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25 August 2017

Principal's Report



Welcome Back to Term 3

Welcome back to Semester 2 2017, the final term for our HSC candidates. We hope the break was a chance for families to spend valuable time together and all students are refreshed and ready to tackle the challenges that lay ahead.

School Development Day

Teachers began the term with a school development day on Monday July 17 featuring guest speaker, Dr Andrew Fuller. Andrew Fuller, a clinical psychologist, has worked with many schools and communities around Australia, specialising in the wellbeing of young people and their families. He is a Fellow of the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Learning and Educational Development at the University of Melbourne.

Andrew has recently been described as an "interesting mixture of Billy Connolly, Tim Winton and Frasier Crane" and as someone who "puts the heart back into psychology", and he did just that!

Andrew used lots of humour and research to expose staff to many variables. Topics included:

- Motivating learners by getting their brains into states, which help them to learn.
- Increasing sensory inputs to make learning richer, stronger and more interesting.
- Ways of optimising the level of attention in learners
- Designing learning in ways which make sense to different learners

Staff feedback on the day was extremely positive. Our next challenge is to determine Where to from here? – How we



can use this information to consolidate what we do as teachers in our classrooms.

Vocational Education and Training Awards

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the 2017 VET Awards. It was a night to celebrate the dedication of students, parents, schools and community partners who contribute to the Vocational Education and Training of over 10,000 students.

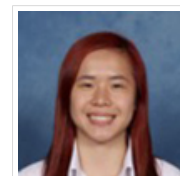
Vocational Education and Training courses:

- are designed for all students
- are offered to students in Years 9 – 12
- are dual-accredited and lead towards Certificate I, II or III qualification
- contribute to further studies at TAFENSW, Private Colleges and University
- allow students to acquire work related skills and hands on experiences.

Congratulations to the five students from GRC Oatley who were recognised for their excellence, commitment and passion in their chosen area of study. A big thank you to our Head Teacher VET, Rebecca Jamieson and their teachers who work tirelessly and go above and beyond to ensure students meet competencies and work placement hours.

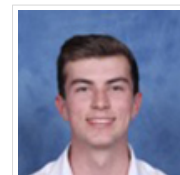
Business Services - Student of the Year

Yingshi Cecilia Gan
Teacher: Ms Riad



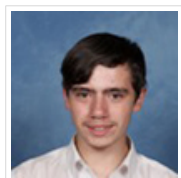
Construction – Excellence Award

Adeen Sowinski
Teacher: Mr Lawton



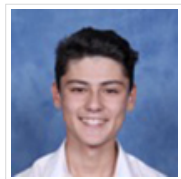
Hospitality Food and Beverage – Excellence Award

Raukawaiti Nuku-Ratana
Teacher: Mrs Jamieson



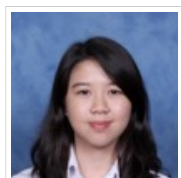
Retail Services – Excellence Award

Jack Want
Teacher: Mr Wright



2016 VET HSC Examination

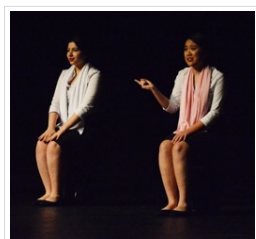
Nerisa-Grace Chan
Business Services – 6th in the State
Teacher: Ms Riad



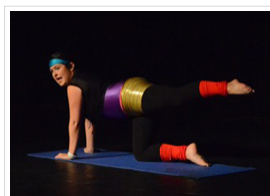
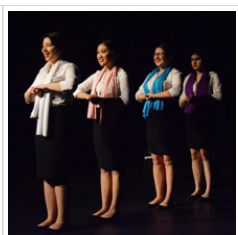
CAPA Showcase

What an outstanding display of GRC Oatley talent. Our CAPA Showcase was a wonderful success on all 3 nights – Monday 31st July, Tuesday 1st August and Wednesday 2nd August. There was a great vibe in the audience and, for that matter, on stage. Student performances were sensational. It is hard to pick a favourite. Year 11 and 12 Entertainment students were hard at work behind the scenes keeping the show running smoothly.

Congratulations go to all of the performing students and their dedicated teachers, who gave up so much of their time. It takes an enormous amount of organisation, time and energy to co-ordinate more than 60 performances over 3 nights. The annual showcase tradition would not be possible without the hard work of the CAPA staff. A big thank you must go to Angela Pryce, Annette Lynch, James Worner and Anastasia Cardillo.



Nathan Polutele nasimon Nabeh, Gabi Lioe, Leah Triantifillou and Taylor Pentecost perform their Drama Group Performance, "Don't Fly with Me."



