



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

Email: peakhurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
 Phone: 02 9153 9966
 Fax: 02 9534 6346



8 September 2017

From the Principal

The GRC Peakhurst learning community continues to actively promote and provide wide-ranging learning opportunities for all students. There have been multiple events during the month of August where learning opportunities for students have extended well beyond the classrooms. These opportunities are made possible for all students to participate and engage due to the dedication, commitment and passion of the teaching staff.

The school community celebrated the Peakform concert last Friday evening. The occasion was a wonderful spectacle that showcased the amazing and enormous amount of talent within our student body. A brilliant cast of singers, dancers and musicians thrilled the audience with their entertaining performances. It was a very professional concert that highlighted the creative talents and collaborative efforts of so many people. The students working backstage, engineering the lights and sound, were phenomenal in the level of expertise they displayed to ensure such a seamless, flawless and professional show.

Again, we must acknowledge and thank our staff for their excellent work and support in ensuring our students were able to perform in and stage such a high- class production. Special thanks to Mr Page, Mr Reidy, Mr Holloway, Ms Crammond and Ms Rhydstrand for the countless hours invested in teaching, tutoring and mentoring our student performers and technical crew. The show was highly entertaining, uplifting and lots of fun. Well done to everyone involved in 2017 Peakform.

Our school representative sports teams continue to excel in the zone competition. This is highlighted by the record number of boys' and girls' teams that competed in the winter zone finals. Well done to all the students and their respective coaches for consistently achieving such great results throughout the season in their respective competitions. These stellar sporting achievements and team performances highlight the consistency in performance and the discipline required to maintain the high level of performance throughout the

competition. Also, our school debating teams continue to make their mark and steadily advance into the final rounds of the regional competitions.

Finally, our school had the honour and pleasure of welcoming our local Federal Member of Parliament, Mr David Coleman and the Australian Minister of Defence, Ms Marise Payne, into our school last week. The purpose of their visit was to meet and speak to our girls about "Women in Leadership". It was a wonderful experience to meet two very high profile federal politicians and hear their stories about their life journeys. It was a remarkable conference and a truly inspirational experience that proved to everyone the power of dreaming, believing and working hard to achieve one's goal in life.

A very special acknowledgment and thank you to all our staff that are giving their very valuable time to accompany, support and mentor all the students involved in our upcoming school camps. Over the next week, we have students and teachers participating in camps for PASS, Special Education and Leadership. These camps will provide a fantastic opportunity for students to further develop and strengthen their skills sets in team building, trust and resilience.

Over the next few weeks, GRC Peakhurst Campus will be preparing to participate in an external validation process that will be officially held on Tuesday 17th October 2017 (week 2 in term 4). This is a departmental process that every public school must undertake every five years. The process is a self-assessment procedure using the Department of Education's School Excellence Framework as a key point in the cycle of continuous improvement in all schools across NSW.

The school will undertake this process as part of the ongoing practice to support our decision making as outlined in our current School Plan 2105 – 2017. Embedding this self-assessment practice ensures we are engaged in decision-making that is informed by evidence. Our school has been provided with the opportunity to discuss our judgements about our school systems, processes and practices using evidence that underpins the validity of such judgements. This professional discussion and presentation will be conducted by

our nominated school team for an external panel comprising of peer principals.

As part of the school external validation submission, our school must submit carefully selected and robust evidence sets to clearly demonstrate and support the school's judgement across the School Excellence Framework. All selected evidence must be annotated and analysed to support the school's judgement and show how it links to the current school plan. The annotated evidence sets will critically and accurately analyse school systems, processes, projects, policies and programs. The evidence must clearly demonstrate school growth and progression. High impact must be evident through the use of supporting quantitative and qualitative data. Also, the future direction must be clearly articulated in the analysis of the evidence sets.

The evidence sets being prepared for the school presentation include; Student Learning and Student Achievement, Student Learning Support & Transition; Student Wellbeing; Targeted Professional Learning; Student Enrichment Learning; Positive Behaviour Learning; Community Links and GRC Collaborative Practices. The team of teachers working collaboratively to present our findings include: Mr Vallis; Mr Wilson; Ms Keir; Ms Hill; Ms Holm; Mr Fisher; Mr Zouroudis; Ms Van De Pol and Mr Morley. As a team, we are very excited in undertaking this process of self-assessment and self-reflection. As a school community, we look forward to sharing our findings with all the school stakeholders!

