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21 September 2018

From the Principal

As we approach the end of another very productive school term, we are taking a moment to reflect on the enormous and wonderful educational achievements of our school, staff and student teams. The educational opportunities provided for our students during this school term have been numerous, wide-ranging and enriching learning experiences.

Our Creative & Performing Arts team of staff and students have successfully produced and performed our annual PEAKFORM – The Originals night of entertainment last Friday 14th September 2018. Congratulations are in order to everyone for their amazing efforts, energy and hard work in ensuring the successful operational organisation and presentation of all the student performances in an electric fun –filled night of celebration.

The audience was collectively amazed at the large numbers and wide range of student talent on stage and behind the scenes. The students, under the supervision and guidance of their teachers, put together a very memorable, entertaining and exciting evening of music, song and dance.

You had to be there to see and believe what was happening!!!

To all our wonderfully talented student performers - take a bow! Best wishes to James, Fenumiai and our school dance team who have been selected to perform in the prestigious NSW School Spectacular concert in November. Well done to all our amazing and energetic back-stage student support teams. Thank you to all the staff for supporting this wonderful event. Congratulations to Scott Page, Thankam Rhydstrand, David Reidy, Ash Reddy, Stephanie Yates and their support staff for coaching all the student performers and ensuring the seamless logistical organisation for such a wonderfully successful event!

The school dance team successfully competed at the national finals, held on the Queensland Gold Coast, and performed creditably in a very elite competition and against the best dancers in the country. Our school community is very proud of their achievements in 2018 and the manner in which they

represented us with distinction on the national stage. Congratulations to Natalie, Victoria, Giselle, Tayanytah, Alex, Karina, Ally, Jordyn, Grace, Ms Crammond, Ms Yates and Ms Reddy. Absolute champions!

In sport, we had five year 9 students and nine year 10 students officiating as referees for the local PSSA Primary Schools Soccer Finals. The feedback from the primary school teachers and parent spectators was absolutely glowing. All our students officiated with a maturity beyond their years and were praised for their professionalism throughout the course of the carnival. Well done and congratulations to Oliver, Peter A, Alexia, Cooper, Peter K (from year 9), Jonty, Afan, Jayden, Natalie, Hassan, Stephanie, Thomas, Finn and Dean (from year 10). Also, congratulations to our three Oz Tag teams that successfully qualified to compete and represent our school in the NSW State Championships. In breaking news, we have been informed that three of our girl representatives were successful in being selected into the NSW Girls Oz Tag team for 2018. Congratulations to Bienne, Stephanie and Nadine for their meritorious representative achievements and best of luck in their future endeavours.

Special congratulations to Sebastien (year 9) and Ms Michelle Seinor (Visual Arts) who were nominated and successfully awarded the honour of The Deadly Kids and Deadly Teacher Awards at a special ceremony held in the Great Hall at the University of Technology Sydney. These prestigious awards recognise the exemplary achievements and celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and teachers. Both Sebastien and Ms Seinor are marvellous ambassadors for our school. Well done and well deserved awards to two outstanding members of our school community.

Last week, our PDHPE staff, successfully conducted a three day Physical Activities Sports Studies camp for our year 9 and 10 students. This week, Ms Osmond and her select team of teachers are taking students from all year groups to participate in a three day Student Representative Council Leadership camp. These camps are wonderful opportunities for our students to experience different forms of education that focus on refining life skills, social development and improving

leadership capacity. Also, a very special mention and vote of appreciation to all the members of our staff who dedicate both their expertise and more importantly, their very valuable family time to ensure our students are provided with opportunities to experience leadership development, educational, social and emotional wellbeing growth beyond the classroom environment.

We are very excited to officially announce that, at the beginning of term 4, our school will welcome Ms Antonella Arfanis to our staff in the role of school careers advisor. Ms Arfanis was selected through merit and will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the role of school careers advisor for our students. We are looking forward to Ms Arfanis joining our dynamic team of teachers.

All parents / caregivers of students, in years 7 and 9, who participated in the 2018 NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy) have received their enclosed report envelopes. These envelopes contain the Individual Student Report 2018, the Additional Student Report 2018 and a letter for parents / caregivers. NAPLAN tests were held in May 2018 and assessed aspects of Literacy including grammar and punctuation, reading, spelling and writing, as well as, numeracy. These diagnostic tests are designed to provide teachers with information about each student's learning progression and to determine if additional support is required to improve each student's literacy and numeracy skills. Our specialised school data team of analysts will be very cautiously interpreting the results comparatively against various student cohorts and assessment measures at local, state and national levels.

Finally, stay safe and enjoy the upcoming spring vacation!

Mr Terry Vallis
Principal

Deputies' Report

Students Aiming for Excellence – Focus on Learning

At GRC Peakhurst we focus on student learning through our core value of **Aiming for Excellence**. As we come to the end of Term 3, it is exciting to reflect on the various extracurricular opportunities our students have had a chance to experience, with many successes celebrated along the way. Some of these opportunities included the: Creative Arts Gifted and Talented day; Year 8 A Piece of Pi Day; Legacy Public Speaking competition; PASS Camp; Japan Foundation excursion; Mental Health Public Speaking Challenge; Men's Youth Forum; ANSTO Science Incursion; and the amazing Peakform. Extracurricular activities are beneficial to students learning by: building student skills outside of the classroom, including opportunities to develop and practise social skills; providing a break from study, while enhancing content and skills from key learning areas; presenting a new experience or perspective. Visit our new school website at the link below and Twitter Page @GRCPeakhurst to see images documenting these great events. Thank you to our dedicated staff who continue to provide such fantastic learning opportunities for our students.

