

Term 1 Week 11, 2024



Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus Newsletter





Anna Girginis, Principal



Principal's Report



Annual School Report

Our Annual School Report is now available to all parents and community members via our school website. It is an informative document that contains worthwhile information about the school's academic performance and outstanding achievements over the 2023 calendar year. A big thank you to the staff who contributed to the Annual School Report.

Where will we go in 2024?

During our professional learning sessions, teachers have had the opportunity to start thinking about our future, specifically the next three years from 2024 to 2026. Amidst the various activities and challenges of this year, it has been refreshing to centre our attention on the core of our profession—teaching and learning.

The GRC Oatley Strategic Improvement Plan outlines our vision and strategic directions. A comprehensive situational analysis was conducted which led to development of the 2022 - 2026 Strategic Improvement Plan, both of which involved genuine consultation. Through our situational analysis, we have identified three areas of focus for this Strategic Improvement Plan. It is important to note that this builds upon the work undertaken in the previous school planning cycle around teacher deep engagement with the syllabus and the quality implementation of explicit teaching using external data and internal assessment data to differentiate the curriculum. We have identified a need to use the school's equity funding to support a range of initiatives.

- Strategic Direction 1: Student growth and attainment

The school is committed to continually improving effective classroom practices with collaborative practice and staff professional learning being the key to ensuring this. This learning will ensure that student learning outcomes are enhanced through improved data analysis and use to deliver quality differentiated instruction to students with additional needs including those identified as high potential and gifted.

- Strategic Direction 2: Positive Culture for Learning

The school will strongly focus on student self-regulation to support learning by refining the PBL framework and embedding a school wide approach to the growth mindset model to improving teaching, learning and a positive culture of learning.

- Strategic Direction 3: Inclusion, Connection and Engagement.

The school will ensure that our community connects, succeeds and thrives through developing positive and respectful relationships that foster social, emotional, behavioural and intellectual engagement. Our teachers will use collaborative strategies to develop inclusive programs that promote a supportive environment across the whole school community to ensure that all students are known, valued and cared for. The full version of the document is available on our school website.

Celebrating Success: Our School's Open Night

We are thrilled to share the success of our recent Open Night, where we opened our doors to over 500 members of our local community. It was a fantastic evening that truly showcased what our school stands for and the exceptional opportunities we provide to our students. One of the highlights of the evening was the impressive performance of our students. They did an outstanding job conducting school tours and answering questions from potential parents and students. Their enthusiasm, knowledge, and passion for our school were evident, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. We received excellent feedback from our visitors, who were particularly impressed by our dedicated staff and state-of-the-art facilities. Our staff's commitment to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for our students was evident throughout the evening, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication. Our facilities, including our modern classrooms, well-equipped laboratories, and extensive sports facilities, left a lasting impression on our visitors. They were impressed by the resources we provide to ensure our students have access to the best possible learning environment. Overall, our Open Night was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff and students. It was a fantastic

opportunity to showcase our school to the community and highlight what sets us apart. We look forward to welcoming many new faces to our school in the future and continuing to provide exceptional education and opportunities to our students.









A Recap of Our School Spirit Week

This term, our school came alive with excitement and enthusiasm as we celebrated School Spirit Week! The aim of the week was to build our school culture, create an inclusive environment, and foster a sense of belonging among our students and staff. And what a week it was!

Throughout the week, we had a wide range of activities that brought our school community together. From tug-of-war to darts, bowling to mini-golf, and guessing competitions, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The energy and camaraderie displayed during these activities were truly inspiring, highlighting the strong sense of community that exists within our school.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the Mufti Day, where students and staff were invited to dress up as iconic groups. The creativity and enthusiasm displayed in the costumes were outstanding, with groups like Men in Black, Scooby-Doo, Teletubbies, and Barbie making memorable appearances. It was wonderful to see everyone embrace the theme and come together to celebrate our school spirit.

Events like School Spirit Week are so important as they not only create fun and memorable experiences but also strengthen the bonds within our school community. They remind us of the importance of inclusivity, acceptance, and togetherness, values that are at the core of our school ethos.

As we reflect on the week that was, we aim to continue to build a school culture that celebrates diversity, fosters belonging, and promotes a sense of pride in our school community. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making School Spirit Week a resounding success!











