

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



8 May 2020

From the Principal

Welcome to Term 2 at GRC Peakhurst! It is fair to say that the end of Term 1 and start of Term 2 has been unlike any other, due to two main reasons. Firstly, the change from 'regular' schooling to Learning from Home has been a massive undertaking for staff, students and parents alike. I'd like to start by acknowledging the extreme effort, dedication and innovation of our teaching staff for ensuring continuity of learning for our students and the development of systems to enable each and every child to be able to learn from home under what has been uniquely challenging circumstances. This effort was matched by the hard work and care demonstrated by our support staff, manning the numerous calls and emails received as we all navigated this change in our daily world, to running a very productive 'production line' in getting learning resources out to our school community. I'd also like to acknowledge the commitment and support from our parents, who have shared many positive messages of appreciation with our staff and have worked together with our teachers to ensure that learning continues for their child/children. And of course, our students also need to be acknowledged, for being so flexible and brave in taking on some very new ways of learning and engaging with their teachers with this online model. As with anything new, the change to Learning from Home has highlighted some excellent elements that reflect the expertise and creativity of our staff while also presenting some elements that have required refinement. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing patience and commitment as we ensure that Learning for Home is the very best for everyone!

Secondly, underlying this huge change in our school was another huge change with the announcement of Terry Vallis' retirement. Mr Vallis' first permanent teaching appointment was at Peakhurst High School in 1982 and he returned as Principal of GRC Peakhurst in 2014 (see Mr Vallis' letter to the school community below). It is unfortunate that with current restrictions due to COVID-19, we have been unable to run the typical and ordinary farewell events you would expect. I know I speak on behalf of our staff, parents and students (past and present) in saying that we look forward to hosting a number of extraordinary farewell events for Mr Vallis when it is safe to do so, to honour and thank him for his incredible dedication, passion and support of the GRC Peakhurst school community. We wish Mr Vallis a safe, happy and healthy retirement.

Our school's Director of Educational Leadership Joanna French, will convene a merit selection panel to appoint the new substantive Principal. In the interim, it is an honour and privilege to take on the role of Acting Principal at GRC Peakhurst. I welcome Mrs Sophia Favuzzi as Relieving Deputy Principal Years 9 and 10, working alongside Mr Scott Wilson as Deputy Principal Years 7 and 8. Miss Stephanie Yates will be joining the Executive Team as Relieving Head Teacher Administration. I look forward to continue working with such dedicated, committed and innovative teachers, enthusiastic and talented students, and supportive parents in this new role.

In recent years, student wellbeing and the concept of **'connectedness'** has been a focus of educational discussion and debate. Connectedness stems from the positive relationships that students perceive they have with a person, place or event. When students have a strong sense of connectedness to their school, it is deemed a protective factor, supporting their attendance, engagement and achievement. The NSW Department of Education's Wellbeing Framework has 'Connect' as a key theme and describes it as '*Our students will be actively connected to their learning, have positive and respectful relationships and experience a sense of belonging to their school and community'*.

https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/about/16531_Wellbein g-Framework-for-schools_Acessible.pdf

At GRC Peakhurst, student wellbeing and building **connectedness** is a priority. Within our current School Plan, explicitly teaching Social and Emotional Learning is a targeted process and we have seen it take place with the inclusion of PEAK (Peakhurst Expectations and Knowledge) Learning lessons each morning. For 2020, we have welcomed Ms. Julia Picone as our substantive Head Teacher Wellbeing and have extended on our successful student representative PEAK

Learning Wellbeing team. In addition, we have continued to grow our support for student wellbeing with a number of Youth Workers and Student Support Officers working on site at school and off-site within the community to support our young people, running one-on-one support, targeted group programs and student engagement programs, such as the highly innovative and unique, Bounce Back space.

As we continue with Learning at Home and the Phase One of the Managed Return to School, I am very pleased and proud to say that this priority on providing outstanding support for student wellbeing has been not only maintained but gone 'above and beyond'. Connectedness has been supported in the creation of a PEAK Learning Google Classroom for each year group, coordinated by Ms Picone and student Year Advisors to host a range of activities, links, and resources to support student wellbeing. It includes PEAK Learning lessons to continue to develop the social emotional skills of self-awareness. self-management, social awareness. relationship skills and responsible decision making. Our Youth Workers and Student Support Officers have maintained contact with students they have been working with, including creating and delivering food packages to a number of our families. Their contact details have been shared on the Google Classroom Code Summary Sheets if anyone is seeking help. Year Advisors have had scheduled release from their classes to be able to make phone contact with students in their year groups, to check on their progress, their wellbeing and to provide any necessary support. As always, our excellent School Counsellors, have continued their dedicated support of our school community.

Connectedness has been key to making Learning from Home successful and this has been enhanced through more frequent communication between teachers and students, student to student, and teachers and parents. To ensure that we have the best contact details for you, please phone the school to update your details if you have not been receiving school emails, so that we can maintain this vital step to maintain connectedness. It is also highly recommended to visit our school webpage and social media for day to day updates of school news and events. A key feature to support student wellbeing is to acknowledge their participation and achievement. At GRC Peakhurst, beyond the regular merits that can be issued, teachers also nominate students for demonstrating our core values of respect, responsibility and excellence, completing outstanding work and/or school citizenship through Student of the Week. You will see our student of the week recipients on the social media streams and in the PEAK Learning Google Classrooms. A special congratulations goes to our current Students of the Week for engaging so well in this new model of learning.

A recent example of how these factors work to create the aspects that make school life so special to build **connectedness** was our annual Anzac Day assembly. Using the PEAK Learning Google Classroom it was identified that we could still hold an Anzac Day assembly for 2020... but with a twist! Staff and students then worked together over the term break to create a virtual assembly that was then shared for our school community via the PEAK Learning Google Classroom and our school's social media. The assembly (video) was a moving piece that not only showcased why we commemorate

Anzac Day as a nation and as a school, but it also showcased the strength of the connectedness we have at GRC Peakhurst, with students taking the lead in sharing their thoughts, reflections and ideas on the meaning of Anzac Day. Congratulations and thank you to our School Captains, Chloe T and Brendan L, and our School Vice Captains, Mollie H and Alex T for their speeches and readings, and our Year 9 History representatives, Zemina I, Chloe S and Alivia B for sharing their perspectives and work samples. A special thanks to Ms Beck for coordinating the group and curating their work for what is an exceptional video. If any students or parent has yet to see it, I encourage you to take a look!

