

14 August 2013

From the Principal



Year 12 Trials

Year 12 Trials began on Tuesday 6th August and finish Friday 23rd August. Success in the trials comes with putting in the hard work to prepare. I would like to stress to parents and students the importance of attending all lessons after the trial. I believe the time after the trials is most important and students can expect to improve by at least one band. I know as a teacher, my best teaching was after the trials with consolidation of the topics.

Illness / Misadventure for HSC

A recent article in the St George Leader titled "Oatley Campus tops list of HSC Appeals" failed to report that we have the largest HSC cohort in the state. In terms of percentages, at 5% we were markedly below the 20% of the highest school based on percentages.

Despite the adverse, unfounded nature of this article, I encourage all parents to notify the school **before** the exam if they feel their son / daughter is ill and their performance may be affected. In this newsletter, I have included information from the Board of Studies on Illness / Misadventure.

Illness / Misadventure is an application to the Board of Studies, and wherever possible, it recommends the student sits the exam. The Board will then look at the school based assessment and the exam mark and award whichever is higher. Illness / Misadventures require substantial supporting documentation.

Year 12 HSC CAPA Showcase

Congratulations to all the students involved in the HSC CAPA Showcase held over 3 nights. The showcase highlighted performances from Dance, Drama, Music and an Art display from Visual Arts and Ceramics.

These evenings were a great success. Thank you to parents, family and friends for their support of the showcase. It is of great benefit to students to perform in front of an audience before their HSC marking.

A most sincere thank you to the teachers involved for their commitment of time and energy both before and on the 3 nights.

Subject Information Night for 2014

On Tuesday 31st July we held the Annual Subject Information Evening. Many year 10 students attended from both our GRC middle campuses and other schools.

I would like to thank the many GRC Oatley students who attended on the night. They were great ambassadors for our school.

Year 11 2014 enrolments close on 15th August. The 2014 classes are formed soon after this date and the timetable set. Late enrolments can only be enrolled in the classes where there are spaces. Please tell neighbours or family who are seeking enrolment, to get their applications in as soon as possible.

Year 12 Graduation

The year 12 Graduation will be held on Friday 20th September at the Sydney Town Hall. The event starts at 10.30am as such students are required to be seated by 10.15am. Students are required to get their name signed off by their Student Adviser at 9.45am. We look forward to this special event and celebrating the achievements of our students and their graduation after 13 years of schooling.

This can be a very stressful time for year 12 students preparing for the HSC. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Deidrei Bedwell
Principal



CYBER SAFETY
SEMINAR FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

WHERE Hurstville Entertainment Centre,
Civic Theatre
16 MacMahon Street, Hurstville

WHEN Wednesday, 21 August 2013
6:15pm - 7:30pm

COST FREE
Light supper provided

ThinkUKnow is an internet safety initiative which aims to raise awareness of the issues which young people face online and whilst using mobile phones. It is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Microsoft Australia, and is now proudly supported by ninemsn and Datacom.

Hurstville City Council will be hosting a ThinkUKnow presentation on Wednesday, 21 August 2013 and all parents, carers and teachers from the St George region are encouraged to attend. This presentation will cover topics such as how young people are using technology to have fun, online grooming, cyber-bullying, inappropriate content and e-security.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about how young people have fun online, how you can help them to stay in control on the net, and how to report a problem.

For more information, you can visit the ThinkUKnow Australia website at www.thinkuknow.org.au or contact Hurstville City Council's Youth Development Officer, Angus Megarity on 9330 6063 or amegarity@hurstville.nsw.gov.au.

We look forward to seeing you all at the presentation.

 **Hurstville City Council**

 **THINKUKNOW**

ThinkUKnow how to stay safe online?
WWW.THINKUKNOW.GOV.AU

GRC Oatley Senior Campus Parent Information Night INVITATION

All parents are invited to attend this very important information night which will focus on the different options for your child to consider after their schooling is completed.

POST SCHOOL OPTIONS



*"Empowering parents to
help students"*

Speakers:

Kate McRae (DP GRC Oatley) will explain University entry and the ATAR.

Rob Little (Counsellor TAFE NSW) will discuss other education, training and employment pathways.

Penny Morrison (Careers Adviser GRC Oatley) will advise on support networks available including the 'myfuture' website.

When: Monday 19 August 2013

Where: The Monk Theatre, GRC Oatley

Time: 7.00 – 8.00pm

Light Refreshments will be served

ALL WELCOME

MISSING!!!