<https://peakhurst-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

The end of Term 3 also marks the half way mark for Semester Two. As such, students in all year groups have already completed a number of assessment tasks across all subjects to contribute to their Semester Two academic report. A common question we receive from parents is whether their child has homework. When homework is not issued, it's usually because the expectation is that students are regularly working on the planning, developing and extending of their assessment tasks, to avoid the last minute rush. Parents can see assessment task notifications on the school website or sign-up to Skool Bag to get notifications of when tasks are issued. Students are encouraged to utilise the following steps when receiving an assessment task:

1. Read the assignment. Clarify any questions with their teacher.
2. Highlight key words and instructions.
3. Break the task into smaller pieces.
4. Plan to complete each piece as part of homework across the week/s.
5. Complete a draft and share with a parent, teacher or peer for feedback.
6. Submit the final task.

Each Monday and Tuesday afternoon, the **Homework Centre** is open from 3–4 pm in the school library. Homework Centre is an excellent opportunity for students to work on their assessments with the assistance of teachers, access to resources, technology and internet. Afternoon tea is also provided. To ensure that the Homework Centre is best meeting the needs of our students, we are seeking your feedback – please speak with your child and let us know if you have any suggestions regarding the time, day etc. for Homework Centre.

Our core school values also focus on **Respect** and **Responsibility**. These values have been a focus of discussions at whole school assemblies with students regularly reminded about safety considerations during school breaks and travelling to and from school. Students are reminded to follow the "Hands Off Rule" when moving around the school and playing games at recess and lunch. This rule is not about inhibiting student's fun, but about ensuring student safety. Students are also reminded to model our expectations on their way to and from school by: using appropriate language when travelling on buses or in public spaces; placing litter in the bin; and walking or riding scooters and bikes sensibly and safely, particularly when crossing roads. We pride ourselves on our great reputation in the community and would hate for the silly actions of a few to impact on the wonderful work of many. Parents are requested to discuss these concerns with their child.

Student Study Skills Tip for September

Students sometimes ask 'what is the best way to study?' The answer, there is no best way. An important lesson for students to learn is that everyone learns in different ways, everyone has different approaches and preferences, and what works well for one person may not work well for another. This truth applies to all aspects of effective learning – time management, research skills, writing skills and so on. There are

certainly good techniques and strategies available in all of these areas, and also approaches that work well for the majority of students. However it is essential that all students try different techniques to see what works best for them. Preferences could also change over time, so it makes sense to at least once a year stop and reflect on approaches to learning. What did you do, what worked, what didn't, what should you change, what should you keep, and what new things could you try. This is what 'metacognition' is all about. It means taking the time to try and understand more about the process of learning and your role as a learner. Students who take a metacognitive approach to their learning are much more likely to improve their results. How can you find out different study techniques to try? Talk to the people around you – friends, siblings, parents – ask them what techniques they have used. Also ask your teachers what they would recommend for their subject. You can also visit the unit on the Study Skills Handbook that covers how to study for tests and exams. You will find lots of active studying strategies and grids to help you plan for exams. Just remember – there is a worst way to study – just reading your notes over and over and hoping the information stays in your head!

We look forward to seeing your children experience the many wonderful learning opportunities here at GRC Peakhurst while **aiming for excellence**. Please find this month's study tips above as a way to support a focus on learning at home.

Mr Scott Wilson
Deputy Principal –
Year 9 & 10

Ms Kim Osborne
Deputy Principal -
Year 7 & 8

Year 7 Student Advisor Report

As we approach the final few weeks of Term 3, students are reminded to remain focused and continue working to their potential. Student achievement was recognised earlier this term with over 30 Principal awards handed out in recognition of these efforts. Students have been encouraged to use the current term to reflect upon academic achievements in the first half of the year and to incorporate good study habits and work ethics to improve.

Furthermore, many parents have made enquiries about homework and assessment tasks this term. Parents are reminded that students will have homework and assessment tasks from each subject to complete most days of the week. If there are any concerns, please make contact with the class teacher to discuss your child's academic performance. The school website is also a useful tool that has the individual assessments tasks listed for each subject. These tasks can be downloaded at your convenience.

Parents are also reminded that homework centre operates on Monday and Tuesday from 3-4pm. Students are given light refreshments before receiving individual support from staff.

Finally, please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform to and from school. A number of Year 7 students are, in particular, wearing incorrect jackets and shoes to school.

Have a productive and enjoyable last few weeks of term!

Mr Aaron Morley
Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Student Advisor Report

It has been my pleasure for the past several weeks to fill in for Mr Haydar as Year 8 Advisor. Over this time we have had four new students begin at GRC Peakhurst. If you see them on the playground or in your classes please take the time to say hello and give them a warm welcome to our school.

As Term 3 begins to wrap up, it is important that students are keeping on top of their assessments and homework, as well as beginning to revise their subject content as yearly assessments and examinations will be kicking off in early Term 4. Notifications for these assessments can be downloaded from the school website.

Students and parents are reminded that Homework Centre runs Mondays and Tuesdays, 3pm-4pm in the school library as a quiet place for students to complete homework, assessments and revise with teacher help. They are provided with light refreshments and there are plenty of computers, laptops and reading materials available to help students complete their work.

Lastly, with Mr Haydar returning in the last few weeks of term, he would like to encourage students to please see him if they are having any issues or he can offer them his support in any way. He is located in the PDHPE staffroom located in the Hall.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays and we look forward to seeing you all back, safe and ready, for a busy and rewarding Term 4.

Miss Stephanie Yates
Year 8 Advisor (Relieving)

Year 9 Student Advisor Report

Year 9 have continued to work towards their attainments for semester two reports with assessment tasks.

Students are encouraged to continue to prepare for assessment tasks by organising their time, researching and editing their work. They should utilise the coming weeks to prepare for yearly examinations by revising, asking teachers for assistance or by going to the Homework centre Monday and Tuesdays afternoons between 3-4 pm.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our Year 9 students who were involved in Peakform, SRC debating and public speaking.

We are proud of their achievements and want to encourage our students to persevere and achieve to the best of their ability.

