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9 March 2018

## From the Principal

Welcome to the start of the 2018 academic year at GRC Peakhurst Campus. This year promises to be another exciting and productive journey for all our students as they immerse themselves in all the learning opportunities, in and beyond the classrooms, under the care and guidance of their dedicated teachers. The multitude of learning opportunities will allow our students to thrive and develop in the journey of lifelong learning.

Our highest priority as a school learning community is to ensure the wellbeing of all students and to constantly monitor the learning progression of all students. As a staff, we promote a positive educational psychology with a strong emphasis on growth mindsets. This staff culture of growth mindsets is evident in the teaching of our students. The emphasis is on learning to embrace challenges, always striving to achieve one's personal best, practising empathy and self-compassion, viewing learning as a journey, learning from errors and feedback, being inspired by other people's successes, helping others and believing in possibilities. Students are encouraged and supported in making a conscious effort to keep learning and having fun at school throughout the year. The teaching staff will continue to support and mentor our students as they *learn to know, learn to do, learn to live together and with others and learn to be!*

Congratulations to every member of our staff, students and parents who were instrumental in showcasing our school to the wider community during our 2019 Open Night promotion on Monday 26th February 2018. The evening was an outstanding success and the feedback from prospective students and parents was very complimentary, overwhelmingly positive and very encouraging. The large number of people expressing interest in our school is an acknowledgement by the wider community that our work is being recognised and valued. The commitment and dedication of our staff was evident during the respective faculty presentations and our students were shining examples in the promotion of a school where people thrive within a positive growth culture of wellbeing and learning.

In 2018, we welcome several new staff members to our team. Their collective educational experiences, individual skill sets and professional energy will enrich and grow the existing talent-pool of teaching practitioners within our team. Our newly appointed Deputy Principal, Ms Kim Osbourne, is a dynamic educational and instructional leader. Her leadership and professional practices include exemplary skills in the domain of pedagogical knowledge and application of quality teaching and learning practices. Ms Osborne's outstanding instructional leadership will ensure the provision of high quality professional learning for staff.

The combined expertise of Deputy Principals, Mr Scott Wilson and Ms Kim Osbourne, will ensure the development and support of excellence in teacher practice to ensure student excellence in learning and wellbeing. Their leadership and professional knowledge within the organisational, strategic and educational domains will be instrumental in leading and collaboratively working with the school executive leadership team to support school excellence. Also, we welcome to our team: Daniela Tavares & Sam Ahmed (Maths); Brenda Taianoni & Teresa Badassare (Science); Stephanie Schenk & Angelo Sallis (HSIE); Fotini Sklavounos (TAS) and Mariam Haidar (CAPA).

Our school is currently entering another exciting new phase of forward planning – as outlined by the Department of Education. This new phase of school planning will require all stakeholders (staff, students, parents & community partners) within the school community to contribute in the process of developing the vision, purpose and the strategic directions for the school during the 2018 – 2020 academic years. The purpose of this approach to school planning is to enable our school leaders to engage all the stakeholders within our school community in professional and meaningful conversations about the future educational directions and strategies of our school.

This planning process will be using strategic, capacity-building and future-focused planning to develop key priority focus areas for our school. These key educational priorities will inspire our stakeholders and set the future direction for our school community.

Our school has commenced the process of thinking, writing and conducting preliminary discussions regarding vision statements relating to educational priorities. These processes have been used in building upon the existing 2015 -2017 school plan and working towards the development of the 2018-2020 school plan by encouraging positive contributions and constructive feedback from all stakeholders within the entire school community. Our executive leadership team – after consultation with select school stakeholders – have composed and developed three key strategic directions for the school. These school strategic directions will be further developed through extensive consultation with staff, parents and students within select forums. During Term 1 of this school year, the senior executive team have been conducting information forums to further discuss the progress of this particular process of school planning.

Finally, congratulations to our newly elected 2018 student school captains. The student leadership team comprises of:

**School Captains:** Jeremy H & Vollandou C

**School Vice-Captains:** Dimitri E & Andee H

This is a wonderful opportunity of our newly elected student representative team to learn about solution-focused problem-solving and decision-making as they contribute towards the school spirit in a positive and meaningful manner. They have already demonstrated exceptional interpersonal skills when working with the entire student body and school staff. We wish them all the very best as they commence their journey in leading our students and representing our school. We are very confident that our entire Student Representative Council will positively contribute to the school at all times and will represent our school with pride and distinction in the wider community.

We are very excited and looking forward to a productive, uplifting and rewarding 2018 school year. A year in which everyone works together with a unified vision and the sharing of common goals that will enable everyone to achieve their potential.

Give it your best and keep smiling!

**Terry Vallis**  
**Principal**

## Deputies' Report

Welcome to 2018. In particular, we would like to welcome the new parents to our school, especially our Year 7 parents. We trust that over the next four years, we can develop a positive relationship with you to ensure the best learning outcomes for your child are achieved.

We have had some fantastic school community events with our students' impressive sporting skills and enthusiastic house spirit demonstrated at the swimming carnival and our staff and students' genuine school pride showcased at a very successful Open Night. The school community events will continue with our **Year 7 Meet the Teacher Evening** held on **Tuesday 13th March**, from **5:00 - 6.30pm**. This will be held outside the school hall and will include a sausage sizzle and informal discussion with staff. We hope that you take this opportunity to meet with your child's teachers and gain valuable insight into how we will

assist your child to achieve their personal best. Year 7 Progress Reports will also be distributed to parents on the night.

Positive Behaviour for Learning, known as PBL, is an integral part of Georges River College Peakhurst Campus. Through consultation with staff, parents, students and the wider community, a set of values has been developed and agreed upon that underpin the day to day operations of our school. We value, **Respect, Responsibility and Excellence** at GRC Peakhurst. We encourage parents to discuss these values with their children. Specific information regarding our values and expectations can be found in student diaries, on the school website and through a whole series of new signage across our school environment. By sending your child to Georges River College Peakhurst Campus, you should be aware that we are a uniform school. 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.

All year groups have now been provided with their **2018 Assessment Guide**. This guide contains important and valuable information on assessment procedures and outlines specific assessment tasks for each subject area. Parents are requested to read the additional assessment procedures leaflet, sign and return it to your child's year adviser as soon as possible. The assessment guides are also available on the school website. In addition to the assessment tasks and **homework** activities, students are expected to engage in independent learning (see description and suggested examples below), to consolidate what has been learnt during lessons at school. Suggested times for homework each night is:

- **Year 7** – One hour
- **Year 8** – One hour
- **Year 9** – One and a half hours
- **Year 10** – Two hours or more

### HOMEWORK AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Some students take a long time to realise that there are actually two types of work in secondary school. There is the obvious work, the work your teacher specifically tells you to do and that is compulsory such as homework, working on assignments, preparing for tests and assessments. Students who get good results in school take a larger measure of **responsibility** for their learning. This means that the nights where they do not have much compulsory work, they also do independent learning. These are the additional things you do, if you have no other schoolwork to do that night, to improve your understanding of your subjects. It is what students who achieve sound to outstanding marks are doing, they are just not talking about it to their friends.

Examples of independent learning:

- Reading
- Reviewing what you have been learning at school that week
- Extra practise on questions you find hard

- Research on an area you are interested in learning more about
- Making a mind map about what you have been learning
- Making study notes on a topic
- Improving your touch typing skills
- Reading ahead in your textbook
- Doing work from a different textbook or study guide for one of your subjects (check the school library, local library and bookshops).

Some nights you will not have time to do any independent learning. Other nights you will have no homework and will spend the whole time allocated to schoolwork for that night working on independent learning tasks. Your teacher may even give you a sheet that has suggestions of independent learning work for that subject. If you are unsure, you can always ask. This means in secondary school you can never say 'I have nothing to do' – this really just means 'I have nothing compulsory to do at the moment!'

To support our students with their assessment tasks and homework, a **Homework Centre** operates each Monday and Tuesday afternoon in the School Library from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. We encourage parents to remind their child/children of this excellent resource.