One very large painting, approx. 120cm x 150cm, (portrait) of a tiger.

This artwork was purchased by the school from HSC student Lauren Forbes in 2008 and forms part of our permanent collection.

It is a favourite amongst the staff, and provides great inspiration and enjoyment for students as well.

The image is a close cropped face of a tiger, roaring with the eyes and open mouth in central focus.

The work was removed from the gallery sometime over the last four weeks. It is unlikely that the removal of the work would have been unseen, as it is very large and would not fit in most cars, thus may have been tied to the roof.

We dearly hope someone may have seen the work being removed, or may know something about its whereabouts so that it can be returned and repositioned in our gallery. There, it will continue to be enjoyed by a large audience for many years to come.

White Ribbon Day

Oatley adopted the White Ribbon program last year (www.whiteribbon.org.au). Our young men and male staff took a public oath to NOT be silent about violence against women. I decided to introduce this to Year 11 during Tutorials as they were not here in Term 4 last year when we held our highly successful assembly. The response was overwhelming. I had numerous year 11 boys approach me to say they were up for this. I didn't expect such a large number of girls seeing me to ask if female students could take part too. The answer is of course YES. James Munroe and the Deputy Principals also had

students signalling their support so I'm happy to say that we will start planning for a Year 11 2014 version that will have its own unique flavour but will be inspired by the young men who stood up in 2013 to kick off the Oatley White Ribbon journey.



Tapa Rugby League Captain and school community leader

I want to thank the contributors to Tutorial: Tapa, Captain of the RL team, and our White Ribbon Ambassador last year – thanks. Leroy wrote a song with Mahadi and performed this with Reece – so many people were in tears and so thankful to him. Liam is working with the boys to record a top quality audio and video of this for youtube which we will launch later this term. Thanks to the energy of our teachers who have been so encouraging and supportive of our young people.

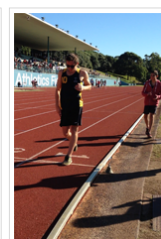
For more information visit our engagement blog at <http://grcoatley.wordpress.com/>

Kevin Wright

Head Teacher Welfare Year 11

St George Zone Athletics

On Monday the 17th and Tuesday the 18th of June, the St George Zone Athletics Carnival was held ES Marks Athletic Field. About 24 students from GRC Oatley represented the school on these days. We entered athletes in almost every event, inclusive of some of the less entered events, such as: hurdles, triple jump and the 3000m walk. Despite some interesting bus rides and less-than-favourable weather, we came away from the two days with some fantastic results and fond memories. Congratulations to those athletes who placed in any events and especially to those who will go on to represent our school at the Regional Carnival. Good luck! We are all proud of you!



By Natalie Tilia-Lane

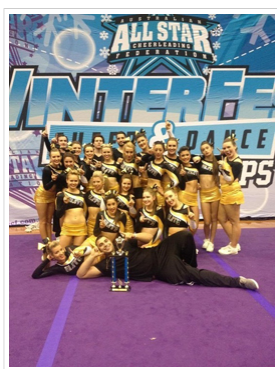
Cheerleading students

Congratulations to Natalie Tilia who is part of the Shire Elite Cheerleading team.

"On the morning of Sunday 16th June, cheerleaders from Shire Elite Cheerleading braved the cold to prepare for their first competition of 2013. They were headed to Homebush Sports Stadium for the AASCF NSW Winterfest Cheer and Dance Championships, along with 90+ other cheer and dance teams who were all there to prove who was best. Don't be mistaken; these cheerleaders aren't those standing on the sideline waving their pom poms. These are All-Star Cheerleaders. These young athletes spend hours of their free time working to perfect elite stunts, jumps, dance and tumbling skills.

Shire Elite cheer and dance squads brought home a total of 7 trophies:

- 1st Place – Open Cheer L2 Coed (Natalie's squad)
- 1st Place – Junior Cheer L1
- 1st Place – Open Group Stunt L2 Coed
- 2nd Place – Junior Partner Stunt L1 – Ruby & Jem
- 3rd Place – Junior Partner Stunt L1 – Jewel & Lili
- 3rd Place – Junior Group Stunt L1 – White Squad
- 3rd Place – Open Pom



Click on the excellent professional video of the cheerleaders below to see Natalie in action reproduced with permission of Comm23 photography

<http://vimeo.com/71779516>

Geography Excursion to Pyrmont

On the 28th May, Year 12 Geography spent a day at Pyrmont to study Urban Dynamics. By 2036 Sydney's population is expected to be 6 million. Providing jobs, sustainable and affordable housing will be an issue for planners to consider. As Geographers we spent the day observing, questioning and analysing how the suburb of Pyrmont is undergoing change as a result of urban consolidation and renewal.