Ms Alice Talevski
Year 9 Advisor

Year 10 Student Advisor Report

P.A.R.T.Y. Program

On Tuesday 21st August, I had the pleasure of accompanying 30 Year 10 students on the P.A.R.T.Y. Program (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) at St. George Hospital. Thanks must go to Ms Favuzzi and Ms Ngyuen for joining us also. Following is a report written by Michael Sassine and Valandou Contzonis.

On Tuesday 21st August, 30 students from Year 10 attended the P.A.R.T.Y. excursion at the St. George Hospital. Our experience at the St. George Hospital was a massive eye opener for us. The day was very informative in letting us know about some of the harsh consequences and outcomes of making reckless decisions when getting in a vehicle as a passenger or as a driver. Some people came to the hospital to share their stories regarding road trauma. The stories that were told were truly heart breaking. Videos that were shown regarding what happens in a crash were quite disturbing and other videos shown about the impacts made were very moving. Overall, the day was outstanding and we would definitely participate in attending the excursion again.

-Michael S and Valandou C

Students displayed exemplary behaviour throughout the course of the day, demonstrating our school's values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. Please see below for a commendation letter sent to Mr Vallis as well as some photos taken on the day.



Year 10 Formal

The Year 10 Formal has been booked for Wednesday 5th December 2018 at Doltone House, Sylvania Waters. 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

Year 10 Work Experience Week

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus is committed to providing our Year 10 students with an opportunity to participate in organised workplace learning (Work Experience) prior to their transition to the Oatley Senior Campus, TAFE or further training/apprenticeships in 2019. Workplace learning programs such as Work Experience assist in achieving curriculum outcomes and enhance the vocational, educational and social development of participating students.

This year, Year 10 students will participate in workplace learning (a Work Experience placement) during Term 4 – Week 7 (Monday 26th November 2018 – Friday 30th November 2018). As the work experience week is occurring in late November, students now have several months to consider an area of interest, research possible work placement sites, and then approach a potential workplace employer/host to request a work experience placement within the workplace.

All Year 10 students have been provided with a work experience pack that contains the necessary paperwork for students, parents and employers. Year 10 students have been encouraged to go through this pack with their parents.

It is anticipated that all Year 10 students will participate in the 'Work Experience Week' in late November. Students are encouraged to commence seeking a work experience placement ASAP to ensure all the necessary paperwork and organization is completed by the deadline – Friday 16th November 2018. If you have any questions or queries relating to the Year 10 Work Experience week, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Wilson on 91539966.

FACULTY NEWS

HSIE

Australian Geographic Competition

Earlier this Year students from 7 Red, 8 Red, 9 Geography Red and 10 Geography Red competed in the Australian Geographic Competition. Over 75000 students nationwide took part this year. Winning students were able to run for a place in the team which represented Australia at the National Geographic World Championship in St. Petersburg, Russia.

While all participating GRC students received a certificate for their efforts, 2018 was an outstanding year with numerous students from all grades receiving High Distinction, Distinction and Credit awards of recognition.

High Distinction Award Winners

Dion B-L Year 7
Maddison M Year 10
Ashton R Year 7
Jacob S Year 10
Julia T Year 8
Anna W Year 9

Distinction Award Winners

Aden C Year 7
Georgia B Year 10
Andrei E.W Year 8
Yash G Year Year7
Taj M Year Year 7
Bailey R Year Year 9
Patt W Year 7

Credit Award Winners

Kayla Jo I Year 8
Zacchary H Year 7

Year 7 Map Makers Assessment Task

Year 7 HSIE students began their studies in Geography at the beginning of Term 3. As an introductory unit, students were taught the fundamental skills of map creation and map reading. Their first assessment task instructed them to create a map which exemplified the essential elements of a good map construction. Encouraged by the allure of prizes and their map being displayed on the 'Map Makers Wall of Fame', students used their creativity and newly-developed mapping skills to win the title of 'Class Master Mapmaker'.

The following students are congratulated for their superb map creation. Please view the attached map submissions.

7 Blue

- Arden-Le H
- Victoria R

7 Green

- Kane C.
- Samuel Y

7 Indigo

- Lanz N
- Abbey R

7 Orange

- Isabella L
- May R

7Purple

- Ashley B
- Vivian T

7 Red

- Ashton R
- Chloe S

7 Violet

- Winston A
- Theodora M

7 Yellow

- Nicole L
- Zakariya W

Ms Hayley Diamond
Head Teacher HSIE

LANGUAGES

Year 9 & 10 Elective Japanese Excursion

On Thursday the 16th of August, the Year 9 and 10 Elective Japanese students accompanied by Mrs Favuzzi, Miss Lam and Mrs Nguyen went on an excursion to the Japan Foundation. We caught the train from Mortdale Station to

Central Station. We then walked through the station tunnel and arrived at Central Park Mall. Before the start of the program, students were given free time to browse through the surrounding shops and have their recess. Afterwards, the year 9 and 10 students took turns to participate in a learning session with the focus of Japanese Annual festivals, featuring a presentation, a dress up corner and stall games. During the session, students were given the opportunity to apply their Japanese language skills and extend their linguistic and cultural knowledge through role-playing with the Japanese language consultant.