Looking forward to a term full of many more stories that demonstrate the strength of our school partnerships between students, staff and parents as we work together to enhance our connectedness.

Stay safe!

Ms Kim Osborne Acting Principal

Announcement from Mr Terry Vallis

Monday 27th April 2020

To the GRC Peakhurst School Community

After 39 years of service, as an educator in NSW Public Schools, I have decided to retire from the NSW Department of Education.

It has been an absolute honour and privilege to represent the GRC Peakhurst School community as the Principal over the last six years. I would like to thank the school leadership team, the teachers, support staff, students and families for their passionate commitment to ensuring everyone works together, supports each other, teaches together and learns together at GRC Peakhurst Campus!

Personally, this school will always have a very special place in my heart because I started my teaching career in 1982 as a mathematics teacher at Peakhurst High school and I am finishing my teaching career as the Principal of GRC Peakhurst Campus. It has been an amazing journey that has been made very special during the teaching, learning, growth and development of so many students and staff over the years.

The school will continue to thrive and be very proud of its achievements. I would like to wish everyone all the very best for the future and also thank everyone for their amazing support over the years. In the spirit of the "growth mindset" - always remember that "not every day will be good but there is some good in every single day." Always make the most of every day at school!

Best wishes for the future, stay safe and always support each other!

Mr Terry Vallis Principal GRC Peakhurst

Deputies' Report

Welcome to Term 2! We hope you are all well.

We'd like to acknowledge the ongoing support we are receiving from our school community as we continue to grapple with the COVID-19 situation. The transition to Learning from Home via Google Classrooms at the end of Term 1 was rapid and again, we would like to acknowledge our wonderful teachers who have had to quickly adapt and change their mode of teaching with very little time at the end of last term. They have done this with great professionalism, enthusiasm and commitment.

Thank you for all the positive messages that are regularly being sent to the school and thank you for continuing to support your child/ren in accessing Learning from Home.

From Monday 11th May 2020, we will begin a managed return to school (Phase One), with students attending one day a week as allocated by the school. Detailed information ('Phase 1 Student & Parent Information') was emailed to parents about the Phase One procedures including an outline of days that students have been allocated to attend last Friday 1st May 2020. The allocated days that students will attend school are based on their PEAK Learning classes.

During Phase One, students will continue to follow their timetable whether they are learning at home or attending school. However, we have amended period timings to provide for a break called PEAK Pause. At GRC Peakhurst, the Phase One model of allocated PEAK Learning groups coming per day allows us to best manage the health and safety of your children and our staff by providing social distancing through the reduction of class sizes per teacher supervision, including playground spaces during breaks. We ask that you adhere to the scheduled day that your child is to attend school and encourage you to keep your child at home for the remainder of the week where possible, to continue learning via Google Classroom. The Phase One model will remain in place pending advice from NSW Government and NSW Department of Education.

If you have any questions about the managed return to school (Phase One), please phone the school.

At GRC Peakhurst, students will continue to follow their regular timetable whether they are learning at home or learning at school via their designated Google Classroom. Students and parents are encouraged to refer to the document Learning from Home – Parents and Students, Term 2, 2020 that has previously been sent home for expectations and guidelines for Learning at Home. However, the time allocated for each period has changed for Phase One, scheduling 20 minutes per period for a **PEAK Pause** (a movement/mindfulness break).

When students are allocated to attend Learning at School, their PEAK Learning class will be divided into groups containing no more than 10-12 students and remain in the same classroom for the day, so that we can ensure social distancing and maintain hygiene practices. Students will be provided with a device to continue their learning via Google Classroom, under the supervision of a teacher (not necessarily their classroom/ subject teacher). During **PEAK Pause**, students will have the opportunity for **Targeted Teacher Time.** Targeted Teacher Time allows for students to access face to face support to ask teachers questions about their learning, clarify task instructions, or seek explicit instructions around a topic or task with a dedicated teacher for each key learning area.

During Phase 1, the NSW Department of Education states that parents and carers are encouraged to send their child to school on the allocated time or day/s for their child. If a parent keeps their child at home due to an underlying health condition or other concerns related to COVID-19, they are to advise the school to ensure their child is able to continue learning from home. Students who are participating in Learning from Home will be marked as being present at school.

Students are not expected to participate in learning if they are unwell and as such will be marked as being on sick leave pending advice from parents or carers that the student is unwell. Students who are not at school and/or not participating in Learning from Home and are unable to be contacted by the school to determine their whereabouts will be followed up using normal processes and marked as unapproved leave.

At GRC Peakhurst, we ask that you:

- phone or email the school if you are choosing to keep your child at home on their allocated day. Once we have confirmation of this, and your child is participating with their Google Classrooms, their leave will be explained as Flexible Leave.
- phone or email the school if your child is unwell and unable to participate in their Google Classrooms, so that their leave can be recorded as sick for the day and so that staff are aware and know not to follow up on your child missing their class.

Students who fail to participate in their Google Classrooms for 7 consecutive days and/or fail to submit required work over a number of subjects will have their attendance marked as unexplained. Continued failure to participate in classes and/or submit work will be referred to the school's Senior Executive, who will follow Department of Education processes regarding attendance.

The NSW Department of Education acknowledges that ongoing assessment of student learning throughout Term 2, will be important to enable teachers to provide feedback to students and guide their ongoing provision of appropriate learning tasks.

A wide range of assessment strategies can be used for students in Years 7-10 including:

- teacher observations of student responses during 'online' lessons
- student responses to tasks
- teacher/student/parent discussions video/phone
- peer and self-assessment strategies including exit slips, digital polls or quick quizzes
- research tasks to demonstrate learning

At GRC Peakhurst, students are expected to access their learning for all subjects via the dedicated Google Classroom. Students are required to complete and submit the set work by

the due date. Submitted classwork will substitute some formal assessments and therefore must be submitted for teachers to be able to report on identified learning outcomes.

We recognise the additional pressure that Learning from Home places on students and their families. In an attempt to reduce this, staff at GRC Peakhurst will deliver task instructions in three categories as outlined below.