We look forward to working with you and your children this year and invite you to contact the Year Advisor or the Deputy Principals if you have any concerns.

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

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

## Year 7 Student Advisor Report

### Welcome

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Year 7 students and their families. Year 7 students have enjoyed a busy start to the term and they have quickly adapted to the life of a high school student. Their mature and organised approach thus far must be commended. They are encouraged to keep up the great work as we continue into the back half of what is set to be an equally eventful Term 1.

### Meet the Teacher BBQ

The Year 7 'Meet the Teacher BBQ' will be taking place on the **13th March** outside the school hall, starting at 5pm. It is an informal evening that will allow families and staff to liaise and establish supports network that will continue through your child's years at GRC Peakhurst Campus. Please ensure you RSVP to the event to allow organisers to cater for the afternoon.

### School App & Website

I strongly encourage all Year 7 families to download the school app. This is an excellent tool to keep you informed about upcoming events. Furthermore, the school's website is also

a valuable tool to find information about student assessment tasks.

### School Diary

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

### Verbal Combat

Verbal Combat is an innovative play about cyber bullying and harassment and they will be visiting our school on **Friday 23rd March**. Please ensure your child has paid their \$6.00 to the front office no later than this date. It coincides with a unit of work being completed in PDHPE which assist students in building knowledge about being cyber smart and safe. The play is considered compulsory for all Year 7 students.



### School Cross Country Carnival

The annual school cross country carnival is held on **Monday 26th March**. This is one of the three whole school carnivals that is held throughout the year and will allow Year 7 students the chance to qualify and compete at zone level. Students are asked to listen for further details closer to the date.

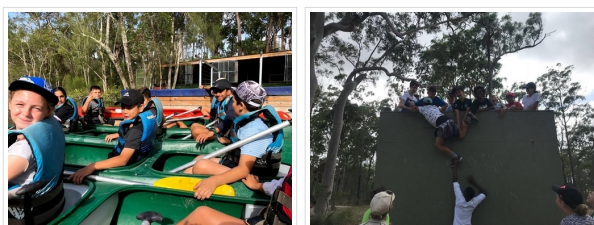
### Year 7 Camp

Our campers have returned from a busy 3 days at the *Great Aussie Bush Camp – Tea Gardens*. It was fantastic to see our student building relationships and stepping outside of their comfort zones as they completed a number of exciting activities across the duration of camp. I would like to extend a massive thank you to the Year 10 SRC students who attended camp and assisted in team building activities across the 3 days. Furthermore, I would like to extend my gratitude to the teachers who also offered up their time to attend camp. Without their support, the camp simply couldn't run.

The behaviour of all students was excellent across the duration of camp. The camp instructors were delighted by the respect shown by many of our students.

A number of items were left behind at camp, including sleeping bags, torches and clothes. If your child is missing an item of equipment, please see Mr Morley in the PDHPE staffroom to collect.





Finally, if there are any concerns or issues that need to be addressed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards

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

## Year 8 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to our Year 8 students. I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing break with your family and are focused and motivated for a new year ahead.

Year 8 is well into their units of work across all KLA's. It is important that students are organised and prepared for all their work in their respected subjects. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to help students with their organisation by:

- Asking to see your child's diary regularly
- Checking that diary entries are being made and followed up
- Asking your child to explain what their next assignment is about
- Helping them plan their use of time
- Encouraging a regular place and time to do homework

## CYBERIA

On Thursday the 3rd of May during period 1, Year 8 will be viewing the drama performance 'Cyberia' in the school hall. 'Cyberia' is a play about cyber bullying and harassment which was designed with the intention to promote discussion and understanding around the topic. The performance is an entertaining investigation into the pitfalls of technology including cyber bullying at school, stress, lack of privacy and de-sensitisation.

All Year 8 students should have received an information note regarding the production. If any student has not received the note, they need to see Mr Haydar. There is also a copy of the note on the school website. The cost of the production is \$6.00 per student. Students are required to pay the sum of \$6.00 to the front office no later than Monday the 30th of April 2018.

Students do NOT need to return the information sheet to school.

## ATTENDANCE

It is imperative that your child attends school and is on time. Please make sure that your child has a note signed and brought back to school on the return of their absence.

Finally, if there is a welfare concern or issue that needs to be addressed, please do not hesitate to contact me. Students can locate me in the PDHPE Staffroom located in the school hall.

Have a great and productive Term 1!

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

## Year 9 Student Advisor Report

Welcome Year 9 to 2018.

It is going to be a very busy year with many changes.

## Stage 5 and ROSA- Record of School Achievement

In Year 9 students begin studying their elective subjects in addition to the core subjects.

Stage 5 begins in Year 9 and ends in Year 10 with the attainment of the ROSA- Record of school Achievement.

As students begin the new stage they will need to be aware of the requirements for each subject. If any student has any questions about what is expected, they should ask their teachers or Head Teacher of the subject area.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Be organised.
2. Use your school diary for organisation or recording important information or communication.
3. Ensure you have all the necessary equipment for each subject.
4. Download the school app and update the notifications to alert you as needed for assessment tasks, events and important information.
5. Assessment notifications are available on the school website for each subject and are uploaded as they distributed to students.
6. Ask for help as you need it from your teachers.
7. Utilise the homework centre which operates on Monday and Tuesday afternoons between 3.05-4.00 pm in the library. Ms Diamond in the HSIE faculty is in charge of the centre and you can see her if you need information.
8. Establish a study routine early and revise coursework regularly, read different texts and ensure that assessment tasks are started early within the two week period before the due date.

## NAPLAN 2018

NAPLAN will take place during May 2018 and students will be advised of the exact dates.

Preparation can also be done at home by accessing the ACARA website which has 2008-2011 past papers and the NAPLAN website to see examples of past papers and responses.



## Websites

<http://www.naplan.com.au>

<http://www.acara.com.au>

## ASSESSMENT TASK BOOKLETS

All students have received the Assessment Task booklet which outlines the assessment tasks and approximate time frame of each task for each subject.

Parents need to sign the notification that they have received with the booklet and return the signed note to Mrs Talevski in the English staffroom.

Have a great start to 2018!

**Ms Alice Talevski**  
**Year 9 Advisor**

## Year 10 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back and a special welcome to our new Year 10 students and their families. I hope you all had a relaxing break and are ready for a productive and enjoyable year ahead.

Year 10 has settled into the new year and are working well across the KLA's and their elective subjects. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to help students with their organisation at home by:

- Asking to see your child's diary regularly
- Checking that diary entries are being made and followed up
- Asking your child to explain what their next assignment is about
- Helping them plan their use of time
- Encouraging a regular place and time to do homework

## Assessment Procedures

All Year 10 students should have received a Guide to Year 10 Assessment Booklet, which includes information about the ROSA (Record of School Achievement) with an accompanying note. This note needs to be read and signed by both students and their parent/carer, and then returned to me ASAP. Students are to see me if they have misplaced their note and need a new one or if they have not received a booklet.

## Wired

On Tuesday 20th March during period 5, Year 10 students will be viewing a Drama performance by Brainstorm Productions titled 'Wired' in the school hall. 'Wired' is a play that addresses student mental health and emotional wellbeing, including the physiology, causes and effects of stress, anxiety and depression. The play aims to raise awareness of mental health in adolescents and build greater resilience and mental wellbeing in young people.

After the play, there will be a question and answer debrief with the students to discuss the issues the play has raised in an informal, friendly and open format.

All Year 10 students should have received an information note regarding the production. If any student does not have a note, they need to see Miss Picone. There is also a copy of the note on the school website. The cost of the production is \$6.00 per student. Students are required to pay the sum of **\$6.00** to the front office no later than Thursday 15th March 2018.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this upcoming performance, please do not hesitate to call me.

## Attendance

It is imperative that your child attends school and is on time. Please make sure that your child has a note signed and brought back to school on the return of their absence.

Finally, if there is a welfare concern or issue that needs to be addressed, please do not hesitate to contact me. Students can locate me in the Special Education Staffroom in F-Block.

Happy learning!