Terry Vallis
Principal

Deputies' Report

Year 8 subject selection information sessions were held for students on Tuesday 8th August during periods 4 and 5 and for parents later that evening in our school hall. The parent session was very well attended and outlined information regarding subjects available in 2018, the subject selection process and the successful completion of the Record of School Achievement (RoSA). Parents and students had an opportunity to speak to staff about the electives on offer with staff able to highlight the many courses available to students in 2018. Next year, Year 9 will complete three electives which they will continue in Year 10 (2019). 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 our size.

Parents are reminded that GRC Peakhurst has its own Skoolbag app to alert parents of upcoming events and also to notify them of the provision of assessment tasks to students. Alerts are sent to your device via the app when an event is approaching or when an assessment task is provided to your child. The alert will provide a direct link to more detailed information which has been posted on the school website. The app can be downloaded free of charge from the Apple App, Google Play or Windows stores. Instructions on how to download the school app can be found on the school website.

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 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 school's website or contact the school. We expect that all students take responsibility for their uniform and wear it with pride each day. In addition to uniform, lateness to school has also 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.

Students are encouraged to recognise that our values of respect, responsibility and excellence extend beyond the school and/or classroom setting and into the wider community. Being ethical digital citizens and members of the community is particularly pertinent given the increasing impact social media continues to have on student mental health and wellbeing, and the flow on effect this has in the classroom and community at large.

Incidents of students sending inappropriate messages and images via social media are becoming an increasing concern. Often this activity happens outside of school, however, the consequences of these matters quickly filter back into the school grounds and impact students upon their return. Parents are encouraged to closely monitor their children's online activity and remind them of the consequences of posting inappropriate content online. Students need to understand the gravity of their actions because once material is posted on social media, it is near impossible to retrieve the content and prevent further circulation.

Families are also reminded of the guidelines and stipulations outlined in our school's ICT Policy and User Agreement (available for download on the school website). Students caught in breach of our ICT policy will be expected to hand in their device when requested by a teacher and may be required to hand in their mobile device each morning for an extended period of time.

Mr Scott Wilson
Deputy Principal

Ms Christine Keir
Relieving Deputy Principal

Year 7 Student Advisor Report

It's been a very productive and busy term so far this semester for all Year 7 students. The final few weeks will continue to be busy for Year 7 students with completion of assessment tasks for a variety of different subjects. It is important that students prepare as best as possible for all assessment tasks so they can achieve results which best reflect their ability. Students have all the assessment task outlines, scaffolds and criteria sheets and can also access them on the school website.

I strongly encourage all Year 7 families to download the school app. This is an excellent tool to keep you informed about upcoming events and assessment tasks.

Uniform/Diary

Spring has arrived! It is still cold during the mornings, so it is important that Year 7 students are keeping warm by wearing

full school uniform. This includes black leather shoes and white socks.

All students have been issued with a school diary. The purpose of this diary is to aid student's organisational skills. They are expected to write all homework and assessment reminders in their diary. It can also be used as a communication tool between parents and teachers. Please ensure you check your child's diary regularly to ensure they are staying on top of their homework and assessment tasks.

Ibrahim Haydar
Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Student Advisor Report

Year 8 has been working well all semester. They chose their electives for Year 9-10 and the attendance at the subject selection evening on 8th August was fantastic. Many parents and students visited the subject displays and information stands and were able to be informed about the options available. Students have selected their subjects and will be informed accordingly of choices made or changes that need to be made. Once selected, subject choices cannot be changed in Year 9 if students do not like the subject. They must complete a minimum number hours to satisfy the requirements to receive their Record of School Achievement (ROSA) in Year 10.

It is coming up towards the end of Term 3 and students are busy with final assessments. It is important to prepare thoroughly and be organised to complete assessments on time. Students have all the assessment task outlines, scaffolds and criteria sheets and can also access them on the school website under:

ASSESSMENTS
YEAR 8
SUBJECT

Year 8 attended an incursion on Thursday 10th August called Cyberia about online bullying. The performance was very informative, interesting and addressed important issues with online bullying. The performance was compulsory and each student was billed \$6.00 and it was attached to the school fees. Some students were not able to pay for the performance on time and these students are required to pay as soon as possible.

