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9 November 2018

## From the Principal

We have commenced this term full of enthusiasm and looking forward to a strong positive finish to the 2018 academic year. Everyone is looking to capitalise on moving forward, strengthening, growing and building on the achievements of the first three school terms. At present, the focus is to demonstrate individual and collective learning within respective classrooms and across all the key learning areas. Our students continue to work with hope, determination and confidence that will enable them to consolidate their progress throughout the year by reflecting on the constructive feedback being provided by their respective teachers.

The focus in our school is always about the wellbeing and improving the learning outcomes of all students. Our teachers' play a very pivotal role in supporting, guiding, mentoring and teaching our students to ensure they are being given every opportunity to perform to the best of their ability at all times.

Coincidentally, last week we had the pleasure of celebrating World Teachers' Day. This is a day on the calendar where we pause and take a moment to reflect and celebrate the monumental importance of school teachers in society. Teachers exist in every form and across all domains within every society. It is teachers that keep the world revolving and prepare the rising generations of the future within every aspect of our world. Teachers exist with formal qualifications and they also exist with informal qualifications. Every profession relies on teachers. Society relies on teachers. The world has been built upon the foundation of teachers and the outcomes of their high quality work.

As school teachers, we work in very close partnership with the parents of our students. Our parents are the teachers at home and assist us as school teachers to ensure the students are supported, valued and cared for throughout their learning experiences at school. All teachers make a real difference – every day – and we thank all teachers for the enormous effort

and incredible amount of work they invest into improving the lives of our children.

Bodies of evidence continue to prove that on every social and economic measure – ranging from health to financial independence and general life satisfaction – people who have completed formal educational pathways always achieve higher quality outcomes when compared to people with no educational qualifications.

At GRC Peakhurst, we are proud of our teachers for simply being who they are and doing what they do every day. They are facilitators of learning and guides in the discovery of their students' true potential. The passion for teaching and learning is universal. It is a common practice that unites our people, their beliefs, attitudes and values under the one huge umbrella of care and respect for all. We appreciate and thank our teachers for:

- Their selfless commitment to our students
- Striving to create a brighter future for everyone
- Believing that being a better teacher means being a lifelong learner
- Being the first one to show up and the last one to leave
- Ensuring students that there are more important things in life than grades
- Promoting the gift of possibility and the realisation of potential
- Believing in themselves, in their learners and never giving up on dreams
- Being uniquely human with their laughter, empathy and compassion
- Being a caregiver, coach, counsellor, cheerleader, event planner, entertainer and mentor

In conclusion, whenever we get the opportunity – thank a teacher! The teacher may not remember who it was – but they will never forget how you made them feel!

**Mr Terry Vallis**  
**Principal**

## Deputies' Report

Welcome to Term 4! As we head in to the final term of learning for 2018, it's a good opportunity to review our core school values as these remain a priority for each and every day. Positive Behaviour for Learning, known as PBL, is an integral part of Georges River College Peakhurst Campus where we value, **Respect, Responsibility and Excellence**. When all expectations related to these values are met, students can feel safe at school, supported at school, and place their energy on learning. There are a few key behaviours that demonstrate these values that we would like to be a focus for Term 4.

- To demonstrate the value of **Responsibility**, it is the student's responsibility to wear their full uniform to school each day. We encourage parents to ensure their child / children comply with our uniform policy. Students who take pride in their uniform also show **Respect** and pride in their school.
- To ensure students focus on their learning to **Aim for Excellence**, all students must comply with the phone policy. Mobile phones and other devices are to be turned off and away, all day. We encourage parents to support this expectation by refraining from making contact via text, messenger, and social media applications or by phoning their child's mobile during the school day. Where there is a need for communication between child and parent, students and parents are reminded to do this via our school office. Speakers are not permitted at school.
- All of our school values are expectations not only for lessons but also during breaks. To demonstrate **Responsibility** in the playground, students must act safely by following all school rules and staff directions. We encourage parents to discuss how their child spends recess and lunch, while reinforcing our 'Hands-Off' rule. As a reminder to our school community, this rule is purely about maintaining safety; as such, chasing games, tackle or wrestling games, and 'play' fighting will not be tolerated, as these kind of games may accidentally cause injury to another, or cause an escalation of emotions and aggressive behaviour. As we head into the summer months and hot school days, students are reminded that any water games are also not allowed from the perspective of safety for all.