**Ms Julia Picone**  
**Year 10 Advisor**

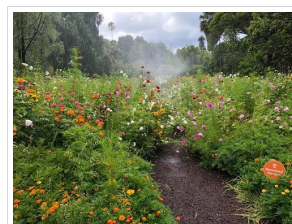
## FACULTY NEWS

### CAPA

The CAPA department started 2018 with lots of new and exciting news, especially concerning **staffing**.

We celebrate the permanent appointment of Scott Page as a full time permanent Music teacher and we welcome Mariam Haidar as a fulltime contracted Visual Arts Teacher for the year in our expanding KLA.

We have already run an excursion with Year 9 and 10 Visual Arts students to the Art Gallery of New South Wales to overview its collection. After which we had lunch and a walk through the Royal Botanical Gardens and a stroll around Circular Quay to arrive at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) to see Pipilotti Rist's exhibition of projected works. The excursion was a great success and enjoyed by teachers and students alike.



We are moving rapidly toward our Performing Arts Day, with Excerpts from Aladdin. We have had our first Parent Helper Meeting and we are now eager to hear from more parents who can help to run our Aladdin day. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th March at 6:30pm, squeezed in between the meet the teacher BBQ and the P & C meeting, (so everyone only has to come to school once).

The performing arts day will begin with set up at 9am for helpers, the performance runs from recess to lunch time (11:00am – 12:30pm approximately) with dance, drama and a stage design parade with props and music. More information will be given out at the meeting.

New music tutoring is being set up with many exciting new groups being formed including Rock Band, R&B ensemble and Jazz ensemble.

Concert Band is undergoing changes, moving its rehearsals to Tuesdays and trialing a new tutoring system.

With continuing welfare initiatives in the care of Visual Arts teacher Michelle Walton and new programs being undertaken by Aboriginal coordinator Michelle Seinor, who is also a Visual Arts teacher on the CAPA staff, there is never a dull moment.



This busy and talented team looks forward to an excellent year with students and their guardians at GRC Peakhurst.

## Music

Last year was a bumper year for our Music Students here at GRC Peakhurst Campus. We sent five acts to audition as featured artists for the 2017 Schools Spectacular. We had the honor of two of our students being accepted as featured artists for the 2017 show, a result normally seen in the premier Performing Arts Schools in the State.

Numi Tugaga and James Polutele performed to 120,000 people at the Qudos Bank Arena over four amazing shows and to an estimated television audience of over 1.2 million people. If you were not aware, the Schools Spectacular is a large scale contemporary variety show operated by the NSW Department of Education's Arts Unit. The Schools Spectacular has launched the careers of many Australian Artists.

This year we are planning to put forward more of our outstanding GRC Peakhurst talent. We will be videoing and recording our students in a local studio to give them the best opportunity to present well for their audition.

## 2107 CAPA Camp

In the final week of School last year we hosted a two day CAPA Camp at The Tops Conference Centre. The camp was attended by over 200 students from across the College. Students enjoyed some amazing practical learning sessions in Visual Arts, Music and Drama from our guest presenters and our own GRC staff, as well as some fun outdoor activities and the opportunity to make friends with students from the other campuses.

## Elective Music 2018

We are excited to have more students studying Music than ever before. This year see's two Year 9 elective classes, with a large percentage of this very talented year group deciding to pursue their musical studies. Currently Year 9 is involved in studying Jazz music during this first term. The students will be learning how to compose songs, enhance their performance skills and develop their musical ear, all in the context of building their musical literacy. Later this year, both Years 9 and 10 will get to

visit a recording studio to experience how the Music Industry works and to record their own original songs.

## Peakform 2018

Our Schools premier music event, Peakform is now in the advanced planning stages and is looking to be the best show ever. Our goal is to present original material from our student songwriters, alongside songs from artists who started a new musical trend and some of the popular chart songs of today. The show will be held in September and tickets will be available at the beginning of Term 2.

## The new GRC Band Program

Our GRC Band Program has been operating for a number of years and this year we have decided to partner with an experienced company YULE MUSIC to assist us to grow the band and further develop the skills of our students. Earlier this term, Andy Yule from Yule Music, came and presented to all of our Year 7, 8 and Elective Music students. Yule Music has successfully operated band programs for a number of years in both Primary and High School settings. We are looking forward to a great year ahead for the Concert Band. We plan to be involved in the Engadine Bandfest, Education Week performances at local venues and concerts for some of our local Primary Schools.

The new GRC Concert Band will now rehearse on a Tuesday after school from 3.30pm till 5.00pm. The program will consist of a 30 minute tutorial session for each section of the band followed by a 60 minute rehearsal.

Our new program will be operated by the YULE Music Team and supervised by the Band Director, Mr David Reidy.

Please take a look at the Yule Music website and Book your place in the band program. Go to the link below and click on Band Programs/Tuition then select GRC. Fill in the online form and come along on any Tuesday to the rehearsal.

<https://www.yulemusic.com.au/>

Further enquiries can be made to Mr Reidy in the CAPA staffroom.

## Music Tutorials

Private and small group instrumental and vocal tutoring is available here at GRC Peakhurst Campus. The program caters for a vast array of instruments and levels of ability, giving students the opportunity to further develop their skills and passion for music. Students are withdrawn from regular classes for 30 minutes once a week for 7 weeks of the term.

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENT HIRE

In conjunction with the music tutoring program, students are able to hire a vast array of band and orchestral instruments. Many of these instruments are beyond the budget of most families and are available for an affordable rental fee. If our school does not have the instruments your child wants, then our partners Yule Music have a hire/purchase scheme available for our students.

## CAMPUS PERFORMANCE GROUPS

This year we are operating several campus based performance groups. Students can fill out an expression of interest form and return it to the CAPA Staffroom at any time. Rehearsal Start dates and times will be posted on the School Website and on posters around the school.

### The Vocal Ensemble

This group is led by Mr Reidy and Simone Waddell our Peakhurst Vocal Coach. If any student loves singing and wants to be involved in events such as Education Week Performances, Schools Spectacular and Peakform, then they should get involved in this great ensemble.

### Drummers Group

Our Drummers Group is an opportunity for both boys and girls to play some exciting modern songs, alongside some more traditional cultural styles. This group will be led by our new drum tutor Willem Van Ekert.

### Guitar Group

The guitar group is designed for players of all different levels to be involved. Whether a student is a beginner or more advanced player, they should join this fun group. This group will be led by Mr Reidy and our Guitar Tutor.

### The Rock Band

Our Rock Band will be led by Mr Page and will focus on Rock songs across the contemporary music era.

### The R&B Ensemble

Our R&B Ensemble will be led by Mr Page and will focus on classic and contemporary Rhythm and Blues material.

### The Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble will focus on a wide variety of Jazz styles and will be led by Mr Page.

### The GRC Concert Band

This is a College Wide Band for students from Years 7 to 12, across all four Campuses of our College. The Concert Band will be led by Mr Reidy and the YULE Music Team. Concert Band rehearses Tuesday afternoons after school from 3.30pm-5.00pm.

### The GRC Stage Band

This is a College Wide Band drawing for students from Years 7 to 12, across all four Campuses of our College. (Auditions for this band are required). The Stage Band will be led by Ms. Angela Pryce (Head Teacher CAPA, Oatley Senior Campus), supported by Mr Reidy and the YULE Music Team. The Stage Band rehearses on Wednesday afternoons at the Oatley Senior Campus.

### The String and Orchestral Ensemble

This musical ensemble will be led by our violin tutor Ms Pham. This group is open to any student who plays a string or orchestral instrument. This group is suitable for beginners to

advanced players and will be rehearsing on Thursday mornings before school (7:40am-8:40am)

## NOTICE FROM CAPA

### Can I get rid of that?!

Feeling the need to do some spring cleaning early? If so, please consider donating some of your common household items to the art room! We will use any of these materials for actual art projects or for art storage.