Below is the report of the excursion by Year 9 and 10 students

*The Japan Foundation excursion was a blast for all of us who attended! When we arrived we were greeted by a lovely Japanese sensei (teacher) who spoke in Japanese to us. She then explained what we would do there and where we had to go if we needed to go to the bathrooms. When she explained the rationale and schedule of the program, the year 10s had the chance to go first. While the year 10s were in their session, we the year 9s were permitted to walk around the Central Park building to eat and buy things from the Japanese shop **Daiso** which sells many Japanese gadgets and snacks. Once the year 10s completed their session, it was our turn! As we entered the room, everyone was full of curiosity and was excited to see what was in there. The sensei showed us a presentation about **Obon Summer Festival** that was developed to commemorate the dead, as their spirits come back to their families for two days, between the 13th and 15th August. Once we went through some interesting facts on the presentation, we were taught how to dress up in a yukata (traditional summer styled Japanese dress) and followed by that we did a special festival dance.*

*Sensei showed us some fun yatai games (stall games) including **O-mikuji** (fortune telling). I picked out a strip from the drawing lots and my fortune was predicted as 'very good'! The Japan Foundation excursion was interesting, enjoyable and educational for everyone who attended! It was such an amazing experience for all of us, even the teachers! I hope we get to go again next year with our teachers.*



PDHPE

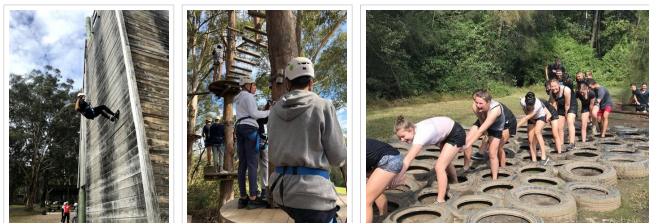
PASS CAMP

During week 7, our Year 9 and 10 students embarked on 3 day Outdoor Education camp to compliment several units taught throughout our curriculum. The camp took place at the Great Aussie Bush Camp, Kincumber.

The purpose of this camp program is to allow students to develop knowledge and understanding about the contribution of physical activity and sport to individual, community and societal wellbeing.

During the three day camp experience the students participated in a selection of the following activities which included high ropes, abseiling, giant swing, rock climbing, leap of faith, mud challenge as well as a team building survivor exercise.

The students who attended are to be commended on their behaviour across the entire 3 days. It was positive to see each student upholding our school values of respect, responsibility and aiming for excellence.



State Oz Tag

Congratulations to the GRC Peakhurst students who represented our school and the St George region at the NSW Champions of Champions Oztag tournament. Over 800 teams represented their schools across NSW with the winning teams from each region coming together to compete for the title of NSW State Champions. GRC Peakhurst had the most number of teams represented at the tournament compared to any other school. Our three teams fought hard in each game demonstrating excellent skill and teamwork. The Year 7/8 Boys unfortunately went down in the quarter finals against Kiama High from the South Coast region who went on to be the NSW Champions. A fantastic effort for the boys to finish in the top 8 in NSW. Our Year 9/10 Boys team fought hard in their round games successfully winning two of their four games. Unfortunately they just missed out on the quarter finals on a count back of tries. The Year 9/10 Girls team had an amazing tournament. They made it to the Semi Final after beating a number of teams from across NSW including the much fancied Engadine High school in the quarter final. Unfortunately they went down to a school from North West NSW, McCarthy Catholic College in a very close semi-final encounter. These girls should be so proud of their outstanding achievement, finishing third in NSW.



GRC Peakhurst was also successful in having three students selected in the NSW Girls Oztag Team. Congratulations to Bienne Terita, Josephine Konjarski and Nadine Younes. The girls were standouts throughout the tournament and deserve this amazing accolade. This is an outstanding achievement, with over 10,000 students playing this competition across

NSW. The school community is extremely proud of this fantastic accomplishment.



Road Safety Day – Bstreetsmart

On the 30th August, Year 10 PDHPE students attended a Road Safety incursion here at GRC Peakhurst. The sessions throughout the day were designed to provide students with first-hand experience of road trauma and an understanding of their responsibilities as a driver and as a responsible passenger. A vast range of information and strategies to avoid serious injuries and death were provided to students by presenters from Bstreetsmart, NRMA and LTrent driving school. We hope that our students now have a greater awareness and understanding of the consequences that can result from distracted driving, speeding, drink/drug driving and driver fatigue. Feedback from the students was very positive and we look forward to participating in similar initiatives next year. Remember, information received on this day can be used to assist students to complete their upcoming extended response assessment task, due on the 26th September, 2018.



State Athletics

Congratulations to Cameron A and Pauline T who represented GRC Peakhurst at the State Athletics Carnival, which took place during week 7. Well done on this fantastic achievement! We are extremely proud of your efforts and accomplishments.

PSSA Sport

On Friday, 24th August GRC Peakhurst students had the opportunity to referee the finals for the PSSA Junior and Senior Winter Soccer competition. Students from our Year 9 and 10 PASS groups were selected to help extend on their leadership, management and coaching skills. The following students should be congratulated on their efforts on the day, and the convenors of the competitions wished for positive comments to be made about their enthusiasm, professionalism and manners. Well done!

Year 10

Jonty T
Afan B
Dean T
Stephanie K
Thomas C
Finn C
Natalie L

Year 9

Peter K
Alexia S
Oliver L
Peter K
Cooper A

Mr Aaron Morley
PDHPE Teacher

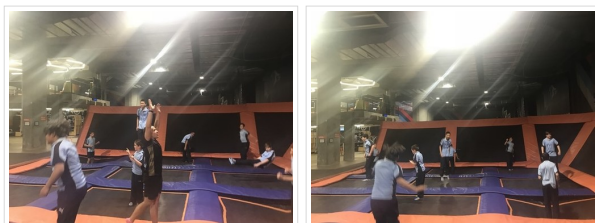
Special Education

This term, the students in the Support Unit have been very busy. Here are some photos and student comments.

On Friday 31st August, the students in the **White Support Class** took a train trip into the city to visit the Wild Life Zoo. What an adventure we had! There were surprises around every corner from snakes to crocodiles, kangaroos and cuddly koalas, just to mention a few of the amazing Australian animals on display.



On Friday 31st August, the **Blue Support Class** went to Cronulla. We had to catch a bus and a train to get there. When we got to Cronulla, we walked towards the beach and along the Esplanade. We went to a Mexican restaurant for lunch and ate nachos, tacos, and hot chips. We liked playing fuse ball in the restaurant. As we left, it started to rain but we were lucky we didn't get wet. We had a really fun day!