**Did you know: Almost 1 in 3 teens are accessing the internet between 10pm and midnight?**

We have many conversations with parents and students regarding expectations around social media and gaming. Utilising our core values of **Respect, Responsibility and Excellence** in discussions for non-school topics may also be of assistance in the home. Parents are encouraged to visit the Office of the eSafety Commissioner website to find excellent references and resources regarding these common topics. As an example, below you can see their infographic on parental controls on devices.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>



As students are preparing for end of year exams, whether they are during the formal exam schedule or in class assessments, a particular study routine must be developed. Parents and students are encouraged to read the **Study Skills Tip** for November below.

## STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR NOVEMBER – PREPARING FOR BLOCKS OF EXAMS

For many students, a block of examinations can be daunting. Some students have no idea where to start and what they should work on. The first thing to do if you have examinations approaching in the next few months is to find out what topics will be tested. Even a simple question to teachers can get you started such as 'are we being tested on the whole year's work or just this semester?'. Once you know what topics will be covered, organize all of your learning materials and make sure nothing is missing and you have everything you need to review those topics. The next step is to make study notes on these topics if you haven't been doing this throughout the year (hopefully you have!). Next it is time to start learning the notes (testing yourself on them over and over) and doing practise questions to make sure you can apply your knowledge to different types of questions.

If you have a number of weeks prior to the examinations, it is a good idea to make a plan in your diary or phone or on a whiteboard of what subjects you will study when. Try and allocate each subject once or twice each week, depending on the number of examinations you have. As always, all assessment notifications can be viewed on our school website under the Assessment Tasks tab.

We look forward to another successful term of learning and wish all of our students well in their final assessments!

**Mr Scott Wilson**  
**Deputy Principal – Year**  
**9 & 10**

**Ms Kim Osborne**  
**Deputy Principal - Year**  
**7 & 8**

## Year 7 Student Advisor Report

As we reach the final stages of Term 4, students will be involved in their final assessment tasks that will go towards their Semester 2 report for 2018. I strongly encourage each student to remain focused and diligent as they complete these tasks. Should students have any concerns, please don't hesitate to make contact with myself, your class teacher or attend the homework centre to give yourself the best opportunity for success. If you are absent please ensure that you advise your teachers and catch up on any missing work for your period of absence.

Following on from this, yearly reports are fast approaching and I eagerly await the opportunity to review each individual report to identify the successes and improvements each student has achieved across the academic year. Upon receiving reports, it is imperative that each student takes the time to review the report with their parents and take note of the advice and feedback that teachers have offered to improve their learning. These comments will allow students to make necessary changes so that they can further improve for the 2019 academic year.

All the best for the remainder of the year!

**Mr Aaron Morley**  
**Year 7 Student Advisor**

## Year 8 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to Term 4, which is always a busy term for all involved. Exams and assessment tasks are in full swing with most KLA's having a task that needs to be completed this term. It is important that all students are well prepared for their assessments. Using their diary will help to stay on top of things, especially now with a number of tasks due around the same period of time. I would like to encourage all students to keep attendance rates up to maximise their schooling experience.

### Yearly Reports

It is coming up to report time again and at this time I am eager to review the yearly reports for Year 8 students, identifying the success, improvements and excellence that students have achieved over the year. On receiving reports, I would like to encourage all students to take note of their teacher's advice for areas to improve and strive to make changes and adjustments so you can achieve your personal best next year. It is important that you set goals for this year and the year ahead, always looking to improve.

## School Uniform

Summer is around the corner which means the weather will tend to warm up. It is important that all students are wearing their full school uniform at all times. Just a reminder to all students that sport shorts are applicable during practical lessons for PDHPE and sport day on Wednesday. They are not to be worn to school on any other day.

Good luck with all your assessment tasks and I look forward to seeing you all have a productive term 4!

**Mr Ibrahim Haydar**  
**Year 8 Student Advisor**

## Year 9 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to term 4!

It will be a busy term with yearly examinations in Week 3 and assessment tasks.

Students are encouraged to utilise this time to prepare for these commitments through revision, organisation of notes and clarification of expectations from their subject teachers.

If students have been absent for examinations or assessment tasks they are required to submit a medical certificate for their absence if they were sick on the day or if they have explained leave then a letter is required from their parent/ caregiver to explain dates of absence. This is required to ensure that they sit the examination or assessment task without losing marks.

### Upcoming events

23rd November in Week 6 students will have a whole school assembly to raise awareness for White Ribbon Day and year assemblies which will recognise their achievements in their subject areas.

**Mrs Alice Talevski**  
**Year 9 Student Advisor**

## Year 10 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to Term 4, what I know will be a very busy term for Year 10 students. Yearly exams, along with work experience, transition to Oatley or other avenues for the future, final year 10 assembly and the end of year formal are just some of the events coming up for Year 10. As the end of 2018 and your time at GRC Peakhurst is fast approaching, I would like to encourage all students to keep attendance rates up, ensure they are in full school uniform and are continuing to engage in all classes and school activities.

