



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

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



6 March 2020

From the Principal

Welcome to the start of the 2020 academic year at GRC Peakhurst Campus. This year has commenced full of promise and excitement as we continue to focus on our school community vision of becoming a centre of excellence in comprehensive co-educational middle schooling for years 7 – 10. Our purpose is to ensure all our students acquire the necessary knowledge and skill sets to enable them to proactively engage and productively contribute in a meaningful way within a complex, dynamic and rapidly changing world.

As a school, we aim to ensure:

- every student successfully transitions from Primary School into High School
- every student is known, valued and cared for in every classroom
- everyone strives to improve themselves every day of the school year
- our teaching and high levels of support lessen the impact of socio-economic disadvantage

Our school Professional Learning day, held on the first day of the 2020 school year, proved to be a very productive day of sharing resources and learning about effective teaching strategies. Teachers engaged in the sharing of ideas, best-teaching practices and educational philosophies in productive pedagogies. Themes covered during the day included: strategic directions for the school plan, school vision and purpose, implementation of specific teaching strategies to enhance student learning, data analysis and the use of data to validate learning goals, Positive Behaviour Learning for students, Growth Mindset practices, formative assessment techniques, differentiated teaching practices, staff wellbeing practices and Child Protection updates. These interactive School Development Days are very valuable opportunities for staff to collectively align individual and faculty practices to our school plan and DoE policies.

We focus on whole-school strategic directions that will further empower our students, staff and community partners. Our students are learning to become lifelong learners and develop skill sets to become global and productive citizens. Our staff continue to enhance their capacity to professionally develop best teaching & learning practices within a collaborative learning community. Also, our community partnerships provide real - life learning links and connections for our students. The primary focus will continue to be on responding to the wellbeing and individual learning needs of our students at all times.

Individual faculties continue to review and refine their respective teaching programs, learning activities and assessment measures that are designed to promote skills and knowledge for the contemporary workplace. These respective teaching programs are designed to cater for learning in a world where knowledge itself is constantly growing and evolving. Our students are required to develop knowledge, skill sets, behaviours and dispositions, or general capabilities, which apply across the curriculum and assist them to become lifelong learners able to live and work successfully in the diverse world of the 21st Century. The general capabilities forming the foundation of these teaching programs are: literacy, numeracy, information & communication technology capabilities, critical & creative thinking skills, personal & social capability, ethical behaviour and intercultural understanding. These respective teaching programs contain, where applicable, learning opportunities that address relevant and contemporary issues in the lives of our students. These cross – curriculum priorities are: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, sustainability, civics & citizenship, difference & diversity, work & enterprise.

As part of the Growth Mindset philosophy promoted within the school, teachers emphasise and teach students about the importance of “Personal Accountability & Reflection”. As part of the self-reflective journey during lessons, learners / students are encouraged to mindfully explore reflective questions like:

- Am I asking questions while I’m learning?
- Am I formulating answers while I’m learning?
- Am I investigating answers to my questions?

- Do I understand the importance of what I'm learning?
- Am I becoming more curious about what I'm learning?
- Can I add something to my teacher's explanations?
- Can I challenge conventional points of view?
- Can I communicate different points of view?
- Are my communication skills improving?

Students are encouraged to become the focal point in the development, application and reporting of assessment practices within the classrooms.

In conclusion, we are all very excited and looking forward to a very productive, uplifting and rewarding 2020 as we all – school staff, students, parents & caregivers - continue to work together with a unified vision and the sharing of common goals so that our students can achieve their potential at all times.

Always remember – it is not all about being the best but more about **giving your best!**

Tell Them From Me student feedback survey (Term 1, 2020)

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at the link below:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. More than 6,300 schools in Australia and around the world have used Tell Them From Me to survey 5.4 million students. Capturing the voices of our students will help improve how we do things at our school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 16th March and 9th April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

An opt out form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Monday 16th March 2020

Terry Vallis - Principal

Mr Terry Vallis
Principal

Deputies' Report

Welcome to Georges River College Peakhurst Campus for 2020. In particular, we would like to welcome the new parents to our school, especially our new 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 already had some fantastic school community events with our students' impressive sporting skills and enthusiastic house spirit demonstrated at the swimming carnival on Friday 21st February and our staff and students' genuine school pride showcased at a very successful school Open Night on Monday 24th February. The school community events will continue with our Year 7 Meet the Teacher Evening to be held on Tuesday 10th March from 5pm – 6.30pm. This will be held outside the school hall and will include a sausage sizzle and informal discussion with staff. Year 7 progress reports will also be

distributed to parents during the evening. We hope that you will take the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers and gain valuable insight into how we will assist your child to achieve their personal best.

Positive Behaviour for Learning, known as PBL, is an integral part of Georges River College Peakhurst Campus, placing a focus on our core values of **Respect, Responsibility and Excellence**. This year we have continued our morning **Peakhurst Expectations and Knowledge** or '**PEAK**' sessions. A key part of PEAK is the explicit teaching of our core values, social/emotional skills, and study skills. To allow for this, **PEAK Learning** has now taken the place of roll call. Each Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning, students begin their day by participating in Peak Learning workshops designed to explore the main skills and themes of PEAK. As an example, for the first few weeks of this term, PEAK Learning (PL) has focused on our core value of Respect. Workshops have explored students developing respectful relationships, identifying actions that reflect respect versus actions that do not reflect respect (examples included in this report), various scenarios where concepts of respect may change and the 'Golden Rule' of treating other's as we want to be treated. As we head to the second half of the term, PL workshops will continue to place a focus on respect through focusing on how to use social media platforms in a respectful manner.

We began our year with a whole school assembly where some core PEAK expectations were shared with all students and staff. This included:

- **Demonstrating excellence by attending all classes.** Students are expected to: arrive before 8:40am; attend each day; and be on time to each lesson. Students were also reminded to have a drink and use toilets during breaks, and to avoid hanging around local shops before schools. Irregular attendance, whether it be whole day absence, partial absences, truancy or late arrival to class can all significantly impact a student's learning and achievement.
- **Demonstrating responsibility by wearing the correct school uniform.** Students are expected to wear the correct school uniform and completely covered, black, leather school shoes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students are expected to wear the school sports uniform and supportive sports shoes on Wednesdays. When out of uniform, students are expected to collect a uniform slip from their PL teacher, and attend a reflection at recess or lunch. Visit our website for details of correct school uniform.
- **Demonstrating responsibility by keeping mobile phones off and away.** Students are expected to turn their phone off, and keep it away all day. Students can use their phone in class, under the direction of their teacher, for learning purposes only. Items linked to phone use such as earphones and speakers should not be brought to school. If students are failing to cooperate with this

expectation, they may be asked to hand over their phone.

- **Demonstrating respect by maintaining personal space.** Students are expected to be mindful of personal space when in class, moving between classes and in the playground. Students must keep their 'hands-off' at all times, and games or play fighting that breaks this expectation is not accepted. This unsafe behaviour can cause accidents or lead to more aggressive interactions, which will not be tolerated.
- **Demonstrating responsibility by being organised and prepared for lessons.** Students are expected to have their homework diary, pencil case and workbooks for each period of learning in their bag each day. Bringing completed homework and assessment tasks is also the responsibility of every student.
- **Demonstrating respect by cooperating with staff, school expectations and procedures.** Students are expected to: know and always demonstrate our core values; speak politely and with manners; and be an up-stander by telling peers to stop or walking away when they may not be cooperating. Students who regularly demonstrate our values will receive PEAK merits, be in the running for twice per term voucher draws, and invited to twice per year rewards excursions. Students who fail to demonstrate our values may be issued a warning, reflection, or receive a call home.