The **Red and Purple Support** classes have been working on their own Claymation and Stopmotion projects. Please see videos of the completed ones.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MP6Lw_Gdp6w

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSxksCP42B4>

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

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yITCTM8JCVw>

All classes have had the opportunity to participate in the DrumBeat program! You should hear us! Huge THANK YOU to Noha from 3 Bridges.

Lastly, we celebrated Roald Dahl's birthday with a fun-filled day of activities, a fashion parade and a golden ticket hunt. Well done to all the students! You all looked amazing. The staff were pretty awesome too. A huge thanks to Ms Picone for ALL her hard work and effort to make it such a fabulous day.

Mrs Peta Holm
Head Teacher Special Education Faculty

SRC News

Another busy term for our active SRC and vibrant school community!

Many of our students performed or assisted at our recent Peakform performance night. It was a huge success and I always admire the amazing range of talents that our students have. Whether you performed, had an MC role (thank you to Jackson H.B and Andee H), were ushering, helped behind the scenes or completed the many other important roles I say a huge congratulations and thank you to you.

Our Year 7 SRC (Cameron A, Teiya A.J, Olivia B, Chloe S and Isaia T) 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. Our teachers and Year 7 SRC members are fostering strong community links as a benefit of the program. Well done to you all!

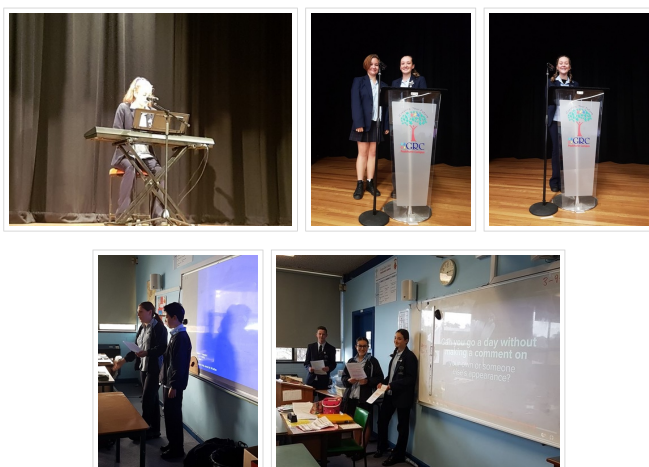
Recently, Mr Fisher accompanied some Year 10 members to the Conviction Group – Young Men's Health Forum which was held at Bankstown Sports Club. Thank you to Dimitriy E.W, Christopher F, Jackson H.B, Jeremy H, Jacob S for representing our school with such pride and enthusiasm.



Members of our SRC Chloe T, Tayanytah I and Valandou C recently represented our school in the Mental Health Public

Speaking Challenge that you can read about in our Debating Report. Congratulations to these driven students who, with such a well-researched, creative and powerful nine minute speech, received the Organiser's Choice Award on the day – congratulations on your outstanding achievements.

In Week 7 this term we also celebrated 'Love Your Body Week' as an initiative from the 'Peaky Spreads Positivity' team. SRC members spoke at our formal assembly and presented lessons during roll call time that focused on positive body image as well as limiting appearance-based comments. The idea behind this is so we can acknowledge people for the unique and wonderful talents they have instead of only appearance, which is only skin deep. The week culminated with an accessory day on Friday 7th September called 'Dress To Express', where students were able to wear accessories that displayed their unique interests, cultural background or talents. Thank you to all students who participated in this worthwhile initiative.



We also recently acknowledged 'R U OK Day' within our school community. It is hoped that the opportunity was taken to check in with friends and loved ones to let them know we are all there for each other, not just on this day but on all other days of the year too.

This year we are again supporting 'Share The Dignity – It's In The Bag' in Term 4. Members of our school community are encouraged to donate any of the below items to our Support staffroom in F Block during Term 4 – so if you are doing a clean out during the holidays, please assist us in supporting this worthy cause and help us donate to 'It's In The Bag'. Please see Miss Holm, Miss Osmond or your SRC members for more details or if you'd like to help out.



The year is passing us by quickly and it will be Term 4 before our next Peak newsletter. Year 10 2019 SRC expressions of interest open early next term and immediately following that, the process for election of School Captains and Vice Captains will commence. Any Year 9 students wishing to increase their contribution to our school in this manner are encouraged to speak to myself or one of our student leaders for more information.

Important Dates:

- Leadership Camp – Wednesday 19th – Friday 21st September
- GRIP Leadership Conference Year 7 & 8 SRC – Wednesday 7th November.
- SRC Elections for Year 8-10 2019 – commence Week 3 Term 4.

Next newsletter, I will have all the news from Leadership Camp Week 9 Term 3. Congratulations and thank you to all students who have participated in the camp.

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

Miss Osmond

Men's Health Youth Forum

On Friday, 24th August, a number of Year 10 students were given the opportunity to attend the Conviction Group's Men's Health Youth Forum taking place at Bankstown Sports Club. This was a unique opportunity that allowed the boys to explore a range of prevalent social issues specific to men within our community. The central aim of the excursion was to explore underlying causes and prospective solutions to a range of social issues, including violence, drug use and mental health. The boys were asked to consider current representations of masculinity in the media and how they can positively influence society.

The Labor Member for Lakemba, Jihad Dib, delivered the opening address, outlining the importance of celebrating cultural diversity and maintaining an inclusive approach to social interactions. He reflected on his previous experiences as a school leader and discussed the value of ongoing conversations about mental health.

The first keynote speaker, Marco Capobianco, delivered a moving presentation about breaking the stigma surrounding mental health amongst adolescent males. He communicated his belief that society needs to re-evaluate dominant stereotypes about masculinity that encourage men to internalise and repress their feelings. Marco asked every man in the room to participate in regular conversations about mental health with their peers in order to create safe, supportive relationships.

