Beyond the Canvas'. Tickets for this event can be purchased via the Seymour Centre box office. Get in quick as tickets are selling fast!

We wish all of our Dance Ensemble luck for their performance at the Ultimo's Dance Festival.

**Ms Mardi Crammond**  
**Dance Coordinator**

## PDHPE

### Athletics Carnival:

Last week, GRC College Peakhurst hosted our Athletics Carnival at Waratah Athletics Track in Sutherland. The carnival was an overwhelming success with the day's events being thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and students. It was great to see our students dressed in their house colours and competing for points that would go towards their house tally. Participation rates were high, as students were given the opportunity to experience all events in a rotating tabloid format. Students are reminded to check the sports noticeboard in the coming week to see if they have qualified for the zone. Furthermore, we would like to congratulate the students who have progressed and will represent our school at the zone carnival on the 26th and 27th June, 2017.

The final house points have been tallied! The results for the 2017 Athletics Carnival are as follows:

- 1st place** - Beachley
- 2nd place** - Freeman
- 3rd place** - McGrath
- 4th place** - Goodes



### Zone Cross Country Carnival

A big congratulations to all the students that competed at the Zone Athletics Carnival on 16th May at Scarborough Park, Kogarah. The sun was shining and it was a perfect day for our 52 competitors to have a run. The PDHPE teachers were so proud of your commitment and behaviour on the day.

Special mention should go to Lauren Vizzy, Casey Stanley and Eden Holmes for coming first place in their respective age groups, as well as the boys' efforts to achieve second place overall in their combined category.

The students who secured a place to the Sydney East Cross Country Carnival, to be held on 14th June at Miranda Park, are:

Lauren Vizy, Casey Stanley, Anna Watts, Josephine Konjarski, Nadine Younes, Tia Breen, Eden Holmes, Sora Kamikura, Domenic Konjarski, Eljay Wikeepa, Dylan Mitilnakas, Jarad Blake, James Glekas, Finn Collins, Dylan Ener, Patrick Vizy, Cameron Mathieu, Mohammed Khresat and Arran Buncle.

Congratulations and best of luck to you!



## U/14's Buckley Shield Rugby League

### Round 1:

GRC College Rugby League squad encompasses a diverse combination of students from both the Peakhurst and Hurstville Campuses. Having never played together, our students were successful in winning their first game, 64-0 against our opponents from Rose Bay High school.

### Round 2:

In Round 2 of the Buckley Shield Rugby League competition, the team came up against a tough and well organised outfit from Kirrawee High School during week 6. Unfortunately, the opposition proved to be strong on the day, as they raced out to a quick lead. GRC attempted a small fight back, however, in the end Kirrawee ran out convincing winners.

Best of luck next year boys!



## U/15's Bill Turner Cup

**Round 1:** GRC College Peakhurst (4) VS St Pat's College Sutherland (1)

In our first round match, we came up against a tough and well organised outfit from St Pat's College. The boy within the team relished the opportunity to play on the Kareela synthetic grass pitch in Sutherland. This allowed the team to play a fast, free flowing style of football that was hard for our opposition to contain. We went to the break leading 2-1, before coming out and finishing with an outstanding 2nd half performance that sealed the result for the team. Special mention must go to Peter

Tufevski for an outstanding volley from outside the box. It was definitely a goal for the highlight reel!



**Round 2:** GRC College Peakhurst (12) VS GyMEA High School (1)

Played on our school oval, the team enjoyed playing in front of over 100 students, who were luckily enough to enjoy an exciting game with plenty of goals. The team opened the scoring in just 30 seconds, with a goal scorer Cameron Mathieu, who later went on to score a hatrick in under 10 minutes! Special mention must also go to Jonty Tekaha from Year 9, who was best and fairest on the day.



**Upcoming Round 3 Match:** GRC College Peakhurst VS Kogarah High School

The squad is busily preparing for their 3rd round clash against Kogarah High School. The game will be played during Week 7 at GRC College Peakhurst. Good luck to all students involved!