Regular Attendance

This term, we've had a focus on attendance, recognising the crucial role it plays in helping students reach their full potential. Regular attendance at school is not just about being present; it's about engaging with learning, building habits for the future, and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

In partnership with parents and carers, we've worked hard to promote and celebrate regular attendance. We are thrilled to announce that this term, we had 180 students who achieved 100% attendance! This is an incredible achievement, and we are immensely proud of each and every one of these students.

To celebrate their dedication and commitment, each student received a voucher for a free ice cream or slushie. It was heartwarming to see the joy on their faces as they received their rewards.

This achievement is a testament to the hard work of our students, the support of their families, and the dedication of our staff. By working together, we can continue to promote regular attendance and ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Sometimes we will need to contact you, including on the day that your child is absent and if you haven't notified the school with a reason for your child being away. If your contact details are out of date or if you're not sure, please contact us on 8567 3700 so we can update our records and can contact you quickly when we need to.

If your child is absent, please remember to contact the school. This is best done early in the morning if your child is going to be away or late for school so your child's absence can be recorded correctly and we can provide appropriate support for you and your family.

Procedures for attendance

The most efficient way to notify the school of your child's absence is as follows:

For whole-day absences when your child is sick or unable to come to school, please use:

- 'Sentral for Parents' app.
- Wait and respond to the school text message informing you of your child's absence
- An absence of 5 days or more requires a completed application form for extended leave to be submitted. This application form can be obtained from reception.

For early leavers/ late arrival:

- Students will need to show their ID Card when signing in late or leaving early.
- If it is unavoidable that your child must leave early, please ensure that your child provides the Administration Office with a signed note on their arrival to school.
- If your child is late to school, an explanation by a parent can be entered via the 'Sentral for Parents' app or a letter be sent into school with the student.



Important Uniform Reminder for Term 2

As we prepare for the start of Term 2, we would like to remind you of our uniform expectations at GRC Oatley. When students return, they will be required to wear their full school uniform.

We are pleased to note that the standard of uniform has been very good so far this year. This reflects positively on our school and contributes to our strong reputation in the community.

Please remember that hooded jackets or jumpers of any description are not part of the uniform and will be confiscated if worn. Additionally, track pants are not to be worn, regardless of the weather.

It is important for students to adhere to the correct uniform requirements, as this reflects the values and standards of our school. We appreciate parent support in ensuring your children comply with these guidelines.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in maintaining our high standards of uniform at GRC Oatley.





Examples of footwear which **COMPLY** with The Department of Education's WH&S guidelines

Girl's examples



Boy's examples



Examples of footwear which **DO NOT COMPLY** with The Department of Education's WH&S guidelines



Facebook and Instagram

A reminder to follow us on social media. Please like both our Facebook and Instagram pages. Links are below.

<https://www.facebook.com/grcoatleysenioreampus/>

<https://www.instagram.com/grcoatleysenior/>

School Website

Please take them time to look at the information available to parents.

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

2024 Calendar Dates

Diary Dates

- **Term 2**

Tuesday 30th April - School resumes for students

Monday 6th May – Year 12 semester 1 reports emailed to parents

Wednesday 8th May – Year 12 parent teacher night

Monday 27th May (7:00pm) - P&C meeting

Week 6 – Multicultural Week

Wellbeing Report



Good Egg Awards

The 'Good Egg' awards celebrate students who are displaying the schools core values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. They are a novel way for students to gain recognition for their efforts and contribution around the school. 'Good Egg' awards are worth 20 merit points and are presented in House Meetings for a range of categories including:

- Attendance
- Uniform
- Academic Improvement
- School Contribution
- Being an all round "good egg"

Congratulations to our second round of "Good Eggs" for 2024:

Year 12 Animus

- Alex De wit
- Patrick Butler
- Angelina Axen
- Jacob Clark
- Joren Baker

Year 12 Fortis

- Caitlin James
- Aiden Jong
- Lawrence Guevarra
- Cameron Jones
- Taj Laing

Year 12 Mirabilis

- Jordan Moussa
- Tahir Martin
- Aaliyah Murdocca
- Daniel Maramag
- Seruwaia Naqoli
- Mert Okay

Year 12 VIRTUS

- Kalia Sebastian
- Zoe Shek
- Michael Stone
- Cooper Saker
- Mansour Shoubail

Year 11 Animus

- Abel Bates
- Jasmine Caccamo
- Noor Beydoun

- Sonja Aebersold
- Chelsea Brotherton

YEAR 11 FORTIS

- Frances Gao
- Eden Forbes
- Mahika Kumar
- Benjamin Jensen
- Cindy Huang

11 Mirabilis

- Moana Moala
- Sirine Neffati
- Kelston Papalii-Taueva
- Oliver Novak
- Mia Lau

YEAR 11 VIRTUS

- Kgotso Segami
- Deanna Tsacalos
- Mariela Rojo
- Samuelle Santos
- Anika Schild

English Report

Year 11 Advanced English students have been studying the topic Reading to write. Please enjoy the following from Anabelle Stojceska's piece where she was asked to capture a moment in time and evoke an emotion.