Mrs Alice Talevski
Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Student Advisor Report

Sticks and Stones' Performance

On Tuesday 29th August, Year 9 viewed a drama performance by Brainstorm Productions titled, 'Sticks and Stones'. The live performance addressed anti-bullying in schools. Two energetic young performers explored the different forms of bullying in the playground, in the street and at home. The performance provided strategies for conflict resolution, anger management, assertiveness and breaking the cycle of violence. At the end of the performance, there was a question and answer session,

which enabled our students to reflect on what they had seen and ask relevant questions to enhance their own understanding of many of the issues raised. I would like to congratulate all of those students who attended the performance on their fantastic behaviour and I hope that each student took something valuable away from it.

"The performance was very unique, hilarious and overall entertaining. I got a lot out of the day, including the skills to stand up to a bully and how to carefully defuse a situation." – **Jeremy, 15**

"Great acting, entertaining, touched on all aspects." – **Dimitriy, 14**

"Covered a lot of current issues, such as violence, behaviour at school, bullying. Very entertaining. Good involvement with students (the questions asked). Suggested good ways to stop being aggressive." – **Samantha, 14**

"Sticks and Stones was an outstanding production as it was a massive eye opener to me in the sense that everyone has something going on that is bothering them in their life, therefore, you can't judge anyone. The production gave us useful tips on what to do if we are being bullied and what to do if you are the bully. Overall, I really enjoyed watching Sticks and Stones." – **Valandou, 14**

"If there is violence or harassment going on, you should go and see a counsellor or an adult. 9/10." – **Zac, 15**

"Sticks and Stones was extremely successful in extending our knowledge about topics like bullying and sexual harassment. The play taught us to respect others and accept people's differences." – **Ally, 15**

Schools Spectacular

A huge congratulations to Numi Tugaga and James Polutele who have been successful in auditioning to be featured artists in the Schools Spectacular this year. The Schools Spectacular will be held at Qudos Bank Arena, Sydney Olympic Park on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th November. Well done on this huge achievement Numi and James, we know you will be amazing! Good Luck!

Happy Learning!

Julia Picone
Year 9 Advisor

Year 10 Student Advisor Report

This term has been a very busy period for Year 10 students. Whether they are finalising their subject selections, planning for their senior years of school or preparing for the workforce, Year 10 GRC Peakhurst students have a lot on their plate. I encourage any Year 10 students to speak with me if they have any questions about their future pathway to ensure they are confident they are making the right choices for situation.

With the end of the year insight and with all the pressure felt by Year 10 in these defining years, students can look forward to their School Formal.

The Formal will again be held at L'Aqua in Darling Harbour on the Wednesday 29th November. Students will travel by bus from GRC Peakhurst Campus at 5:00pm and return at 11:45pm.

Students are very excited, as is the staff!

Joshua Holloway
Year 10 Advisor

FACULTY NEWS

From the Mathematics & Computing Faculty

ICAS Competitions

The **ICAS Mathematics Competition** was held on Tuesday 15th August 2017. Students from across all years participated and the results should be available online by Friday 8th September.

Resources

All students at GRC Peakhurst have access to a Mathletics account which offers a digital platform for honing their mathematics skills. Teachers often set specific tasks, however, once these are completed students may select activities from any topic to tailor their learning. Recently, Mathspace have offered another avenue for students to improve their numeracy. A sponsorship by Westpac means that students can now use the Mathspace Essentials package for free. To sign up for free visit the link shown here:

<http://www.mathspace.co/westpac/educator>

David Smithard
Head Teacher Mathematics and Computing
(Relieving)

PDHPE

Oz Tag Gala Day

GRC Peakhurst went out in force to the Oz Tag Gala Day with nine teams ready to battle the rest of the schools in the St George Zone. Despite the advice from Mr Miller and Mr Hayder, the Boys Year 10 teams were adamant they knew best and selected their own teams to face the rest. Unfortunately, the boys were ultimately defeated in the semis demonstrating that the PE teachers are far more knowledgeable than the students. Our most successful Boys team was the Year 8 Boys who made it through to the Grand Final and finished Runners Up, going down to Chester Hill in a very close match.

Our three girls teams were very competitive with Year 10 Girls missing out on the finals on a for and against basis. The Girls Year 8 team made it to the semi-finals but unfortunately were beaten by Jannali high school. Huge congratulations to our Year 9 Girls who were undefeated throughout the day and beat Randwick Girls High in the Grand Final to become St George Regional Champions! Their defence was outstanding having only two tries scored against them the whole tournament. The girls worked very well as a team demonstrating fantastic sportsmanship. Both the Year 8 Boys and the Year 9 Girls will

now represent the St George Zone at the NSW Champions of Champions tournament on Wednesday 13th September at the Kingsway Playing Fields, Werrington. They will be competing against the winning teams from various regions that won their respective tournaments across NSW. We wish both teams the best of luck!