After this, Chris Lee presented a powerful reflection on the widespread impact of violence within our community. Chris discussed his personal experiences as a victim of alcohol-fuelled violence and encouraged young people to take responsibility for their decisions and actions. Furthermore, Chris asked each man in the room to capitalise on the opportunities life presents and make a powerful, positive impact in their surrounding community.

Afterwards, Kathy Kelly, director of the Thomas Kelly Foundation, presented a powerful workshop about the importance of everyday acts of kindness within our community. Kathy reflected on the emotional trauma she experienced upon losing both her sons and the importance of young men making good decisions when having nights-out. Kathy articulated how

it is every individual's responsibility to encourage those feeling isolated to speak out and seek help.

Furthermore, Matthew Caruana elaborated on the previous conversations about mental health, discussing the skills young people need to develop in order to seek help and assist those around them. Matthew reflected on his experiences with depression and anxiety throughout high-school and his battle with drug addiction. He encouraged the boys to find meaning and purpose in their lives, celebrating the power of altruistic actions.

Finally, Police Commander Robert Critchlow delivered a closing address about 'What does it mean to be a man in modern society?'. He asked the boys to consider themselves as leaders in their immediate community and initiate positive change within their communities. Commander Critchlow communicated his belief that men have a responsibility to enact powerful and lasting change within their communities.

Ultimately, it was an incredibly beneficial day that allowed the boys to develop meaningful connections with their peers and reflect on their role within their community.

TAS

Great news. The TAS department is now on Instagram. Year 10 named the account and it features the great work students perform in food practicals. So follow us on:-

grc_peakhurst_instafeed

Year 7 and 8 Technology Mandatory have completed their second rotation. It has been rewarding to see students present quality projects that have not only met briefs but also demonstrated creativity and quality skills. Cushions by Year 7 have for instance, successfully reflected their interests and students challenged themselves to competently use textile machinery and investigate and apply decorating techniques such as tie- dyeing, fabric painting, patchwork, transfers and applique. The cushions also demonstrated the students' ability to effectively manage their own work to achieve their desired outcome.



Year 8 timber classes also demonstrated their creativity, management and woodworking skills in producing shadow boxes to store and display personal items. Students were able to produce individual designs that met their needs and enjoyed producing different paint finishes to further individualise their designs.

Support classes have also enjoyed working with wood and being creative. They were given the challenge to avoid wastes and reuse, so they used the left over wood pieces from Year 8 projects to create a wooden toy.

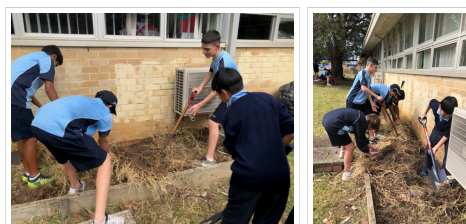


Ms Rosalie Gualtieri
Head Teacher TAS

VEGETABLE GARDEN

This term, the TAS faculty have been very busy preparing for the implementation of the new Technology Mandatory syllabus in 2019. Staff have written new programs and have developed new units of work for Year 7 and 8 with lots of exciting changes on the horizon!

One of the new focus areas in the syllabus is Food and Agriculture and whilst we have always studied food, the agricultural component will allow our students to take a 'hands on' approach to their learning and truly appreciate the concept of "paddock to plate". As part of the changes, we are very happy to announce that a veggie patch will be created to complement our students learning. Work has already begun with a team of keen Year 7 students preparing the garden beds for planting. If any families have any seedlings that they would like to donate, they would be truly welcomed. We look forward to keeping you updated on our new green initiative.



Ms Kristy Willis
TAS Faculty

Dance Nationals

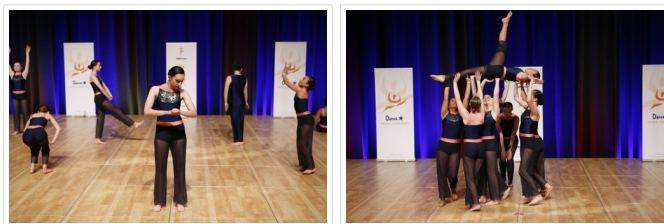
Earlier this term, Miss Reddy and I had the pleasure of accompanying our Dance Company group and their families to the National School Aerobics DanceStar Championships, held on the Gold Coast.

The students made a fantastic effort at the State Finals to secure this spot at the National Championships and performed spectacularly on the day. Overall, our company came in 8th place and were the highest ranked NSW team in the country – what an achievement!

Miss Reddy and I would like to thank the performers Jordyn B, Ally C, Karina R, Alex L, Grace W, Taya I, Giselle L, Natalie M

and Victoria R for their dedication, commitment and hard work over the year to get themselves to this place.

Furthermore, we'd like to thank their families for their support and encouragement of the group and this opportunity. It was a great weekend!



Keep a lookout in the upcoming weeks and months for our Schools Spectacular performers. The girls will soon begin rehearsals for this fantastic show and information on where and when to see the televised show will be given in upcoming newsletters.

Miss S Yates
Dance Coordinator

Debating and Public Speaking

Debating is an integral component of our school community, providing interested students with the chance to explore prominent social-justice issues. Over the last month, our students have participated in a range of activities designed to broaden their understanding of the surrounding world and hone their skillset.

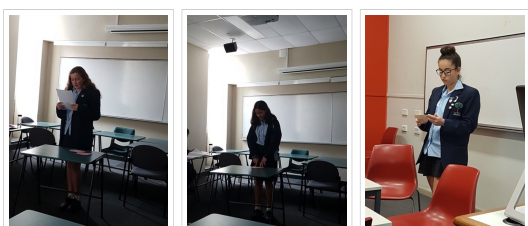
On Friday, 24th August, a selection of GRC Peakhurst's female debaters had the opportunity to attend a 'Women in Debating Leadership' excursion held at the University of Sydney. This day provided the girls with a formalised opportunity to develop their oral communication, critical thinking and teamwork skills in an exciting and fast-paced competition.