Cold water splashed onto my arms as I struggled to carry the overflowing water jug. Tipping it sideways, I watched as all the water poured out into the terracotta pot that housed my beautiful mango tree, drowning its soil.

I remember living at my Baba and Dedo's house until I was 6. How they took care of me when my parents couldn't. I remember when my parents had told me we were moving out, going to our own house, how exciting that must be for me. But it wasn't. I was devastated. My dad pleaded with me, "Please Tato, you can come visit anytime you want. We're only deset minuti daleku."

During the summer holidays I would spend time at their house. I helped them tend to their bafcha, my mouth watering at the smell of the ripe domati and fresh piperki. I remember how the summer heat felt on my skin as my cousins and I ran around the backyard making up our own silly games, throwing pretend dinner parties under the mango tree.

I remember when Dedo started getting sick. There was no more running around the backyard or watering the bafcha. Those warm and familiar summer days filled with meteorites of love and joy, replaced with memories of holding a cold hand in a desolate hospital room.

The day of the funeral, I walked through the house, tracing the halls I used to run through with my bare feet hitting the pločki. I walked into my old bedroom, nothing left but a bed frame. Peering out the window facing the backyard, I spotted the mango tree. I was struck. The leaves were withered and resembled the colour of rust, the trunk weeping tears of dew, and the tree completely sparse. Not a single mango hanging from its leaves.

Baba was never the same after Dedo died. She sat in the living room, her head in her hands, the sound of some British game show playing in the background acting as white noise. I tried visiting as much as I could. She looked so skinny. Was she even eating? I brought her food she promised to eat but when I'd return the next day, I would always find it left on the counter, untouched, rotting. Her misery seeped off her and soaked into the walls of the house like blood soaking into cotton.

Grandchildren grew, weddings celebrated, babies born, and still baba sat there on the black leather couch, right there where we left her.

She was found sitting under the mango tree, on a stool she had dragged from the kitchen. The same stool that Dedo would always sit on and drink his kafe. Baba was buried next to Dedo, their shared headstone officially complete.

After the funeral service, we decided on going back to Baba's house to say goodbye one last time. I found the mango, standing tall. Looming over me. Its fragrant leaves and bright green and its healthy branches stretch up from the ground to hug the sky. Two golden mangos hanging from a cluster of leaves in the centre of the tree.

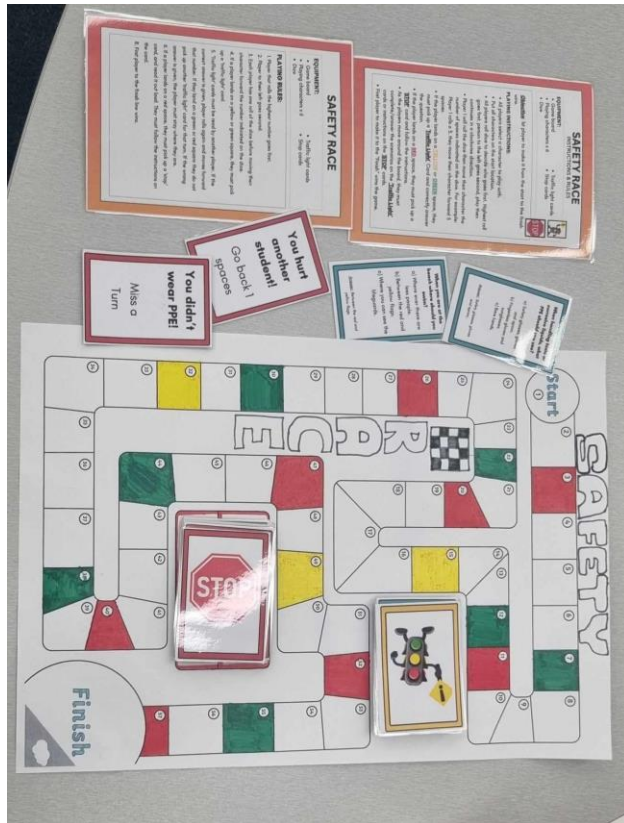
I grabbed the now empty watering jug and tossed it to the side, landing on the grass. Stretching my arms up, I reached for two perfectly ripe mangos and called out to my kids, running around the bafcha, making up their own silly games, beckoning them to come have some fruit.