**Ms Neridah Hill**  
**Head Teacher PDHPE**

## Special Education

Here we are, over halfway of Term 2 already!

The winter months are here, please remember to label all jumpers and jackets!

Thanks for your continued cooperation and support with the way the students present themselves at school.

Last week we went on an excursion to the museum. We took some great photos and everyone remembered our school value, Aim for Excellence, Be Responsible and Be Respectful'.

Below is a recount from some of our students.

### MUSEUM EXCURSION

*On Tuesday 30th May we went on an excursion to the Australian Museum. We caught the train to Museum Station. We then walked through Hyde Park and sat in the sun to have our recess.*

*In the museum, we looked at the First Australians and the Dinosaur exhibitions. It was fabulous!*

*Then we had lunch in the park and caught the train back to school.*

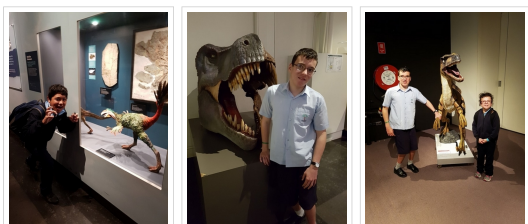


*My favourite part was the dinosaur display because there were interactive activities and I got to create my own dinosaur.*

### By Maili

*My favourite part was the dinosaurs because I like them. I liked the skeletons and the videos.*

### By Dimitrios



### Peta Holm

### Head Teacher Special Education

## SRC

Hello again and welcome back to an incredibly busy Term 2.

Congratulations to our new Year 7 SRC members who will be inducted into our SRC in week 9's assembly:

Lara Dogan  
Mollie Hardie  
Aiden James  
Domenic Konjarski  
Brendon Lambert  
Chloe Tzanis

These members have been busily preparing year assemblies, Mufti Day ideas, assisting on carnival days and many other activities to come.

SRC and a small team led by Katerina Pegios of Year 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. The team will also be accompanying me to the World Vision Youth Conference later this term.



Our Leadership By the River team (see below) has been successful in achieving one of their first goals for the year. On Thursday 6 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 the impressive numbers of students who helped out. Thank you to the students who participated and they have been awarded

Principal's Certificates. Any student has not received their certificate should see me.

Year 9 also accompanied me to the yLead Altitude Day - a full report on that with pictures in our next newsletter!

Recently, your SRC have been working on some projects that are not only enjoyable but beneficial personally and as a school. Before we start we would like to say another congratulations to Beachley for their success in the Athletics Carnival held last week. Also another thankyou to the teachers, PASS students and other SRC students for making the day run smoothly.

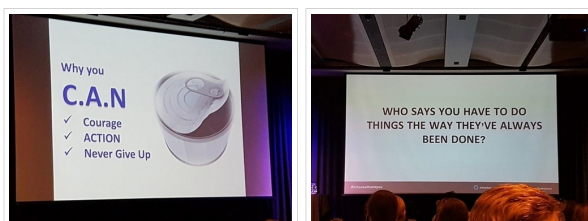
On Thursday 1st June, the Year 9 SRC students accompanied by Miss Osmond attended Altitude Day. We started off our day at Mortdale station at 7:50am and headed off to Chatswood. The day was led by a company called yLead and is a day designed just for Year 9 students to inspire them with leadership skills. Along with inspiring guest speakers, the people from yLead were who made the day possible.

The first speaker was a lady and her name was Morgan. At age 25 not only is she the youngest member of organisation OneGirl, but also its CEO. OneGirl is a group who are committed to educating young girls and women across Sierra Leone and Uganda through programs that target gender inequality and factors that restrict them from getting the education that they not only need but also they deserve.

We also heard from Daniel Flynn who at age 19 with two friends, founded 'thankyou' (water and hand/body lotion products – a booming social enterprise that exists to help everyday people take part in ending global poverty. In his inspiring speech he shared with us the exhilarating journey of how this crazy idea has changed the lives of over 195 000 people. The three of them were previously told repeatedly that their ideas were impossible but one quote that he mentioned really stood out to us that proves other people wrong: - **"impossibility is just an opinion"**.