At GRC Peakhurst Campus, we are committed to developing and nurturing a culture of high expectations in all that we do. In order to support and reap the benefits of a culture of high expectations we need our students, parents and staff to continue to strengthen our shared commitment to excellence and improvement. Students have only one opportunity to succeed at school and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that each child receives the very best opportunity to succeed. If we want our students to achieve outstanding results, we need to place great value and importance on learning, whilst acknowledging and celebrating student achievement.

Some simple strategies for students, parents and carers that can assist learning are:

- Using the school diary to write down and plan homework and assignments everyday
- Developing a strong understanding of the assessment program
- Setting aside time each day to complete homework and assignment work
- Reflecting and talking to your child about learning and how to improve their achievements and results
- Focusing on and preparing for assessment tasks, including exams
- Encouraging your child to collaborate with others and to compete to do their very best
- Constantly behaving in a way that supports learning

- Parents providing firm boundaries around the use of technology beyond school work.
- Assisting your child to do their best work all the time.
- Helping your child to try new ideas and strategies and to enjoy the journey of learning!

All year groups will shortly be provided with their 2020 Assessment Guide. This guide contains important and valuable information on assessment procedures and outlines specific assessment tasks for each subject area. The assessment guides are also available on the school's website and SENTRAL Parent Portal. In addition to assessment tasks and set homework activities, students are expected to consolidate what has been learnt during lessons at school through regular revision 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: homework, working on assignments, preparing for tests and assessments. But 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 as much compulsory work, they independently review and revise. These are the additional things you do, if you have no other school work to do that night, to improve your understanding of your subjects. It is what students who get good marks are doing, they are not just talking about it to their friends. Examples include:

- 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 of 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)

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 Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon in the school library. Tuesdays 3.00pm – 4.15pm and Wednesdays 2.30pm - 3.45pm. We encourage parents to remind their child / children of this excellent resource.

Students can only excel at school if they are present in class. Parents do students no favours allowing them to stay home if they are not genuinely sick. GRC Peakhurst Campus asks for parent support in ensuring that your child is at school each day unless they are sick. This includes all school events such as carnivals, excursions and special events. Please refer to

the Department of Education's Compulsory School Attendance procedures below.

The great majority of students at GRC Peakhurst understand the importance of creating a safe and positive learning environment and work with their teachers towards this. However, from time to time, some students, through their actions, impact on the learning of others and themselves. There are consequences to poor behaviour and this is an important lesson for students to learn while at school. We cannot expect students to develop into well balanced adults if they have never learnt from their mistakes. When students are not accountable for their behaviours, the situation will only become more serious as they grow older and ultimately affect them, their families and their future.

Over 850 students now attend GRC Peakhurst Campus. Many of these students access local bus services to travel to and from school. In 2019, the increased number of students using buses to and from school sometimes resulted in some of the bus services reaching capacity – particularly during the afternoon runs. The school, parents and the Member for Oatley – Mr Mark Coure liaised with the Department of Transport and local bus companies to improve bus services and we now have an additional 'school special' service that departs from Isaac Street each afternoon. Please refer to the Punchbowl Bus Company timetable below for details. We will continue to lobby for improved bus services to and from GRC Peakhurst Campus. To assist in this process, we regularly remind students at school assemblies to ensure they are using their Opal Cards to tap on and tap off when using these services. The NSW Department of Transport and local bus companies use the data from students tapping on and off to gauge the number of students using the services. Unfortunately, the data being gathered is not always reflective of the number of students using the services as students often fail to tap on and tap off. We therefore also encourage parents to ensure their child is carrying an opal card and using it to tap on and off when using bus services. We believe that if we can encourage a majority of our students to tap on and off when using these services, the data collected by the Department of Transport will better reflect the large numbers of students using the buses and therefore increase the chances of extra buses and services being provided to our students in the future.

GRC Peakhurst Campus uses an integrated web based Student Management and Wellbeing software system called SENTRAL. This system has a 'parent portal' facility that will provide parents with information about their child. Parents are able to access their child's timetable and academic report information, read daily student announcements and access the school's public calendar. Year 7 parents and parents of new students in Years 8, 9 and 10 in 2020 should have received a letter from the school outlining instructions on how they can access the parent portal. All other students had letters posted to their parents in early 2019. If you are having difficulty accessing the parent portal, please contact the school for assistance. We are confident that you will see the benefits of the parent portal as we continue to progress this initiative.

Year 7 Student Advisor Report

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and officially welcome all Year 7 students to High School! My name is Michelle Seinor and I am the Year 7 Advisor for 2020. My role is to assist our Year 7 students and families with any queries or concerns you may have as the year progresses and be here to support our students as they begin their journey here at Georges River College Peakhurst. It has been a busy start to Term 1 with many exciting programs and initiatives prepared for the year ahead across all subject areas.

Year 7 have settled in excellently to the Georges River College community and have already had the chance to participate in our school's Swimming Carnival. A big thank you to all involved! As our first Term continues at full steam ahead, we have our Year 7 Camp on Wednesday 4th March – Friday 6th March, 2020 (Week 6). Year 7 are heading to the Great Aussie Bush Camp in Tea Gardens for what is set out to be a fulfilling and rewarding bonding experience for all involved! I look forward to sharing our experiences and photos with you upon our return.

There are many new and exciting experiences that our Year 7 students are learning as the Term rolls on, I would like to remind our students to remember to bring their diary to school each day. Our diaries are required during each lesson, to record homework and assessment tasks. Students can also refer to their diary for bell times, school rules and policies, uniform requirements and behaviour expectations.

GRC Peakhurst runs a Homework Centre program every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. Tuesdays from 3:00pm – 4:15pm and Wednesdays from 2:30pm – 3:45pm in our school library which is supervised by a Teacher. I encourage all students to attend to complete their homework or to get ahead of their work load and discuss any questions they have with the Teacher in charge.

Harmony Day is fast approaching with a collaboration of guest speakers and activities for year 7 and a performance from Backflips against bullying team to encourage students against bullying. Further details to come.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ms Michelle Seinor
Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Student Advisor Report

I would like to welcome all students back to another busy and rewarding school year. Our students are now well into their 1st units of work across all subject areas. It is important that students are organised and prepared for all their work in their respective 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.
- Checking the Year 8 assessment guideline book and discussing your child's understanding of upcoming assessment tasks and class content.
- Allocating a quiet learning space at home.
- Encouraging a regular place and time to do homework.

Student Representative Council

On Monday, 17th February we inducted our Year 8 Student Representative Council (SRC) for 2020, I would like to congratulate the following students:

- Elektra B
- Callum D
- Caitlin J
- Sebastian S
- Ben S
- Amelia S

We are looking forward to all of the amazing initiatives they will be participating in this year.

Gold and Silver Awards

Many Year 8 students were recently involved in an interview process with the aim of reflecting upon their academic progress during the 2019 academic year. Students took part in a variety of goal setting exercises that aimed to improve specific learning areas that were individually identified within each student.

A select group of students were also awarded silver and gold principals awards to recognise significant improvement in Grade Point Averages from semester 1 to semester 2.

Congratulations to the following students:

Gold Awards

Lofitu F
Liam I
Ahmed Y
Elektra B
Nicholas J
Josh P
Charlize A
Anand B
Caitlin J
Benjamin M
Beau M
Tijana S
Jackson W
William M
Sebastian S
Jessie T
Hugo W
Zoe B
Lili C
Alexander DW

Ethan K
Sean P
Amelia S
Saffiyah Y

Silver Awards

Khalil A
Noah A
Joren B
Adam D
Kristine G
Jessica H
Tonga K
Ethan M
Erini M
Bonnie P
Jack P
Tanisha S
Santiago T
Ethan T
Hassan Z

School Website

I strongly encourage all year 8 families to access the school's website as it is a useful resource that allows students and parents to access assessment tasks and general school related information.