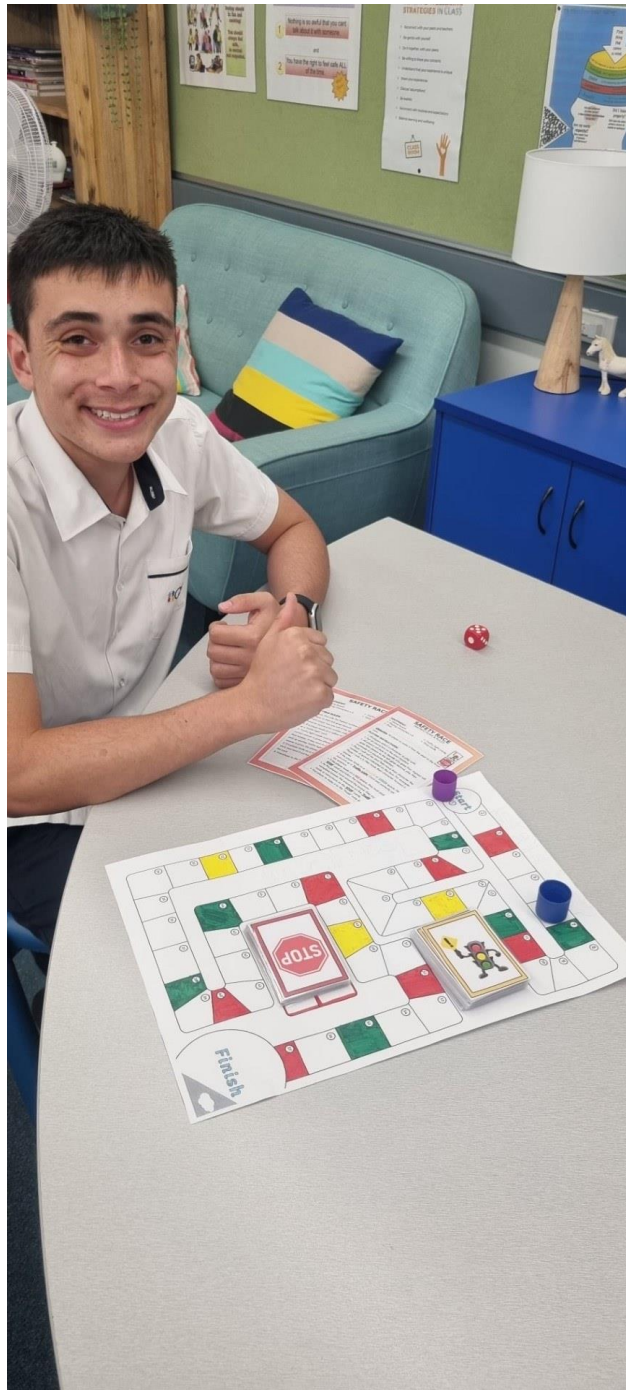
TAS Report

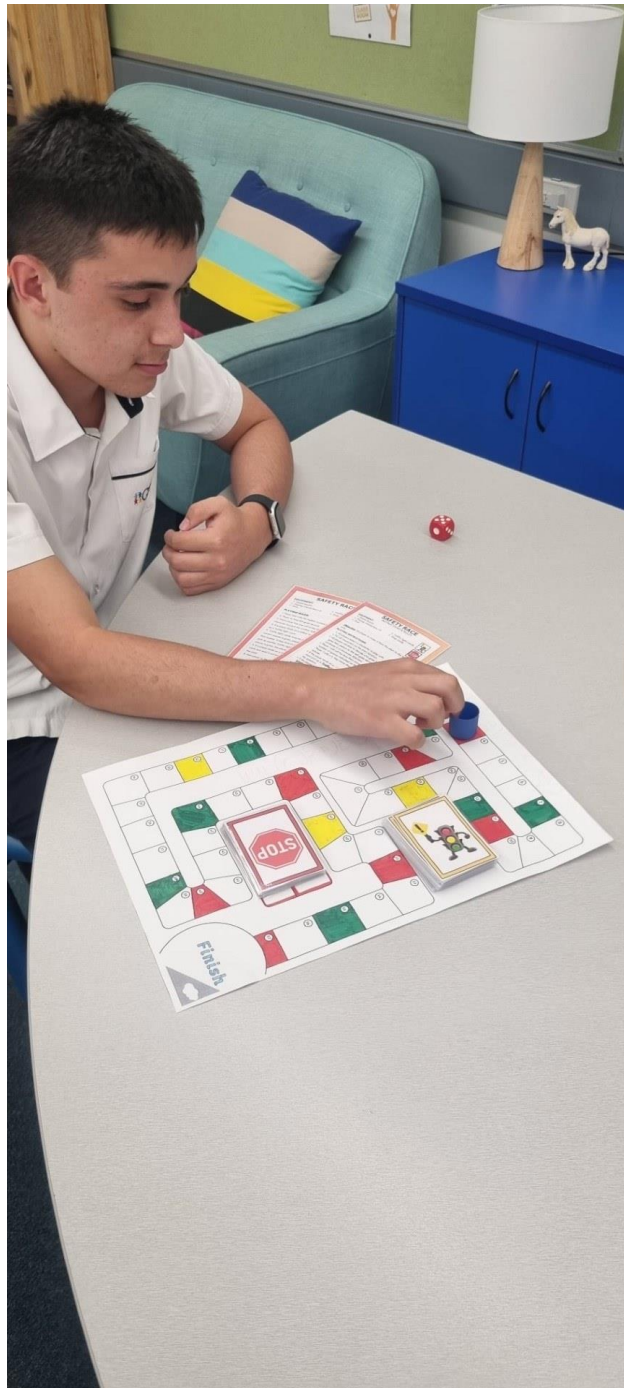
Support Classes in TAS Term 1

For all TAS classes, safety is an important part of the course. This year all support classes have been investigating the role safety plays in a workshop environment. This is in preparation for their practical next term in the timber workshops.

The Red class spent lessons learning not only how to act safely in the workshop, but they also created a game that can be used to share their knowledge in a fun way. Students created their own question and answer cards, created the board, and made up the rules for their safety game.







CAPA Report

Term 1 has been a very busy time for the CAPA department, as we have been engaging students both in and out of class time with a range of activities.

Printmaking Workshop

Christopher Zanko is an internationally renowned printmaking artist from Wollongong NSW. He creates woodblock prints and carvings inspired by traditional Japanese Ukiyo-E, integrating this meticulous traditional technique into a contemporary Australian context. Zanko creates prints and carved woodblocks that explore the theme of urbanisation, evoking a sense of nostalgia by portraying familiar suburban houses typical of coastal NSW towns. In Week 5, he visited the school to teach Year 11 Visual Arts students techniques for designing, transferring, and carving silk-cut linoleum blocks, enabling them to create meaningful and well considered prints of houses or other urban structures. Zanko also demonstrated a range of experimental methods, utilising other mediums including watercolour and coloured pencil. The workshop proved highly successful, with great outcomes and artworks made by the students.





