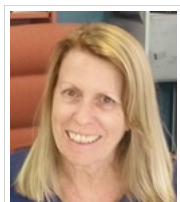


25 June 2015

Principal's Message



It has been a busy term at GRC Oatley with exams, assessment tasks, performing arts and success on the sporting field.

Our students continue to show the GRC values of Excellence, Respect and Responsibility.

Year 11 Reports will be issued this week. I was extremely pleased with most of our students who have given a great deal of effort and commitment to their studies in the first half of Year 11. I was however disappointed to see some students with a large number of late days.

Students should be at school by the warning bell (8.30am). Classes begin promptly at 8.40am. As would be expected, there is a strong correlation between academic success and attendance in classes.

At a recent assembly, we celebrated the success of Year 11 students who came in the top 10% in their exams. We have 520 students in the Year 11 cohort. Recognising top of course only would not be only recognising how much harder it is to compete in such a large cohort. It is an advantage to have such healthy competition, as it is good practice for the HSC. What does this mean? It means that these students listened to their teachers, took their exams seriously, and attended all classes every day, studied diligently for their exams, learned about exam techniques and built their skills from the start of the year. Now it is important to learn from the feedback they receive from their teachers to help them do better in their yearly exams at the end of term 3.

Yes – there will be more to learn.

Yes – the exams will be longer and harder.

Yes – the competition will be more intense as all students become more serious.

Yes – there will be better results next time!

'N' Warning Letters

Unfortunately every year 40-50 students do not receive their Year 11 Preliminary HSC or HSC. This means they have not met the course requirements and worked with sustained effort and diligence all terms of the course.

Warning letters are sent to parents and 2 warning letters may result in a non-award in the subject. When a student is at the critical warning stage, a bright red label is attached to the letter requesting a parent interview. At this stage, many students tell their parents, "Everything is OK. I have fixed it."

The letter has been sent because the missed work has not been fixed and students are not applying themselves with diligence and sustained effort which means working to the best of your ability throughout the entire course making appointments at the end of the course when the final 'N' determination is given is too late. Promising to catch up on the missed work at the end of the course is too late. If you get an 'N' Warning letter it is serious.

I was very pleased to attend the Music 2 and Music Extension Performance Night. It gave students a chance to perform some of their repertoire they are presenting for the HSC exam, held in the GRC Oatley Music Studio in an intimate "recital" atmosphere. We have some very talented musicians and hope for great success in the HSC.

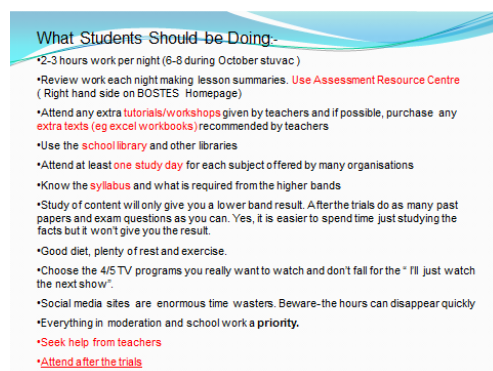
SRC

Congratulations to the SRC for running a successful mufti day and raising nearly \$1000 for the appeal for the earthquake victims in Nepal.

Year 12 have now received their jerseys and the SRC formal committee are well on the way to finalising organisation.

Thank you to SRC for their commitment in so many areas of the school. Being on the SRC is not always easy and these students showed outstanding leadership and organisational skills.

Some advice for parents to help their Year 12 students



What Students Should be Doing...

- 2-3 hours work per night (6-8 during October stu vac)
- Review work each night making lesson summaries. Use Assessment Resource Centre (Right hand side on BOSTES Homepage)
- Attend any extra tutorials/workshops given by teachers and if possible, purchase any extra texts (eg excel workbooks) recommended by teachers
- Use the school library and other libraries
- Attend at least one study day for each subject offered by many organisations
- Know the syllabus and what is required from the higher bands
- Study of content will only give you a lower band result. After the trials do as many past papers and exam questions as you can. Yes, it is easier to spend time just studying the facts but it won't give you the result.
- Good diet, plenty of rest and exercise.
- Choose the 4/5 TV programs you really want to watch and don't fall for the "I'll just watch the next show".
- Social media sites are enormous time wasters. Beware-the hours can disappear quickly
- Everything in moderation and school work a priority.
- Seek help from teachers
- Attend after the trials

You should discuss with your students which of the following resources **WILL NOT HELP**



Kate McCrae
Relieving Principal

Support Unit news.

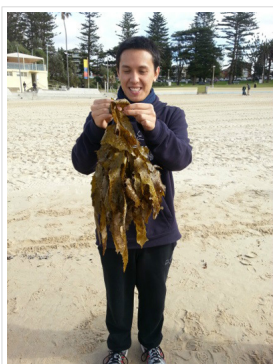
Semester One 2015 has been a busy and exciting time in the Support Unit of GRC Oatley. Our new Year 11 students have settled in marvellously and are enjoying all the challenging educational programs we offer in the senior school.

Apart from learning the core subjects, our students have been working one day a week at Coles Engadine, where they undertake a variety of tasks as they prepare for their transition into the workforce at the end of Year 12. The students are showing great independence and responsibility in these roles



The Support Unit students have also completed a course in Surf Awareness run by the Lifeguards at the Cronulla beaches. This course includes both educational material and practical exercises such as swimming, surf survival, hands on experience with the lifesaving equipment and personal training. This fabulous course always leaves our students feeling confident about safely visiting the beach.