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.

Wellbeing Day

On Friday, 20th March our school will be hosting a Wellbeing Day. This is a new whole-school initiative to assist in spreading awareness and providing support for all students in regards to goals, friendships, online presence, bullying and general wellbeing. More information will be provided in the coming weeks. We are looking forward to a fun-filled, informative day.

Should you or your child have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me in the TAS staffroom.

Ms Giulia Testa

Year 8 Student Advisor

Year 9 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to all our students and a special welcome to our new students and their families. I would firstly like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Fotini Tzoumas and I will be the Year 9 Year Advisor for 2020 while Aaron Morley takes on the role of Head Teacher PDHPE. It has been a busy start to the year with students well into their first units for all their subject areas.

Awards

A number of Year 9 students were recently involved in an interview process aimed to reflect upon their 2019 academic progress. I would like to congratulate a number of year 9 students for their excellent progress and improvement during semester 2 of Year 8.

Below is a list of students that will be receiving awards for their high and improved achievement.

Gold Awards- Academic Excellence

Ashley B
Alivia B
Jenny C
Antonio D
Pandora F
Yash G
Matthew H
Zachary H
Zemina I
Aliyah J
Kiahna K
Eleanor K
Jake K
Laurence L
Taj M
Yasmin N
Abbey R
Victoria R
Shruti S
Chloe S
Isobel S
Alex T

Silver Awards – Academic Improvement

Abdulrahman A
Charile A
Chika A
Yousef E
Jayden G
Fonua K
Jordan M
Natalie M
Andrew R
Nicholas R
Daniel S
Nicholas V
Michael K
Ricardo S

Assessments

As the term continues, students will be receiving assessments from a variety of KLA's. It is important that they remain on top of their work by completing their assessment tasks on time and not allowing them to build up. Organisation is key and this can be supported through the utilisation of their school diaries. There is also the homework centre which can be an option and is available on Tuesday 3pm-4:15pm and Wednesday 2.30-3:45pm. Attending homework centre is a great opportunity to complete any homework or assessment tasks

with the support and supervision of two staff members. If students have misplaced their assessment notifications they can be accessed on the school website.

School Uniform

As the weeks pass, the weather will most certainly change and get cooler. It is important students are always in their full school uniform. It is a good chance for parents to purchase any pieces of school uniform needed for Autumn and Winter nice and early so that they are prepared for the weather change. A kindly reminder that white socks are an integral part of GRC Peakhurst's school uniform. It is essential that they are worn with black school shoes every day, except for Wednesday, where students are required to wear appropriate sport shoes.

Students are reminded that if they have any questions or concerns, I am located in the TAS staffroom in A block. I would like to wish all Year 9 students a successful and productive term.

If students or parents have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ms Fotini Tzoumas
Year 9 Student Advisor

Year 10 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to 2020 to all students and their families. It will be a busy and rewarding year for the students as they complete their final year at GRC Peakhurst Campus and attain their ROSA by the end of year.

Students have been given their assessment outline booklets. In the booklet are clear outlines of each KLA subject outcomes and assessment tasks. Students are encouraged to use the booklet and their diary to plan in advance and organise themselves to complete the assessment tasks by the due date.

This year the students will have opportunities to participate in a range of Careers initiatives with workshops and work experience. They are encouraged to check the school emails regularly and communicate with the Careers Advisor Ms Arfanis.

The school formal will take place in Term 4. An expression of interest note has been distributed. For those who plan on attending can we ensure the permission note is returned to Mr Hoggett in the PE staffroom and a \$50 deposit paid to the front office to ensure we can plan another fantastic night like the many in years previous.

Gold Awards

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the award winners for their excellent progress during semester 2 of Year 9. There were many students who were rewarded with certificates for their academic excellence and academic improvement. These students were presented with their certificates early this term through one on one meetings with me. I hope these students continue with their progress, and for those who didn't receive certificates, let this be a reason to be motivated to really apply yourself to your learning.

Below is the list of recipients for their respected awards. Congratulations once again.

Academic Excellence

Julia T.
Mollie H.
Brendon L.
Kayley B.
Clarissa C.
Petra D.
Kayla-Jo I.
Alex Trong L.
Skye S.
Klementina D.
Anthia-Aglaia A.
Christian T.
Chloe T.
Louisa A.
Zane A.
Andrei E-W.
Jaqueline F.
Sora K.
Micah T.
Kieren H.
Alexander M.
Adib S.
Joshua T.
Eryn T.
Jeremy W.

Academic Improvement

Althea D.
Allira G.
Edison L.
Ana M.

I would like to wish all Year 10 students a successful and productive term 1 to their new schooling year. If students or parents have any questions or queries, please contact me and I will be happy to continue to help. If students need anything they can find me in the PE staffroom.

Mr Matt Hoggett
Year 10 Student Advisor

FACULTY NEWS

CAPA

Dance Article

On Friday the 7th of February, the auditions for the GRC Peakhurst dance groups 2020 were held. The students worked extremely hard throughout periods 3, 4 and 5 to perfect a combination of steps taught to them. This piece was a commercial jazz style combination that was performed many times throughout the day in different groups to observe the students that danced well together. When performing, students had the opportunity to show off their dance technique, energy and performance abilities.

There was also a section of the audition dedicated to technique where our talented students executed the basic and fundamental skills of dance. This catered for students who do not have much experience in the given style of the piece and gave them an opportunity to shine through their technique.

I must commend all students that auditioned for our dance groups this year as I was extremely impressed by their talents and dancing abilities. Thirty-six students were successful in joining our two dance groups, which are Company Dance and Ensemble Dance.

Rehearsals for both our dance groups started on the 17th of February. Our Monday rehearsal is a strengths and conditioning class for all dancers, which aims to develop the student's technique, strength and stamina. Our Tuesday morning rehearsal is for the students in Company Dance and Wednesday is for Ensemble Dance. Both groups have begun working on a routine, which we are already excited to share and perform at competitions and showcases throughout the year.

I am extremely excited to be working with the dancers this year and have already been overwhelmed by their passion, talent and commitment to dance.

HP & G – Dance Article

On the 7th of February, auditions were held for our Company and Ensemble dance groups for 2020. I commend all students that attended the auditions as they worked extremely hard and shined on stage.

Thirty-Six students were successful in joining our dance groups and I am very excited to watch them grow as dancers this year. From week 6 onwards, students will be selected from these dance groups to join the High Performance and Gifted Dance course. Students will attend an hour-long session each fortnight that focuses on their dance abilities and development.

Students will be chosen based on their technical and performance skills as well as qualities such as their passion for and commitment to dance. Throughout the course students will study a range of dance styles and focus on the important qualities of performance. There will also be opportunities for students to develop their own choreographing abilities and the necessary skills to work effectively in groups. I am looking forward to working with our dancers this year and have already been extremely impressed by their talent and dedication.

Ms Amy Johnson
Dance Coordinator

GRC MUSIC and HP & G Report, MARCH 2020

Starting our year strong, GRC Peakhurst's Gifted Music program has already shown its potential with our Open Night. Everything started with Year 9 Students; Alex B, Munokoatupou T, Iverson W, Wesley P, May R and Mikayla T wowing and welcoming prospective students to the school on the big stage, while they later entertained in the music rooms with fellow GRC Gifted performers; Louisa A, Nicholas S, Lofitu F and Nick-Anthony G. We also had a guest appearance of GRC Peakhurst Music Alumni; James P showing the strong tradition of Music at the school.