### Yearly Reports

It is coming up to report time again and at this time I am eager to review the yearly reports for Year 10 students, identifying the success, improvements and excellence that students have achieved over the year. On receiving reports, I would like to encourage all students to take note of your teacher's advice for areas to improve and strive to make changes and adjustments so you can achieve your personal best next year, whether it be



over at Oatley Senior Campus or in any other field you choose to undertake.

## Year 10 Formal

The Year 10 Formal is fast approaching and has been booked for Wednesday 5th December 2018 at Doltone House, Sylvania Waters. Permission notes and payment of \$120 is due ASAP. Students needing a permission note can collect one from me in the Support Staffroom or alternatively, the note can be found on the school's website. Thank you to those parents who have already paid a deposit. Payment can be made in instalments at the school's front office.

Happy Learning!

**Miss Julia Picone**  
**Year 10 Student Advisor**

## FACULTY NEWS

### CAPA

#### MUSIC

Music at GRC Peakhurst has had one of our biggest years yet. With Peakform in Term 3 showing the vast array of talent at the school, the support of family and friends led to having one of our largest most successful performance evenings at the school, EVER. The theme for the night was "Originals" showcasing the amazing array of song writing talent this school has to offer.

These original compositions included a funky disco tune by our very own school captain Jeremy H accompanied by dancers Taya I and Jordyn B, to soulful duets with Nicholas T and Taya I, as well as a song composed to inspire with Lachlan M. Through to a hip hop head banger by Memphis T, a passionate and soulful piece by Alexis D accompanied by a lyrical dance created by Tia B and finally a fantastic rising star in our music community, Violet M, showing her emotional and musical depth, setting her up to take over the world. This variety in performers and composers shows the bright future coming to GRC Peakhurst through the CAPA department.

With all these rising stars in the music community our newly purchased recording studio equipment means all these students will be able to present their music to the world and develop their craft. Using this equipment will allow our students to keep up to date with all the latest recording techniques, which with advances in technology has seen the rise of the 'at home songwriter/producer' become the norm.

Finally two of our biggest stars, Numi T and James P, are set to take NSW by storm in their second year as featured artists in the Schools Spectacular on November 23rd and 24th. Tickets can still be purchased online through the Schools Spectacular website.

Make sure you stay up to date with all photos and videos through our Creative and Performing Arts facebook page; "GRC Peakhurst CAPA".

**Mr Scott Page**  
**Music Teacher**

## HSIE

As the year has continued rolling on, the H.S.I.E. faculty has engaged in a number of exciting activities to extend and reinforce student learning and engagement. In Year 7, a number of classes have used playdoh or magnetic sand to develop their understanding of contour lines and mountain elevation, as shown on topographic maps. This activity is part of the Mountain landforms subtopic and formed an engaging and fun activity for all concerned.

Prior to this students from Year 7, completed a research technology task on one of a selection of unique landforms found around the world. Students had to demonstrate a variety of literacy, word-processing technology and research skills. Some of the best examples produced by the year group are included below:

During this semester, all of Year 10 Geography have been working through a mandatory topic on Human Wellbeing and Development. This included the factors that impact on an individual's wellbeing and how this may differ between and within countries. Students were given the challenge of researching the nature of wellbeing in Australia and their chosen country, focussing upon Education and Health. In addition, an important element of their research needed to be on explaining the difference in the statistics for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian populations. Some excellent samples of student work are included below:

This semester, Year 10 History has worked on a topic relating to Australia's Involvement in the Vietnam War. After studying the Cold War and the important role Australia played in the Vietnam conflict, focus was centred upon the experiences and treatment of veterans when they returned home. This trauma largely ignored until the early 1980s, was the centrepiece of a recent research source-based report. A couple of student samples are showcased below:

During Term 3, Year 10 History Elective engaged in a study centred on the 'Archaeology of the Pacific' with special focus on the rise and fall of the civilisation on Easter Island. This remote site in the eastern Pacific, is a remarkable case study known for the 900 enormous stone statues in various states of construction. Tragically, Easter Island is also known for the environmental degradation that occurred on the island, leading to the destruction of the civilisation and every tree on the island being cut down. The class were tasked with producing a feature article which explained their opinions, based on current research relating to the cause of the decline and the inherent lessons for the future of humanity. Included below are some of the class contributions:

**Ms Hayley Diamond**  
**Head Teacher HSIE**

## PDHPE

### PASS Surfing Excursion

As part of the Year 9 and 10 PASS elective, students are completing a unit called Sporting the Risk (Year 9) or Opportunities and Pathways (Year 10) which involves an Aquatics and Surf Lifesaving component. To further



complement each unit and enrich their learning, students will be participating in a Safe Surfing Level 1 program with Cronulla Surfing Academy. The session will be conducted by fully qualified, experienced instructors at Wanda Beach, Cronulla.