- Magazines (for collages)
- Plastic Containers washed (butter, sour cream, yoghurt etc)
- Old Wallpaper Books
- Design books
- Newspapers
- Coloured paper
- Wrapping paper
- That old dinosaur DIGITAL CAMERAS or SLR CAMERAS that still works but is terribly outdated...for our stop motion animation project and PDM classes

All of these items can be given to your child to give to the art department or simply leave in a bag at the front office.

**Ms Michelle Walton**  
**CAPA Teacher**

## Dance

Our GRC Peakhurst Campus Dance Groups has represented our school proudly over the past years, performing and competing at a variety of events. The performances and competitions we have featured in have included: Ultimo Dance Festival Series, Schools Spectacular, Sydney Eisteddfod, School Aerobics Championships and Dance Star Championships. Through our success at such events, we have had the opportunity to travel interstate to Victoria, South Australia and Queensland to represent our school at a national level. In 2016, GRC Peakhurst Campus was ranked third in Australia in contemporary dance at the Dance Star Championships held on the Gold Coast, Queensland. This year, we are thrilled to announce that we have 3 extra-curricular dance groups.

**Congratulations to the following students who were successful in their audition for our 2018 Dance Company:**

Jordyn B, Ally C, Tayanytah I, Alex L, Giselle L, Natalie M, Karina R, Victoria R, Lauren V, Grace W.

**Congratulations to the following students who were successful in their audition for our 2018 Dance Ensemble:**

Keira A, Danielle E, Liana G, Isabella L, Emma M, Georga M, Indiana M, Chloe S, Georgia S, Jessica S, Kiahna K, Zac S.



## **Congratulations to the following students who were successful in their audition for our 2018 Dance Performance Group:**

### **Performance Group:**

Olivia B, Olivia G, Joy H, Annabelle H, Jascinta J, Christina K, Bigue M, Anastacia M, Bindi M, Indiah R, Zoey R, Kaitlynn S, Amy Y.

We wish our groups luck in their preparation for their item, as well as preparing for the 2018 Schools Spectacular auditions later in the term. We know that our students will represent our school and college with pride throughout 2018.

### **Miss Mardi Crammond Dance Coordinator**

## **English**

The teachers on the English faculty include: Ms A. Talevski, Ms K. Eleos, Ms L. Osmond, Ms L. Dunstan, Mr P. Fisher, Mr P. Tracy, Ms K. Nguyen (EAL/D), Ms M. Lam (EAL/D) and Mr N. Zouroudis.

Teachers responsible for co-ordinating the English courses and programs for Years 7 to 10 include:

Year 7 English - Ms L. Osmond

Year 8 English - Ms K. Eleos

Year 9 English - Mr L. Dunstan

Year 10 English - Ms A. Talevski

EAL/D - Ms K. Nguyen and Ms M. Lam (EAL/D - English as an Additional Language or Dialect)

### **Debating & Public**

Speaking - Ms L. Osmond, Ms L. Dunstan and Mr P. Fisher

Head Teacher - Mr N. Zouroudis

The English faculty works very closely with Ms K. Nguyen and Ms M. Lam who are the school's EAL/D teachers. Ms K. Nguyen is an experienced EAL/D teacher who works closely with all EAL/D and international students. Ms M. Lam also teaches EAL/D students as well as teaching Japanese language classes. Our EAL/D teachers work collaboratively in a team teaching environment, and provide assistance in individual and small group settings.

The various members of the English staff offer a diverse range of experience as well as immense enthusiasm to their roles as English teachers. Mr P. Fisher taught at Menai High School prior to his appointment at GRC Peakhurst and is currently involved in cross-campus teaching at GRC Oatley Senior Campus. Ms L. Osmond taught at GRC Oatley Campus as well as GRC Peakhurst Campus. Mr P. Fisher and Ms L. Osmond recently marked the extended writing response for NAPLAN and their experience has been shared with the entire faculty. Ms L. Dunstan also taught at GRC Oatley prior to teaching at GRC Peakhurst. Ms A. Talevski, Ms K. Eleos and Mr N. Zouroudis bring a wealth of experience to the faculty having taught Years 7 to 12 at their previous schools, including extensive experience in marking School Certificate and HSC English.

The faculty offers Debating and Public Speaking as extra-curricular activities. The teachers responsible for selecting, training and managing these teams are Ms L.

Osmond, Ms L. Dunstan and Mr P. Fisher. In recent years, the school has achieved great success in debating, highlighted by the success of the Junior and Senior Debating teams that were Zone Champions in 2017 and the immense achievement of the Junior team in 2016 which competed in the Sydney Regional Final for the Premier's Debating Challenge.

The English Faculty focuses on offering a differentiated curriculum which meets the needs of the diverse students in the school. In Year 7, there is a renewed focus on text types, grammar and punctuation as well as extensive reading within the coursework and through the Home Reading and Homework programs. In Year 8, student conceptual understanding and literacy skills are extended through close study of a diverse range of literature and media. In Year 9, Stage 5 concepts are introduced and extended upon in Year 10. In Year 10, the focus is on completing Stage 5 work but also on preparing students for Preliminary and HSC studies in English.

The faculty encourages and promotes wide reading for Years 7 to 10. The expectation is that students read for thirty minutes during the weeknights. Recently, the school has invested in purchasing new texts that will be available in the library for borrowing. To support the wide reading program, there will be competitions held for each of the Year groups that will involve them in creating imaginative and critical responses to the texts.

If parents or guardians have any questions regarding their child's progress in English, they should contact the school and speak to their child's English teacher.

### **Mr Nick Zouroudis Head Teacher English**

## **HSIE**

The H.S.I.E faculty welcomes all students and caregivers to a new academic year.

The faculty itself has seen a number of changes for 2018, with the arrival of Ms S. Schenk, Ms D. Cvijetic and Mr A. Sallis to the H.S.I.E. team. Ms H. Diamond has returned to her usual position as the Head Teacher of the Department. Mr A. Sarandos and Ms M. Hamilton, existing, talented members of staff, make up the rest of the H.S.I.E. faculty.

A key component of all H.S.I.E courses is the development of:

- A social and ethical understanding of past, current and future issues,
- An understanding and awareness of the perspectives of Indigenous Cultures,
- Communication skills when using technology
- Literacy and numeracy skills,
- Thorough and discerning research skills,
- Independent, group learning and problem-solving skills.

H.S.I.E. or the Human Society and Its Environment department, teaches History and Geography courses to all students from Year 7 to Year 10. In addition, the faculty also offers Commerce and History Elective to Year 9 and 10 students as one of their elective choices.

With the adoption of the NSW History and Geography version of the Australian Curriculum, students of History follow a continuum from prehistoric and ancient times in Year 7 through to the Medieval Western and Islamic World in Year 8. Other societies such as the development of civilisation in Ancient China, Medieval Japan and the collapse of Aztec society are also covered during Year 7 and 8.

Year 9 and Year 10, focusing upon modern Australia, begins with the growth of nations, the Industrial Revolution and the period prior to the First World War. Students are encouraged to gain an understanding of the causes and nature of the war with a focus study on the campaigns involving the ANZAC soldiers. Following this continuum, the Great Depression and 1930s are also addressed after launching into a detailed study into World War II. Students complete Year 9 with a brief look at the Holocaust and the treatment of different cultural and ethnic groups under the Nazi regime.

Year 10 History begins with the establishment of the United Nations and the events concerning the Cold War and our increasing solidarity with the U.S.A. Students also undertake a depth study into the changing lives, and government policies relating to Indigenous people, including a focus on the Stolen Generation and a comparison with civil rights movement in the U.S.A. Other focus areas include Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, Changing Technologies and Popular Culture.

Year 7 Geography focuses upon the key depth studies of Landscapes and Landforms, and Place and Liveability. Year 8 sees students undertaking the core topics of Water and the World, and Interconnections. Like all other Geography courses, geographical skills are embedded within topics. This evolved way of teaching skills allows for students to apply their knowledge and understanding at a practical level.