- **Must Do** referring to the minimum amount a student needs to do to meet some of the task outcomes.
- Should Do referring to the ideal amount a student needs to do to meet most task outcomes, and
- **Something Extra** referring to extension work that students can do to substantially demonstrate all task outcomes.

However, Aiming for Excellence is one of our core values and we encourage students to complete work from each category to the best of their ability where possible.

The NSW Department of Education maintains that schools will continue to implement appropriate social distancing measures proportionate to the health advice at the time. Schools continue to reinforce good hygiene practices for staff and students, including reminders to:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water before and after eating and after going to the toilet
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your face
- Limit physical contact when greeting people
- Limit physical contact in the playground

At GRC Peakhurst, the Phase One model of allocated PEAK Learning groups coming per day, allows us to best manage the health and safety of your children and our staff by providing social distancing through the reduction of class sizes per teacher supervision, including playground spaces during breaks. We ask that you adhere to the scheduled day that your child is to attend school and encourage you to keep your child at home for the remainder of the week where possible. The Phase One model will remain in place pending advice from NSW Government and NSW Department of Education.

To support the health and safety for our staff and school community, if needing to communicate with the school, please do so via email and phone where possible. We also ask that you model appropriate social distancing when dropping off and picking up your child by avoiding gatherings of parents/peers outside of school gates.

The canteen will be closed until further notice. Students attending school on their allocated day will need to be provided with their recess and lunch. School buses will run as normal.

The NSW Department of Education reminds us that it is critical that any staff member or student who feels unwell does not attend school until they are well in order to minimise the spread of any virus.

If a student falls ill while at school, the department's current health care procedures apply including contacting the student's

parent or carer to attend the school to collect the student. If the student's parent or carer is not available to collect their child, contact is to be made with the student's emergency contact who should be asked to collect the child.

Students and staff should not return to school until they are well and symptom free.

Mr Scott Wilson Deputy Principal – Years 7 & 8 Ms Sophia Favuzzi Relieving Deputy Principal Years 9 & 10

Year 7 Student Advisor Report

Ms Seinor is writing regular emails and messages for Year 7 to maintain contact and support with her year group, in addition to phone calls. Year 7 students are recommended to check their Department of Education emails and log on to their PEAK Learning Google Classroom daily. If they have any questions or concerns, they are invited to message or email Ms Seinor on these forums.

Ms M Seinor Year 7 Student Advisor

Year 8 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to Term 2! While we can all agree this is a very unusual start to the term, I would like to start by thanking all of year 8 for their consistent effort under these new circumstances. A big thank you also to all parents/carers for your support of our online learning environment.

I would like to remind students to ensure they are following their normal timetable daily, and attending their online classes on the correct day for each subject, as well as submitting your work on the scheduled due dates.

Thank you to those students who have already joined the 'Year 8 Peak Learning and Wellbeing' Google Classroom. I ask and encourage all students to join to participate in daily morning activities online, between 8:40 – 9:00am. The code was published on the Code Summary Sheet emailed at the start of this term. During this time there will also be important messages posted from the Principal, Deputy Principal, Head Teacher Wellbeing and myself.

During this time it is important to make sure we are taking care of ourselves. Students are reminded to allow themselves breaks between each lesson to be away from their screens, try to participate in some daily exercise, ensure you are drinking plenty of water and eating nutritious meals throughout the day.

If students or parents have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or by phoning the school. I would like to again thank Year 8 for their diligent effort and wish you all a productive, informative and enjoyable term.

Ms Giulia Testa Year 8 Student Advisor

Year 9 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to all year 9 students.

At the end of last term, we entered into the online learning world and will continue with this mode of learning for now. It is important that students try and stick to their routine as best as they can by accessing their online learning during their timetabled lesson. By now, all students should have access to all their Google Classrooms to complete relevant materials for each lesson. Students will be given an extended timeframe to complete tasks to accommodate students who are unable to access their online learning during the timetabled period. It is also encouraged that students do take regular breaks from the computer screen through the day to reduce eye strain.

All students are encouraged to also join the 'Year 9 PEAK Learning and Wellbeing' Google Classroom. The idea of the google classroom is to deliver Peak Learning lessons as they would happen at school. This google classroom will also include important messages from the Principal, Deputy Principal, Head Teacher Wellbeing as well as myself. The code was published on the Code Summary Sheet emailed at the start of this term.

If students or parents have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself through email or by phoning the school. I would like to wish Year 9 an enjoyable and productive term. I am looking forward to seeing everyone back at school when the time is right.

Ms Fotini Tzoumas Year 9 Student Advisor

Year 10 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone, needless to say a return to school unlike any other.

Well done to all students who have embraced their new online learning platform – it will get easier once a routine and structure is created by logging on each day and following your timetable. For those at home where this isn't always possible for a variety of reasons, try your best under the circumstances to stay in touch with the work your teachers are uploading so that we can get everyone back up to speed when we return to the normal school routine. Well done to the parents also having been taken out of your comfort zones from your normal work/ home routine to assist your children with their online learning. Please utilise your teachers – they are online waiting to assist with any questions related to the coursework.

Away from the curriculum, it's so important we are looking after ourselves and each other both physically and emotionally. When at home, make a conscious effort to eat well, stay hydrated and make time for some form of physical activity each day. Take some positives from being at home with loved ones which can traditionally be difficult in a time-poor world.

Many students immensely enjoy the social interaction they get at school from their peers and teachers. If they are struggling being at home for an extended period of time remind them to stay connected. There are so many options to speak with our friends and family - FaceTime, Zoom, Google Meets, WhatsApp calls etc. Encourage students to utilise these so they don't feel so isolated.....during isolation.

I have fielded many questions regarding the school formal, which has not been cancelled at this stage and hopefully we can go on to have a great night in December as planned.

Stay safe everyone and feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns.

Mr Matt Hoggett Year 10 Student Advisor

FACULTY NEWS

CAPA

Dance

Throughout March, the GRC Peakhurst Dancers worked extremely hard attending rehearsals on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings before school. The Monday morning rehearsals focused on strengthening and conditioning, which included lots of stretching and basic dance technique. The dancers loved working on their cardio through fun activities, which targeted the stamina they need to perform dance routines. The company dance group made a start on their performance routine and it was great to see the dancers tackle a sharp and fast commercial jazz routine. We are looking forward to completing this routine and performing it sometime in the future. The ensemble dance group also began their jazz/ musical theatre performance routine and I was very impressed with this group's ability to pick up choreography and practice it in their own time.