U/15's Boys Basketball Knockout

The PDHPE staff held trials earlier this term for the U/15's Boys Basketball Knockout. A competitive team was selected which went on to represent GRC Peakhurst. The team was made up of a number of experienced players from our senior grades as well as some up and coming talent from Years 7 and 8.

1st Round - Blakehurst 46 40 (Win)

GRC Peakhurst drew the home fixture for this local derby against Blakehurst High School. As the score line suggests, the game was extremely competitive. The lead changed numerous times throughout the game, however, the Peakhurst boys managed to hold their nerve and closed out the match strongly in the 4th quarter.



2nd Round – Kirrawee 42-41 (Loss)

Our second round match was played at Sutherland Indoor Sports Centre, against Kirrawee High School. Once again, this match was very competitive. GRC Peakhurst had a handy lead of 10 points mid-way through the final quarter, however, Kirrawee fought back extremely well and managed to close out the game in the dying seconds. Unfortunately, this resulted in an early exit from this knockout competition. GRC Peakhurst will learn from the experience and will be back next year, looking to improve upon this year's results. Overall, the team is to be congratulated on their efforts in both games this year.

U/15's Girls Basketball Knockout

On Monday 14th August GRC Peakhurst played against Menai High School in the Sydney East Schools Girls U15s Basketball Knock-Out competition. Unfortunately, Menai High School won the match, however, the 82-14 score did not reflect the effort and level of commitment the girls displayed, despite having not played together before. Congratulations to Stephanie Konjarski, Marianne Finau, Georgia Blue, Josephine Konjarski, Fatima Bushara, Caitlin Head, Demie Parisi and Jessica Head for their display of sportsmanship and excellence. Also, special mention should go to Youssef Sultan and Mark Younes for refereeing and scoring the match, respectively.

T20 Cricket Gala Day

During Week 7, GRC Peakhurst sent 50 students to participate in the annual T20 Cricket Gala Day at Gannon's Park. Organised by the Sydney Sixers, the day operates in accordance with a modified format of cricket that is conducive to skill development, participation and most of all enjoyment. The day is always thoroughly enjoyed by students and it was pleasing to see our teams display positive sporting behaviour and excellent participation on the day. Congratulations to the teams that were also successful in completing the day undefeated.

Ms Neridah Hill

Head Teacher PDHPE

From the Special Education Faculty

There is a definite buzz in the air! The countdown is well and truly on for camp.

Only 9 sleeps to go! Stanwell Tops, here we come!

All students should have returned their paperwork and received notes with last minute information. The next newsletter will showcase our activities at camp. Watch this space.

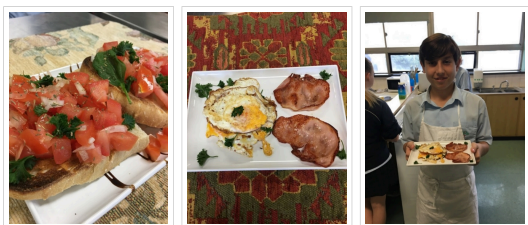
Next term is shaping up to be busy. Final preparations are taking place for Year 10 transition to Oatley campus. Please check your child's communication book for details outlining days and dates. Notes have recently been sent home regarding the Year 10 Formal. Please return notes and monies promptly. Payment needs to be paid via the Front Office.

Peta Holm

Head Teacher Special Education Faculty.

TAS

It has been a busy term with students designing and producing creative quality projects. For instance, Year 8 has prepared appetising café styled foods. Just like many cafes, the B4 kitchen now has now a commercial dishwasher and students are learning to operate the machine and appreciating how useful the machines are in food establishments.



The term has also been busy with excursions.

Year 9 Food Technology Sydney Tower Excursion

On the Monday 14th August Year 9 Food Technology visited operations of Sydney Tower Dining at Sydney Tower. The students were able to observe the operations of the busy kitchen and the Head Chef was able to explain to the students how menus were planned to cater for the many tourists who visited the each day as well as the logistics of preparing the

food at this unique venue. At the end of the tour, the students enjoyed a delicious lunch from a buffet selection as well as the magnificent views of Sydney as the floor rotated.