Students were divided into small teams and allocated topics to debate with other schools. Topics focused on issues specific to contemporary society and included, 'Broken election promises should trigger a by-election' and 'That there should be a certain amount of Indigenous representatives in the Australian senate'.

Each student should be commended on their capacity to examine these issues in a sophisticated and nuanced manner. They displayed a highly developed knowledge of the way cultural norms and gender influences social interactions.

Furthermore, our Year 7/8 Premier's Debating Challenge teams will be participating in a series of debates against Caringbah Selective High School over the coming weeks.

Mr P Fisher - Debating Coordinator



Legacy Public Speaking Competition

On Tuesday the 4th of September, Tayanytah in Year 9 attended the Legacy Public Speaking Competition. She represented GRC Peakhurst in the Sydney Region, as one of ten contestants from the area. Speakers were to present a prepared speech on a topic of their choice ranging from 5-6 minutes. They then were tasked with making and delivering an impromptu speech on the topic 'The Bright Side'. Taya's prepared speech was on the topic 'Victim Blaming,' while her impromptu focused on education reform and what we need to do in order to reach the bright side. It was a very close competition and Taya spoke incredibly well. Although she was not successful in getting through to the next round of the competition, she should be proud of her achievement on the day. All of the speakers were confident, presenting polished speeches and delivering them with expertise and passion. Congratulations to Tayanytah for making it this far and good luck to her for next year's competition.

-Chloe T and Tayanytah I



Mental Health Public Speaking Challenge

On Thursday the 6th of September, four students from our school visited Strathfield Girls High School to participate in the Mental Health Public Speaking Challenge. The challenge allows each school to enter a team of three people that speak for nine minutes on a topic related to mental health. The challenge is not a generic public speaking challenge as you are allowed to use props and role-play. The challenge consisted of two main days – the first day was a training day held in Term 2, and the second day where the schools compete and deliver their speeches to the adjudicators and an audience. On the training day, we heard from speakers who have experienced mental health issues and we learnt about what we can do to start the conversation within our school. Then each school chose a topic related to mental health. Our school's topic was "In national surveys each year, body image is identified by young people as one of their top three stressors. Why?"

Our team worked hard on the speech and it resulted in an excellent performance. Overall, the day was fantastic. We learnt so much about mental health and how we can make an impact on our peers and support people with mental illnesses. Our school was chosen for the Organiser's Choice Award and St Ursula's Girls High School was chosen by the adjudicators as the overall winner. We are proud of our achievements and we received very positive feedback. Congratulations to the winning school! A special mention to Brianna C and Brendon L for

their support, and congratulations to Valandou C, Chloe T, and Tayanytah I, for their effort and fantastic delivery of the speech. We look forward to competing in this competition again next year!

-Brendon L and Valandou C



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

Wellbeing Committee Report

I am proud to acknowledge that the dedicated and motivated members of our wellbeing team have actively engaged in meetings and discussions to address key issues of concern across the school. The students have started discussing initiatives that we can implement following our school core values of **RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY** and **EXCELLENCE**.

We are working towards the annual White Ribbon Day which will take place on 23rd November. White Ribbon Day is a national day which acknowledges the importance of saying NO to violence against women and men. The day aims to educate students about the importance of empowering men and women to speak out against violence and have a collective united voice which helps spread the message that violence in any form is unacceptable.

We will have a formal assembly with presentations and a cake stall to raise funds for the cause.

Mrs Talevski
Wellbeing Coordinator

Wellbeing Team Report

GRC Peakhurst Wellbeing Team

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 Co-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) • 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 3 – a range of student wellbeing programs have commenced for selected students including the Year 7 Shine Program, the Year 7 Life Skills program, The Year 8 and 9 Own it program and the Year 8 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. Parents of participating students were invited to the Shine Graduation on Thursday 20th September.

The Year 7 Life Skills program is coordinated by youth/social workers from Riverwood Community Centre for a small group of Year 7 students each Wednesday morning and has focussed on budgeting, healthy relationships, mental health, self-esteem, stress management and the law.

The Own it Program is run by 3 Bridges Community – Hurstville each Tuesday morning for a Year 8/9 group of boys and Year 8/9 group of girls. The program allows participants to explore and challenge themselves to be leaders. The program aims to empower students to take responsibility for their behaviours, life choices, life circumstances and provides opportunities for them

to further develop leadership skills. For the final ‘Own It’ session of the Term, students attended the 3 Bridges Hurstville Youth Centre on Tuesday 18th September.

The Strength Program is a program designed for Year 8 and 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. Congratulations to the following students who were successful in the mid term 3 draw. They have each received a \$20 gift card of their choice.

- Year 7 – Liana G / Alivia B
- Year 8 – Camille U / Christian T
- Year 9 – Issam W / Nicholas T
- Year 10 – Zach N / Samantha B

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.

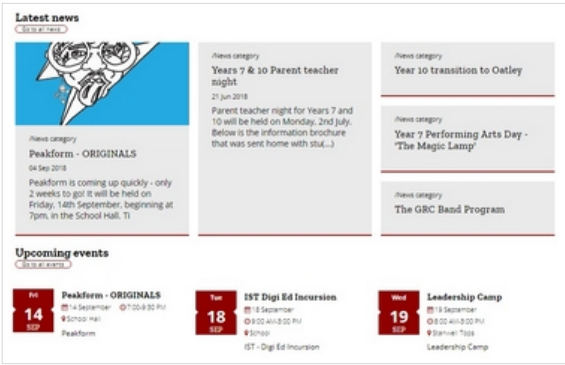
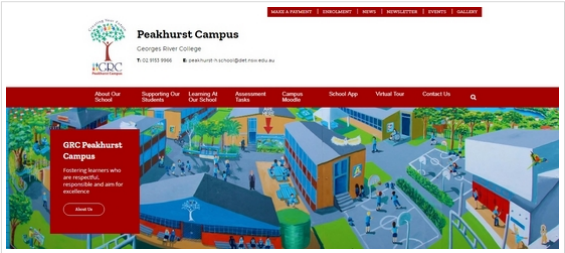
At GRC Peakhurst, student attendance is a high priority. We know that students who attend school regularly are more likely to be successful both academically and socially. Please refer to the attached flyer from the Department of Education in relation to Compulsory School Attendance.