It is hard to rehearse dances without students being face to face or to adhere to social distancing measures at dance. For this reason, we will be taking a break until further notice to keep our dancers safe and healthy. I can't wait until we meet again to complete our dances and perform together. Keep your eye out for updates about when dance will return.

Ms Amy Johnson Dance Coordinator

HSIE

ANZAC Day Commemoration Video

Every year GRC Peakhurst shows their respect and appreciation for individuals who have fought for our freedom in war and conflicts. This year, in collaboration with school SRC leaders and avid Year 9 History volunteers, a video has been produced to commemorate this important event. Please join us in showing our appreciation for this sacrifice by viewing the video below:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IKnL3iRvomrl6_WNOoUvd 9WVmsCY0Zsj

Students who have contributed to the 2020 ANZAC Day Commemoration Video include:

Brendon L. -School Captain Chloe T. -School Captain Alex T. -School Vice-Captain Mollie H. -School Vice-Captain Alivia B. -SRC and Year 9 History Cameron A. -SRC and Year 9 History Zemina I - Year 9 History

A special thanks to Ms. Beck for the outstanding editing and construction of this video.

News from the H.S.I.E. faculty

The H.S.I.E team sends their best wishes and a hearty welcome back after the Easter holidays.

We have taken up the challenge to adapt our teaching to the demands of the current COVID-19 situation. Our goal remains to support the learning of all our students, across all year groups and subjects, in an engaging and accessible manner. As a talented and dedicated team, the H.S.I.E. staff are working collaboratively to supplement many of their online activities with teacher lesson recordings to explain content and lesson instructions. In addition, other teachers have been tirelessly modifying activities to meet the demands of this online teaching and learning environment. While this situation is new and challenging at times, we are proud to say that many of the learning experiences have been taken up by students with earnest dedication. Included are assorted examples of student work that we have received as a result of our online teaching.

Joshua E 9 Commerce





LAWS

The Australian Consumer Law sets out purchaser rights The hard alled shopper ensures. These incorporate your privileges to a fix, substitution or discount just as pay for harms and misfortune and having the option to drop a flawed assistance.

DATA

As an ever increasing number of organizations are urging their representatives to work from home, (DLP) has developed conditioned data. Previously, Data Loss Prevention DLP has been related with convoluted arrangements and invading operational administration issues, yet DLP isn't so much an item however a





COMMUNICATION

The International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) is an association made out of purchaser security specialists from more than 60 nations. ICPEN's its gives valuable data on how you can resolve cross-fringe questions.

ORGANISATIONS

Your state and domain purchaser assurance organization (some of the time called 'thopper issue can furnish you with data about your privileges and alternatives. They may likewise have the eption to h arrange a goals among you and the dealer.





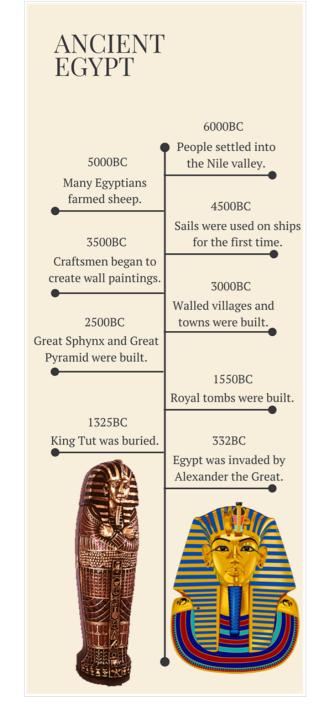
COURTS

consider getting autonomous legitimate guidance about what alternatives are accessible and suit your circumstances. Make sure that you get lawful course first, as lawful activity can be costly and there is no assurance that you will be eligible to.



IF ANY MORE REQUIRES PLESE CONTACT OUR NUMBER ON 1800 9255

Stavros P 7 HSIE



Teiya A J 9 Commerce



Year 10

Australian History

During Term 1, Year 10 History worked through a topic on Changing Rights and Freedoms. We had the honour of hosting past residents of the Kinchela Boys Home. This engaging incursion allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of the Stolen Generation, a sad event in Australian history. Students then demonstrated their understanding of the topic in the form of a research report. Included are some outstanding examples of student work:

Australian Geography

For most of the term, students of Geography have been learning about 'Environmental Management and Change', with a focus upon the management of Australia's coastline. Traditionally, the H.S.I.E. faculty takes students to Cronulla beach to complete their mandatory fieldwork requirements, and to reinforce their learning by observing the issues in action. However, this year, we had to take a very different strategy. Instead, Ms. Schenk and Ms. Beck spent countless hours constructing a virtual excursion. Included here is the link to this fantastic piece of work.

Bate Bay Virtual Excursion

The virtual excursion allowed students to be guided through the experience in their own homes. Our successful approach allowed students to gain an understanding of the topic in preparation for their Coastal Management report. We are proud to say that this strategy was not only successful but produced the largest number of high-quality student work that we have ever seen!

Congratulations goes out to the following students for their outstanding submissions:

Commerce

Year 10 studies have worked through an engaging topic on 'Law in Action'. Even though we sadly had to postpone our excursion to the Downing Centre and NSW State Parliament this term, students were given the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the law by creating a video. Below are some of the fantastic submissions we received at the end of term:

Kayley B

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJtmSzeE2oM

Sora K

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

History Elective

Students of History Elective spent the term studying 'Crime and Punishment from ancient to modern times. While lessons were primarily centred on the changing nature of criminal activity over time, students undertook a research project to investigate how society has punished offenders. They were given the option of working in pairs or alone. Considering the current learning environment, some ingenious ways of doing this were employed by the students.