The last speaker, Rowie McEvoy was the founder of 'The Max' group of private and exclusive international Fitness Business Colleges in Australia and New Zealand. Her fitness business was listed in BRW magazine's Top 11 fastest growing companies in Australia. From a run-away teenager to self-made millionaire, Rowie has a very positive, humorous and resilient attitude towards life. She shared with us how to do what you love, be fit, healthy and strong. Overall, Rowie was extremely inspiring to us all and greatly encouraged us to do what we love and to believe in ourselves.

This day was truly amazing as it taught us to always follow our dreams, set challenges, to **turn can't into CAN** and that we can make anything happen if we set our minds to it and ACT. She said living your passion is one of the most important things and when you do it, this is when you are most successful.



**By Ally Clift and Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts Yr 9**



## 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.

**World Vision Young Leaders Conference** – Tuesday 13th June

**Formal Assembly and Induction of Year 7 SRC** – June 23rd in the School Hall

**Year Meetings** – June 23rd for all Year Groups

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

## Aboriginal Education

2017 continues to be a very busy time for Aboriginal Education. GRC Peakhurst has recently joined the AIME team where students have access to:

- AIME mentoring days at Sydney University with the second one being this Friday 9 June, 2017.
- Monday tutoring and mentoring squad running from 3-4pm in the library or D17 for all Aboriginal students.

Recently our students were provided the opportunity to learn more about their culture through dance, with the assistance of the Georges River Council organising the wonderful Walangari, an Aboriginal artist from Arnhem Land who works in Sydney sharing culture through his own experiences and traditional stories. Walangari taught the students cultural dances which included:

- **Cleansing Dance** – cleaning away the negative energy.
- **Animals and Bird Dance**
- **Wadama** – inviting and thanking the higher energies for protection.
- **Emu** – the dance of the female and male emu.

The students were invited to perform these dances on Monday 5 June at 'The Gardens on Forest' Reconciliation Celebration organised by Georges River Council. They did their school and culture proud when they performed for the first time in front of a crowd of 100 including Terry Vallis, Principal and Joanne Jarvis, College Principal.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Speak up Showcase Friday 9 June, 2017 at Parliament House

AIME mentoring meeting Sydney University 9 June, 2017  
AIME Tutoring sessions every Monday at GRC Peakhurst from 3-4pm

Dance performance formal assembly Week 9.

NAIDOC celebrations Term 3

**Michelle Seinor**  
**Aboriginal Educational Coordinator**



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZbOuRgbu\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZbOuRgbu_E)

## Gifted and Talented Education News

This month, GRC Peakhurst will be offering a range of opportunities to our students seeking to develop their academic skills through meaningful extra-curricular activities that will foster educational growth.

All students who were under 15 years of age on January 1st 2017 are invited to register their interest in participating in the *Legacy Public Speaking Competition*. This annual competition celebrates the importance of public speaking, providing competitors with a chance to present a speech on a topic related to the concepts of voluntary service, social justice, care, personal sacrifice and/or mateship.

Students wishing to participate in the competition should see Mr Fisher in the English staffroom for further information.

In addition, students who are participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge are reminded to continue logging their reading records in order to document their progress.

## Gifted and Talented – Public Speaking Program

Throughout Term Two, a select group of students from our school will continue to participate in a fortnightly Gifted and Talented – Public Speaking Program that will run for the remainder of the year. It is designed to provide students with an exciting forum to enhance their oral communication and critical thinking skills. The program facilitates student development through their sustained participation in small group activities that encourage them to consider the various ways language and speech shape meaning and audience engagement.

Through the past few weeks, students have analysed an array of Presidential Inauguration speeches, discussing their form, features, meaning and purpose. Students have displayed a sophisticated understanding of the role of public speaking in disseminating information and defining a personal persona. In addition, students have produced their very own inauguration speeches, responding to a specific context and delivering them to the class. By participating in this process, students have been able to carefully consider the diverse ways language shapes meaning and influences perception.