Students relaxing having lunch at Pyrmont



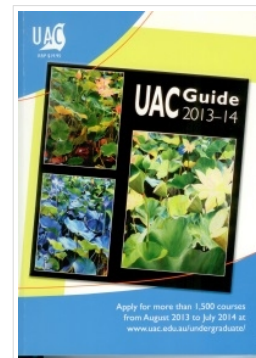
An example of urban consolidation in Pyrmont

Ray Burgess
HSIE Teacher

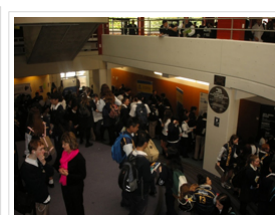
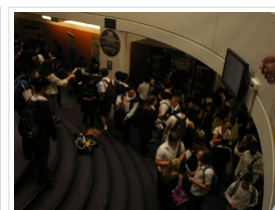
CAREERS FEATURE FOR PARENTS

University morning at GRC Oatley

Over 150 Year 12 students came to school early on Wednesday 31 July to hear about applying to university through the University Admissions Centre. They were keen to get their own copy of the UAC Guide and to peruse the information about courses.



All 8 universities within commuting distance sent representatives. These were current or newly graduated students who could give handy tips and share their knowledge and advice. During the market session our students were able to visit the stalls, collect booklets and ask questions. The university representatives commented on the calibre of our students. They were polite, well prepared and asked insightful questions.



If your child doesn't have a Guide they can collect one from the Careers office.

Sydney Institute TAFE Courses and Careers

The next big event on the Careers calendar is our district **TAFE morning** at St George TAFE on **Thursday 29 August**.

Students are **advised to attend** this excursion to find out about application and enrolment processes; to learn more about course content, qualifications, prospects and pathways, and career outcomes...
.....by talking to the people who teach these courses.

Students need to collect a permission note from the Careers office

Penny Morrison
Careers Adviser
8567 3744

The Evatt Competition

Evatt is a Model United Nations Security Council diplomacy competition for students in Years 9-12. More than 2,000 students compete in Evatt each year.

It aims to educate young people about Australia's place in the world and empower them as active citizens by developing public speaking, negotiation, teamwork, research, and diplomatic skills.

The competition takes the form of a mock session of the UN Security Council. Teams of two students debate, amend, and vote on a prepared resolution from the perspective of their assigned nation. Bethany Pankhurst and Kristy Coleman represented France on the day. They found the experience valuable to their aspirations to work for the UN.

Ray Burgess
HSIE Teacher

The Write Place

Welcome to 'The Write Place' - the new section of our newsletter devoted to presenting the creative writing of students (and sometimes staff).

There are three options:

- A Little Fear (horror stories)
- A Little Fun (funny stories)
- A Little Verse (anything poetic)

Simply write/video a piece in one of the designated genres and email it to Mr Gardiner at alexander.gardiner@det.nsw.edu.au

In response to last Newsletter here are our student contributors:

A Little Fear

<http://vimeo.com/71705469>

Cleo I
Student Year 12

A Little Fun

<http://vimeo.com/71705470>

Natalie K
Student Year 11

A Little Verse

The editions winner from our student body is Lilliane Moffat who has written a moving account around her reactions after hearing that a close family friend was going to be switched off life support. Here is this excellent poetry piece:

How easy it is,

To let life go,
And watch the river,
Continue its flow,

How precious we then realise,
It all is,
How delicate and sensitive,
Ours is, just as his,

How when you sit and think,
That all is good,
And smile softly at the world,
That death comes with his great black hood,

And takes away someone,
Wholly good,

It is then that we realise,
How small we all are,
When the beauty in life leaves us,
When we lower the bar,

And we are left with nothing,
A small goodbye to keep,
Forever in our hearts,
Until we make that leap,

When we are no more,
Others will think,
About us, about him, about all the links,
That the world leaves us,
To remember

How beautiful, how wonderful
A family member.