If your child is still interested in going, please ensure notes are returned and payment is made as soon as possible. Places are filling fast!

## Teachers VS Students

The annual Term 4 Teachers VS Students competition kicked off this week with the first round being Soccer. The students turned out in great numbers which made for an entertaining atmosphere. The teachers had the students on the back foot from the first minute as we created an abundance of chances. As the pressure set in, the students resorted to playing the long ball which was a questionable strategy. Unfortunately, the teachers were unable to capitalise on and the game resulted in an entertaining 0-0 draw. We are looking forward to round 2 in a few weeks where the sport of choice will be Basketball. On a side note, congratulations to all students who participated on the day!



**Mr Aaron Morley**  
**PDHPE Teacher**

## Duke of Edinburgh

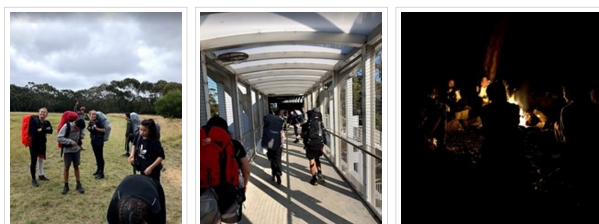
In the last week of term 3 our group of 11 bronze Duke of Edinburgh participants embarked on their practice Adventurous Journey. The Bronze journey takes the form of a 2 day hike with an overnight camp out in the bush. The journey is predominantly planned by the students with all equipment, food and camping gear having to be carried throughout the hike. This year the group, accompanied by Mr Miller and Miss Yates were trekking a 25km round trip route through the Royal National Park and Heathcote National Park via waterfall.

On the morning of the hike we woke up to torrential rain and the outlook wasn't looking very appealing for a couple of days out in the bush. On arrival at Mortdale station there were many concerned looking students (and teachers) at the prospect of trudging around the bush in the rain – nothing kills a camping trip like rain! We all spent about half an hour getting all of our gear waterproofed before jumping on the train. Typically, we did not see a drop of rain for the whole journey, so the rain gods were looking favourably on us.

The journey went relatively trouble free (other than a brief evacuation due to a bout of gastro!). The students were honing their navigation and map reading skills in addition to practising putting up tents and cooking some camp food on our new stoves. There were a few sore legs and aching feet (mostly the teachers), but we all got through it with a positive smile and sense of accomplishment on our return to Mortdale.

The group are now in the process of planning their qualifying journey which will be taking place in week 5 of term 4. Anyone interested in challenging themselves in this excellent Duke of Edinburgh Award in 2019, come and have a chat to Mr Miller or Miss Yates in the PDHPE staffroom.

**Mr Rob Miller**  
**PDHPE Teacher**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVBeSM95Czs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMkiUqG7i-Y>

## Special Education

Welcome to Week 4 of term 4!

Students have been participating well in community access programs and many have grown in independence and confidence. Well done, everyone! Parents please check and top up your child's opal card – we don't want anyone to be left stranded.

Following are some friendly reminders

Our **Year 10** students will be participating in the transition program, transitioning to GRC Oatley. This is a very exciting time. The students will need to wear their school uniform and take their recess and lunch. One of our Learning Support Officers will meet them at the school.

During this term also, we will be visited by **Year 6** students, transitioning into Year 7 for 2019. I know our students will make them feel welcome and we look forward to them joining us next year!

Some diary dates.....

**Yr. 10 Formal Wednesday 5th December**

**School Presentation Day Years 7, 8 and 9 Monday 17th Dec**  
**Year 10 Friday 13th Dec**

**Last school day Wednesday 19th December**

Thanks for all your on-going support.

**Mrs. Peta Holm**  
**Head Teacher Special Education**

## SRC News

### Primary Links

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

We celebrated our Term 3 Mufti Day on the last day of last term, raising \$547.15 for our school. Thank you to our school community for their efforts – we sold out of 40 pizzas in 4 minutes at lunchtime, so that must be some kind of record! Current ideas for the money raised are being researched and include flexible learning spaces for faculties to use.