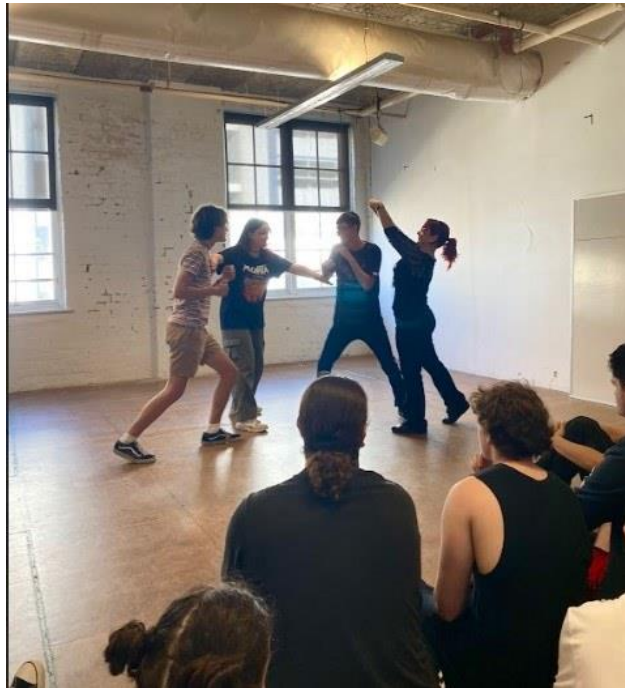




DRAMA EXCURSION

In week 3, Year 11 and 12 Drama students spent the day in the city, experiencing fun and engaging workshops and performances. First, the students visited Belvoir St Theatre for a 3 hour creative devising workshop, where they explored methods of making theatre. Then, after a picnic lunch, the students went to the Seymour Centre, where they watch 'OnStage', the NESA showcase of exemplary HSC Drama Projects from 2023.



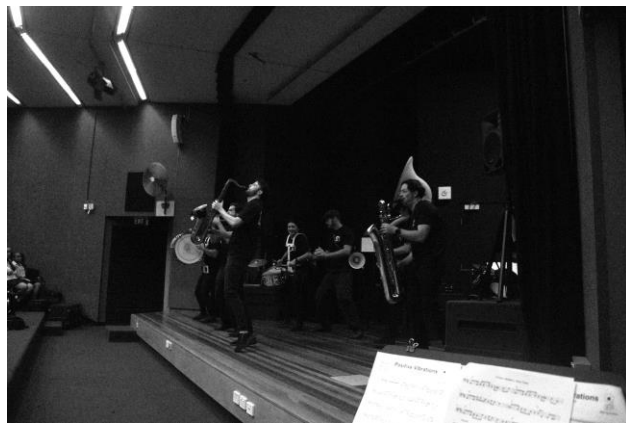


GRC Cross-Campus Music Day

Week 10 was an exciting week for our music students across all 4 campuses, as they came together to experience a workshop and concert with the ever popular Hot Potato Band. Students learnt to play one of the band's original charts – *Positive Vibrations* - as well as skills in performing, entertaining a crowd and working as a team. Students also got to participate in an informative Q&A session with the band, where they discussed aspects of life as professional touring musicians.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Pryce for organising the event, and to Mr Gerrard and Mrs Lynch (Oatley) , Mr Page (Peakhurst), Mr Payne (Penshurst) and Mr Wilmshurst (Hurstville) for bringing their students to the event.



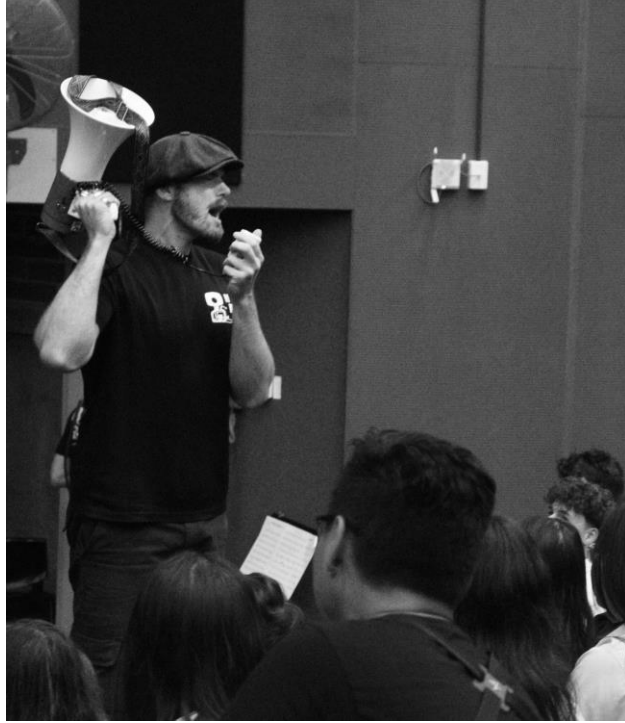
















VET Report

Year 11 Hospitality students have been studying the unit Prepare and Present Sandwiches. They have learnt to make a variety of sandwiches and this week they have studied how to make Focaccia with great success in the kitchen. Please join us and cook along at home.