Kogarah Library Free Workshops



at KOGARAH LIBRARY

Navigating Teenage Depression
Wednesday 21 August
7.00 – 8.00pm



How to Bully Proof Children
Wednesday 18 September
6.45 – 9.30pm



kogarah
Library
& cultural services

KOGARAH
CITY COUNCIL



www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au



Navigating Teenage Depression

Wednesday 21 August
7.00 - 8.00pm

You will hear about:

- What is depression and bipolar disorder
- How to spot early warning signs in young people
- When and where to seek help
- How to support a young person you care about
- How to build resilience

The presentation is delivered by a trained presenter from the Black Dog Institute.

BOOKINGS: Online or 9330 9527

How to Bully Proof Children

Wednesday 18 September
6.45 - 9.30pm

Psychologists say one in five children will be bullied at school.

This free, professionally facilitated seminar, will give parents & caregivers practical strategies for dealing with bullying. It will also provide parents with ideas for discussing the issue of bullying with their children.

BOOKINGS: Online or 9587 6622

BOOKINGS ONLINE:
www.kogarahlibrary.eventbrite.com.au

Kogarah Library & Cultural Centre
Kogarah Town Square
Belgrave St Kogarah
Tel: 9330 9527
E: weblibrary@kogarah.nsw.gov.au

OPEN
Mon-Fri 9.30am to 7pm
Sat 10am - 4pm
Sun 10am to 1pm

Oatley Library
26 Letitia St
Oatley
Tel: 9579 6553

OPEN
Mon-Fri 10am to 6pm
Sat 10am - 1pm

South Hurstville Library
Cnr Short & Allen St
South Hurstville
Tel: 9330 9529

OPEN
Mon-Fri 10am to 6pm
Sat 10am to 1pm

www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au

GIRLS

Wiley Park Girls	3-0	Win
Kingsgrove	2-1	Loss
Sylvania	3-1	Win
Blakehurst	2-1	Loss
Semi Final - Blakehurst	3-1	Loss

BOYS

<u>Oatley vs.</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Result</u>
Kingsgrove	4-1	Win
Blakehurst	3-2	Loss
Sylvania	3-0	Loss
Semi Final - Blakehurst	3-1	Win
Grand Final - Sylvania	3-1	Loss



Girls (as pictured left to right, back row to front row): Monica Denton, Jasmine Schillert, Tayla Smith, Anna Kastrounis, Molly Towell, Katie Lay, Natalie Tilia-Lane, Sally Mulheron, Kara Matthews, Ruby Clarke, Cass Pasoski, Ashleigh Walsh, Sisilia Tuilawa, Sam Robertson, Amy Jagelman, Fia Prasad

St George Oztag Gala Day

On July 23, Oatley sent two representative oztag teams (girls and boys) to compete at the St George Oztag Gala Day held at Scarborough Park in Kogarah. The teams played well and came home with notable results.

The girls were only defeated by two teams on the day (Kingsgrove and Blakehurst) and placed third in the competition.

The boys made a surprising comeback in their semi final against Blakehurst and managed to place second for the day.

The scores can be seen below:

GIRLS

<u>Oatley vs.</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Result</u>
Bethany College	4-0	Win
Moorefield Girls	5-0	Win



Boys(as pictured left to right, front row to back row): Louis Hardy, Aaron Quirk, Khalid Nayef, Kalib Brown, Ali Jebeile, Creighton Yung, Tristan King, Nic Shaw, John Sipolo, Dylan Smith (Patrick Hughes not pictured)

By Natalie Tilia-Lane
Student Year 11

HSC programs ensure equal access to the HSC

We all want students to be able to perform at their best in the HSC, and not be disadvantaged due to circumstances beyond their control. So to ensure equal access to the HSC for all students the Board of Studies has two programs to support our students.

The programs – Disability Provisions, and Illness and Misadventure appeals – cover existing disabilities and illness or misadventure affecting participation in one or more HSC examinations.

As a parent you may have a child with a disability or one who is affected by illness, injury or unexpected circumstances on exam day or during the lead-up to exams. If so the following information may be of interest to you.

Disability Provisions

Disability provisions help students with a disabling condition make a fair attempt to show what they know in a HSC exam.

The provisions are practical measures including braille papers, large-print papers, use of a reader and/or writer, extra time or rest breaks.

The provisions don't confer additional marks, and are not intended to provide an advantage. Rather they have been developed to allow students to participate in the exam process in the same way as their peers.

The Board has information on Disability Provisions on its website, and in a booklet provided to all HSC students. The Board's website also provides case studies that may be helpful for parents.

Applying for Disability Provisions need not be a difficult or costly process, and the Board is continually working to increase understanding by parents, teachers and students about who is eligible and how to apply.