The High Performance and Gifted Music program at GRC Peakhurst will endeavour to enhance the vast array of performers, helping them realise their full potential. Classes will consist of students from all year levels performing for, and learning from each other, helping to not only enhance all students abilities but also strengthen the Music community here at GRC Peakhurst.

End goals for the program will be students performing at various events around the GRC community, from School Assemblies and Open Nights, to local primary schools and businesses, as well as Schools Spectacular and beyond.

Finally, our extra-curricular music groups have started up again this year, with the GRC Combined Campus Concert Band on Mondays, Rock Group on Wednesdays and Jazz Group on Fridays. Any interested students should pick up a note from outside the CAPA staffroom or ask Mr. Page for further details.

Mr Scott Page
Music Teacher

English

The teachers on the English faculty include: Ms A. Talevski, Ms K. Eleos, Ms L. Osmond, Ms R. Ali, Ms L. Sanunu, Mr D. Maunder, Ms K. Nguyen (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 / Mr L. Sanunu

Year 8 English - Ms K. Eleos

Year 9 English - Ms R. Ali / Mr D. Maunder

Year 10 English - Ms A. Talevski

EAL/D - Ms K. Nguyen

Debating & Public Speaking - Ms L. Osmond, Ms R. Ali, Mr D. Maunder and Ms. L. Sanunu

Premier's Reading Challenge - Ms L. Sanunu

Writing Club - Ms R. Ali

Head Teacher - Mr N. Zouroudis



The English faculty works very closely with Ms K. Nguyen who is the school's EAL/D teacher. Ms K. Nguyen is an experienced EAL/D teacher who works closely with all EAL/D and international students. Our EAL/D teachers work collaboratively in a team teaching environment, and provide assistance in individual and small group settings. The faculty also works in-conjunction with the school librarian, Ms S. Baker, who assists with the management and reward system for the Year 7 home reading program.

The various members of the English staff offer a diverse range of experience as well as immense enthusiasm to their roles as English teachers. Ms L. Osmond was recently involved in cross-campus teaching at GRC Oatley Senior Campus and she is an experienced NAPLAN marker who has readily shared her experience with the faculty and the wide school community. 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. This year we welcome to the faculty of Ms L. Sanunu and Mr D. Maunder, who come to us with exciting innovative ideas.

The faculty offers a highly structured program of Debating and Public Speaking as extra-curricular activities. The teachers responsible for selecting, training and managing these teams are Ms L. Osmond, Ms R. Ali, Ms L. Sanunu and Mr D. Maunder. In 2019, these students achieved significant victories in the Premier's Debating Challenge, including defeating many selective schools in our most successful year of debating and public speaking.

Both the Year 7&8 Debating A team and the Year 9&10 A team were named Zone Winners as well as Inter-Zone Champions in the Premier's Debating Challenge. GRC Peakhurst's Year 9&10 Debating A team also progressed through a series of knock-out debates to the NSW State Semi-Finals.

Our teams were also involved in the Primary Links Day at Lugarno PS where they delivered valuable training in speaking skills to students in Years 4 to 6, ensuring the next generation of debaters are highly equipped with relevant skills and fostering strong community links within our local feeder area.

In 2019, GRC Peakhurst's public speaking teams were named 2019 Champions of the Mental Health Public Speaking Challenge. This success means that GRC Peakhurst is bestowed the honour of hosting the competition in September 2020 where a number of schools will compete and discuss pertinent topics surrounding young adult mental health.

Brendon L achieved immense success in the 2019 Legacy Public Speaking Competition where he progressed to the NSW State Final, competing at the Art Gallery of NSW. This success culminated in an invitation for Brendon to attend the NSW State Debating Camp where his team won a series of eight debates. The faculty looks forward to hosting and attending many further events in 2020.

The English Faculty focuses on offering a differentiated curriculum to meet 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 a significant number of new texts based on various genres that are available in the library for borrowing.

To encourage writing of extended imaginative and creative texts, the faculty is running a dedicated writing club in 2020. Students should see Ms R. Ali if they wish to participate in this writing club which will meet on a weekly basis. Students from all Years are encouraged to participate in this exciting writing initiative, involving entering of student work in a variety of external writing competitions.

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

Welcome to 2020 from the H.S.I.E. faculty

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

The faculty is made up of a team of talented and dedicated educators. With Ms H. Diamond as the Head Teacher of the department, the H.S.I.E. team includes Ms A. Arfanis, Ms S. Beck, Ms D. Cvijetic, Ms M. Hamilton, Mr A. Sarandos, Ms S. Schenk, Ms N. Straney, Ms D. Vlachos and Mr M. Vrhovac.



The H.S.I.E. faculty (Human Society and Its Environment) teaches History and Geography courses to all students from Year 7 to Year 10. In addition, the faculty also offers Commerce, History Elective and VET Retail Services and Business Administration to Year 9 and 10 students as an elective subject.

Key components of all H.S.I.E courses is the development of:

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

Year 7 and 8 History

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 Ancient China, Medieval Japan are also covered during Year 8.

Year 9 and Year 10 History

Year 9, with a focus on 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 depth study on campaigns involving ANZAC soldiers. Following this continuum, the Great Depression and 1930s are also addressed before beginning a study on World War II. Students complete Semester 1 in Year 9 with a brief look at the Holocaust and the treatment of different cultural and ethnic groups under the Nazi regime. In Semester 2, Year 9 will move on to their studies in Geography.

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 Generations.

This year, students will participate in an incursion run by the Kinchela Boys' Home Corporation. Students will have the opportunity to explore a mobile museum and meet with indigenous elders that were directly impacted by this terrible piece of government policy in Australia's recent history.

Other focus areas include Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, Changing Technologies and Popular Culture. The Vietnam War topic is concluded by a performance by Mr Brett Hunt, who uses drama and music to recount the experience of Australian soldiers. This is made all the more significant as he retells his father's story, the soldier featured in the famous song 'I Was Only Nineteen' by Redgum.

Year 7 and 8 Geography

Geography assists students to develop an awareness of local, regional, national and global geographical issues. In Semester Two, Year 7 Geography focuses upon the key depth studies of Landscapes and Landforms, and Place and Liveability in Semester 2. Year 8 in Semester 2 sees students undertaking the core topics of Water and the World and Interconnections. Like all other Geography courses, geographical skills are embedded within teaching units, allowing students to practically apply their understanding in a variety of ways beyond the classroom.

Year 9 and 10 Geography

As students move into Semester 2 of 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 area 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 culminates with a topic called Human Wellbeing.

Year 9 and 10 Commerce

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 Personal Spending. Next, students undertake a depth study on Consumer Choice and Personal Finance. During this year, students also undertake a Promoting and Selling unit of study and run a small business at a Commerce Market Day. The final topic in Year 9, Law and Society, provides a foundation for Year 10 studies into the legal system.

Year 10 Commerce begins with a key topic called Law in Action. Following on from this, students undertake a unit on Government, and include a mock election and a mandatory excursion to Sydney District Court and NSW State Parliament mid way through the year.

Year 9 and 10 History Elective

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. Year 9 History Elective begins with an introductory unit on History, Heritage and Archaeology. While studying this unit, students undertake a personal research project on an archaeological site of their choice. In early April, the class will spend an exciting day at 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 on the rise and collapse of Aztec Society followed by a unit entitled Heroes and Villains, with the year concluding with an investigation into the sinking of the Titanic.