Anthisa S and Clarissa C 10 History Elective

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIrGA8qPIvQ

Camille U and Lincoln E

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RIHAeoEsMs

Year 9

Australian History

After completing a short topic on the 'Making of the Modern World', studies progressed on to World War One, with a focus on Australia's participation in the war. Students were asked to research then write letters or diary entries on different aspects of a soldier's experience to demonstrate their empathetic understanding. This topic coincided with ANZAC Day and some of our student's volunteered to contribute their entries in the ANZAC Ceremony Video. Below are additional outstanding submissions from Year 9 HSIE:

Year 8

HSIE (History)

The year began with a depth study on 'Medieval Europe'. In order to demonstrate their understanding of the subject matter, their ability to conduct research and to empathise with past peoples, students were given the opportunity to write a diary or letter from the perspective of a king, knight or peasant living in the Middle Ages. Included below is an example of an exemplary response. In addition, also included are examples of Year 8 heraldic designs.

Year 7

HSIE (History)

Before starting on a depth study on 'Ancient Egypt', Year 7 studies in History began with an introductory unit on 'Investigating the Past', with a case study on Otzi, a five thousand year old ice mummy discovered in the Italian Alps. Students were tasked with developing their research and extended response writing skills to complete this work. Included below are some of the outstanding essays we received:

Warmest regards,

Ms Hayley Diamond Head Teacher HSIE

Mathematics and Computing

Welcome back to term 2. I hope that students and parents/ carers have had an opportunity to spend some quality time with each other during these unprecedented times and are feeling well and keeping safe.

The following information regarding upcoming assessment and Google Classroom expectations for Mathematics and Information and Software Technology (IST) has previously been disseminated. However, with remote learning continuing again this term in varying capacities, I wish to remind parents/carers and students that formal summative assessment (in both Mathematics and Information & Software – as outlined in the 2020 Assessment Handbooks) have been postponed until further notice and are currently being reviewed. Formative assessment, however, will continue.

All staff in the Mathematics faculty have been busily preparing and uploading lessons and units of work (including worksheets, links, instructional videos and presentations) to their Google Classrooms. Please ensure that your child logs into their Google Classroom at the commencement of their timetabled period (where possible) to access and complete the work provided under the Classwork tab. Google Classroom codes were issued by class teachers to all students at the beginning of the year and were also sent home late last term. During these timetabled lessons, staff have been, and will continue to be, online ready to answer any questions students may have in 'real time'.

Staff will be asking students to indicate if they are present during the scheduled lesson, by typing a comment and/or responding to a posted question. Please remind your child not to post irrelevant or inappropriate comments. They need to remain respectful at all times. The Comments section in the Stream is only for relevant questions regarding the current lesson content. Should your child have questions outside of their scheduled lesson time, they are encouraged to email their class teacher who will respond as soon as they can. Periodically, teachers will post class tasks (including assigned Mathletics tasks) which also need to be submitted. These submitted tasks may be used for assessment and reporting purposes and will need to be submitted on time and completed to the best of each student's ability. It is, therefore, important that each student keeps up with their classwork in readiness for submission purposes.

For students unable to access online course content, alternative work has been provided and sent home. Completed work should be returned to school as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher to clarify any queries or concerns.

Thank you and stay safe!

Ms Christine Keir Head Teacher Mathematics/Computing

PDHPE

Learning at Home has resulted in an inevitable change to structure and daily routines involved in student learning not only in PDHPE but across all KLA's.

Please note that all classes have a dedicated and active Google Classroom where students are required to be working regular school hours – 8:40 am – 3:00pm (2:30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays) and have a visible online presence during all timetabled lessons should their personal circumstances permit this. Students will indicate their attendance by completing the Do Now Question posted by their PDHPE teacher in the Google Classroom at the start of each lesson.

Students will be required to try and follow their school timetable and it is imperative that students engage in every online lesson. This includes the theoretical and practical tasks that are uploaded.

Being active is more important than ever. Whilst learning from home, some students may not be getting the incidental exercise they normally would do due to changes to normal daily routines. Doing some form of exercise is an easy and free way to boost both your mental and physical health, and now is the ideal time to try a new activity – like those that are being posted for practical PDHPE lessons.

Physical activity helps our body and mind in many ways, but here are a few of the key ones:

- Exercise releases chemicals in your brain, like serotonin and endorphins, which are great for your mood.
- It can also lead to better sleep and give you more energy
- Physical movements can help ease tightness in your shoulders and neck, which often come with stress and anxiety
- It also makes you feel like you achieved something
- Regular exercise can help reduce your risk of serious health issues, like type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke

- It also helps with weight management (and you tend to feel like eating a healthier diet when you're exercising regularly, too)
- And lastly, but definitely not least given the current situation, regular physical activity is great for your immune system.

We appreciate that this challenging period may cause stress and uncertainty amongst some of our students. Students and parents alike are encouraged to contact the school and their teachers should you require extra support and clarification during this difficult time.

On a final note, Congratulations to our U/14's Buckley Shield Team who were successful in defeating Sydney Secondary College 30-18 during a Rugby League match that took place last term before COVID restrictions had been put in place. Fingers crossed the competition returns at some point in the future.

Stay safe, best wishes and happy learning for Term 2.

Mr Aaron Morley Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE

Special Education

Welcome to Term 2 everyone!

Thank you for your ongoing support with remote learning. Well done to all of our students for participating in the Google classroom tasks and activities.

Many of you have shared your thoughts and uploaded some fantastic photos of work that you have completed. Many of you have received merit awards and some have been Student of the Week. Bravo and keep up the good work.

Also a huge 'shout out' to all our parents and carers for your patience, support and perseverance. You all deserve a merit award.

Lastly, when we begin returning to school, please ensure all jackets and jumpers are labelled. As we move to Phase One and Two, at this stage, the support classes are spread across the week. You will have already received a school email outlining these details.

Monday Support Blue Tuesday Support White, Thursday Support Red, Friday Support Purple.

Stay safe and happy hand washing!

Ms Peta Holm Head Teacher Special Education

SRC News

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you are all safe and sane after a restful break.

In Term 1, our school community welcomed hundreds of families to the annual GRC Peakhurst Open Night and Year 7 Meet The Teacher BBQ. Thank you to Chloe T, Brendon L, Alex L, Mollie H, Amelia S, Sebastian S and Caitlin J for speaking so professionally and earnestly at Open Night and enlightening the many families in attendance with their experiences of our school. Congratulations to our SRC members, crew, performers and countless other student helpers who volunteered their time to showcase the varied talents and opportunities that we have at our school.