**Mr P Fisher**  
**Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator**

## GAT Health & Fitness Coaching

The GAT Health & Fitness students have just completed their safety induction in the school's Gym. In the coming weeks, these students will be busy planning and developing targeted training programs for a range of diverse individuals. Within these training programs, they will aim to incorporate a range of different training styles and methods to suit their targeted

group. The school has been fortunate enough to recently purchase a range of new gym equipment, which will provide our students with a platform to challenge themselves physically.

On a side note, students within the GAT program must be commended on their mature and conscientious attitude when completing their CPR & First Aid qualification late last term. Representatives from the Royal Life Saving Society also commended these students during the course, by saying they were respectful and responsible throughout the entire testing process. Let's look to keep up the great work for the next two terms!

**Mr A Morley**  
**PDHPE Teacher**

## 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 provided 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 our project. 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 as part 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, for these schools to work together on projects to benefit all schools involved. GRC Peakhurst SRC is working with two primary schools, 'Peakhurst Primary School' and 'Lugarno Primary School'. As well, the SRC is working on its own project for the school at this present time, it's called "Peak Goes Green Initiative". The aim of the project is to provide earth hour periods & school clean up days once every term to benefit the school and 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 9 students and six Year 10 students. They are: Samantha Burford, Regan Burford, Valandou Contzonis, Arran Buncle, Luka Djerić, 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.

## Wellbeing Committee Report

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus is committed to the wellbeing of all students in the school by providing a positive and nurturing learning environment where all students are valued. Student Wellbeing underpins all teaching and learning programs in an atmosphere of care and concern. Georges River College Peakhurst Campus not only caters for the academic needs of the child but ensures that its students are given a diverse curriculum and a breadth of extra-curricular opportunities to meet the social and emotional needs of young people. It is our focus to equip students with the important life skills they need to be leaders and responsible participants in a rapidly changing world.

The Wellbeing Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principals, 4 Year Advisors, School Counsellors, Student Wellbeing Committee Coordinator, SRC Coordinator, Girls Supervisor and Careers Teacher.

As a group, the Wellbeing Team meet regularly to discuss students, review strategies and proactively plan strategies and programs in which to better support student wellbeing in all areas. The Student Wellbeing Team is responsible, along with all members of staff, to ensure that student wellbeing is a high priority within Georges River College Peakhurst Campus. The Student Wellbeing Team proactively engages with all students individually, in small groups or in year groups to actively promote cognitive, emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing. Students may work with the Year Advisor, the Deputy Principal, the school counsellor or other agencies where appropriate.

The GRC Peakhurst Wellbeing Team creates and delivers exciting programs and initiatives that provide students with opportunities in leadership, mentoring, public speaking, increasing their self-esteem and many other self-awareness activities.

These include programs such as: • The Strength Program • The Shine Program • The Switch Program • Own It Program • Love Bites Program • The Menai Youth Project Program • The Pathfinders Program (Year 6 Transition) • Peer Support • Peer



Tutoring • Suicide Awareness Program • Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Program • Talk about it Program • Headspace Program • Fundraising for Stewart House • Year 10 Orientation Program • White Ribbon Day • Harmony Day • PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) Student Forum • Student Wellbeing Committee • YAP Days (Year Advisor Program Days) • Year Assemblies • Rewards Morning Teas • Rewards excursions

**Student Wellbeing Committee** – This student committee is actively involved in the promotion of Social Justice Initiatives. A volunteer group of students regularly speak at our formal assemblies and write articles that are published in our schools newsletters. This group is also responsible for activities to promote anti violence against women for White Ribbon Day. These students make posters, sell ribbons, produce videos and run whole school assemblies to support this cause.

**School Chaplain** – In 2017, Georges River College Peakhurst Campus welcomed Tom Ayres as our new school chaplain. Tom works at GRC Peakhurst each Tuesday providing pastoral care and support to a range of students.

**School Partnerships** - In 2017 Georges River Life Care are running many student based programs including the Shine Program and Strength Program across Years 7–9. The Shine Program is an 8 week program for selected female students in Years 7 and 8 held at the school each Thursday afternoon. The program builds on student strengths, looks at self-respect, personal appearance, health, resilience, managing emotions and making students aware of cyber bullying.