Year 10 History Elective spends the first term learning about Crime and Punishment from ancient to modern times. The next topic involves a study into the career of John F. Kennedy and his subsequent assassination. This unit is specifically-designed to develop student literacy and critical thinking skills.

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 environmental history unit uses the case study as an example of the consequences of negligent resource use and environmental degradation.

VET Studies are launched at GRC Peakhurst

2020 sees the launch of VET (Vocational Education and Training) courses at GRC Peakhurst. Year 9 VET Retail Services students achieve a TAFE Certificate in Retail Services at the completion of the course. Providing the opportunity to learn crucial workplace skills, this course will allow students to enter full-time or part-time employment within the retail industry. Units of competency include following work safety procedures,

communicating in the workplace, cleaning, organising and maintaining a retail environment and seeking and applying for work within the retail industry.

As these lucky students move into Year 10, they will also be given the opportunity to complete a TAFE Certificate I in VET Business Services Administration. This course will provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to gain full-time or part-time employment in an office environment.

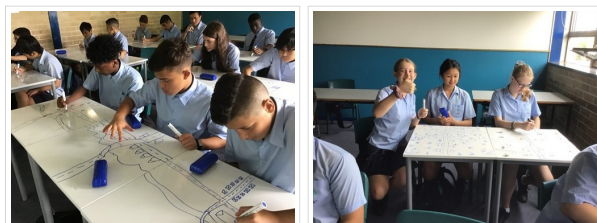


H.S.I.E. launches a flexible classroom in 2020.

2019 witnessed the transformation of our corridor with a number of murals being painted and the enhancement of most of our classrooms by the dedicated H.S.I.E. staff. This year one of our classrooms has been transformed into a flexible learning space.

Complete with whiteboard tables, stand up desks and a comfy rug, students are encouraged to explore the way they learn best. In addition to increasing student engagement and building student self-awareness of their learning, the room is specifically tailored to encourage group work and discussion.

Included below are some pictures of students hard at work in the new flexible learning classroom.



Ms Hayley Diamond
Head Teacher HSIE

Mathematics and Computing

Mathematics and Computing Faculty for 2020



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

- Mrs C. Keir (Head Teacher Mathematics / Year 8 Coordinator)
- Mr D. Smithard (Year 10 Coordinator)
- Miss A. Pham (Year 9 Coordinator)
- Mr N. Fomin (Year 7 Coordinator)
- Mrs M. Ibrahim
- Mr R. Bokar
- Mr N. Grose
- Miss N. Ivanovska
- Mr M. Vrhovac



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.

Homework and Study Suggestions

Regular homework and systematic study and revision is an essential component necessary when aiming for excellence in Mathematics. Students are advised to develop sustainable routines to complete assigned homework as well as a structured study schedule to provide them with planned sessions to regularly review course content.

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 Tuesday and/or Wednesday 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 Tuesday and/or Wednesday afternoons. Alternatively, students may arrange a time with their class teacher to use the D1.04 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 14th May 2020. 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. 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.

Minimum Standards Testing

Minimum Standards Testing for Year 10 students will be conducted again this year. Students will be given the opportunity to sit for this assessment on four occasions throughout the year. Students will be notified of their assessment time closer to the dates.

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

Ms Christine Keir

Head Teacher Mathematics/Computing

PDHPE

Welcome, from the PDHPE faculty:

Mr A Morley - Acting Head Teacher
Mrs S Favuzzi - LOTE/HT Administration
Miss S Yates - Sports Organiser
Mr M Hoggett - Yr10 Year Advisor
Miss A Johnson Dance Coordinator
Mr R Butler
Mr M Dungey
Miss N Ivanovska



The PDHPE faculty would like to welcome parents and students to an exciting and busy 2020! Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) contributes significantly to the cognitive, social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of our 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 healthy, productive and active lifestyles. PDHPE gives students the opportunity to discover who they are and find ways to better accept themselves, thus

ensuring a much smoother ride through their adolescent journey.

The PDHPE faculty have been busy planning and implementing new units of work and assessment tasks in line with the new K-10 PDHPE syllabus that has been developed, using the established NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabus development process.

The main changes of this curriculum are for learning experiences to take on a strength based approach, whereby it's identified that students use their own strengths, capabilities and resources in a wide range of situations to optimise wellbeing, as well as build skills to promote confidence and a capacity to be healthy. It's only fitting that the most suitable time to empower students with these skills is during adolescence. Here at GRC Peakhurst, our Stage 4 and 5 PDHPE programs will unpack a range of important adolescent issues including, but not limited to:

- Puberty & Change
- Sex Education & Sexuality
- Drug Education
- Road Safety
- Cyber Safety & Navigating the Web
- Domestic Violence, Discrimination & Harassment
- Body Image
- Mental Health

Through the in depth study of these delicate yet essential topics, students are provided with opportunities to learn to critique and challenge assumptions, attitudes, behaviours and stereotypes and evaluate a range of health-related sources, services and organisations. They develop a commitment to the qualities and characteristics that promote and develop empathy, resilience, respectful relationships, inclusivity and social justice.

During the practical curriculum, students develop self-management, interpersonal and movement skills to help them become empowered, self-confident and socially responsible citizens. Students learn in movement, about movement and through movement and are given opportunities to apply and adapt their skills across multiple contexts. The learning experiences in PDHPE provide students with a foundation to actively contribute to, and advocate for, the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves and others in the community and beyond school.

Please use the **Parent Guide** as a point of reference for further information relating to the implementation of the new NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education K–10 Syllabus.

Faculty Requirements:

Students of GRC Peakhurst have been made aware of our faculty expectations for practical and theory lessons during the 2020 academic year.

Parents are reminded that each student must attend PDHPE lessons with:

- Your PDHPE work book for theory lessons. This is to be covered in plastic contact with your name on the front.
- Full Georges River College PE/ Sports uniform for practical lessons. This includes your hat, sky blue sports shirt, navy shorts and supportive running or cross trainer shoes (see school diary for diagram of appropriate shoes)
- Pencil, pens, highlighters, a ruler and a calculator.

Swimming Carnival:

In the first few weeks of term, the PDHPE faculty were busy planning and running our annual Swimming Carnival. The carnival took place on Friday 21st 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.

One of the highlights of the carnival was the Staff vs. Students race. Both teams battled it out with each member performing a 25m relay sprint. It was a hard fought race and, unfortunately, the students took out this competition by half a stroke length. The competition now stands at 1-0 to the students for the annual trophy. The teachers are keen to even up the tally at the athletics carnival before we move into our annual sporting competitions in Term 3/4.

All students should be proud of their efforts, enthusiasm and behaviour on this very enjoyable day. We look forward to doing it all again next year!

The Zone Swimming carnival will be held on Friday 28th and Monday 2nd March. Good luck to all our athletes who qualified!

The winner of the 2020 GRC Peakhurst Swimming Carnival was McGrath!

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



School Cross Country Carnival

The annual school cross country carnival is held on **Monday 23rd 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.

PASS CAMP

In Term 3 the PDHPE department is conducting a 3 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.

Year 10 Drug Education Incursions

Year 10 is about to embark on a stage appropriate unit that aims to analyse the risks and dangers associated with Drugs. To complement student learning and their upcoming assessment task, the Year 10 cohort will be involved in their interactive Drug Education Incursion taking place late in Term 1.

Please keep an eye out for the information notes that will be handed out in the coming weeks.

Summer Sport

Our Summer Sport competition is well under way for Term 1. After several weeks of grading, Summer Grade teams have begun their rounds, travelling to different venues around our zone to compete against our other schools. Best of luck as these competitions progress.

