



Cnr Oatley Ave & Hurstville Rd  
Oatley NSW 2223  
Subscribe: <http://grcoatley.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: [oatleysnr-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:oatleysnr-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 02 8567 3700  
Fax: 02 9570 3622



5 June 2017

## Principal's Report



Welcome back to Term 2, which is traditionally a very busy one at GRC Oatley Campus.

### School Development Day

Day 1 of this term was a productive and successful day of learning for our staff. They spent time investigating the ways teachers can enable students to become more autonomous in their learning; that is, assist students to learn more effectively without the constant presence or intervention of a teacher. Evidence-based research suggests that high student autonomy:

- increases student engagement
- leads to greater conceptual learning
- greater school retention
- higher academic achievement

In other sessions, we had a close look at our current "Statement of Purpose" and how we have developed over the last three years. The information gathered from this will contribute to the new School Strategic Plan for 2018–2020. This will be an ongoing planning process for the remainder of the year.

Staff also spent a significant amount of time programming, designing class and assessment tasks for both the Preliminary and HSC courses. It certainly was a very busy day that will have a direct impact on all student learning both this term and in the future.

### Stronger HSC and Minimum Literacy and Numeracy Standards

There has been a lot of media coverage recently relating to the new HSC. To help support high school students achieve their best, the Higher School Certificate (HSC) is being reformed.

The changes are designed to help motivate and challenge students to achieve at their highest possible level, reduce excessive stress and give students more skills and career options.

The reform will create stronger HSC standards by focusing on:

- a minimum literacy and numeracy standard
- updating the curriculum
- streamlined assessment.

The changes will provide a flexible HSC that caters to all students' needs, with options for further study extensions. Plagiarism and pre-prepared responses will also be reduced.

From 2020, all Year 12 students in NSW must reach the minimum standard of numeracy and literacy to receive the HSC credential. This means students undertaking Year 9 in 2017 will be the first students expected to meet the minimum standard.

NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) is responsible for the reforms, which emerged from extensive consultation over three years.

The Stronger HSC Standards Blueprint (PDF) and the Stronger HSC Standards Current State, Future State (PDF) outline the reforms in more detail.

The Stronger HSC Standards Overview of the Evidence (PDF) provides the research and rationale for the reforms.

### Top 10% Assembly

At GRC Oatley, we believe that recognition of student achievement plays a vital role in the development of an effective learning environment. One of our core values is EXCELLENCE. The emphasis here is for students to participate actively, aim high and always strive for success and improvement.

This term, 122 Year 12 students were recognised for achieving in the top 10% of their course cohort. This is a wonderful achievement and one they should be extremely proud of.

ANIMUS	FORTIS	MIRABILIS	VIRTUS
Nadia Abbass	Elisha Tupou Fakaosi	Stella Maragkaki	Christine-Rose Salouvardos
Zahra Abou-Ghaida	Xinzhu Cindy Fang	Alex Margetson	Brodie Scarfe
Layla Abrahams-Patel	Nicole Galhardi	Shakeela Martin	Elisha Sequeira
Kaled Ahrak	Yingshi Cecilia Gan	Thomas Maude	Angus Shaw
Safaa Al Haj Hussein	Georgette Georgiou	Sinead McCormick	Rhysie Siteine Morgan
Kamil Al-Oss	Lily Hackett	Rachel McGrath	Jade Snellgrove
Harrison Antonopoulos	Fletcher Hall	James McQueen	Kimberley So
Liam Ashton	Mehdi Hamdi	Feryial Merhi	Adeen Sowinski
Samuel Attard	Annabelle Hamilton	Emy Messiha	Alicia Spinola
Soleil Auciello	Jun Kenny Han	Benjamin Mich	Nathan Stanley
Aneeta Augustine	Cora Hinkley	Monika Mihaljevic	Chloe Stephens
Ilgın Aykut	Ebony Hopping	Anasimon Nabeh	Joseph Tanuos
Sarah Bacich	Timothy Huang	Kirillos Nakhla	Sarah Tesoriero
Ansaar Baig	Judy Huynh	Erica Ng	Anthea Tomaras
Leonardo Bernardino	Daichanel Ifopo	Marissa Nicopoulos	Bianca Tranby
Gilgamesh Blanch	Britany Jacksmith	Julijana Nikolis	Jiehan Wang
Chloe Bollas	Rick Kamikura	Raukawaite Nuku-Ratana	Jack Want
Patricia Brockbank	Roslyn Kappatos	Eloise Ohalloran	Emily Webber
Amber Brown	Violetta Katsaris	Claire Ollivain	Tian Weng
Sean Callis	Tiffenine Kau	Arika Pathak	Lucas Williamson
Cooper Challinor	Staci Kotzaitis	Nataszia Pawlicka	Yip Tung Wong
Kimberly Chan	Tacetin Kumsuz	Anna Pettifer	Andy Wu
Ada Chen	Cheuk Ying Jessie Lee	Lois Pijcke	Siddha Xian
Qinzhou Chen	Henry Lee	Heidi Ristevska	Maxwell Yan
Kevin Cheung	Katherine Liveris	Tyson Rossides	Eugene Gina Yoo
Rachael Chiddy	Jordana Lobos	Madeleine Rowell	Harmain Yousaf
Adelaide Cruz	Domenico Logozzo		Renee Youssef
Elyce Cutajar	Vladimir Lozanovski		Meriem Zebib
Melissa D'Ambra	Yongzhen Amber Lu		Lingping Sienna Zheng
Adam Daizli	Kayley Luu		
Lara De Leau	Leon Ly		
Anthea Demetriou			
Louisa Denton			
Taneisha Dormido			
Jessica Dunphy			
Rafael El Azzi			