Rosalie Gualtieri

Head Teacher TAS

Year 10 Ceramics

The Year 10 Ceramics class has been busy this term working on a Sculptural task based on the work of Ceramicist Jenny Orchard. Students researched her work and came up with hybrid, morphed creatures.

So far, we have designed, constructed, bisque fired these sculptures, and now the class will add coloured glazes using repetition and pattern as the main design element.

Well done to the Year 10 Ceramics class as these sculptures are fantastic and demonstrate your high level of skill!

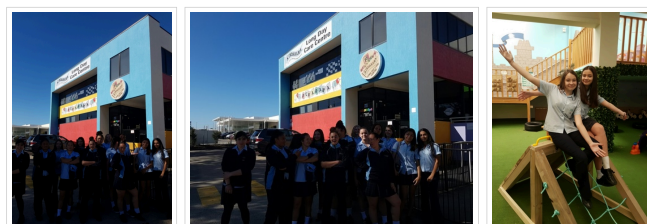
Michelle Walton



Year 10 Child Care Adventures

Year 10 Child Studies students have had the privilege of visiting two day care centres during August to observe and interact with young children during developmental play. They were able to participate in a "day of real life experiences", working in child care and gain a realistic perspective of what is involved in a child care career.

The students need to be applauded on their responsible and respectful attitude during the visits and their enthusiastic engagement with both the staff and children at the day care centres. Both centres commented on how polite and engaged the students were and offered work experience to the students.



We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank both Edelweiss Day Care at Mortdale and Kindarama Long Day Care Centre at Kirrawee for providing these invaluable experiences for our students.

Michelle Seidel

Child Studies Teacher

TAS Wood

This semester in Woodwork we have many things and learnt the safety of it all. We have learnt many different life skills with our great teacher Mr Devine. Our class created a shadow box made from radiata pine and I painted mine white. This was a very fun topic to learn about.

Nakeeta - Year 8

Mr Devine is a strict but humorous teacher. He has helped us a lot in our project which was a shelving unit. He was supportive and even though he dislikes painting he allowed us to finish our jobs by painting them.

Harris Stavris – Year 8

This semester we have made a shadow box with Mr Devine. He is a good bloke, an Aussie legend and a great teacher.

Leah Allan – Year 8

This year, for my second TAS subject, I did Woodwork. It was my first time doing it and it was a fun experience. My teacher was Mr Devine and he was helpful and funny, making me, as a Year 7 person glad that I went to this school. My pencil box came out great and I was happy with the final product as my designs were pretty. I am happy that I did Woodwork as a subject. I am very impressed with the subject and can't wait to do it next year.

Clarissa Cheow 7TM1

For our second TAS subject this year we did Woodwork with Mr Devine. It was lots of fun and very educating. In practical classes, we learnt techniques and skills needed to cut and design a pencil box. It was especially fun designing the box as this was a place of creativity and I could put anything on it. I was very impressed and happy with the final product and I hope to be doing Woodwork again next year.

Anthia Skylla 7TM1

This year we started our first TAS rotation as Year 7 doing Woodwork. During Woodwork, we learnt how to saw wood properly, put nails in timber, varnish timber and much more. I really enjoyed Woodwork, it was fun and educational. I look forward to learning more next year!

Micah Trujillo 7TM1



STEM Club

From the beginning of Term 3, Mr Devine has been hosting an after school workshop called the STEM club. STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The members of the STEM club have been implementing these terms while constructing “bottle rockets”. Mr Devine helped students with sourcing the resources to make the bottle rockets. He taught us great lessons and the students learnt about aerodynamics, propulsion, the laws of physics, terminal

velocity, balance, weight distribution and the angle to shoot the bottle rockets so they can reach a supreme distance. Some quotes from enthusiastic students include:

“The stem class has been a blast.”

“I already had an interest in the subject so I was really excited to hear there was a STEM program starting up.”

Isha Akbari - Year 9

Mr Devine has held an after school STEM based program, every Tuesday, after class for one hour. Our project has been bottle rockets, we spent weeks building, testing and launching them using various materials and designs. Mr Devine devoted his time and resources to teach us ways to build and fix things, while showing everyone how to use tools that will really help us later in life.

Isaac Spillane 7TM1

For the last few weeks, we have been making bottle rockets every Tuesday after school. It has been a blast (get it?). We have been designing, making and launching our own rockets. I would recommend this to anyone wanting to learn to design and build things.