Your Student Representative Council also hosted our annual 'Crazy Hair Day' in support of the Leukaemia Foundation and the World's Greatest Shave. Thank you to all members of our school community for raising over \$900 for this worthy cause. I would like to personally thank and acknowledge Felix F and Mr Maunder for donating their time at recess and allowing people to wax their legs on the day! Jayden H is also to be commended on volunteering to have his head shaved, raising hundreds of dollars and drawing a large crowd at lunch who were then able to 'bid' on having a go at snipping segments of his hair - courtesy of our auctioneers Brendon L and Andrei E.

Thank you to our SRC for always so generously giving up their time (recesses, lunches, before and after school) to ensure that these events are run to such a high standard. Thank you as always to our wonderful crew members who are integral to every event we run and to the wonderful Mrs Leeke who donates her time, expertise and professional equipment for this event to happen each and every year. Thank you to Mohamad G and Chloe S for coordinating the event roster and their many announcements to promote this worthy cause. Thank you to everyone who donated their time to assist at the cake stall or hair spray booth - or even baked a cake for us to sell at the cake stall. Your efforts demonstrate what a strong school community and spirit that we share at GRC Peakhurst.

Please see below for some photos from the day.



While many of our extracurricular events here at school have been postponed, our commitment to providing our school community with as many leadership and volunteering opportunities as possible continues - as we have a very passionate team of students and staff with a drive to implement these programs.

Leadership By The River – our commitment to this incredibly valuable leadership program for any interested Year 9-10 students continues! Our student committee have already begun their work and planning on projects for 2020. Please contact Ms Cvijetic in the HSIE staffroom if you would like more information about this.

Sustainability Grant 2020 – Thanks to our hardworking School Captains and staff members, our school has been successful in obtaining a very generous Sustainability Grant. This grant aims to provide our school with filtered water stations in order to reduce plastic waste, provide increased accessibility to clean and cold drinking water, increase education about sustainable use of materials and water, as well as continues to enhance our school's environment. Please see our next newsletter regarding updates on this or contact our SRC members for more information.

ANZAC Day – this important occasion fell within our holiday break period this year. Brendon L, our School Captain had previously been given the honour to address a NSW Education event and recite The Ode before thousands of people. Unfortunately, due to recent circumstances, this event was cancelled. However, the organisers have already requested that he present at next year's event – congratulations Brendon for always representing our school to the highest of standards.

Regarding our school's acknowledgement of ANZAC Day, I would like to commend Chloe T, Brendon L, Alex L, Mollie H, Cameron A, Zemina I, Alivia B and Chloe S who volunteered to contribute to a video constructed by our HSIE faculty to commemorate this day. This highly moving video has been posted onto Peak Learning Google Classrooms for all students to view so please view this if you haven't already.

Congratulations must also go to all of our 'Students of the Week' – it is fantastic to see so many students adapting to and thriving in our ever-changing learning and teaching environments.

Year 7 SRC Elections – These are upcoming when we are all back together again – thank you for your patience with this! Congratulations and thank you to all of you who have ensured that your applications made their way to me – via email, post or in person!

The Terry Vallis Cup – We look forward to giving Mr Vallis a proper send-off soon to acknowledge his excellent career and times at GRC Peakhurst. On behalf of the Student Representative Council and student body, we would like to acknowledge his incredible efforts in and commitment to so many students' education. We also want to recognise his unwavering support of our countless initiatives over the years that have enhanced our school community's learning, global awareness of social issues and student wellbeing. Some memorable moments, quotes and photos from our student body are below to farewell and thank our School Principal.

"There was one time when it was raining and I fell over on the concrete and hit my head. Mr Vallis was in the area and he came over straight away to see if I was okay and was very supportive. He is very caring to all students and I have seen him be just as caring towards the staff".

"There is no one specific memory I have of Mr Vallis but in all of our experiences he was always very warm and kind. He would occasionally come up to you and talk to you for a while about what you were up to, which is not something all Principals do. I wish him all the best for his future".

"We all love the various sport analogies - thank you sir!"

"My favourite memory of Mr Vallis was when I first started high school at GRC Peakhurst. Mr Vallis was around the office area and he was very welcoming. He started talking about how he loves to see new faces and how he likes to see such wonderful students joining our school community".

"Thanks for being the best Principal I've ever had! It's very hard to imagine school without you as Principal and very tough to see you go!"

"There was this time Mr Vallis went on stage to talk about a camp that some people went on, and at the end he said he was a "lad" (or something like that). I thought that this was hilarious and he was always ready with a joke or laugh".

"Mr Vallis is always super supportive of all of his staff and students and he was always happy to listen to anything from any one. This showed how much he valued his time working every day and I know his role had a big impact on the school, parents and community members. For example, when my parents and I were at the Open Night for this school (while I was still at primary school), my Mum said afterwards that she thought this was the right place for me - right after hearing Mr Vallis' words of wisdom and pride about the environment at GRC Peakhurst".

"There was a time when I turned in a lost wallet and he called me up to the front office to personally give me a Principal's merit award. This showed that he cares about every student individually and our efforts".

"Mr Vallis always showed that he cared, like last year when he would call every student to the office on their birthday to give them a card and wish them a Happy Birthday".

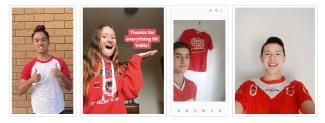
"I haven't spoken to Mr Vallis very much. However, my older brother does! Mr Vallis has been such a positive influence on my brother ever since he got transferred to GRC Peakhurst. I saw them talking to each other every day. He has a great ability to empathise with my brother's needs and seek out resolutions for any problems that arise. He has a heart of gold!"

"There was a time when I was late for school and Mr Vallis signed my late note and he told me that he had heard very good things about me. This shows that he cares about every student in the school and took the time to get to know them all".

"Mr Vallis is a very open minded person and loves to get people to embrace their talents and show them to the world. I was once playing music to my friends on the saxophone. I played in the school open grounds to be like free entertainment to all people. He came up to me and asked if I'd like to perform on the stage in the next assembly, so I told him I'd think about it. Sadly, I turned down the request since I'm a bit of an introvert and don't like large crowds unless I'm with a band. I feel bad for not going up, but I'm sure I will do it someday. He was a great Principal as well as a person".