During Term Two the students visited the Disability Careers Expo at Sutherland Basketball Stadium. The Expo is a great opportunity for the students and their families to look at all the career options available to them and begin planning for this important step in their lives. The Expo was well received by all.



Our students have also had a wide variety of learning opportunities in the Community Access portion of their HSC Course. They have visited interesting places such as Cataract Dam, an apple orchard, Putt Planet, Bundeena, Botany, Kurnell and La Perouse, walked the Bungoon Path in the Royal National Park and completed a practical fishing Seminar with the Department of Primary Industries. All of these excursions enable our students to apply the social skills they have learnt in practical and realistic situations.

Brendan Dalley

Life Skills at GRC OATLEY



Mrs Saunders and Mr Polyzoidis have had great results with their students in the Life Skills Class. Each student designed and made their own personalised timber name plaque. Timber used was recycled offcuts, The students complied with all WHS measures before using the hand held wood burner to burn their image onto their timber. Once completed students removed all sharp edges with garnet paper. Polyurethane was used to coat the timber and Scandinavian Teak oil was used with Wet & Dry Paper to produce a super smooth finish. Well Done Class. Fantastic Work.



By Mr POLYZOIDIS
TAS Faculty

Year 12 Food Technology



Year 12 Food Technology students turned their kitchen into a biscuit making factory recently as a part of their Food Product Development assessment. All students had to produce a different recipe from a basic dough. Multiple taste tests were enjoyed for data collection and analysis for improvement.



Danika Kalan.
Food Technology Teacher

GRC Stage Band - Port Macquarie Tour BIG BAND BLAST 2015



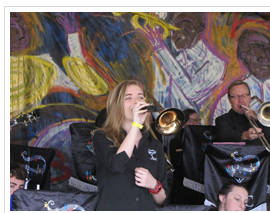
The GRC Stage Band has just returned from a highly successful tour to Port Macquarie for the annual 'Big Band Blast'. The BBB is a festival featuring big bands from around the country, both school bands and professional bands. This year's theme was 'Latin' with the guest star band being "Mucho Mambo" from South America.

Over three days the GRC Stage Band performed, joined in 'jam sessions' on stage and in parks, participated in various workshops, were part of a traditional New Orleans style street

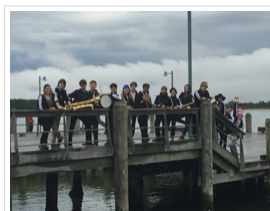
parade, watched concerts and danced the night away at the Mucho Mambo party concert.

A definite highlight of the weekend was meeting and performing with Ed Wilson, a legend of Australian jazz and the composer of several of the pieces the band was playing. Ed kindly hopped in with our band to play lead trombone, which was a real thrill! The band members also got to meet John Morrison, renowned drummer and brother of James Morrison. Mrs Pryce also got the opportunity to play trumpet for a set with Mucho Mambo and with John Morrison's band - her comment was "So..many..high...notes..!"

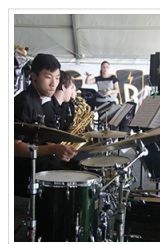
In between performances and workshops, there was also plenty of time for a bit of sightseeing, midnight pizza parties and the odd 'selfie' or 10. It was certainly a great trip and the band is already looking forward to BBB 2016!



Ed Wilson (white shirt)



Anita Kelly (Year 11) on lead trumpet



Edmund Siu (Year 11) in action

GRC Futsal Girls



Team Members: Aldianna Bektas, Chiara Berlusconi, Renee Kalotinis, Martina Nicolaou, Valeria Perez, Georgia Phillips, Audrey Pry, Cassandra Pry, Roxana Sadeghpour, Samantha Trajkovski.

Coaches: Mr Polyzoidis and Mr Butler

On 29th April 2015 the GRC Futsal girls team displayed an outstanding performance with a fantastic effort from all the girls. The star performers being Cassandra and Valeria scoring 5 goals each in the group stage. After making it to the semi finals, the girls were defeated 7-0, however, their team efforts did not go unnoticed. Well done girls!!!!

By Mr POLYZOIDIS
TAS Faculty

Team Members: Top row: Mr Lecce, Jim Pappas, Aleksander Joleski, Matthew Lecce, Matthew Jasevski, Daniel Laws, Mr Polyzoidis

Bottom row: Ramazan Arslan, Taci Kumsuz, Ali Sayed Ahmed, Matthew Elchaar, James Redmond.

Coaches: Mr Polyzoidis and Mr Butler

GRC Futsal Boys



The GRC boys Futsal team played exceptionally against each team in the group stage and made it to the finals.

After making it to the semi-final where they won 4-3. With their heads held high, the boys then went to finals but unfortunately lost 4-3 in the last minute, after coming back from 3-0 down.

In July, the boys are attending state championships in Penrith for the second year in a row.

Stand out performances are to be acknowledged, particularly Matthew Lecce, Matthew Jasevski, Aleksander Joleski, Ali Sayed Ahmed, Ramazan Arslan and Taci Kumsuz. Overall, the team effort was commendable. Great work boys!!!!

By Mr POLYZOIDIS
TAS Faculty

Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Pymont.



On Monday the 25th May Year 12 Geographers travelled into the city to study the urban dynamics of consolidation and renewal. Sydney's population will reach 6 million by 2036 and urban planners must face the challenges of providing new jobs, housing, efficient infrastructure while at the same time maintaining global competitiveness and environmental sustainability. The day was very productive and the students were able to use a variety of Geographical methodologies to assess the effectiveness of the processes of consolidation and renewal. The students are to be commended for their maturity and outstanding behaviour on the day.



R Burgess
HSIE Teacher