As students move into Year 9, they undertake studies into Sustainable Biomes and Changing Places. Studies in Year 10 progress through a topic on Environmental Change and Management. This topic, with its coastal areas focus study, will see the year group undertaking a mandatory fieldwork excursion to the Bate Bay area in the Sutherland Shire in late March. Studies in Geography culminate with a depth topic called Human Wellbeing, including comparisons with Australian society and that of other countries

Geography assists students to develop an awareness of local, state and national issues, students will foster a greater awareness and understanding of issues currently impacting upon life at a global level.

Commerce is offered as an elective subject to students of Year 9 and 10. Throughout the two years, students study a range of useful and practical topics relating to Business, Government, Law and Consumer Finance.

Year 9 begins with an introductory unit on Spending. Next, students undertake a depth study on Consumer Choice and Personal Finance. During this year, students also undertake a Money Stuff group project and participate in the ASX Share market game. Following this theme, students then complete a topic on Promoting and Selling. The final topic in Year 9, Law and Society, provides a foundation for Year 10 studies.

Year 10 Commerce begins with a key topic called Law in Action. Following on from this, students undertake a unit on Government, including mock elections and a mandatory excursion to the Police and Justice Museum, and NSW State Parliament mid-way through the year.

The H.S.I.E department also offers students from Year 9 and 10 the option of studying an additional History course as an elective. In Year 9, History Elective begins with an introductory unit on Constructing History. While studying this unit, students undertake a personal research project on an archaeological site of their choice. In late March, the class will spend an exciting day at the The Rocks area of Sydney. This guided excursion allows students to explore the remains of Australia's earliest place of European settlement.

In Term 2, students learn about the rise of Hitler and Life in Nazi Germany. This includes a critical review of the use of film in providing historical information. The class also undertakes an excursion to the Sydney Jewish Museum, where students have the chance to hear a lecture by a survivor of the Holocaust.

The next unit involves a topic entitled Heroes and Villains. Students are given the opportunity to present their research to prove that their chosen individual was the 'Greatest Villain (or Hero) in History'. The final topic in Year 9 includes a unit on the reign, legacy and wives of Henry VIII.

Year 10 History spends the first term learning about Crime and Punishment from ancient to modern times. This thematic unit looks into various aspects such as Changing Attitudes to Crime and Their Punishments, Torture, Witchcraft, Prisons, Treatment of Mental Illness and Organised Crime.

The next topic involves a study into the life of John F. Kennedy and his subsequent assassination. After studying an overview of the events leading up to and during this significant event, students are given the task of weighing up the evidence, and the potential groups and/or individuals who may have been partly or solely responsible for the assassination.

The next major topic includes a study into the History and Archaeology of the Pacific, with particular focus on the destruction of the civilisation on Easter Island. This unit on environmental history uses the case study as an example of the consequences of negligent resource use and environmental damage.

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

□

## Mathematics & Computing

This year, we have a total of eight teachers in the Mathematics and Computing Faculty:

- Mrs C. Keir (Head Teacher Mathematics/Computing),
- Mr D. Smithard (Relieving Head Teacher / Year 8 Mathematics Coordinator)
- Mr N. Fomin (Year 7 Mathematics Coordinator)
- Ms D. Tavares (Year 9 Mathematics Coordinator)
- Mr K. Williams (Year 10 Mathematics Coordinator)

- Ms M. Lam
- Mr S. Kostas



Our team of teachers are dedicated to bridging the gap in students' understanding and application of mathematical concepts learnt whilst raising the bar in terms of student achievement and successes. We are enthusiastic about utilising innovative technology which meet the diverse learning needs of our students for the use of skills developed in the areas of literacy, numeracy and technology beyond the classroom.

We all look forward to working closely with you and your child this year and to continue strengthening the partnership between school and home.

## Curriculum Newsletters and Assessment

The Mathematics Faculty Curriculum Newsletter will continue to be published this year via the school website to assist parents/carers in further supporting their children by keeping them up to date with the course content being delivered. Parents/carers are encouraged to closely monitor the completion of homework and assigned work in preparation for assessment tasks (as outlined in the assessment booklets) over the course of the year. Please note that all assessment task notifications will be uploaded to the school website and a push notification alert will be sent via the school app.

This year, homework and class tasks will contribute to students' overall assessment for all year groups. All students will have homework assigned (via booklets and online tasks) as a part of their ongoing assessment throughout the year. In addition to being expected to actively participate during lessons, students are advised to regularly attempt, complete and submit all homework tasks to consolidate what is learnt during lessons, bridge any gaps in their knowledge and fulfil all assessment requirements.

## Study Tips

Systematic study and revision is an essential component necessary when aiming for excellence in Mathematics. Students are advised to develop a structured study schedule to provide them with planned sessions to regularly review course content.

A hardcopy of the study tips and strategies, included in this newsletter, has been distributed to all students to guide them in their preparation for examinations and assigned tasks. Please take the time to read through these strategies and action some of the suggestions so as to support students as they strive to

build upon previous concepts necessary to learn new concepts being introduced.

Students who continue to find course content too difficult are advised to speak with their classroom teacher as soon as possible, so that additional support can be provided. Students are also encouraged to attend the Homework Centre on Monday and/or Tuesday afternoons in the School Library for additional assistance.

## Mathletics

Mathletics is an interactive online computer resource which the Mathematics Faculty has been incorporating into teaching, homework and assessment programs for several years. Regular use of this online tool has proven to help students consolidate content taught during lessons, revise content at home in preparation for examinations and receive assistance at any time, using the support button, when struggling with specific concepts. Students who do not have access to the Internet at home may use the School Library during recess and lunch or when attending the Homework Centre on Monday and/or Tuesday afternoons. Alternatively, students may arrange a time with their class teacher to use the D 1.04 computer lab. The cost of this valuable resource remains at \$10 per student per year. If you have not already done so this year, please arrange for your child to pay \$10 at the front office as soon as possible.

## NAPLAN

NAPLAN is fast approaching for students in Year 7 and Year 9. This year, the Numeracy component of NAPLAN will be held on Thursday 17th May 2018. Students are encouraged to practise as many NAPLAN-style questions as possible to familiarise themselves with the style of questioning and the format of the paper.

Please be advised that the format of Numeracy component of NAPLAN changed last year. The Non-Calculator component is now 10 minutes (reduced from 40 minutes) while the Calculator component is 50 minutes (increased from 40 minutes). Students will be provided with past papers and are encouraged to attempt these papers under examination conditions to best prepare for this external diagnostic assessment.

## ICAS Competitions

The following competitions will be offered to students this year.

The ICAS Digital Technologies Competition will be held on Tuesday 8th May 2018 while the ICAS Mathematics Competition will be held on Tuesday 15th August 2018. The competitions are open to all students, however, it will be mandatory for all students in any Red class across Years 7 – 10.

Any student interested in participating in the Digital Technologies and/or Mathematics competitions can pick up an information note and permission slip from their Mathematics or Computing teacher. The cost of entry (per competition) is \$9.00. Payment will need to be made to the front office and permission slips are to be returned to the Mathematics Staffroom.



If you have any queries or concerns regarding matters in Mathematics or Computing classes, please don't hesitate to contact either your child's teacher (initially) or myself at the school.

**Ms Christine Keir**  
**Head Teacher Mathematics and Computing**

## PDHPE

The PDHPE faculty would like to welcome parents and students to an exciting and busy 2018! Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) contributes significantly to the cognitive, social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of students. The Years 7–10 PDHPE curriculum plays an important role in promoting the value of physical activity, developing resilience and providing opportunities for students to learn how to maintain a healthy, productive and active lifestyle.

It's been an incredibly busy and productive start to the term. Year 8, 9 and 10 have all been creatively choreographing dance and gymnastics routines while Year 7 have been introduced to a range of exciting modified games in practical lessons and learning about 'Being an Individual' in the theory component of the course.