Thank you Mr Vallis and enjoy your well-deserved retirement!





Please remember to reach out to your peers and teachers when you need it, as well as with any suggestions you may have for our school – we are looking forward to seeing you all soon!

- Miss Osmond and the GRC Peakhurst Campus Student Representative Council 2020



TAS

This term, the TAS department has started new units with our classes. This has meant that Year 7 and 8 Technology Mandatory have changed teachers and topics. This is earlier than scheduled but more suited for online learning. Last term as a result of the sudden introduction to online learning many of the practical projects were not completed. It is our priority that these projects will be completed at a later date when school resumes as normal.

Please note that all classes have a dedicated and active Google Classroom where students are required to be working regular school hours – 8:40 am – 3:00pm (2:30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays) and have a visible online presence during all timetabled lessons should their personal circumstances permit this. Students will indicate their attendance by completing the Do Now Question posted by their PDHPE teacher in the Google Classroom at the start of each lesson.

Students will be required to try and follow their school timetable and it is imperative that students engage in every online lesson. This includes the theoretical and practical tasks that are uploaded.

The TAS department, however, have designed some innovative ways to engage students with their remote learning.

Year 10 Design and Technology are constructing plastic model kits of WW2 tanks and planes. These were purchased so that students could construct a quality product and as memento of the war on Covid 19. On return to school they will design a stand for their model.

Year 9 Design and Technology are now designing their mini boom boxes so they can construct them on their return.

Year 8 Engineered Systems are scouring bottle tops, plastic bottles and paddle pop sticks to make rubber band powered cars.

Year 7 Textiles are learning to thread needles, sew buttons and they were even given a sock challenge to design a toy using old or missing socks.



All food classes have taken on challenges to cook for their households and we have been impressed with their efforts. Students have made recipes such as baked breads, home-made noodles and lemon baked tarts. Many of these meals have appeared on our Instagram page grc peakhurst instafeed. Food classes have also been having fun undertaking food scavenger hunts and playing food bingo games.

Meanwhile at school, the TAS garden is flourishing well with our recent rains with lettuce and cucumbers and hopefully soon students can enjoy the fresh produce in our food practicals.



Stay safe and we look forward to seeing our students produce some more innovative projects this term..

Ms Rosalie Gualtieri Head Teacher TAS

Marine and Aquaculture Technology

As part of their studies in Marine and Aquaculture Technology this semester, Year 9 and year 10 students were fortunate enough to engage in external activities to supplement their respective units of work.

Year 9

Year 9 students attended Peakhurst West Primary School to complete a practical assessment that emphasises on water safety techniques and use of equipment. With the aid of instructors from Royal Life Saving Australia students demonstrated ten water safety skills that included stride entry, diving, treading water, fitting and using PFD's. Students were also given the opportunity to portray and hone in on skills requiring team work. This was demonstrated with certain activities including safety tow. I was glad to see our more capable year 9 students encourage and aid some students that were more hesitant and also assist staff from Royal Life Saving with the packing and unpacking of equipment. These voluntary behaviours characterised by our students were very much symbolic of our school values of respect, responsibility and excellence being applied in a unique setting.

Year 10

On Tuesday the 10th of March Year 10 Marine Studies students attended Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve for a snorkel tour. This excursion complemented the snorkelling unit of work as students were given the experience to apply and hone in on skills that were taught in class, such as streamlining, duck diving and using correct equalisation techniques. It was also a great opportunity for students to assess the benefits of protected marine parks on aquatic biodiversity. Students observed some rather unique effects of global warming as they were able identify tropical species native to Queensland reefs now dwelling on Sydney shores. They also witnessed firsthand how plastic crates are used as platforms for micro-organisms in the development of artificial reefs. This experience also allowed students to adopt new snorkelling techniques and refine existing ones. For many of our students this was a first time experience however. I do not think it will be their last.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOFJP2y7YQ4

Ahmad Bousaleh Science / Marine and Aquaculture Technology Teacher

Careers

Subject Selection Preparation for Year 10 students is underway. It kicked off with careers lessons in Term 1, whereby students where directed to a number of sites to prepare them and inform them about subjects on offer for the senior years at Oatley campus, with 90 subject choices made available to them, to choose from, in 2021. All this information has also been emailed to students and I cannot stress the importance of checking email notifications from Antonella Arfanis regarding careers news.

All Year 10 students are to complete a Google Form titled Pre Subject Selection Year 10 Career Profile ASAP at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18j1Jt7oruTq9UY0lnokli82iX Yh64zAd3ep3MVwjwEw/edit

Year 10 students are also required to go to the Job Jump website at:

https://www.jobjump.com.au/

Register as I'm new - Georges River College Peakhurst ; (Password: grc)

Select "What HSC subjects to do?" link and consider what occupation you primarily think about doing when you finish school (More than one is OK). Be aware that you need to copy and paste this information into your google form, titled Pre Subject Selection Year 10 Career Profile.

You can also go to the website for more information about KLAs and subjects on offer at Oatley campus:

https://oatleyseniorcampus.nsw.edu.au/students/curriculum/

TAFE NSW 2021 TVET Guide

A PDF version of the TAFE NSW 2021 TVET Guide will be made available later this term so students should bear in mind that TVET courses are also made available to them, for their pattern of study.

Student emails sent by Careers Advisor

As said, a number of emails were sent to Year 10 students, at the end of Term 1, to help them better prepare for the upcoming subject selection for Years 11 and 12. Go back and re-read these emails, sharing it with your parents, to start the discussion of what subjects you think could be right for you. Simply do a search for "Subject Selection Preparation" in the search bar of your school inbox. It has come to my attention that some students do not check emails. This needs to be addressed because you may be missing out on some interesting but also important information about careers news.

GRC, Peakhurst Careers Website

Parents and students should access the GRC Peakhurst Careers Website at:

https://grcpeakhurstcareers.com/

This site will help prepare students for subject selection too, bearing in mind post school options available to students, these days.

The GRC Peakhurst Careers website aims to be easy to navigate and informative. The site reflects the premise that careers information can be accessed online. The site explains the RoSA, post school options, work experience and workplace learning and other career related information. Please feel free to have a look around the website and invite your parents to do so too.