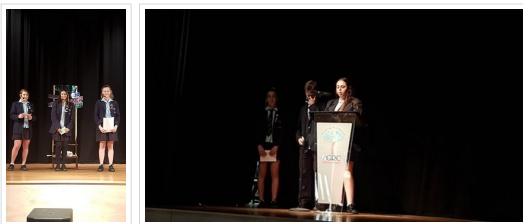


Please enjoy a short video from Leadership Camp – thank you to the 50 students who attended with myself, Mr Fisher, Mr Smith and Miss Kos – we are looking forward to next year! Thank you to Katerina P and Alexia S for putting together this video, and for Sasha S, Olivia B, Alissa I, Alexia S and Jeremy H for reporting back on the camp at our last Formal Assembly.

## World Vision/Formal Assembly

Once again, members of our SRC spoke confidently and reported back to our school community on past, current and upcoming events that showcase the many talents of our school at a recent Formal Assembly. Thank you to Katerina P for her update on World Vision (please see attached report on Simret Desta our sponsor child as well as information on the impacts our support has on her entire community).

Congratulations also to Chloe T, Tayanytah I and Valandou C for presenting their Mental Health Public Speaking Competition speech – these students are to be commended on their performance and participation in the competition as they received the Organiser's Choice Award on the day.



**Wednesday 7th Nov – GRIP Leadership – Year 7 and 8**  
SRC

## Week 6 – Year 10 2019 SRC Elections and Captains Interviews

## Monday 19th November – Peer Support Training Day

**Friday 23rd November** – White Ribbon Assembly and Year 7-10 Year Assemblies

## Week 7-8 – Year 8 and 9 2019 SRC Elections

**Thursday 29th November – Leadership By The River**  
Conference at Kyle Bay

**Tuesday 4th December – Year 10 Oatley Orientation**  
Day and Year 7 2019 Orientation Day

**Wednesday 5th December – Year 10 Formal**

## Friday 7th December – Sports Assembly

**Thursday 13th December – Year 10 Graduation**

**Monday 17th December – Year 7 - 9 Presentation Day**

As always, please approach your SRC members for any suggestions you may have in celebrating and appreciating our school community!

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

Another busy month in the TAS Department with new stainless steel demonstration benches, sinks and dishwashers going into the food laboratories. These improvements provide a more efficient work environment for all students and prepare them for a smooth transition when they move up to Hospitality / Food Technology at Oatley Campus.

Our vegetable/ herb garden is under construction, new soil has been laid ready for planting ..... watch this space!

Year 9 Food Technology have the opportunity to attend the Macarthur Sustainability Centre on **Monday 10th December, 2018**. This will be a fun day involving collecting food straight from the garden and then students making their own lunch, with the fresh food they have picked.

Year 10 Child Studies will be visiting day care centres this term as they complete their units on Play, Child Care Opportunities and Child Development.

**Ms Rosalie Gualtieri**  
**Head Teacher TAS**

## New Careers Advisor

Come along to meet the new Careers Advisor, Ms.Arfanis, located in Block D, Rm D 0.19 who is happy to support students in their endeavour to undertake courses inside or outside of school; work experience; resume writing; as well as School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeships, etc.



## SBAT

Abbey M has been successful in winning the LEA school based traineeship for 2019. It will prepare her as she enters the career pathway in the sport and recreation industry. As a LEA trainee she will undertake the Certificate 2 in Sport & Recreation course to build Abbey's knowledge base and skills in a variety of different departments relevant to the industry. She will also have the opportunity to continue employment with Blue Fit once she has completed the traineeship program and will become a Lifeguard & Swim Instructor, on its completion. GRC, Peakhurst wish her every success as she embarks on her new venture.

## EVET

Three students have applied to undertake a Certificate 2 in Human Services, known to the lay person as nursing, in 2019 through EVET (externally delivered Vocational Education and Training). Each student will have an interview and testing. These interviews run for an hour and half and will take place in weeks 4 and 5. GRC, Peakhurst wish the students well in their endeavour.

Other students have expressed interest in mechanical automotive, animal studies, design and graphics, screen and media, plumbing, visual arts and craft, travel and tourism and hairdressing. Final acceptance into any courses have not yet been determined by TAFE NSW so students are waiting anxiously.

VET programs for secondary students are a fabulous way to gain employability skills for a particular industry of focus, as students gain knowledge and skills in the industry.

## October/November students at work experience

Work experience for the Year 10 cohort will be kicking off in week 7, from 26 November to 30 November, and students are reminded to bring in their paperwork to the new Careers Advisor, Ms.Arfanis.