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. Please find these articles attached for your information.

Mr Scott Wilson
Deputy Principal

Website

GRC Peakhurst is excited to unveil its new-look website. The website launched late last month and is now available with information on our school, latest news, upcoming events and assessment tasks available to download. Please take the time in the next few days to have browse and catch up on what is happening at our school.



Miss Stephanie Yates

Indigenous Education

A select group of Year 9 & 10 ATSI students were proud to be involved in a leadership workshop which was hosted by the AIME organisation in conjunction with Sydney University. The day involved a range of engaging activities and initiatives that were designed to promote confidence, self-esteem and self-efficacy skills amongst those involved.

The mentoring program is designed to use mentoring relationships between university student mentors and Indigenous high school students to create a culturally sensitive program which will increase school attendance and retention for Indigenous high school students and increase the number of Indigenous students progressing to University study.

Representative AIME mentors will be running follow up sessions each fortnight to compliment the leadership day.



Deadly Kids Awards

Congratulations to Sebastien N of Year 9 who was nominated for the Deadly Kids Award this year. This award recognises the achievement and successes of Indigenous students in the Sydney Region. Sebastien is a worthy nominee who has led a number of Indigenous initiatives here at GRC Peakhurst and also in the wider school community.

Well done Sebastien!

Ms Michelle Seinor
Aboriginal Educational Coordinator

Gifted and Talented Education News

Every month, GRC Peakhurst offers its students numerous opportunities to develop their critical thinking, oral communication and teamwork skills in a series of in-class and extracurricular activities designed to foster their educational growth. Each student is given myriad opportunities to enhance their literacy, numeracy and analytical skills in a range of exciting and innovative learning activities.

This month, students in Miss Osmond's 7R English class were afforded the opportunity to participate in a oztag based upon their close-study of Roald Dahl's autobiography, Boy. Students had to imaginatively explore and justify their belief that Dahl should have been found innocent or guilty for a serious crime detailed in the text.

Students displayed highly developed speaking skills to communicate their beliefs to their peers. They should be commended on their ongoing engagement with their academic development.



Mr Patrick Fisher
Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator

Primary Links

We're having a busy end to our Term 3 with the following Primary Schools participating in our annual Primary Links 'Taster' Program.

- Lugarno Public School
- Narwee Public School
- Peakhurst South Primary School
- Peakhurst West Primary School
- Penshurst West Primary School

The program sees students in years 4 and 5 from these local feeder schools participate in a variety of subjects to give them an insight into the content that they will study when they begin high school. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and

we'd like to give a special thanks to these Primary School students along with their teachers for taking the time to come and visit us. Further thanks also goes to the committed staff at GRC Peakhurst who have been running these lessons with the students, as well as our dedicated Year 7 SRC members, Cameron A, Isaia T, Teiya A, Olivia B and Chloe S, who have been a fantastic help in ensuring this program runs as smoothly as possible.



Giulia Testa and Stephanie Yates
Primary Links Co-ordinators

ACER Testing

Georges River College is continuing in its use of the ACER testing program which is designed to provide norm-referenced information to teachers about their students' skills and understandings in a range of key areas.

The tests are being conducted by all students in our school each year throughout late term 3 and early term 4. These exams are being used to inform teacher instruction and student learning, focusing on assessing and monitoring student growth over time as opposed to their regular topic and yearly tests. The information will also be used to guide class formations for the following year, subject selection and Learning Enhancement support. Year 10 student information will be used in our transition process to Oatley Senior College.

Year 6 and 7 testing have just been completed and years 8, 9 and 10 will be conducted in the next week and throughout next term

Ms Melody Smith.

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.

Michael S
Dean T
Matthew M
Dion V
Bailey R
Joshua Y
Katerina P

From the Office

WHAT TO DO WHEN ...

Absent from school

Give a note of explanation from your parent to the School Office, if your parent hasn't replied to the absence SMS, on the day of your return to school. If you are likely to be absent for several days, please ask your parent/carer to contact the School Office on (02) 9153 9966.

Late to school

You will not be permitted to class without a late note available from the Late Room (8:40 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.) or the School Office (after 9:00 a.m.) signed by the Deputy Principal. Bring a note from your parent to explain why you are late.

Late to class

If you have a legitimate reason for being late, ask the teacher you have been with for a late note which is to be written in your diary.

Wish to leave school during the day

You must have a note from your parent requesting to leave at a certain time. Present this note to the Deputy Principal for checking and then take it to the School Office before school and collect a leave pass which is to be shown to your class teacher at the time of departure. If you wish to leave early on Wednesday, you must have the letter from your parent/carer signed by both a Deputy Principal and the Sports Coordinator. Students without leave passes may not leave the school grounds until the Principal or Deputy Principal seeks permission from your parent.

Lost property

Check at the School Office. Please ensure all personal items are clearly labelled with your name.

Feeling sick

Tell your teacher, who will write a note in your diary, to report to the School Office. If injured in the playground, report to the School Office for assistance. The school will ring your parents. Students are not to contact their parents directly.

Change of address or phone number

Please notify the School Office immediately.

Phone calls

See the School Office staff. You must not use your mobile phone.

Toilets

Students require a teacher's permission if they need to use the toilet at times other than during scheduled breaks. Permission must be noted in your diary and the diary must then be brought with you to the School Office.