Ryan Hinkley 7R

This term, Mr Devine has been running our STEM class and has taught us many life lessons, tricks of the trade, supplying us with tools to make bottle rockets and other amazing projects.

Dara Akbari 7R

The last few weeks we have been in Mr Devine's STEM class. So far, we have made bottle rockets. It has been an amazing experience and I've learnt so much in this class.



Debating

Debating and Public Speaking Report

On Thursday the 3rd of August, Tayanytah Iverach & Brendon Lambert participated in the Junior Legacy Public Speaking Competition. There were 14 participants on the day and there was a wide range of topics. Taya's topic was “Issues Within The Education System” and Brendon's topic was “Veganism”. Other topics included ‘She Was Asking For It?’ to ‘Barbie’. Brendan was lucky enough to make it to the next round, along with 2 other participants. Taya was also first runner up in the competition so both are to be congratulated on their incredible success.



The next day on Friday the 4th of August, the GRC Peakhurst debaters and public speakers travelled to the Great Hall, Sydney University to watch the Year 11 and 12 Debating State Final. It was an all-in-all informative day which was greatly appreciated amongst the participants. On the day, the debaters surprised Miss Osmond with a birthday celebration. This year we performed a truly hilarious cheerleading performance surprising her and all of the random people at the university. Overall, the excursion is a rewarding experience that enables us to take in the sights of the university while we view some of the best debaters in the state, allowing us to further develop our skills.



On Tuesday the 15th of August, Brendon participated in the Junior Legacy Public Speaking competition regional level. He was up against 10 other amazing speakers and Taya, Brianna, Rhys and Angel came along to watch. There were three adjudicators for this level of the competition, instead of the usual one. The impromptu topic of the day was "Out of Bounds" and Brendan did an amazing job. Unfortunately he didn't make it through to the next round, but in our hearts he did an exceptional job.



All of these experiences allow us to further engage with current affairs and further develop our skills in public speaking and debating. Thank you to Mr Fisher and Miss Osmond for these opportunities!



By Tayanytah, Brianna, Rhys, Angel and Brendon.

Year 7/8 Debating News

On Wednesday 23rd of August, the Year 7 & 8 debating A team travelled to Beverly Hills Girls High School to debate the Beverly Hills A team. The debate topic was "All Australian Zoos Should Be Banned", with GRC Peakhurst being negative and Beverly Hills being affirmative. The debate's adjudicator stated that "the debate was very well structured and a good example of high level debating".

In the end GRC prevailed, the adjudicator gave us some excellent feedback and they now progress into the next round of debating- they have won their Zone and now face the Inter-Zone final. Congratulations!



By Rhys O'Brien

Years 9/10 Debating News

On Friday, 25th August, GRC Peakhurst's Years 9/10 Debating A Team participated in the Sydney Regional Quarter-Finals of the Premier's Debating Challenge against Rose Bay Secondary College. Both teams were asked to critically analyse the topic, 'That we should ban online gambling'. Students should be commended on their sophisticated understanding of the topic's inherent moral and ethical dilemmas. They were able to explore the nature of free-will, social justice and culture within a rigid timeframe.

Ultimately, Rose Bay Secondary College was awarded victory, with both schools being applauded for their oral communication, critical thinking and teamwork skills. Our Year 9/10 Debating A Team should be congratulated on its fantastic achievement in reaching this stage of the competition.

Mr P Fisher and Ms L Osmond
Debating Coordinators

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omHm4oSkC-M>

Currently, I am busily organising the Leadership Camp for 50 of our students which will be held in Week 9 of this term.

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 talent displayed by many of our students. Student capacity was showcased in various roles such as performers, ushers and MC's. I would like to congratulate the students who helped behind the scenes or completed the many other important roles.

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. Teachers and Year 7 SRC members are fostering strong community links as a benefit of the program. Well done to you all!

We also had the opportunity to host David Coleman MP and Federal Minister for Defence – Marise Payne at our school on Monday 28th August. The seminar was titled, 'The Female Student Leaders Forum'. Over 30 of our female students were identified as either already in leadership roles or as potential leaders within our school and were in attendance along with representatives from some of our local high schools. The workshop allowed for question time and a broader discussion surrounding successful leadership.

SRC expressions of interest for Year 10, 2018 opens early next term and 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.