A few students have decided to attend work experience earlier. Jake B went to Blair Tyres and the employer was very pleased with his progress. Aydin T had an awesome experience with a local mechanic, Ricol Automotive, and was offered an automotive apprenticeship which he is likely to accept. A number of students, Jackson H, Zac S, Boaz C and William Y from Year 10 and Lucas S from Year 9, attended Rebel Sport gaining some experience in dealing with customers but gaining a fuller understanding of back of house operations in the retail industry.

Work Experience can aid some students in their transition from school to work. It aims to provide students with an opportunity to relate school studies with a workplace, and helps towards improving students' maturity, confidence and self-reliance.

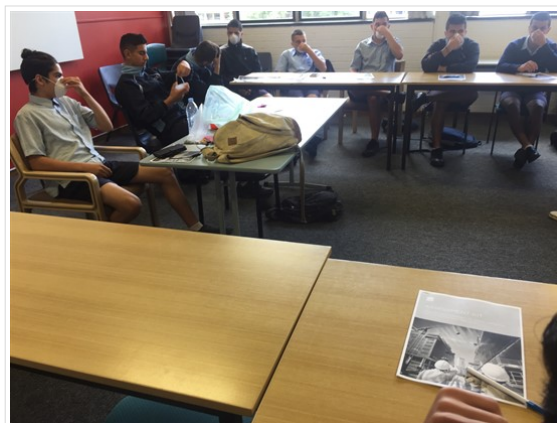
## White Card Training



White Card Training is a construction induction course in work, health and safety. It was offered to students to support them in their endeavour to work in the construction industry on weekends or those who wish to undertake Certificate 2 in Construction or a Certificate 2 in the entertainment industry, at school next year.

The Construction Induction Card (White Card) provides proof of completion of general construction induction training for safety purposes. It is a requirement for workers or visitors to any construction-related or entertainment-related work sites, including during undertaking related TAFE courses, work experience or employment at future work sites.

The students who participated should be commended on their application and diligence on the day. A second White Card Training course will be running on Tuesday, 13th November, 2018, at a cost of \$90, on school premises.



## YES program run by TAFE NSW





The YES program is joint partnership that GRC, Peakhurst has entered into with TAFENSW, this term, throughout October and November. The program is running as an internally delivered course by TAFENSW, at a school. There are 14 students from the Year 10 cohort who have been given the opportunity to learn more about horticulture/gardening/landscaping. The workshop runs all day from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The students will all receive a participation certificate accredited to them.



The students involved have enjoyed the first workshop learning about tools and safety as well as getting their hands dirty beautifying the Peakhurst Memorial Assembly area. Many thanks to the students, TAFE teacher and General Assistants involved who have already made a great contribution.



**Ms Toni Arfanis**  
**Careers Advisor**

## Dance

### Dance Excursion

On Thursday 25th October, 11 students from GRC Peakhurst travelled to the Sydney Dance Company Studios in Walsh Bay to view two performances – *State of Mind* and *Forever and Ever*. The pieces were very different in their structure and intent and the group thoroughly enjoyed the performances. These were followed by a Q&A session from the Company's Director, Stage Designer, Dance Manager and several of the dancers. Miss Reddy and I would like to congratulate the students on their respectful and responsible behaviour for the duration of the excursion and hope the girls got some inspiration in preparation for next year!



**Miss Ashteeeka Reddy**  
**Dance Coordinator**

## Debating and Public Speaking

Debating is a valuable school activity that provides students with numerous opportunities to develop their critical thinking and oral communication skills in a fast-paced team environment. Over the last two months, GRC Peakhurst's Premier's Debating Challenge Year 7/8 teams have participated in a series of closely contested debates against Caringbah Selective High School. These debates have afforded our students the chance to consider myriad ideas in a structured and competitive environment.

Students have discussed a range of multifaceted topics centred on prevalent social justice issues, including: 'Fast food restaurants should be banned from serving children under the age of 16', 'The news is no longer factual' and 'We should introduce mandatory parenting courses'. These focus areas provided a framework for students to consider issues of individual choice and the relationship between individual identity and social norms. Students should be commended on their sophisticated analytical skills and desire to consistently improve their current skillset.

After the conclusion of these debates, GRC Peakhurst's A teams was locked in a tie with Caringbah High's A and B teams. Consequently, students will debate in an additional round to determine the Zone Winner.

**Ms Lauren Osmond, Ms Lauren Dunstan and Mr Patrick Fisher**  
**Debating Coordinators**

## Wellbeing Committee Report

This semester our Wellbeing team will be hosting our annual presentation on 23rd November to raise awareness about White Ribbon Day- which educates our students about violence against men and women in our society.