Our Year 7 students have also begun their sport program and are nearing the end of their first rotation. By all accounts they are enjoying the variety of sports and activities and I hope this continues as the year goes on.

We would also like to welcome a new partnership with Target Life Fitness, located in Peakhurst, who has come onboard this year. Trainers at the gym take two of our fitness groups each week and run them through some conditioning and boxing exercises. See below some photos of our students smashing their first session at the gym!



The term will soon come to a close and so we will shortly begin organising our Winter competition. Students, please keep an ear out for announcements about winter sport and continue your good work on Wednesday afternoons!

Mr Aaron Morley
Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE

HPG Program

In 2020, GRC Peakhurst Campus will be piloting a High Performance and Gifted (HPG) program in Sport Coaching.

This course will provide eligible students with the chance to sample the type of learning activities and competencies undertaken in the 2 Unit VET Sport Coaching course at our Oatley Senior Campus. It will also provide students with the chance to develop their talents in the sport and recreation industry and enhance their employability skills.

The sport and recreation industry has been identified as a key growth area for employment in 2020 and beyond and helps to play a crucial role in the wellbeing of all Australians. As well as our physical health, the industry promotes the mental health of individuals and the wellness of our communities by building social cohesion and inclusion. Currently 134000 people are employed in the industry, contributing \$5.4 billion to the Australian economy.

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

The first students to participate in the course during semester one have been identified for a variety of high performance skills, including:

- Ability to lead by example and role model desired behaviour in sport
- Willingness to learn new skills
- Strong in character and integrity
- Commitment and passion for sport
- Effective communication skills
- Highly motivated for success
- Thirst for knowledge
- Effective organisation

We hope the first cohort find this course to be valuable and challenging in gaining an insight into the Sport Coaching industry. A second course will be held during semester two this year, giving the same opportunity to those who may have missed the chance the first time.

Mr Rob Butler
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 sends Mrs Alexander best wishes until her return in 2021 and welcomes back Mr Bousaleh and Mrs Taiamoni. They join Mr Smith (Acting Head Teacher), Mr Chakari, Mr Kostas, Ms Baldassarre, Mrs Underhill and Mrs James (laboratory assistant).



Some highlights of 2019 were incursion activities for Years 7, 8 and 9 and successful entries in the RACI Crystal Growing Competition. Ruben Meerman, the 'Surfing Scientist', showed a variety of interesting Science activities to Year 7, Year 8 students participated in an interactive activity presented by ANSTO that explored how everyday people shape the future of our society using Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and Ruben Meerman presented facts about Climate Change to Year 9.



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 STEM performance.



Mr Steve Smith
Relieving Head Teacher Science

Special Education

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

Our Year 7 students are settling 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 of Term 1. Notes outlining interview day/time preferences will be sent home via communication books.

Learning Enhancement is now located in the Library. This team includes the LaSTs, Mrs Van de Pol and Mrs Jarman and SLSO's working with mainstream students.

We are currently coordinating NDIS therapists at school to work with some of our students. When times /dates are confirmed, a note will be sent home as confirmation of this service. Any parents with NDIS problems/queries, please email me and I'll forward you details for a LAC at Hurstville St Vincent de Paul.

A few friendly reminders

Label student's clothing.

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.

Camp is booked for 2020 14-16 September. More information to follow.

Ms Peta Holm

Head Teacher Special Education

peta.holm@det.nsw.edu.au

TAS

The TAS faculty is looking forward to a productive 2020. The staff remain unchanged although we are delighted that Ms Milis is in now working permanently in the department. Mrs Giles remains our ever so reliable and hard-working kitchen assistant.



2020 course co-ordinators are-

Mrs Gualtieri --Year 7 Textiles and Year 8 Engineering

Mrs Willis- Year 7 Food and Agriculture and the Agricultural and Gardening Plot

Mrs Tzoumas - (Year 9 Year Advisor)- Year 9 Design and Technology and Year 9 Industrial Technology Timber, Year 8 Materials

Ms Testa- (Year 8 Year Advisor) Year 7 Coding, Year 9 Food Technology

Ms Seidel -(Girls Supervisor) Year 8 Food and Agriculture, Year 10 Food Technology

Ms Milis- Year 9 Graphics and Year 10 Industrial Technology Timber

Mr Toms- Year 10 Graphics and Year 10 Design and Technology

As part of the implementation of the new syllabus in a number of subjects this year, the faculty has developed new programs

for Year 8 Technology Mandatory (Materials, Engineering and Food and Agriculture), Year 9 Food Technology, Year 9 Graphics, Year 9 Industrial Technology Timber and Year 9 Design and Technology to meet new syllabus requirements. As a result, several new design challenges will be introduced. Year 8 Technology Mandatory for instance will be designing their own wooden toys and table lamps. So far, students in engineering have had fun experimenting with engineering principles of energy, force and motion when designing toy cars using recycled materials.



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

TAS Toy Car

The laser cutter that was purchased last year, will also be increasingly used in design projects, particularly when using acrylics. Indeed, our vision for the department this year is to upgrade the Industrial Arts area so that students have access to more resources. We also plan to expand our vegetable garden that we established last year in an endeavour to expand the range of food products from the paddock that end on the plate in food technology classes.

Ms Rosalie Gualtieri

Head Teacher TAS

Careers

Term 1, Work Experience program

The Year 10 cohort of students are encouraged to attend work experience throughout the year, if they so wish but they should be aware they will be expected to attend a mandatory week of work experience in Term 4, week 7, 23/11/20 to 27/11/20 which they need to arrange themselves.

To date, three students have attended work experience this year, thus far.

BiG Day In IT@ UTS 19 March 2020

GRC interested Year 10 students will be attending the BiG Day In IT Careers Conference @ UTS on Thursday 19 March 2020 – Speakers include Microsoft, Animal Logic, Technology One, WiseTech Global, Woolworths, Adobe, Defence Force Recruiting & more talking about their careers & the future of technology. Loads of cool exhibitors including Microsoft, UTS, WiseTech Global, ACS & loads more.

Free Career Exploration Tool

The CareerHQ Compass is currently free to high schools. This online 6-module interactive career exploration tool gives

students the ability to match their interests, skills and lifestyle preferences to a list of 3-6 career options. CareerHQ Compass Reports directly reflect how students see themselves and help to support career conversations! More information at:

<http://careerhq.pages.ontraport.net/introduction>

Meet Next Mile: It Guides Your Students to Think About Their Career While Creating a CV

Next Mile is more than just an online CV creator. It has a guided journey that will ask students questions about their skills, experiences & career outlook. It then generates a CV for them. The CV can also be downloaded as a PDF. It's free! If you are looking for work – whether casual or even volunteering, it can match the student with opportunities as they come up.

<http://www.nextmile.io/>

Reasons Why Students Can Opt for Fee-Free Traineeships

There's never been a better time to be aware and consider a traineeship once school is finished. Under the NSW Government fee free trainee initiative, the course cost of 70,000 new trainees may include fee-free training from 1 January 2020. With over 100 different career courses available, visit TAFE NSW today for your students to start exploring their career options.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-traineeships>

The Best Jobs for School Leavers and TAFE NSW Can Help

TAFE NSW has a list of awesome jobs for school leavers to get their hands dirty and earn good coin. From Barista skills making that perfect cup of coffee to serving the country in the Defence Force, TAFE has courses for students ready to leave school once completed their RoSA:

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/career-advice/start-my-career/blog/-/blogs/the-best-jobs-for-school-leavers>

Do a Degree Differently With TAFE NSW

Taught by industry experts in small and dynamic learning environments, TAFE pride ourselves on strong industry links and diverse range of extracurricular student programs. Students will stand out from the crowd with a TAFE NSW Degree qualification. Download TAFE degrees brochure today:

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/degrees>

2021 UK Gap Year Paid Program | LETZ LIVE

Gap Year Applications are a future consideration. For Year 12 students interested in working at a prominent UK boarding school in 2021. Participants receive accommodation, food & all training. Year round support from our Australian & UK staff. Applicants to apply online. Contact Nick (n.hare@letzlive.org) for further information and applicable conditions.