## PDHPE Staff

<b>Mrs N. Hill</b>	Head Teacher
<b>Mr R. Miller</b>	Sports Organiser
<b>Mr I. Haydar</b>	Yr8 Year Advisor
<b>Mr A. Morley</b>	Yr7 Year Advisor
<b>Ms S. Yates</b>	Primary Links Coordinator
<b>Ms M. Crammond</b>	Dance Coordinator
<b>Mrs S. Favuzzi</b>	LOTE/HT Administration

## Swimming Carnival:

In the first few weeks of term, the PDHPE faculty has been busy planning and running our annual Swimming Carnival. The carnival took place on the 19th of February at Roselands Pool. The day was a huge success with students and teachers showing their passion and commitment to their respective houses by wearing their house colours and cheering proudly. Our house captains did a fantastic job organising their respective peers into races, relays and orchestrating the house chants. Our captains will be busy again later this term as they assist with the organisation of our Cross Country Carnival.

Once again, the marathon race was a popular event which allowed our students to swim laps for points whilst cooling off from the warm weather. Attendance and participation was very high which made the race for house champion a close one! The final results from the carnival were the closest we have

seen with the positions changing frequently throughout the day. However, the final swimming carnival house placing's were as follows:

### Beachley – 1st place



### Goodes – 2nd place



### Freeman – 3rd place



### McGrath – 4th place



Students proudly represented GRC Peakhurst at the Zone Swimming Carnival that was held on the 2nd & 5th of March, 2018.

## School Cross Country Carnival

The annual school Cross Country Carnival is held on Monday 26th March. This is one of the three whole school carnivals that are held throughout the year and it will give students the chance to qualify and compete at zone level. Students are asked to listen for further details closer to the date.

## Oz Tag NSW State Cup

GRC Peakhurst is delighted to have three students representatives who attended the NSW State Cup, held in Coffs Harbour. We are extremely proud of the achievements of Bienne T, Stephanie K & Josephine K who represented St George in tremendous fashion across the course of the competition. The team was successful in making the grand final, however, the side finished as runners up to a strong Cronulla team.



## 2018 PASS Camp

In Term 3, the PDHPE department is conducting a three day Outdoor Education camp to compliment several units taught in Stage 5 Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS). The camp will take 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, PASS students will be participating in a selection of the following activities: Abseiling, orienteering, canoeing, commando course, high and low ropes, raft building, sailing, rock climbing, archery and the giant swing. Further information will be distributed home in the coming weeks.

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

## Science

The Science faculty is looking forward to another year of exciting Science programs. Students have settled well into their classwork and have already undertaken a variety of practical and IT experiences. The faculty welcomes Ms B. Taiamoni, Ms T. Baldassarre and Ms O'Brien. Ms B. Taiamoni is replacing

Ms Chang who has moved to the Oatley Campus. Ms T. Baldassarre is replacing Ms A. Ashfaq who has taken up another position at Northmead CAPA High School. The rest of the faculty are Mrs M. Alexander (Head Teacher), Mr S. Smith, Mr A. Bouselah, Mr S. Kostaske and Mrs L. Wailes (Laboratory Assistant).



Some highlights of 2017 were incursion activities for Years 7, 8 and 9, successful entries in the RACI Crystal Growing Competition and achievement in the ICAS Science Competition. Ruben Meerman, the 'Surfing Scientist', showed a variety of interesting Science activities to Year 7. Year 8 students participated in a performance style activity called STEMania and the renowned environmentalist Tim Silverwood gave a presentation on waste and its impact on the natural environment to Year 9 students. An impressive number of 112 students entered into the ICAS Science Competition with 8 students achieving a Merit result, 28 students achieving a Credit and 7 students achieving Distinction results. The Year 7 Selected Enrichment Class entered 20 crystals grown in class into the RACI Crystal Growing competition, NSW division. All of these made it to the final round of judging, with 9 crystals placing in the Highly Commended category.

Coming up later in the year are a variety of competitions and presentations. These include again the RACI Crystal Growing Competition and ICAS Science Competition and a visit by the Surfing Scientist and the educators from ANSTO to deliver another STEMania performance.

**Mr Steve Smith**  
**Rel. Head Teacher**

## Special Education

Welcome to the new school year! An extra special welcome, to all our new Year 7 students and their families.

Our new Year 7 students have settled quickly into the high school routines and structure. Thank you to our students for making them feel welcome.

Thank you for sending in all books and equipment. I hope that you found the procedure of purchasing your child's stationery requirements parent friendly.

PLP's or Personalised Learning Plans, will be conducted over the coming weeks, please return notes outlining your interview time preference.



Learning Enhancement is also located in the Support staffroom. This team includes the LaSTs and SLSO's, including the SLSO's working with mainstream students.

### **A few friendly reminders:**

**NDIS meeting** this Thursday 8th March 10:00am-2:00pm. Meet at the Front Office.

**Label** student's clothing and keep them at home when they are sick.

**Communication books** are checked daily and are our main line of communication between school and home.

**Transport**, please ensure you inform your child's driver if your child is going to be absent from school or there is a change to their morning/afternoon routine simultaneously let the Support Unit staff know.

**Fridays** Community Access is Week B and Sport Friday is Week A

Meet our team

**Mrs Peta Holm**

**Head Teacher Special Education Faculty**

## **TAS**

This year the Technology department gives a warm welcome to Ms F. Sklavounos who has replaced Mr Devine and we have an additional teacher in the department, Mrs D. Vlachos. Mr R. Miller continues to teach some classes in food. We start the year with a refurbishment of the food laboratories. The old laminate benches and cupboards have now been replaced with stainless steel benches. We greatly appreciate the work of our staff member Mr K. Andrianakos and our general assistant Mr R. Thurlow who saved the school a lot of expense in the installation of the new kitchens. We also thank Mrs C. Giles, our Kitchen Assistant who assisted in the coordination of the fit out. This team's effort is a typical example of how our school members work collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes for students. The new facilities have allowed students to experience working with equipment used in commercial kitchens. The students have also loved using the commercial dishwasher, installed late last year in room A.O.4. This year, the faculty is focusing on preparing for the new syllabus Stage 4 syllabus in Technology which will be implemented next year by undertaking several courses on coding.

The Industrial Arts department has also seen an update in the workshops. Bench tops have been replaced in a workshop and new equipment such as disk sanders and a track saw have been installed to allow students to produce quality products.

As a faculty, we look forward to working with your child this year. All Year 7 and 8 students will undertake three 15 week rotations this year that will provide them experiences with working with wood, metal, electronics, food and textiles when meeting set challenges. Expect Year 7 students to come home with some creative cushion designs this year when they undertake the textile component of the course.

This term, Year 9 Food Technology are preparing special occasion foods and learning about the many celebrations of different culture and religions while Year 10 are learning about

the importance of good nutrition throughout life. The faculty appreciates the effort, these students placed in helping to prepare food for Open Night with some students in Year 9 staying back to assist on the night.

Year 9 Design and Technology is designing wooden toys with moveable parts while Year 9 Industrial Technology is constructing jewellery boxes. Year 10 Industrial Technology is making blanket boxes.

In Child Studies, Year 9 students are undertaking the topic Preparing for Parenthood while Year 10 are examining Growth and Development of a Child. The Virtual Baby has been sent home with students in Year 9 to experience, the realities of having a child.

Support classes have also been busy making cushions and wall plaques in addition to preparing nutritious foods.

In order to participate safely in any practical course, enclosed leather shoes must be worn in all practical rooms. If your child is not wearing appropriate shoes, an alternative written task will be provided as a substitute.

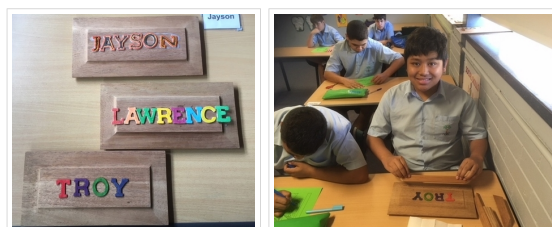
When undertaking food practicals, a clean school white apron is a requirement. These can be purchased at the front office. A plastic container is also required. Any donations of tea towels would be greatly appreciated to save student bringing a tea towel from home and returning home with a wet tea towel

Theory work is an important aspect of each course. Most courses use workbooks for each topic, these remain at school until the end of the unit. Students, however, are required to keep all workbooks up to date and completed. Each unit will also have assignments.