Important Dates:

- **Leadership Camp** – Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th September.
- **Wear It Green Mufti Day** – Friday 20th October as part of Mental Health Awareness Week. All students are permitted to wear green mufti on the day as long as they contribute a gold coin. Proceeds to support Headspace.
- **GRIP Leadership Conference Year 7 & 8 SRC** – Thursday 26th October.
- **SRC Elections for Year 8-10 2018** – commence Week 3 Term 4.

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

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus is committed to the well-being of all students in the school by providing a positive and nurturing learning environment where all students are valued. Student well-being 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.

On Thursday 10th August Year 8 students participated in a Year Advisor Program Anti Bullying session – Cyberia. The session covered cyber bullying, digital citizenship, social websites, internet security, exclusion, alienation, isolation, responsible use of technology, internet addiction, impulse control and online reputation.

On Tuesday 29th August Year 9 students participated in a Year Advisor Program Anti Bullying session. The theatre based anti-bullying session in one of many programs and initiatives in place to reduce the incidences of bullying and improve student behaviour and wellbeing.

Over the last month, our range of wellbeing programs have continued to run through the assistance of our community partners.

Throughout August, the Shine Program continued for a group of Yr 7 students focusing on resilience, managing emotions and making students aware of cyber bullying. The program builds on student strengths, looks at self respect, personal appearance, health and wellbeing.

Our School Chaplain Tom Ayres has commenced his Term 3 program with a new group of Yr 9 boys. The Strength program builds on student strengths and respect for self and others, resilience, safe partying, valuing and respecting women and planning for school studies. These activities help empower students with the positive tools for success in the future. Tom continues to work with range of GRC Peakhurst Students each Tuesday, providing individual and group mentoring and running a range of wellbeing programs.

3 Bridges Community Hurstville are currently completing their Term 3 Own It programs with Yr 7 Boys and Yr 8/9 girls. 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 behaviours, life choices, life circumstances and provides opportunities for them to become leaders. Students will spend their last session of this program visiting the Hurstville Youth Centre.

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 3 draw on Wednesday 23rd August.

Year 7 - Louisa A / Jade K

Year 8 – Keira H / Thin Y

Year 9 – Minas S / Mohamad Ali G

Year 10 – Caitlin G / Kevin L

Our next draw will take place in the week commencing 18th September.

Our Student Wellbeing Team and Ms Walton are continuing to plan and prepare for our Annual White Ribbon Initiative (a campaign to prevent violence against women) for later in the year. All students are encouraged to get on board with the White Ribbon Initiative and show their support by joining or assisting the student wellbeing committee. Interested students are requested to see Ms Walton.

Research consistently shows that students who regularly attend school have increased learning and wellbeing outcomes. At GRC Peakhurst, we are continually monitoring attendance rates with an expectation that all students are attending school unless they have a legitimate reason to be away such as being ill. If a student is absent from school, there is an expectation that the absence is explained by either writing a letter outlining the absence, sending an sms to the school or calling the school. Unexplained absences are closely monitored and if an absence is not explained, parents will receive a letter requesting an explanation for the absence. Yr 10 Students who are absent on days where assessment tasks are due or on days where in class assessment or exams take place – require a doctors certificate to be presented the first day they return to school.

STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

The Student Wellbeing Committee is a safe environment where we talk about relevant issues that may occur within our school, workplace or community and how we can help to raise awareness. For example, we are in the process of planning White Ribbon Day, which is coming up very soon.

We will be hosting a special formal school assembly on the 17th November where we are all busy writing speeches, working on posters to use for our video, organising special stalls to raise awareness and much needed funds for this worthy cause.

Everyone from Year 7 to 10 is welcome to join this fantastic committee. We would like to hear from you so come along to our next meeting. Listen out for Ms Walton's announcements in the daily notices for when we are meeting next!

Valandou and Andrei



Careers Report

There have been many students seeking Work Experience in a variety of trades and professions this term. These include: Auto-Mechanics, Construction, Child Care and an application to study Astronomy with the Sydney Conservatorium.

Students are encouraged to seek work placement in career areas they wish to explore. If you are looking for Work Experience or have any questions, ensure you to see me in the Careers room.