Focaccia Recipe

Ingredients:

400ml lukewarm water

1 teaspoon yeast

500g plain flour

2 tsp of salt

20ml olive oil

1 table spoon bread improver

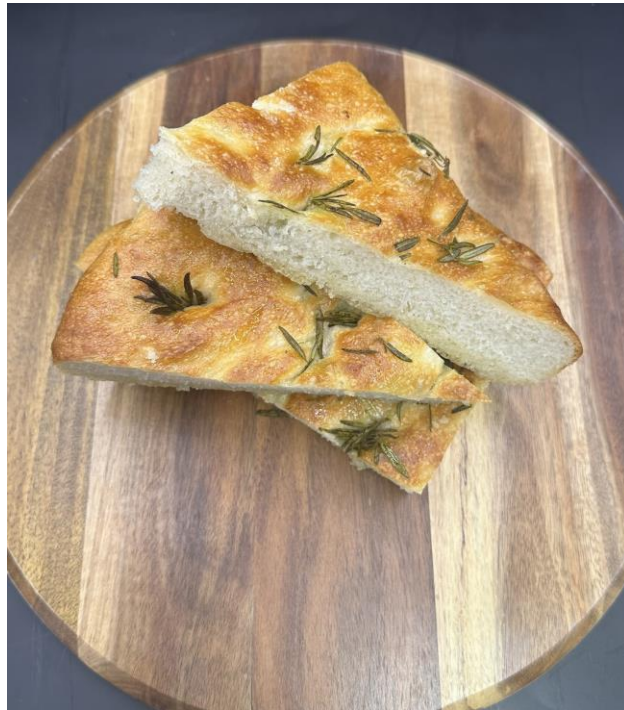
40 ml extra olive oil

5 grams salt extra

10 grams fresh rosemary

Method:

1. place water yeast oil salt bread improver & flour bowl
2. Combine together
3. Knead for 5 min
4. place in lined well oiled tray (Size: 27.5cm x 17.5cm x 3.5cm) for 24 hrs cover with extra oil and cling wrap leave overnight in fridge
5. Preheat oven 200*C
6. Remove tray from fridge
7. With very clean hands poke dough with fingers to form diverts
8. Cover with extra olive oil, salt and fresh rosemary
9. Turn oven down to 190*c
10. Bake for 25min and serve.



HSIE Report



HSIE – Aboriginal Studies Mural Initiative

During Term 1, the Yr 12 Aboriginal Studies class have been working on ideas for our school's Outdoor Learning Classroom and Amphitheatre space. The aim of this was to bring Indigenous voice and symbolism into this space to promote further inclusion of Indigenous people within our school.

As a part of this, we invited a local Indigenous artist to design and complete a mural for our school. After design options were discussed with the class and the artist, we were lucky enough to have Zac Bennett-Brook from Saltwater Dreamtime complete this spectacular wall mural. The mural is named **“Community”** and the series of both line and dot work symbolises the groupings of people, both year groups, classes and communities of teachers and parents, all as significant and cohesive teams that work together to bring about harmony and inclusivity in our learning environment. The shades of blues and green represent the watering holes and natural flora around us, in the Georges River region and the yellow represents the earth we all walk and work on, here at Oatley Senior Campus. The larger dots and thicker lines represent the elders of the community who are full of knowledge and the smaller dots and thin lines symbolise our student body.

We are so thankful for this opportunity to provide a student voice to our outdoor learning environment and feel that this mural adds enrichment to our learning experiences. Thank you to the Year 12

Aboriginal Studies class for their contributions and to Zac for his artistry, local knowledge shared and talent in completing this mural for our school.



History Excursion – Ramses Exhibition

Year 11 Ancient History & Year 12 History Extension classes attended an excursion to the Ramses II exhibition at the Australian Museum in Sydney. Year 11 students used the exhibition to undertake their Historical Investigation Assessment Task, while Year 12 was exploring the role of museums in shaping our understandings of the past. All students thoroughly enjoyed seeing the immense Ancient Egyptian artefacts up close. It was a great way for students to connect to the history lessons they have been learning in class.





Learning Hub Report

HSC Minimum Standards

What are the HSC Minimum Standards?

The HSC minimum standard was created to help ensure that students have the key literacy and numeracy skills for life after school. Students in New South Wales will need to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC credential. The HSC minimum standard is set at level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF). These skills are essential for everyday tasks and learning after school such as writing a letter for a job application or understanding a mobile phone plan.

The standard is assessed through online tests across three areas: reading, writing and numeracy. The minimum standard online tests are 45 minutes long and include a multiple choice reading test, a multiple choice numeracy test and a short writing test based on a choice between a visual or written prompt.