## Parent Teacher Night

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend our Year 11 and 12 Parent Teacher Nights. It is well established that the more interested and involved a family is in the educational experience of their child the better the outcome for the child. Therefore, we value the role of informed parent participation in our school community. Open parent communication is absolutely vital to ensure a quality education for your child. When respectful, proactive communication is established between home and school a child will truly be supported in reaching their learning potential.

As I spoke with parents and caregivers throughout the afternoons, their feedback was very positive - complimenting our staff on the way in which they educate their children. I was delighted to hear comments like; *"Your teachers are fantastic..."* *"The teachers know our son so well..."* *"We are so thrilled with the way our daughter has settled into senior study..."* and *"I love the sense of belonging that there appears to be at this school..."* It is always great to receive positive feedback and it is a testament to the work that our teachers do and the productive partnerships with our community.



## P.A.C.FEST

Congratulations to the students who participated in P.A.C.FEST for 2017. They should be extremely proud of their efforts. They did the school, their families and themselves proud.

It is with great excitement that I announce that we were awarded 1st place in the Samoan section and runners up in The Cooks Islands section of the competition.

P.A.C.FEST is a highly impactful youth initiative, which has been hugely successful at increasing the levels of social inclusion, social cohesion and achievements of Pacific, Maori and Indigenous high school students in Sydney.

Created by High School Community Liaison Officers and Youth workers, P.A.C.FEST uses Pacific, Maori and Indigenous Performing Arts as a platform to help young people realise that:

Sydney P.A.C.Fest is a Cultural Pacific, Indigenous and Maori Festival involving Secondary Schools throughout Sydney region that have Pacific, Indigenous and Maori students. It aims to reconnect the students to their cultural heritage and learn the importance and beauty of traditions that evolve through time and generations to create who they are today.

<https://www.facebook.com/johnnyflashsydney/videos/1029192300544033/>

## Anzac day

### "Lest we forget."

This ceremonial phrase means more to Australians than it may seem. It means not only remembering the sacrifice of 59% of

Australia's population during WWI, or any of the brave soldiers of Australia, but also reflecting on and reverberating the emotional and physical results and impacts of warfare.

It reminds us of the spirit of the ANZAC soldiers; the spirit of our nation. 2017 is part of the Hundred Years commemoration of the ANZAC; that spirit still lives on today in the lives of Australians of all ages. The ANZAC spirit is not a thing of the past, but it is with us today.

This year we were invited to attend both the Oatley and Penshurst RSL Anzac Remembrance Ceremonies. Ms McRae and I attended along with our School Captains and Vice Captains - Ansaar Baig, Layla Abrahams Patel, Jamie Papaioannou and Alexia Karras. Wreaths were laid by the Captains at each service on behalf of our school community. It was great for our school to be represented. Congratulations to our school leaders for the maturity they displayed, their commitment to the school and to our community. You are fine ambassadors of GRC Oatley.



## Uniform

As the mercury falls and the new term commences, the student body has been reminded that correct school uniform is to be worn. Our school's Uniform Code specifies the types of acceptable jackets and jumpers **which DOES NOT include jackets or jumpers with hoods in various colours!**

Students have been made aware that their behaviour and deportment on the way to and from school in the public arena, must be exceptional at all times and wearing their uniform proudly is part of this expectation.

The majority of our students arrive at school in the correct uniform and I thank our parents for their ongoing diligence in ensuring this important issue is regularly addressed and monitored.