**Strength Program** – Is a 7 week program for male students in Year 9, facilitated by Tom Ayres (our school chaplain) and two other Youth Workers from Georges River Life Care. Students benefit from the program in the following ways: building on student strengths and respect for self and others, resilience, partying safe, valuing and respecting women and planning for school studies. These activities help empower students with the positive tools for success in the future.

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has also continued our successful partnership with 3 Bridges Community Hurstville through running the Own It Program for Boys in Years 8 and 9. This program allows participants to explore and challenge themselves to be leaders in their own lives. The program empowers students to take responsibility for their behaviour, life choices, life circumstances and provides opportunities for them to become leaders. This year, 3 Bridges has also commenced the Drumbeat program for selected Year 7 students.

As part of the PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) initiative, all students are invited to place merit cards that they have received for being respectful, responsible and aiming for excellence in a twice a term rewards draw for a gift voucher of their choice to the value of \$20. The following students are to be congratulated for being successful in our mid term draw on Wednesday 31 May.

**Year 7** - Lara D / Indiah R

**Year 8** – Pricilla F / Mazan H

**Year 9** – Andee H / Matthew C

**Year 10** – Jonah R / Kurt C

Our Semester 1 Rewards excursion will take place on Friday 28 July at King Pin Bowling / Laser Skirmish Darling Harbour. Students eligible to attend the excursion (students on level +1, +2, Bronze, Silver and Gold) are required to return their permission note to Mr Wilson and finalise their payment to the front office by Friday 23 June.

**Mr Scott Wilson**  
**Deputy Principal**

## Learning Support

The Learning Enhancement Centre in F18 is open to all students at GRC-Peakhurst.

This room is equipped with 6 computers and a projector, along with group work tables and a carpeted area for floor work. Classroom teachers may also use this centre to hold alternate style lessons.

This room is available to all students every recess and lunch. Students may come to the centre individually or as a group and receive 1:1 help with class work, homework or assignments.

Next to this room in F17 we continue to have the games room (Available to all students during recess and lunch each day), and the Sensory/rest room.

If you have any questions or would like to contact the Enhancement Centre staff you may ring the school number or send an email to;

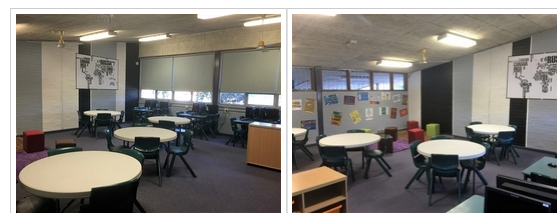
**Peta Holm - Head Teacher Enhancement.**

**[petaholm@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:petaholm@det.nsw.edu.au)**

**Jennifer Jarman - [jennifer.jarman@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.jarman@det.nsw.edu.au)**

**Monique Van De Pol -**

**[monique.vandepol@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:monique.vandepol@det.nsw.edu.au)**



## 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.

**Petra Doukeredis**

**Bailey Chen**

**Ashlee Mitreska**

**Mollie Hardie**

**Ronald Ha**

**Jordan Olar**

**Numi Tugaga**

**Ryan Christian**

## From the Administration Office

### Responding to an absence via SMS

Should you receive a text message from the school advising of a lateness/absence of your child, you may respond directly back by text or phone the school administration office with an explanation. From then, it will not be necessary to forward a note explaining the absence when your child returns to school as it will have already been recorded from your SMS response.

**Please note:** do not return a call to that SMS number as any messages left are not able to be retrieved.

### School Statement of Accounts

We are currently updating the Statement of Accounts to be posted home in the next few weeks.

### Online School Payments

Payments for most school activities can be made online via the school website by selecting [\\$ Make a Payment](#). Please make sure when making a payment via this method to enter:

- The student's name
  - Class and reference number
- or**
- The student's name and date of birth

More information is on the attached sheet with this newsletter.