<http://www.letzlive.org/>

Career in Games & Film, Info Evening at Academy of Interactive Entertainment Wednesday 19th March

Considering a career in games, 3D or VFX? Discover AIE's courses in Game Art & Animation, Programming and Game

Design. Learn about entry requirements and career pathways. 6pm-8pm, 33 Mountain St, Ultimo, NSW, 2007. Registration is required. RSVP:

<https://aie.edu.au/infoevening>

Cookery and Patisserie Information Evening Wednesday 18 March 6-8pm.

Come speak to Angliss trainers, students, and staff about the courses on offer at our Sydney campus. For students interested in studying a Certificate IV in Cookery or Patisserie, now is your chance to tour our facilities, sample the work of our students and ask any burning questions about the courses and your future! Inquiries to Erica at erica.margovsky@angliss.edu.au

Open Day Free Entry - Food Festival - Kenvale College

Find out more about future career possibilities from our industry leaders > Get first-hand advice from our current students > Tour the campus and get your questions answered Saturday, May 2nd | Kenvale College - 38 High St Randwick NSW 2031 More info: enquiries@kenvale.edu.au Ph: 02 9314 6213 (9am-5pm AEDT)

The following courses, workshops and information sessions may be of interest to Year 10 students considering careers after their HSC to help them make better high school subject selection choices:

COURSES, WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR STUDENTS

Bachelor of Podiatry Practice (Honours) at CQUni Sydney

CQUni work ready Podiatry graduates develop the skills required to deal with prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of medical and surgical conditions of the feet and lower limbs. Students gain skills in patient interaction, surgery and orthotic creation at our purpose-built Sydney Campus Podiatry Clinic. Visit:

<https://www.cqu.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-podiatry-practice-honours>

Study Interior Design: Sydney Design School Info Session Wednesday 25 March 2020 6pm

Simply love interiors? Make 2020 your year for creativity, roll your sleeves up and get hands-on learning the real world skills you'll need to work as a professional Interior Designer. Be inspired by our student work and explore our design studios! Come to our next Info Session Wednesday 25 March 2020 6pm. Register via the link below RTO Provider # 91446 CRICOS Provider # 03759F.

<https://bit.ly/2A3wROg>

Financial Literacy and Money Management Workshop

Real World Education Group is a leader in financial literacy and money management courses for young Australians. RWE Group has taught hundreds of high school students basic investing principals, how to budget and save, how loans work, why super

is important and more. These are essential life skills all young Australians should have the opportunity to learn. To learn more, contact RWEAG at info@rweg.com.au

April School Holiday Courses at AFTRS

AFTRS run a variety of courses in each of the four school holidays. Their workshops are taught by industry professionals using industry standard equipment and, where appropriate, are held in AFTRS' state-of-the-art film, TV and radio studios. Enrol here:

<http://bit.ly/38izYjv>

Year 10 Work Experience at Sydney University in May and September

Ms Toni Arfanis
Careers Advisor

SRC News

Welcome back to 2020!

Lauren Osmond of the English Faculty is proud to look after our incredibly busy and active Student Representative Council at GRC Peakhurst.

We are looking forward to a great year with our SRC team. Your 2020 SRC has been officially inducted into the SRC at the Week 4 Formal Assembly.

Your School Captains for 2020 are:

Chloe T and Brendan L

From Chloe:

Hi, my name is Chloe T and I'm one of the school captains at Peakhurst this year. I enjoy playing sports and I thrive in a competitive environment. I'm passionate about student voice which I express through public speaking and debating. My favourite subjects are history and commerce because I like learning about human nature. This year I hope to promote our initiatives by educating my peers on sustainability. My main goal is to raise awareness about current issues like climate change and reducing waste by running fundraisers and events. I'm excited for a great year to come.

From Brendon:

Hi, my name is Brendon L and I am one of the GRC Peakhurst school captains. I enjoy debating and public speaking and always love to debate others. I'm interested in politics, both in Australia and the US. I want to do all I can to help bring light to and improve the issues which I see around me - from climate change, to animal agriculture, and improving my school community.

Your School Vice-Captains for 2020 are:

Mollie H
Alex T-L

From Mollie:

Hi, I'm Mollie H, one of you vice captains for this year! I have passion for sports and being part of a team. I really enjoy marine studies and any practical classes. I'm looking forward

to helping plan and run many successful fundraisers to support great charities and to help our school develop even further.

From Alex:

Hi, my name is Alex Trong L and I am one of the Vice Captains for 2020. I enjoy many sports like volleyball and basketball. My favourite subjects are Maths and PASS. This year I can't wait to educate the next generation and leave a long lasting impact on the school.

A message from all four captains:

As captains, we hope to implement new initiatives throughout the year which will benefit students, teachers, and improve our school environment. Firstly, we applied for a \$15,000 sustainability grant to go towards cold, filtered water fountains which will be located throughout our school, minimising our school's waste. We successfully received this grant and will be working alongside teachers, our environmental group, and others in our school to implement this.

We also have had many meetings with our local member of state parliament, Mr Mark Coure to push for more busses around the school. In cooperation with teachers, the P&C committee, the Punchbowl Bus Company, and others, we have received this bus, and are now looking to further improve the bus route to help students on their commute home.

We are all looking forward to representing our school community and working to improve our school. We have a lot more ideas to bring to our school community, which you will hear about throughout the year!



I wish all of those Year 7s attending camp the very best as well as our Year 10 SRC who will be accompanying them: enjoy the challenges and meeting new people! Stay tuned for Year 7 2020 SRC Election information in upcoming morning assemblies.

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

Wellbeing Team Report

GRC Peakhurst Wellbeing Team

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

The Wellbeing Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principals, Head Teacher Wellbeing, four Year Advisors, School Counsellors, SRC Co-coordinator, Girls and Boys Mentors, Youth Workers and the Careers Advisor.

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, Head Teachers, Deputy Principals, classroom teachers, 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.

School partnership community initiatives with Headspace, Riverwood Community Centre, Project Youth, Georges River Life Care and 3 Bridges will be engaged. This will provide with opportunities to be mentored and participate in various wellbeing programs. This will assist them with strategies to use in their day to day lives to cope with challenges they may face. These programs focus strongly on building resilience, self-esteem, awareness of body image and making correct choices. Information on when these programs are scheduled will be provided at that time.

School Counsellors and Youth Workers

In 2020, we have two counsellors at school. Christine works on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays and Gloria is in on a Tuesday and Wednesday. Georges River College Peakhurst Campus are fortunate to have Ellen as our SWSO (Student Wellbeing Support Officer) at school on Tuesdays and Fridays as well as Ruth our youth worker from 3Bridges (Monday and Thursday) and Larra, also from 3Bridges who coordinates our Bounce Back Space (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). Samey is another of our fantastic youth workers who is at GRC

Peakhurst on a Monday and Thursday. All of our youth workers aim to provide pastoral care, case management and support to a range of students.