Students at our school will be undertaking these tests in the next few weeks. Some students will continue to be supported in order to pass the minimum standards. A structured program has been created and will be implemented to help develop the skills needed to meet the HSC minimum standards.

If you have any questions about this please contact the Head Teacher Learning Support (Act), Ms Peta La Motte.

Support Unit Report



Spirit Week is organised to enhance SCHOOL SPIRIT!

Monday's activities were a success, offering a range of engaging options for student participation, such as guessing competitions and fitness challenges, held during recess and lunch at the gym.

The event aimed to foster a sense of school community and inclusivity, particularly benefiting the Year 11 students in their first term at Oatley.

Mr. Gerrard extended an invitation to the Support students to join in during Session 4, resulting in enthusiastic participation from all. Some SRC students stayed to engage with the Support students, adding to the positive atmosphere. Overall, the activities were enjoyed by everyone involved.

Sports Report

Touch Football

The Open Girls Touch football team played their Round 1 game against Menai High School. This was held on our school oval and the girls tried hard. Unfortunately, they lost and were knocked out of the competition. Open Boys Touch Football Team have had a few wins this year and progressed through to the quarter finals. On the way through the competition, they won the Round 2 game against Jannali HS 7-6 in the final minute of the match. They will now face Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay on 30th April.



Girls' Football

In Round 1, we made a great start to the knockout competition in defeating Inner Sydney High 4-3 in a nail-biting clash at David Philips Reserve. The game was sent into extra time in oppressive conditions, and our best player on the day, Isabella Sarno showed her superior fitness and determination in sealing the golden goal and victory for GRC Oatley. Best on the day included Tiana Anevski, Taylah Noppin, Jessica Ogden, Yara Ayache, who were tireless and a special shoutout to our AFL star turned goalie Bianco Clayton.

Round 2 proved much more difficult against Blackwattle Bay, who had a host of NPL players and made life very difficult for our brave team. Our girls never gave up but were soundly beaten 11-1. The highlight was a brilliant goal from our star winger Tiana Anevski. Well done girls.

Boys' Football

The early scouting report on our round 1 opponents Kingsgrove North suggested we were in for a tough match against a skilful opponent, and this prediction proved correct as the first half ebbed and flowed with chances to both teams.

The GRC football was impressive in the first half with accurate passing, solid defending and a host of guilt edged chances. The only thing missing were the goals, which came early in the second half on the back of some excellent team play. This came from the magic feet of our star winger, Kgotso Segami, who constantly harassed the Kingsgrove North defence. This was soon followed by a second goal from the tireless Theo Vasilopolous, with a beautifully placed one-on-one, and the icing on the cake was delivered with the last kick of the game with an exquisite free kick from our spiritual leader, Hassan Barak. Also worthy of mention were our classy midfielders Steven Damjanovski and Lucas Belcheff. Good luck in round 2 v Kirrawee.

Boys Volleyball

Our first round opponent was an away game at Blakehurst High, and the weeks of training paid off with an impressive 25-16 first set on the back of some good team play. However, making too many changes to the lineup appeared to upset our rhythm and the second set became a very tough assignment. Fortunately, the boys regained their composure and won the second set and the match, 27-25. Best on the day included captain Enoch Chen and his unplayable serves, the jack-in-the-box Rushil Panchal and the ever-reliable libero, Kevin Lai. Good luck in Round 2 v Caringbah in week one of Term 2.

Girls Netball

On Monday 18th March, the GRC Oatley netball team played round two of the Sydney East Open Netball Knockout competition. Going into the game we didn't know what to expect from our competition Dulwich High School of Visual Arts and Design. Our girls played with enthusiasm, drive, teamwork and showed great sportsmanship throughout the match and it paid off. Oatley came out victorious. All girls should be proud of their performance as shown in the score 28-10. A thank you must go to past student Sophie Hijazi for coming back to shine as umpire. Good luck in the next round girls!

Swimming

This year GRC Oatley had 5 strong swimmers compete at the zone swimming carnival held at Roselands aquatic centre. Most of our swimmers went in multiple events, which was really pleasing to see. We even had 4 boys swim in the open boys relay were they finished in third place. We had 3 athletes make it through to regional level which was Omar Ardati, Aaron Henderson and Jessica Henderson. Moving further on in the competition and carrying GRC Oatley through to the Combine High School swimming carnival are Jessica and Aaron Henderson. We wish them good luck for the meet at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre next term.