The faculty has organised some valuable experiences for our students. For instance, students in Food Technology will be offered the Barista course in April in order to attain their recognised trade Barista Certificate and the Sydney Tower excursion will be in early Term 2. Also expect the MasterChef challenge again soon. Each year, the standard of dishes presented by the students', increases and who knows we could have a budding celebrity chef in the making at the school.

**Rosalie Gualtieri**

**Head Teacher TAS**



## **Debating**

2017 was an incredibly successful year for debating at Georges River College – Peakhurst Campus, with multiple teams being awarded the title of Zone Champions and two teams progressing to Inter-Zone Finals in the Premier's Debating Challenge.

This month, all students interested in participating in the school's debating program were invited to attend a training day in the school library supervised by Mr P. Fisher, Miss L.



Dunstan and Ms L. Osmond. This exciting day provided new and experienced debaters with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of effective communication, critical thinking and teamwork skills in a supportive and fast paced environment.

Students displayed an outstanding knowledge of important social and cultural issues coupled with the ability to effectively work with students from different year groups. All students should be congratulated on the enthusiasm and commitment they brought to the day. Please see below for some photos.



Students have been informed of the successful applicants for each team and will soon begin their formal participation in the Premier's Debating Challenge. Ultimately, participation in this extracurricular program illustrates the diverse range of exciting opportunities available at Georges River College – Peakhurst Campus. Congratulations to the following students:

## **GRC Peakhurst Debating Teams 2018**

### **Year 7&8 Team A – FISHER**

Andrei E, Dominique R, Chloe T, Zac H,

**Reserve 1:** Aimee D

**Reserve 2:** Lachlan D

### **Year 7 & 8 Team B – DUNSTAN**

Chloe S, Aliyah J, Alissa I, Aiden J

**Reserve 1:** Elsa D

**Reserve 2:** Dion B

### **Year 9 & 10 Team A – OSMOND**

Lizzie V, Maddison M, Valandou C, Kiera H

**Reserve 1:** Cooper A

### **Year 9 & 10 Team B – OSMOND**

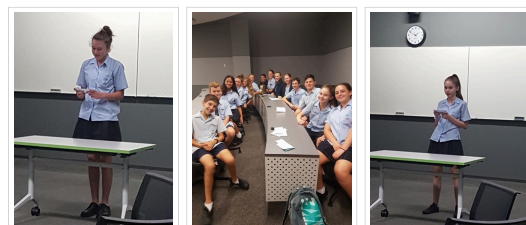
Tayanytah I, Brianna C, Brendon L, Angel T

**Reserve 1:** Alexander C

### **Debating Crew:**

Cooper A, Alexander C, Bahrez B, Daniel S, Elsa D, Caitlin C, Dion B, Lachlan D, Aimee D, Joy H

Another opportunity that our Year 7-9 Debaters were afforded was the University of Sydney Debating Society Annual Training Day on Friday 23rd February where they participated in a range of exciting debates on topics such as 'We should ban the eating of meat in Australia' and 'We should ban contact sports for people under 18'. Overall, our school's teams won 7 out of 10 debates on the day, with every team winning at least one debate. Congratulations to all students for their keen participation and outstanding representation of our school. Please see below for a report and some photos from the day:



Throughout the year, our school has many opportunities for students to experience debating, as we host and participate in many debating and public speaking competitions. If any student is interested in learning more about how they can be a part of our school's debating teams or crew, please do not hesitate to ask one of our debaters or any of the staff in the English faculty.

***Ms L. Osmond, Ms L. Dunstan and Mr P. Fisher***  
***Debating Coordinators***

## **SRC**

### **Welcome back to 2018!**

My name is Ms Lauren Osmond and I am proud to look after our incredibly busy and active Student Representative Council at GRC Peakhurst.

I am looking forward to a great year with my SRC team. Your 2018 SRC will be officially inducted into the SRC in Week 9 at Formal Assembly and parents are invited to attend the ceremony. They will recite the SRC pledge as follows:

As a member of the GRC Peakhurst SRC I will:

- Wear my uniform and badge with pride as a student leader within my school.
- Model positive leadership by always following the school rules and helping others do the same.
- Work closely with the staff of GRC Peakhurst to contribute to and participate in decision making and event organisation within my school.
- Actively represent the student body by providing ideas and opinions, and contribute these ideas at SRC meetings.

### **Congratulations to:**

#### **Our Year 8 Representatives:**

Lara D, Mollie H, Aiden J, Leon J, Brendon L, Kamal S, Chloe T.

#### **Our Year 9 Representatives:**

Cooper A, Brianna C, Tayanytah I, Maili L, Sebastien N, Katerina P, Cristian P, Alexia S, Angel T.

#### **Our Year 10 Representatives:**

Isha A, Samantha B, Valandou C, Deniz D, Chloe D, Dimitriy E, Christopher F, Jackson H, Andee H, Grace H, Jeremy H.

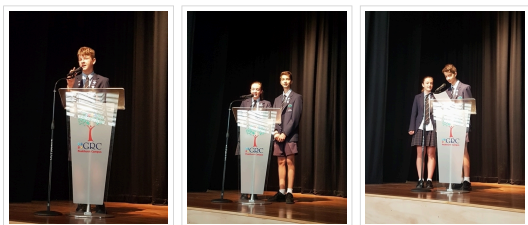
#### **Our Vice Captains for 2018:**

Andee H  
Dimitriy E

## Our Captains for 2018:

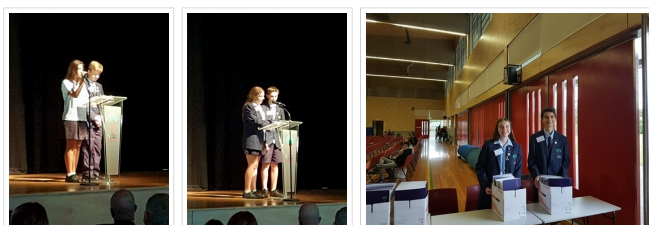
Valandou C  
Jeremy H

Congratulations to these students who are already displaying outstanding leadership and communication skills. Blazer fitting was completed on Thursday 8th March, so all new SRC members are required to pay \$50 to the front office as soon as possible, so they may receive them as soon as they arrive. Here are some pictures of our first Formal Assembly for the year – thank you to all involved.



The school held its annual SRC Planning and Training Day on Thursday 8th March in the Library. Year 8-10 SRC members engaged in a range of teamwork activities aimed at fostering team building, communication skills, decision making and negotiating skills.

In Week 5, the annual Open Night was held, where SRC and many other students spoke at the assembly, led tours, answered questions, greeted parents and worked tirelessly until 8:30pm that night. The night could not run so beautifully without the support of these students. I would like to thank Chloe and Brendon who spoke about their Year 7 Experiences and also to Valandou and Jeremy for welcoming everyone to our school and for their fantastic performance as well.



SRC also represented our school at our recent Swimming Carnival, wearing their house colours proudly and participating in events as well as assisting in the running of the day.

Year 7 SRC Election information was provided during Week 6 morning assemblies.

### Important dates for the diary:

**Year 7 Meet The Teacher BBQ** – Tuesday 13th March  
**Leadership By The River Excursion** – Wednesday 14th March and Thursday 29th March  
**World's Greatest Shave and Crazy Hair Day** – Friday 16th March  
**Formal Assembly** – SRC Induction – Friday 30th March  
**Year 7 SRC Elections** – Week 6/7 of this term

Please feel free to bring any ideas you have for our school to your SRC members to bring up in our meetings.

Enjoy Term 1!

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

## GRC Peakhurst Wellbeing Team

GRC Peakhurst Campus is committed to the wellbeing of all students in the school by providing a positive and nurturing learning environment where all students are valued. Student wellbeing underpins all teaching and learning programs in an atmosphere of care and concern. GRC Peakhurst Campus not only caters for the academic needs of the child but ensures that its students are given a diverse curriculum and broad range 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-ordinator, 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 GRC 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

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

**School Chaplain** – In 2018, GRC Peakhurst Campus will maintain Tom Ayres as our school chaplain. Tom works at

GRC Peakhurst each Tuesday providing pastoral care, case management and support to a range of students.