The Board is also working on implementing recommendations made by the NSW Ombudsman in 2013, to improve communication about Disability Provisions with all schools.

Parents should speak to their school principal if they believe their child may be eligible for Disability Provisions in the HSC exams.

For more information visit:

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/disability-provisions/>

Illness and Misadventure

Students can make an Illness/Misadventure appeal if they have encountered an unexpected illness, injury or circumstance that affects their ability to fairly participate in a HSC exam.

For example this could be an accident or illness just before an exam, a traumatic event experienced during exam preparation, or an emergency that prevents them from attending an exam.

Students with a successful Illness/Misadventure appeal will be awarded either their exam mark or their school assessment mark, whichever is higher.

For more information on lodging an illness/misadventure appeal visit http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/hsc_exams/illness-misadventure.html

Board of Studies

SRC Report

The hardworking GRC Oatley SRC has been making progress on a number of key projects including:

Year 12 Formal Committee

Formal preparations are well and truly underway and tickets are no longer able to be purchased. We have a record 460 attending this year's event at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf and it should be a wonderful evening.

Students should have submitted their table seating arrangements to our hardworking Formal Committee. Please note: all students must sign the Terms and Conditions Agreement to be able to attend. This reflects their understanding of the behaviour expected and that they are responsible for the behaviour of their "plus one" if they are bringing one. Any Year 11 attending the Year 12 Formal as a plus one must sign the green Terms and Conditions form. Please note: no contract = no ticket (for both Year 11 and Year 12).

Year 12 Yearbook Committee

The Yearbook is also currently being developed. If any Year 12 does NOT want their photo to appear in the Yearbook they are to contact Mrs Straney or the Yearbook Committee to advise them ASAP. All data forms should also have been returned to the Yearbook Committee by now. We will be taking orders for the Yearbook after the Trials are finished.

Proceeds from SRC Week

We are delighted to announce that as a result of SRC Week, the SRC was able to donate funds to the Exodus Foundation and the Hamlin Fistula Organisation. The SRC is also looking to use some funds to improve school resources.

Year 12 Gift to the School

Each year our Year 12's traditionally provide a gift to the school to mark their time here. If students have any ideas or suggestions for this year's gift, please let a member of the SRC know.

If you have any ideas or areas of interest that you would like the SRC to consider, please contact an SRC member.

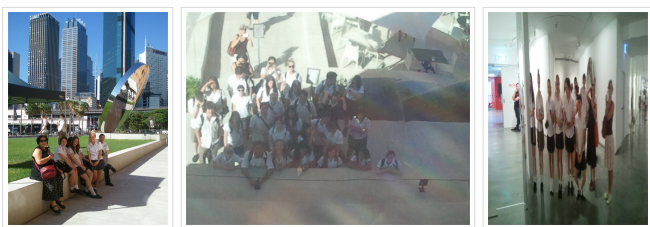
Narelle Straney

HSIE Teacher – SRC Coordinator

Year 12 Visual Arts Excursion

Year 12 recently visited the Anish Kapoor exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Anish Kapoor has been challenging the viewers perception of space since the early 1980's. His enormous 'Sky Mirror', located on the front lawn of the gallery at Circular Quay, spectacularly reflects the weather, the city-scape and harbour traffic, depending from where you view it.



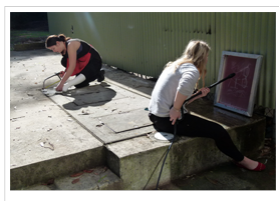
Memory gave an intimidating impression. By the extensive use of space with such an incredibly large object, the audience can't help but feel insignificant. Also, by taking up the entire room, the viewer feels quite claustrophobic.

By Ravina Patel
Student Year 12

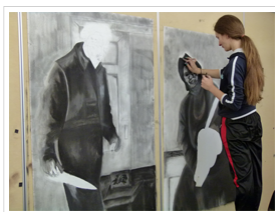
Visual Art Works

With only six weeks till the final due date of the HSC Visual Arts 'Body of Works', students made the most of an intensive studio practice session during the school holidays following term 2.

The full day session, run by Ms Moses, enabled students to work solidly on their art, in a creative, friendly environment, with access to the studio equipment, materials and advice.



*Corinne Lume and Mikaela Sonter
focused on their art works*



*Monika Ortakovska
hard at work*



*Mikaela Sonter happy with her
progress*



Bethany Martin-Browne

Stephanie Moses
Visual Arts Teacher