For students to access information, you need to register as a GRC Peakhurst student firstly by going to *FOR STUDENTS -> STUDENT'S SECURE AREA -> LOGIN* (if you are doing this for the first time, you need to REGISTER first). Please keep these details in a safe place. YOUR EMAIL is your USERNAME and remember the PASSWORD (Use Peakhurst2210, using a capital P and no spaces, as your password, if you do not have a good memory. Write it down somewhere safe so that you can refer to it).

Your future lies ahead, and it will be of your making. I encourage you to **research career options** so you do something you want to do but bear in mind your likes/dislikes. Other important considerations are your abilities, motivation levels, career goals and YOUR aspirations. You may like to consider going to university websites (some are offering virtual career tours), and attending the GRC, Oatley subject selection evening and Careers Expo.

My experience is that those students who are most successful in Year 11 and 12 put thought and consideration into choosing their subjects, and they do so by seeking out and using all the information that is made available to them. These students align their subjects with their interests, their strengths and the pathways they want to follow in the years beyond school.

As always, I am happy to discuss any aspect of subject selection with individual students or families. Please get in touch if you would like to meet at any point. I look forward to working with all students and families in the months ahead to help them make the decisions to set you up for successful senior study.

Join Google Classroom for Year 10 CAREERS tasks. The code was published on the Code Summary Sheet emailed at the start of this term

Given the new online learning environment, I thought to create a Google Classroom for Careers which I expect all Year 10 students to join.

The Careers department will expect each Year 10 student, before the end of Term 2, to create and complete both a Resume and Get/Record USI, using the GRC Peakhurst Careers Website at:

https://grcpeakhurstcareers.com/

These above items MUST BE emailed to Ms Arfanis when completed.

Ms Toni Arfanis Careers Advisor

Debating and Public Speaking

Debating and Public Speaking Report

Welcome back to Term 2!

Our annual Debating Selections and Training Day was held in Term 1 with over 30 students expressing their interest and participating actively in the workshop. Unfortunately, we were unable to finalise teams on the day as we did not finish all of the practise debates, so we look forward to contacting successful applicants to the teams later this term.

Thank you to our Year 10 debaters: Chloe T, Brendon L, Andrei E and Skye S for delivering many engaging training sessions, as well as Zac H in Year 9 for taking initiative and assisting me in facilitating the practise debates.

Congratulations to all students who participated on the day and demonstrated our school core values to the highest calibre. We look forward to debating with you soon.

Please enjoy some photos below of the workshop.



While many of our extracurricular events here at school have been postponed, our commitment to providing our school community with as many debating and public speaking opportunities as possible continues. We have a very passionate team of students and staff with a drive to implement these programs. Our staff and students have been contributing regularly to a Debating and Public Speaking Google Classroom and developing content for a Debating and Public Speaking Google Drive that is becoming packed with resources on these highly valued topics and skills.

Updated information from The Arts Unit programs indicates that Debating and Public Speaking Competitions will continue in 2020, with a strong focus on online participation. More information on how these opportunities will look will be disseminated to our school community as they develop.

Please see below for some useful links for students who are interested in Public Speaking Competitions.

Plain English Speaking Competition – for any interested students aged 15 and over as of 1st January, 2020

https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/publi c-speaking/plain-english-speaking-award

Legacy Public Speaking Award – for any interested students aged 14 and younger as of 1st January, 2020

https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/publi c-speaking/legacy-junior-public-speaking-award-0

On the above link, if you scroll down to the very bottom of the webpage; you will notice a very familiar name. Brendon L (our current School Captain) was one of eight State Finalists in 2019 for this competition – and the only male representative to participate at this incredibly high level. Congratulations Brendon!

Our school selects two participants for each of the two above competitions – so if you are interested in trialling for one of these positions or wish to join the school's Debating and Public Speaking Google Classroom for 2020, please email Miss Osmond at lauren.osmond1@det.nsw.edu.au

Miss Osmond, Mr Maunder and Miss Ali Debating and Public Speaking Coordinators

Girl's Supervisor Report

Important Notices

Due to the current circumstances **Year 10 Meningococcal Vaccinations** will be postponed until further notice.

Unfortunately breakfast club is also cancelled during Term 2.

Good News Story - before social distancing was introduced!

International Women's Day 2020

On the 5th March, 2020 I had the privilege of taking 18 female students to the International Women's Day Morning Tea hosted by Georges River Council. It was an invaluable experience for our students and I am sure one that many of them will ever forget. We heard many moving stories from female leaders within our community of how they had overcome adversities within their life and risen to leadership positions.

We also learnt of the essential services that were available for females within our community all whilst enjoying a delicious morning tea. Nina, Chloe & Alivia represented our school and spoke with the maturity and experience way beyond their years. They were truly a credit to our school.



Ms Michelle Seidel Girls Supervisor

Wellbeing Team Report

Welcome back to Term 2, from what has and continues to be a very unique and challenging time for all of us. From the Wellbeing team I hope that you are all looking after yourselves and looking out for each other, from a distance of course! As you are all navigating these tough times and trying to keep up with your school work, it is important that you are taking some time to look after your mental wellbeing. Make sure you are getting some exercise as well as finding things that help you to relax. Mindful colouring, puzzles or Sudoku's, reading and cooking are just some ideas. There are so many websites and resources out there for you.

I encourage all students to join their year group's Peak Learning and Wellbeing Google Classroom. Well done to those of you who are already logging on each morning and joining in the discussions and PL lessons. There will be a variety of activities posted each day, including Peak Learning Lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Mindfulness activities on a Monday, Wellness activities on a Wednesday, including some sport and exercise sessions and fun quizzes and 'Point Out Percy' on a Friday. We will run some competitions where you can earn merits.

You will find the codes for the Peak Learning and Wellbeing Google Classrooms in the document that was sent to all households, containing all google Classroom Codes. The codes to your Peak Learning Classroom are on the Student Wellbeing page of that document.

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:

- Leading the Way for Children During the Corona Virus Pandemic
- Successful Close Quarter Living
- Helping Siblings Resolve Their Fights

Ms Julia Picone Head Teacher Wellbeing