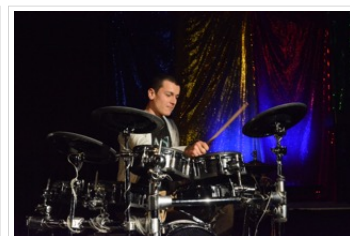
Taylor Pentecost



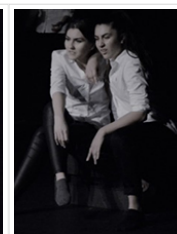
Ilgin Aykut



Anthea Tomaras



Vlad Lozanovski



Ilgin Aykut, Ben Mic, Monika Mihaljevic, Stella Maragkaki and Anthea Tomaras perform their Drama Group Performance, "The Shake"



Nathan Stanley

External Validation

All NSW government schools will undergo a new accountability process known as "External Validation" in the next few years. Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus will participate in validation on the 26th October, 2017.

The process is primarily based on self – assessment, using categories (Excelling, Sustaining and Growing or Delivering) against a framework of three domains:

- Teaching
- Learning
- Leadership.

We have selected SIX focus areas on which our self - assessment is based:

- Visible Learning
- ALARM
- Collaboration
- Positive Behaviour for Learning
- Transition
- Student Well-being

These have been selected as it is believed they represent the heart of our school, where our energies and directions have been focused and where our achievements can be seen.

For each of these focus areas, numerous pieces of evidence have been provided to substantiate the school's self - assessment beliefs.

On the 26th October, two principals will come to the school for two hours to "validate" our assessment, having considered documents and evidence prior to their arrival. I look forward to the opportunity of showcasing our school, providing a rich array of programs and practices for our visitors to see and hear.

Year 12 Trial HSC Exams

The HSC trial examination period will conclude this week. Year 12 classes will be running as normal from Wednesday 23rd August until the end of term. A number of courses still have topic work to complete and attendance is essential. In addition to this, all classes will be undertaking a revision program to help consolidate the learning that has taken place over the last 12 months.

It is imperative that students attend all classes to maximise their performance in the fast approaching HSC examinations. We will continue to support our students in their pursuit of achieving their personal best.

Education Week

Education Week is a state-wide, annual event to celebrate public education in NSW. This year it was held from 31 July to 4 August and the theme is I Learn, We Learn. It is a celebration of the Department of Education's commitment to ensuring:

- **System-Wide Improvement**
Every student, every teacher, every leader and every school will improve every year.
- **High Expectations for All**
A culture of high expectations for our students and educators, sets standards which lead to high achievements.
- **Personalised Student Learning**
By teaching to the strengths and needs of each individual, students will be better able to reach and exceed their potential.
- **Wellbeing**
Every student will be known, cared for and respected.
- **Creating Stronger Ties with Local Communities**
Parents and carers are our schools' partners in the education and wellbeing of each student.

Partnerships with local businesses and industry create opportunities for our students to contribute to and thrive in society.

At GRC Oatley Senior Campus, we would like to think every week is Education Week and this is demonstrated by the strategic directions seen in our school plan. This document strongly reflects the areas that are highlighted as the focus for this year's celebration.

Year 12 Graduation

Our Year 12 Graduation will be held on Friday 22nd September at the Sydney Town Hall. The prime focus of this event is for students to have the opportunity to celebrate with their parents, teachers and year group, the successful completion of six years of secondary schooling graduating from Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus.

The event starts at 10.30am. Year 12 are required to be at the venue by 9:45am. We look forward to seeing you at this event. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from our front office.

Anna Girginis
Principal

The Tell Them From Me parent feedback survey (Term 3, 2017)

This Term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online on smartphones, ipads, tablets, laptops or computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 21 August and 13 October. Although participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>

To access the survey for our school go to:

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/x6sxc>

Please read the TTFM Frequently asked Questions

Neale Harries
Deputy Principal

CAREERS FEATURE FOR PARENTS

Remember you can receive up to date information related to your child's career interest area at jobjump.com.au

Register for related email updates
AND/OR use GRC Oatley password = grc

Year 12 students are now implementing the decisions they have

made about the next exciting stage in their career.

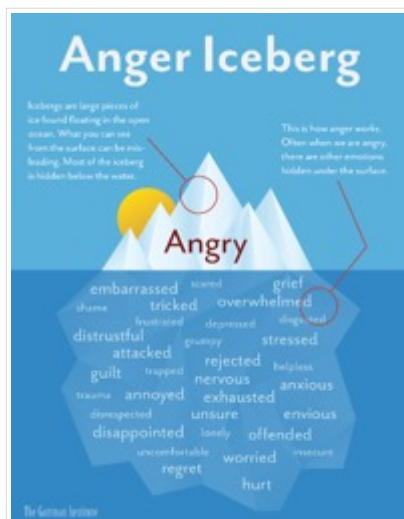
Ideally they will have several options in mind and will apply for multiple courses or jobs

- **Seeking employment:** employers and group training companies will soon be advertising and interviewing prospective apprentices, trainees and job seekers. Most applications are on line. Browse the job sites listed in *My Transition Plan*
- **TAFE:** TAFE may have a stall at the UTS Open day on Sat 26th August. Enrolment will open early December. Ring the campus offering the course for details. Students are advised to make an appointment with a TAFE Careers Adviser.
- **University:** Students received the new UAC Guide 2017-18 at our annual University Market on 2nd August. They were also able to speak with University representatives (current or newly graduated students) who gave handy tips and shared their knowledge and advice. Students need to apply to UAC by 29th September to avoid a late fee, but can then continue to adjust preferences.
If your child didn't collect a UAC Guide they can get a copy from the Careers Office.