Joshua Holloway
Careers Advisor

Peakform

"It's hard to forget someone who gave you so much to remember" – David Bowie

Peakform 2017 "Icons" was a resounding success this year. With acts ranging from iconic figures such as David Bowie, Michael Jackson, Prince and The Beatles, we witnessed the beginning of future icons coming out of GRC Peakhurst. Performers witnessed one of the largest crowds to date, with hundreds attending a concert of outstanding calibre. Our national champion dance groups displayed amazing talent in a range of styles, in both group and solo items. This year we had our first collaboration between both music and dance students. A huge thank you to all who attended as you made this a night to remember and an even bigger thank you to all staff and helpers both on and off stage. See you in 2018.

Joshua Holloway
CAPA

Gifted and Talented Education News

GAT PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Gifted and Talented Public Speaking program provides targeted students with the opportunity to participate in a formalised extra-curricular program designed to foster their oral communication and critical thinking skills.

This month, students have been exploring the process of job interviews, developing their comprehension of the skills required to successfully project their achievements in a formal interview environment. These are crucial skills for students to learn and illustrate how school programs seek to provide students with the foundational skills to engage with future vocational opportunities.

Mr P Fisher
Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator

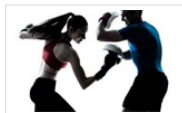
GAT HEALTH & FITNESS

The GAT Health & Fitness class has been busy planning and organising specialised training sessions this term. Within the computer labs, students have drafted out training sessions using personalise templates. Each student had to plan goals for



their session as well as include a range of exercises that targeted specific muscle groups within the body. Most importantly, each student was encouraged to pick activities and exercises that they would be interested in doing as each student will be road testing their sessions personally in the coming weeks. Students will then have the opportunity to experience another student's session as they swap with someone else in the class and provide feedback on each other's sessions.

Next term, students are looking forward to competing practical sessions in the areas of Boxercise, Insanity and Zumba.



Mr A. Morley
GAT Health & Fitness Coaching
PDHPE Teacher

Primary Links 2017

Transition from primary to secondary school involves changes that can be both exciting and worrying to students and their families. Successful transition is vital to the development of students' self-esteem and academic self-competence as well as assisting to prevent potential anxiety and stress upon making their transition to secondary education. It also offers the opportunities for junior students to participate and excel in programs promoting social, academic, leadership and citizenship skills.

Our Primary Links program for 2017 began early this term and involves a number of local primary schools within the community. Each school attends GRC Peakhurst twice for a 2 hour block which would allow students to be involved in 3 x 40 minute sessions per visit (6 lessons in total). The program is designed to teach students the key skills and principals within each respective KLA. The lessons are run by specialised staff as well as SRC representatives to guide and assist each student through the learning process.

The program has been a success so far to date and we look forward to welcoming the schools that are visiting in the coming weeks.



Mr A. Morley
Primary Links Coordinator
PDHPE Teacher

Administration

School Statement of Accounts

The school Statement of Accounts will be posted this next week. Should there be an 'Unallocated Credit' displaying on your statement could you please advise us as to which fee you would like to offset it against. Please note: ***we are unable to offset a credit without your authority.***

For your convenience, payment of school fees and 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

A reminder, fees may be paid off throughout the year.

Lost Property

There is quite a collection of items in lost property, in particular uniform items without names on them. Should your child be missing an item of their school uniform or something they've brought to school, please remind them to come to the front office to check lost property.

Any labelled items in lost property are returned to students.

Carmel O'Shea
School Administrative Manager

Learning Enhancement Centre

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

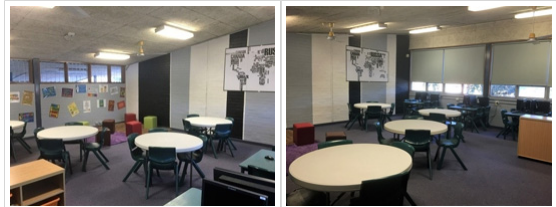
This room is equipped with six computers and a projector, along with group work tables and a carpeted area for floor work. Classroom teachers may also use this centre to hold alternate style lessons.

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 classwork, 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
Jennifer Jarman - jennifer.jarman@det.nsw.edu.au
Monique Van De Pol -
monique.vandepol@det.nsw.edu.au



Students for Meritorious Mention

GRC 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.

Jeremy Alysandratos
Arran Buncle
Luka Djeric
Ezra Faatoia-Muaiava
Jeremy Hockings
Anthony Logozzo
Bailey Russel
Joshua Saad
Zac Sumner
Dion Vallis

3Bridges Community – Emerging Man

One of our partnership organisations is currently seeking expressions of interest from interested fathers and their sons to participate in the Emerging Man Rite of Passage Camp.