## Attendance

There is a high expectation at GRC Oatley that all students attend school every day and be punctual in their arrival to school. Lateness and absence severely impacts on each

individual and student learning. Data clearly shows that regular attendance improves student learning outcomes, and engagement. This in turn improves student options, and life and career choices. Please support us in ensuring that your child arrives to school on time and is ready to engage in lessons.

## Annual School Report

The annual school report is complete and available for viewing on the GRC Oatley Senior Campus website via the following link:

[http://www.oatleysnr-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/documents/38654664/38660315/2016\\_asr\\_ab.pdf](http://www.oatleysnr-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/documents/38654664/38660315/2016_asr_ab.pdf)

**Anna Girginis**  
**Principal**

## English Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to Sarah Bacich and Nicole Galhardi who competed in the Plain English Speaking competition on Monday 22nd May.

Sarah spoke passionately on the dangers of seeing the world in black and white, and how the media can distort the truth when it reduces issues in a way that reduces society's ability to empathise with those of differing views.

Nicole informed the audience of the current political and social issues facing her home country Venezuela and the need for us to be informed global citizens who stand up for human rights issues in all countries and not just the countries that draw media attention.

The adjudicator commented that both GRC speakers used personal material to powerful effect and admired their bravery. Further congratulations to Nicole who has progressed to the regional finals. We wish her all the best next Monday 29th May as she represents GRC Oatley.



**Fiona Willis**  
**English Teacher**



## CAREERS FEATURE FOR PARENTS



Year 12 students are now working through the “My Transition Plan” booklet with their mentor group every Friday. Students should keep this excellent resource to refer to as their final year at school progresses.

Transition Planning interviews are underway. Students apply for an appointment with an Oatley Careers Adviser to discuss the next exciting stage in their career.

A few items to note - all held at GRC Oatley:

- Careers workshop – presented by a TAFE Careers Adviser, Thursday 22nd June
- University Market – Wed 2nd August
- Apprenticeship & Traineeship Day – Wed 6th September

Remember you can receive up to date information related to your child’s career interest areas at the link below. Register for email updates AND/OR use GRC Oatley password = grc

<http://jobjump.com.au/>

### Preparing for a place at university



Congratulations to Vanessa and Janet for completing the U@UNSW program. They were offered the opportunity to participate in two conferences at UNSW over 7 days during the September and January holidays. They took part in lectures and tutorials to develop their personal and academic skills, submitted an essay, which was marked by a UNSW academic, and delivered a group presentation. GRC Oatley has had a partnership with UNSW for many years.

**Penny Morrison**  
**Careers Adviser**  
**9567 3744**

## Sport Report - May 2017

### Boys Touch

Congratulations to our Boys Touch team who won the regional championships at Kareela, with a draw against Matraville Sports High and emphatic wins against South Sydney High and Endeavour Sports. This is the first time GRC has successfully made it through to CHS final series. We are extremely proud of the team. Good luck at CHS.

The icing on the cake was the inclusion of five of our stars in the Sydney East team. They include:

- Liam Kanis-Parker
- Andrew Kapinga
- Tyronne Ferreira
- Jacob Merlino
- Christian Diones



### St George Zone Cross-country

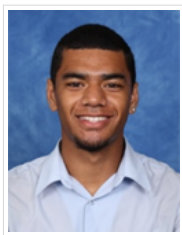
Congratulations to our elite band of endurance athletes, who ran with admirable determination at the recent St George Zone carnival at Scarborough Park.

The results were outstanding, and the following students progressed to the Sydney East carnival at Miranda Park in June. They include:

<b>16 Years Girls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isabelle Sambudjo</li> </ul>	<b>17 Years Boys</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donald Catallo</li> <li>• Kevin Tran</li> </ul>
<b>17 Years Girls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily Lenz (champion)</li> <li>• Lauren Chappell</li> <li>• Zahra Abou-Ghaida</li> <li>• Amy Henry</li> <li>• Debora Widjaja</li> </ul>	<b>18 Years Boys</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Burt</li> <li>• Adeen Sowinski</li> <li>• James McQueen</li> </ul>
<b>18 Years Girls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elyce Cutajar</li> <li>• Emily Webber</li> </ul>	

## Rugby Union

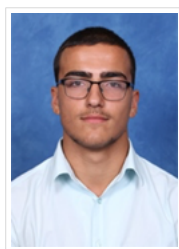
Congratulations to Sairusi Mocevakaca and Andrew Kapinga on their selection in the Sydney East Rugby Squad to tour Armidale at the Sydney East championships. What a fantastic honour. Sairusi and Andrew are the first two students from GRC Oatley to be selected since Rob Horne in 2007.