**School Partnerships** - In 2018, GRC Peakhurst Campus will continue to enhance a range of community partnerships to provide students with a variety of positive and engaging programs to promote wellbeing. Partnerships with Georges River Life Care, 3 Bridges Community, Riverwood Community Centre and the Menai Youth Project form a foundation for a variety of extra curricula programs.

In 2018, Georges River Life Care is running many student-centred programs including the Shine Program and Strength Program across Years 7-9. The Shine Program is an 8 week program for selected female students in Years 7 and 8 held at the school each Thursday afternoon. The program builds on student strengths, looks at self-respect, personal appearance, health, resilience, managing emotions and making students aware of cyber bullying.

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

GRC Peakhurst Campus has also continued its successful partnership with 3 Bridges Community Hurstville through running the Own It Program for Boys and girls in Years 8 & 9. This program allows participants to explore and challenge themselves to be leaders. The program empowers students to take responsibility for their behaviours, life choices, life circumstances and provides opportunities for them to further develop leadership skills. This year, 3 Bridges will also continue the Drumbeat program for selected Year 7 students.

Riverwood Community Centre will continue to work with selected Year 7 students through their Skills for Life Program and Year 10 students through their 'Love Bites' program. We are also in the process of developing a number of other initiatives through the Riverwood Community Centre that will hopefully be available for students to access later in the year.

**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 first draw of the year will take place during Week 6. Two students from each year group who have submitted their merit certificates into the draw will have the opportunity to win a gift card. All students are encouraged to submit their merit certificates for an opportunity to win a gift card.

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

## Student Wellbeing Committee Report

We, as a school, are very interested in supporting the welfare of students at GRC Peakhurst Campus. We are asking students,

if you would like to be involved from all Years 7-10, to join our team. We will be meeting every Thursday at Lunch time in room C1.18 with Ms Walton. This would be a great Leadership opportunity to be part of.

GRC Peakhurst is very interested in supporting various foundations, such as Beyond Blue, Head Space, Harmony Day, White Ribbon and many more, as the year goes on.

As a committee, we would like to organise events such as fundraising for these organisations and raise awareness about supporting mental health. Once again, if you would like to be involved, join us next Thursday at lunch in C1.18 and let's get started.

Here are some photos from Term 4 supporting White Ribbon Day as well as our Student Wellbeing Committee attending a White Ribbon Day walk held at Jubilee Oval, Carlton.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqydNQ-jv6A>

If you would like more information about the Student Wellbeing Committee please speak to Ms Walton located in the CAPA staffroom.

**Ms Michelle Walton**  
**Student Wellbeing Coordinator**

## Peer Support

During this term, the Welfare Team has planned many exciting activities for each year group. We have just started our Peer Support sessions, involving all Year 7 and 33 Year 9 & Year 10 Peer Support leaders. This program is considered highly valuable and rewarding for all students running throughout Term 1 and comprising of 10 sessions.

The Year 7's are split into small groups of between twelve to fourteen students with two-three Year 9 or 10 Peer Support leaders.

The objective of this program is to foster friendships and allow the discussion of many issues that the Year 7's may be experiencing. It also creates a bond between the new students at the school with our senior students. The Year 9 and 10 students have also gained strong leadership skills. I would like to thank the student leaders for volunteering and running the program.

It is a wonderful program and effectively implemented, around our school values, Respect, Responsibility and Aim for Excellence.

**Ms Michelle Walton**  
**Peer Support Coordinator**





## Gifted and Talented Education News

This year, Georges River College – Peakhurst Campus will offer its students a range of diverse and exciting extra-curricular activities designed to nurture giftedness in various academic, sporting and social areas. Students are encouraged to check the SchoolZine each month in order to read about all available opportunities.

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

Further announcements will be made at morning assemblies and all students are encouraged to actively engage with the exciting range of activities offered.

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

### Primary Links

Our students have begun the year showcasing their enthusiasm and organisational skills as helpers at the Lugarno Public School and Oatley West Public School Swimming Carnivals. Selected PASS students were required to assist in the running of the events, a component that directly relates to their Year 10 PASS studies. The positive feedback we received from the teachers at these carnivals is testament to the respectful and responsible attitudes displayed by our students on these days.

**We'd like to say a big thank you to the following students:**

Jonty T, Thomas C, Finn C, Dean T, Steven K, James R, Lleyton T, Afan B, Fatima B, Bienne T, Ally C, Karina R, Stephanie K, Josephine K.

**Stephanie Yates and Giulia Testa**  
**Primary Links Coordinators**

## Aboriginal Education News

### Aboriginal Education News

Welcome to 2018 at GRC Peakhurst. Our Aboriginal students are provided with exciting opportunities both in and outside of the school environment. Activities and events are engaged through the school to enhance and link to learning outcomes, inclusive of interacting within the wider community, gaining

leadership skills, participating in creative opportunities, workshops and public speaking events.

In 2018, we will continue to embrace these opportunities, striving for excellence in all we do.

AIME will continue to provide a strong foundation for our students offering support every Monday afternoon with homework and assessments. Students will also attend AIME mentoring workshops throughout the year at Sydney University.

### GRC Sister School – City meets country

'From little things big things grow', and from a small seed planted many years ago GRC Peakhurst has developed a partnership with Coolah Central School, a small school of 245 students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The school is located 1.5 hours west of Dubbo. The context behind the partnership is to enable the students to share stories, share cultural experiences, engage in developing life long friendships and re connecting with culture and family. The opportunities are endless and offers both schools a chance to explore, experience and connect beyond what they had imagined for themselves.

Coolah Central School's first visit to the big city took place on 22nd February 2018. A bus full of 13 excited students and 4 staff made the adventurous trip to meet our Aboriginal students. On their arrival they were welcomed and introduced to GRC Peakhurst students over pizza and a game of basketball. GRC Peakhurst was presented with a wonderful framed school jersey where the artwork on the jersey was designed by a student at Coolah Central School.

Thursday we meet at Circular Quay for a cultural cruise on the Harbour aboard the Mari Nawi (Tribal Warrior, Bangabai education cruise) meaning large boat in Darawal language. We were given a tour of Clarke Island, a small island on the harbour which is looked after by volunteers as the island was never claimed by either the government or the Darawal people. An awesome place where we were invited to share stories and songs, and engaged in learning some language.



### Learning Circle

Our learning circle is well under way and it is expected that planting will begin in Week 6 with all our Koori students being involved in the project. It is hoped the learning circle will encourage native animals and be a quiet respectful place where students can learn and reflect.

### Important Reminder

As a responsible member of GRC Peakhurst your commitment to attend all AIME sessions is highlighted in the application process you engaged in Week 3. If you signed up with AIME during this time, please make sure you are available every

Monday for tutoring and mentoring squads which are running from 3:00pm-4:00pm in C1.02. Afternoon tea is provided.

## Upcoming Events

Bush Tucker Garden - planting and clean up, Week 6, Term 1, March 2018.

## Girls Supervisor

In 2017, a group of selected girls took part in a series of workshops where they were involved in lessons that utilised directed and discovery learning strategies. The workshops provided the students the opportunity to work closely in groups, forming new friendships, skill building, designing and problem solving to resolve a design brief and complete the activity.

A group of selected girls will again work with the team from Menai Youth to build resilience within a community context.

**Year 7 Visual Art**

**Year 8 Visual Art**

**Year 9 Photography and Digital Media**

**Year 10 Photographic and Digital Media.**

## Students for Meritorious Mention

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

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

**Natalie B** – Demonstrating initiative and responsibility

**Clarissa C** – Demonstrating courage and dedication

**Mujahid H** – Demonstrating leadership

**Lilyah R** – Demonstrating responsibility and citizenship

**Bailey R** – Commitment to Crew

**Matthew S** – Demonstrating responsibility and excellence

**Tanisha S** – Commitment to learning

**Joshua Y** – Commitment to Crew