Student Wellbeing Team

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 school newsletters. These students make posters, sell ribbons, produce videos and run whole school assemblies to support this cause. This student group will also be instrumental in planning and coordinating a whole-school Wellbeing day to be held on Friday 20th March. Stay tuned for more details.....

Another of our roles is to support you in your Peak Learning lessons and to collect your responses from Cross-PL competitions to choose the winners. Under the guidance of our wonderful teacher Ms Seidel, we also help to run Breakfast Club which takes place at school on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7.45am.



PEAK Learning - As part of the Peak Learning (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. 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.

Peer Support

The Peer Support Program for 2020 has now come to an end, involving every Year 7 student and over 40 Year 9 and Year 10 Peer Support leaders. This program is considered highly valuable and rewarding for all students. The objective of this program is to foster friendships and allow the discussion of many issues that the Year 7 students may be experiencing. It also creates a bond between the new students at the school with our senior students.

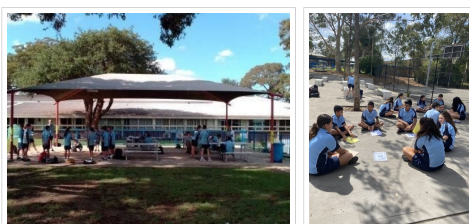
It is fantastic to see our leaders gaining strong leadership skills every week. It is a wonderful program and aims to effectively implement our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. I would like to thank the following Year 9 and 10 students for being outstanding leaders and role models to our younger students.

Year 9 Students

Cameron A/ Olivia B/ Arden Lee H/ Theodora M/ Chloe S/ Zakariya W/ Iverson W

Year 10 Students

Louisa A/ Mitchell B/ Kayley B/ Nhoon C/ Althea D-C/ Juliannah C/ Nina D/ Lara D/ Andrei E-W/ Danny H/ Mollie H/ Jayden Ho/ Samantha H/ Kayla-Jo I/ Leon J/ Brendon L/ Alex Trong L/ Giselle L/ Jayda L/ Georga M/ Anastacia M/ Jayden N/ Deepti P/ Tyler P/ Dominique R/ Jessica R/ Skye S/ Olivia S/ Eryn T/ Julia T/ Chloe T/ Camille U/ Jeremy W/ Alyssa W/ Emily Y.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cn75b-pcwTQ>

Parenting Ideas

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has a subscription to 'Parenting Ideas', which includes fantastic articles and webinars on a range of important issues and topics related to parenting. In every school newsletter, I will endeavour to include some articles for you to read and some of those articles have links attached to a webinar. As we are a subscribing school, for our parents, most of those webinars will incur no cost, so be sure to check them out!

This month, I have included 3 'Parenting Ideas' articles (see below) covering the following areas:

- Parenting in the Age of Disruption
- Tools for Managing Teenage Anxiety
- Spending Time with Kids – How Much is Enough?

The Wellbeing Team plan to work together to promote and celebrate wellbeing initiatives such as Harmony Day, R U OK and the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence.

The Wellbeing Noticeboard is located at D-Block near the lift with a list of upcoming events and initiatives that will be running as well as resources and links that students may be interested in.

It is important that all of our students have support and we are proud that at GRC Peakhurst Campus we have a strong wellbeing focus that supports our students.

Ms Julia Picone
Head Teacher Wellbeing

Gifted and Talented Education News

High Potential and Gifted 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.

Students are also encouraged to be aware of announcements and initiatives run by other subject area which may be offered to student participation.

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

Girl's Supervisor Report

Year 7 & 10 Vaccinations

Year 7 students have already received their first vaccinations on Friday 14th February, 2020. If you were absent on the day you will be still be eligible to receive your vaccination on the next visit on Monday 17th August, 2020. Please read the information below in regards to the relevant Year 7 & 10 vaccinations for 2020 and place in your diary.

If you have any queries relating to the vaccinations please contact me on the school number 9153 9966 ext 116.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is up and running every Tuesday and Thursday morning in A0.11 from 7.45am – 8.20am. Breakfast Club is free for everyone and we provide milkshakes, cheese toasties, cereal and fruit.

Come along and start your day the right way!!!

Ms Michelle Seidel
Girls Supervisor

Indigenous Education

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus is committed to and passionate about Aboriginal Education and provides a culturally inclusive learning environment, not only catering to their

educational engagement but ensuring that a diverse curriculum and breathe of extra-curricular opportunities are availed to meet the cultural needs of our Aboriginal students.

This year we have a number of initiatives planned to ensure we work to promote a positive, respectful and responsible environment. In ensuring this collaboration we have engaged the Aboriginal team from 3 Bridges who bring their expertise in cultural engagement and education to GRC Peakhurst and are working with our Aboriginal students once a fortnight to engage culture and identity among our students.

We have some exciting events in the pipeline kicking the term off with our Gifted and Talented program and new members joining our Aboriginal Representative Group to get our acknowledgement signs in place. We are also looking to be involved in

- Speak Up
- Sydney Opera House work experience
- AECG cultural and Language Camps
- Campfire
- Personal Learning Pathways
- Career opportunities
- University opportunities

A special thank you to Jack M for acknowledging country at open night.

We look forward to another exciting year. Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns or questions.

yaarri yarraang

GIFTED AND TALENTED ABORIGINAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

This year, our Aboriginal students are excited to be engaged in Georges River College – Peakhurst Campus gifted and talented Aboriginal education program. A selected group of Aboriginal students will be participating in selected lessons 1 period a fortnight for term 1 and 2 to enhance and further develop their skills and abilities that are linked to the cross curricular perspectives within the curriculum. These lessons will encourage the students to further develop their inherent culture to inform the community and embrace the connection to their families through the creation of a possum skin cloak.

A possum skin cloak is a traditional heirloom and was used to keep babies and communities warm in the winter. The cloak is a ceremonial piece and is worn at special occasions. The GRC students with the assistance of local elders will embark on the creation of a school cloak to welcome visitors. The embellishments on the cloak will be representative of the traditional owners on the land on which the school is located Bidi-eagle land

Updates and the development stages of our cloak will be highlighted in coming newsletters.

Ms Michelle Seinor
Aboriginal Educational Coordinator

Administration

Our Administration Staff wish to welcome you back to the new school year and in particular to our new families. As it is the

start of the year, I thought I would mention a couple of our requirements and information you may or may not be aware of.

For your information:

- Our school office hours are from 8.00am – 3.15pm every day.
- School fees, excursions and other activities can be paid online at any time through the school website via the 'Make a Payment' link. Fees sheets for each year are also on our website.
- Students making payments at the front office – student payments can only be taken at the front office before school, recess and lunchtime. If these times are missed, the online option is always available.
- School fees 'Statement of Accounts' are sent out once a term. School fees may be paid off throughout the year except for incursions/excursions.
- Sport choices, excursion/incursion fees must be paid in full before attending the activity.

Please always:

- Inform our office if there is a change in your contact details – address, emergency contacts and most importantly, any changes in phone numbers – home, work and emergency.
- Provide updated information to us as soon as possible if your child has been diagnosed with a medical condition that requires immediate treatment should an emergency arise.
- Put your child's given name, surname, and their year on all notes being returned to the school – absentee notes, excursion permission notes.
- If leaving a message on our school phone voicemail - make sure you leave your name and contact number to be called back on.
- Lost Property – students may enquire about any lost property at the front office. Please make sure your child's belongings are labelled with their name as we acquire quite a large amount of unmarked, unclaimed school uniform/items in our lost property throughout the year.

Again, welcome to the 2020 school year, it will be our pleasure to being of assistance to you throughout the year.

Ms Carmel O'Shea
School Administrative Manager