The assembly will have our dedicated student committee members speaking and presenting on the day with talks by staff and guest speakers.

We will be having a cake stall at recess and selling white ribbons to raise funds to donate to this cause and would appreciate any contributions.

**Mrs Alice Talevski**  
**Relieving Wellbeing Coordinator**

## Wellbeing Team Report

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.

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

As a group, the Wellbeing Team meet regularly to discuss students, review attendance 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, Classroom Teachers, Head Teachers 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) • The Rage Program • Drumbeat • 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

In Term 4 – a range of student wellbeing programs have commenced for selected students including the Year 7 Shine Program, The Rage Program, Drumbeat and the Yr 9 Strength Program.

The Year 7 Shine Program is coordinated by Joy Scipione from Georges River Life Care and is a nine week course run every Thursday afternoon intended to improve a sense of value and worth and build resilience in young women. The program uses a range of learning techniques including creative activities, interactive games and discussions, role plays and practical demonstrations to build confidence, knowledge and self-worth.

The Rage Program is a new anger management program run by 3 Bridges Community here at GRC Peakhurst for selected Year 7 and 8 students. It is a strengths based and solution focused program that is both practical and engaging. Students are shown how to recognize their triggers and negative self-talk to help control their anger.

The Strength Program is a program designed for Year 9 boys to develop resilience, respect and self-worth. Our School Chaplain – Mr Tom Ayres has facilitated this program with the assistance of other youth workers from Georges River Life Care. The program covers a range of topics including teamwork, resilience and respect.

PBL - 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 next draw will take place during Week 5 of this term.

Within the next few weeks, students who have achieved success in the student merit award system and who are on Gold, Silver, Bronze and level +2 will be informed about and provided with a permission note outlining the end of year rewards excursion to Jamberoo Water Park.

Students are regularly reminded to ensure that they place any merit cards that they receive into the boxes outside the Deputy Principals office. This will ensure they are included in the gift card draws and contribute to student merit tallies.

At GRC Peakhurst, student attendance is a high priority. We know that students who attend school regularly are more likely to be successful both academically and socially. Please refer to the attached flyer from the Department of Education in relation to Compulsory School Attendance.

As in previous editions of the school newsletter, the Student Wellbeing Team has again included a number of interesting articles sourced from 'Parenting Ideas' to include in this month's edition. This month, two articles are featured. '6 Nightmare Habits that are ruining teenagers' sleep' and 'Be careful who you take parenting advice from'. Both articles are outlined below.

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

## Indigenous Education

Welcome to term 4. I would like to thank Aaron Morley and the executive for their support with Aboriginal education in term 3 whilst I was working with the Aboriginal Education Wellbeing team at Regional office. Students engaged in opportunities continued working with the AIME team and took part in the

historical markers tour organised through the Georges River Council.

Already this term the students have engaged in a program run by the University of Technology to celebrate Indigenous literacy day. The students took part in three engaging and exciting workshops and included Art, STEM and History. Through the stem workshop students were guided through a coding task and learnt to code a basic game sequence.

AIME will continue to work with the students in a mentoring role this term to offer group mentoring support. Students have also attended AIME mentoring workshops throughout the year at Sydney University meeting with community, making new friends and connecting with their mob.

## **GRC Sister School – City meets country**

Our sister school partnership is moving forward into 2019. We will see a group of our Aboriginal students travel to Dubbo to visit Coolah Central School and take in the culture and traditions of the area.

## **Learning Circle**

Our learning circle is well under way and it is expected that planting will begin this term. It is hoped the learning circle will encourage native animals, be a place for learning and reflection.

## **Upcoming Events**

One Mob Cultural day

## **Girls Supervisor**

In 2018 a group of selected girls will take part in a series of discovery learning workshops. The workshops will engage the ideas embedded in STEAM concepts building design skills to enhance their problem solving abilities.

The Menai youth team will also continue working with GRC this term to build resilience for our girls.

**Ms Michelle Seiner**  
**Aboriginal Educational Coordinator**

## **Gifted and Talented Education News**

GRC Peakhurst is an educational community that identifies and nurtures student achievement through the provision of challenging academic activities that cater to individual student needs. This ethos is demonstrated by processes involved in designing and maintaining the Selected Enrichment Classes. Each semester, the composition of the Year 7 and 8 Selected Enrichment Classes are reviewed to ensure students are in learning environments that will stimulate their personal development.

Students within these classes are expected to actively engage with all prescribed learning activities and display a positive attitude towards their academic development. Furthermore, they are expected to participate in extra-curricular activities. Biannually, identified students are offered positions in this class on the basis of their academic achievement and teacher recommendations.