*Sairusi Mocevakaca Andrew Kapinga*

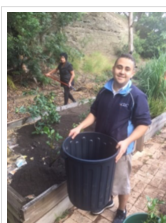
## Rugby League

The final congratulations goes to Vulkan Er. This highly talented and dedicated league player was recently selected in the Sydney East Rugby League Squad. We wish him the best of luck in the CHS championships.



*Vulkan Er*

## Students and Volunteers are all winners in the GRC Oatley Gardening Program



At the beginning of the term, GRC Oatley in conjunction with Mortdale Community Centre and TAFE NSW, commenced a Gardening program that targeted both students with disabilities and those who were disconnected with school, were struggling to stay focused and weren't sure about a future life direction.

We are fortunate to have members of the community dedicate their time through a volunteering program to mentor and work closely with our students. David Winner, the TAFE Gardening teacher and the volunteers share their skills in gardening and form relationships that cross age barriers.

Many of the volunteers are ex teachers and Principals and still long for the interaction with young people in our community but have long since retired from the job. There are also some young volunteers that are contemplating a future career in education. There are 2-3 students who have shown an interest in taking on a TAFE course in relation to gardening and Horticulture on completion of school. David Winner is highly experienced and has a wealth of knowledge. He allows the students plenty of hands on experiences and is always at the ready for any questions from students, teachers and volunteers. The entire

program is a great success story in connecting people of all ages within the community whilst acquiring skills along the way.

**Priscilla Wille**

**Head Teacher Special Education**

## What is STEM?

**(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)**

**By Jamie Ha – Year 11**

STEM is an educational program primarily to develop primary and secondary students for graduate study in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. STEM aims to foster inquiring minds, logical reasoning and collaboration skills.

## What is the FIRST program?

The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science & Technology) program is a non-profit organization which promotes STEM to students between the ages of 6-18. There are different fractions of FIRST. They are FIRST lego league junior (6-9years), FIRST lego league (9-16years), FIRST Tech Challenge (14-18years) and FIRST Robotics Challenge (14-18years). In these challenges, children will have to build and program a functioning robot from the ground up to compete with other teams throughout the state.

## FIRST's aim:

The founders of FIRST, Woodie Flowers' and Dean Kamen's mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, additionally well-rounded skills such as self-confidence, communication and leadership. The words "Gracious professionalism" is a part of FIRST's spirit. It is a way of doing things that encourage high-quality work, emphasizes the values of others and respects individuals and the community.

***"To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology students" – Dean Kamen, founder.***

## My FIRST experience:

I was fortunate enough to be part of Macquarie University's team "Thunder Down Under". It has been a massive journey and a huge learning experience. I was involved in the FIRST Tech and FIRST Robotics Challenges.

In year 8, I had the passion of science and technology and studied Robotics as an elective at GRC Peakhurst. Part of the course involved students building and programming Lego Mindstorms kits from scratch. By the end of year 9, I became a member of the "Thunder Down Under" team, which I heard about FIRST from my parents. This was the year I participated in the FIRST Tech challenge- the challenge being velocity vortex where there was two spinning discs and buttons. The robot could shoot balls into the discs, press buttons and place an

exercise-sized ball onto one of the spinning discs (3.66m x 3.66m).

In January this year, the annual FIRST Robotics challenge was held. The task was to program and build a 50kg+ robot (dimensions; 91cm by 101cm by 60cm tall **OR** 76cm by 81cm by 91cm tall) within 6 weeks and include the following functions:

- shooting in to a goal
- placing and receiving cogs
- climbing a 4ft 10inch rope.

Since I was new to FIRST Robotics, the team leader put me on a team for rookies to train me up for a position in “Thunder Down Under”. This experience was invaluable, teaching me skills in programming and manufacturing parts of the mechanism. Programming the robot was a very difficult thing to do, using the language Java and the basics of OOP (Object Orient Programming) to program autonomous and mechanical functions such as climbing. I had to use mathematics and physics to work out the strength and weight that the robot needed to carry. Over all, the skill obtained from FIRST challenges are very special and a once in a lifetime experience.

### Achievements:

The awards achieved this season by team “Thunder Down Under” was winning both finals in the Sydney and Hawaiian regions, and being awarded the Chairman’s award. The chairman’s award is the highest prestigious award that can be achieved by a FIRST team; to achieve this award a team must fulfil the criteria of FIRST (Improvement, innovation within STEM) through both a video, essay and interview.

These achievements meant that the team qualified for the World Championship in Houston, Texas. We were very excited to have the founders Dean Kamen and Woodie Flowers, personally present us with the Chairman’s award and two other trophies. The Team “Thunder Down Under” was the first team outside America to be named in the Hall of Fame.



*Trophy ‘Chairman’s Award’    Individual Gold Medal*



*Competition Robot*



*Training Robot*