Penny Morrison
Careers Adviser
Ph: 8567 3744

Anger and Aggression

Anger and Aggression in young people often masks deeper emotions



To assist with anger and aggression in young people we need to *normalise anger as an emotion*. We need to *extend adolescence vocabulary on their own emotions*. It is important that we *help young people understand their triggers*. *Don't assume that young people understand the concept of 'Flight or flight' means.*

What can we do?

- We want to encourage creative choices and positive risks
- We can teach young people to count to 8. In 8 seconds there is a huge change in the body's physiology. The heart rate slows, breathing slows down.
- Adults need to model positive behaviour management

<http://www.generationnext.com.au>

<http://www.topblokes.org.au/>

Priscilla Wille

Head Teacher Special Education (excerpt from Professional Development) August 4th Generation Next Health & Well Being of Young People Seminar

Sport Report – August 2017

Boys' Touch

Congratulations to our outstanding group of young men, who progressed to the final 16 in NSW against the defending champions, Tweed River High.

Our boys arrived at Coolangatta airport to a rock star welcome and travelled to Tweed River for the match. Unfortunately, we started like we were on holidays, and quickly fell three tries behind. However, the fight back was swift and determined, as our brave young men clawed their way back into the contest. Eventually we ran out of time and lost 12-10, but it was a fantastic experience and the boys can feel very proud of the way they represented GRC.



Rugby League

Our talented and highly motivated rugby league team also progressed to the final 16 in NSW and faced Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College at a dusty and unforgiving Renown Park.

The match was of the highest standard, and the intensity of the contest required the highest commitment from all 17 players. We took a 16-8 lead into half time, thanks to a length of the field try to debutant, Jacob "the Jet" Merlino.

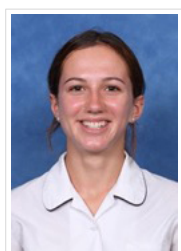
However, half time resembled an emergency ward, and the second half proved too difficult for a squad high on bravery, but littered with injury.

Eventually we lost 32-18 and the boys can feel very proud of the spirit they showed throughout the competition. Coach Monroe was extremely pleased with the season, and is already planning for 2018 with the return of 9 of our stars from this year's team. Well done boys.



CHS Cross-country

Congratulations to Emily Lenz, who showed her admirable versatility by winning through to the elite NSW All-schools cross-country carnival at Eastern Creek. From all reports, the course was tough and Emily did herself proud across the gruelling cross-country terrain.

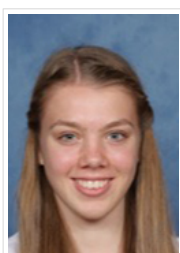
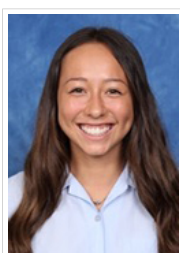


Athletics

GRC – Oatley sent an elite band of runners, throwers and jumpers to the St George Zone Carnival. The following athletes are to be congratulated on progressing to Sydney East:

- Donald Catallo
- Lauren Chappell
- Amy Henry
- Natalya Jovanov
- Emily Lenz
- Angus Shaw
- Adeen Sowinski
- Chantal Yu
- Eliza Johnston
- Vulkan Er

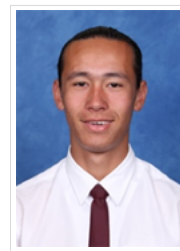
Chantal Yu and Lauren Chappell were both crowned Age Champions in the 16 and 17 girls' respectively. Congratulations to these two fantastic ambassadors for GRC sport.



Chantal Yu Lauren Chappell

We also wish the following athletes the best of luck at the highly competitive NSW CHS carnival at Olympic Park in September:

- Donald Catallo
- Lauren Chappell
- Amy Henry
- Chantal Yu



Special mention must also go to Donald Catallo, who recently represented Australia at the Oceania Games in Fiji, where he competed in the 400m and 400m hurdles. Donald is definitely a name to follow in elite athletics. Well done Donald.

The Volkanator

It appears every sport report needs an update on the burgeoning Rugby League career of Vulkan Er. Recently he was been selected in a combined NSW CHS team to tour New Zealand and we wish him all the best on this wonderful experience in September.