If you would like any further information about this process, please contact Mr Fisher in the English staffroom.

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

## **Primary Links**

During Term 3 we undertook our Primary Links Initiative, having five of our local feeder schools participate in a variety of subjects. We would like to extend a thank you to all teachers involved in running the program, as well as our excellent Year 7 SRC representatives, who together ensured our Primary School students had an enjoyable and rewarding experience here at GRC Peakhurst. We look forward to hosting our local Primary Schools again in 2019.

**Giulia Testa and Stephanie Yates**  
**Primary Links Co-ordinators**

## **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.

**Waleed S**  
**Dean T**  
**Bienne T**  
**Josephine K**  
**Nadine Y**  
**Crew (All)**

## **From the Administration Office**

### **School Statement of Accounts**

The school Statement of Accounts will be posted 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

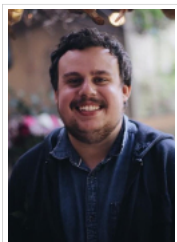
There is quite a collection of items in lost property, in particular uniform items without names on them. Should your child be missing an item of their school uniform or something they've brought to school, please remind them to come to the front office to check lost property.

Any labelled items in lost property are returned to students.

**Carmel O'Shea**

**School Administrative Manager**

## Youth Worker Onsite



My name is Tom Ayres I'm the school Chaplain. I have been involved with the school since 2015 and have been a Chaplain since 2017. I started working in the school as a youth worker from Georges River Life Care, coordinating and facilitating various programs and workshops.

A school Chaplain's role is to support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services and strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community regardless of faith or beliefs.

Pastoral Care is defined in the Commonwealth Chaplaincy Programme Agreement as: 'the practice of looking after the personal needs of students, not just their academic needs, through the provision of general, spiritual and personal advice.'

This year I have been involved in one on one group settings such the Strength program for year 8 and 9 male students, coordinated through Georges River Life Care. The Strength program focuses on building students personal strengths, respecting themselves and others, reliance, self-worth, healthy relationships and goal setting.

Drumbeat a program for year 8 and 9 students, coordinated 3 Bridges youth services. The Drumbeat program aims to develop teamwork skills, Increase focus and concentration, Increase co-operation and collaboration, enhance self-belief and confidence, increase self-awareness and self-esteem through learning drumming techniques and group activities.

I have been involved in mentoring/coaching students from all years and have had over 150 one on one sessions throughout the year. Helping students through various issues such as studying/learning difficulties, sickness, grief/loss, conflict, relationships, friendships and social skills, family and home life, behavioural issues and mental health. Sometimes this can lead to providing students, their families and staff with support and/or appropriate referrals to specialist services within the school as appropriate or externally, under the direction of the school Principal. I work closely with the GRC Peakhurst Campus Wellbeing Committee and aim to attend Parents & Citizens body meetings to provide details of the programme and the services that are available.

Georges River Life Care is key stakeholder and the primary sponsor of the Chaplaincy Programme at GRC Peakhurst Campus. Georges River Life Care is a local charity running a

range of programs that are designed to assist people who are struggling in various aspects of life.

Most of our services are free of charge, targeting families in need. Some of the services include: Arts Life Dance, Drama and Music Tuition for children and young people, Autism Support Groups and Social skills groups, Counselling Services, Emergency Food Relief, Legal Advice Clinic, No Interest Loans Parenting Programs and Youth Programs.

If you would like more information about Georges River Life care search [grlifecare.org.au](http://grlifecare.org.au) or call on 9153 6300, or Email: [lifecare@grlc.org.au](mailto:lifecare@grlc.org.au) or visit 23 Stanley St, Peakhurst.



## SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

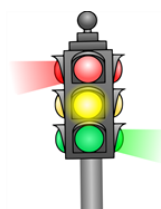
The second hand uniform shop is in need of preloved clothing. If you have any uniform items you no longer require or you know of anybody who has left the school please bring them to the front office clean and ready to wear.

## PICKUP AND DROP OFF OF STUDENTS

There have been new signs placed at both the entrances to the Staff parking area of Georges River College Peakhurst.

The Rona Street gate is an ENTRANCE ONLY gate between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and the Isaac Street gate is an Exit ONLY gate between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. After 9:30 a.m. this gate is locked.

The car park is for STAFF and VISITORS ONLY. It is not to be used as a pickup and drop off area for students.



The DISABLED and AMBULANCE parking is clearly marked. Parking in these areas causes inconvenience especially in the case of an EMERGENCY.

