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9 April 2018

Principals Report



SCHOOL PLAN 2018 - 2020

The School Plan outlines our vision and strategic directions for the next 3 years. Below is a snapshot of what we aim to achieve in this period.

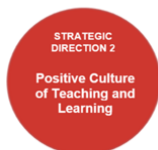
We began the process of consultation with all stakeholders last year and we are really excited about what lies ahead for GRC Oatley. The full version of the document can be accessed on our school website at the beginning of next term.

School Plan 2018 - 2020



Purpose:

To build student capacity that engenders high expectations and autonomy and that facilitates problem solving, critical thinking and intellectual risk taking in a challenging environment.



Purpose:

To enrich the quality of teacher practice where personal reflection and feedback on evidence informed practice leads to challenge, engagement and innovation for students.



Purpose:

To build an inclusive educational environment which supports wellbeing and fosters the values of respect, responsibility and excellence, in order to inspire strong community connections and develop global citizens.

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

Our Annual School Report will be available to all parents and community members via our school website by the beginning of next term. It is an informative document that contains worthwhile information about the school's academic performance, sporting performance, extra-curricular activities and outstanding achievements over the 2017 calendar year. A big thank you to the staff who contributed to the Annual School Report.

CONGRATULATIONS – AWESOME LUNCHES

Congratulations to Rosemary, Val and Isabelle. Awesome Lunches run our school canteen and last week were awarded

the 2018 Certificate of Excellence in Health, Safety and Wellbeing. Awesome Lunches received this award for their commitment to health and wellbeing, and prioritising safety in the workplace. An amazing effort from such a friendly and dedicated team. Nothing is ever too much.



OPEN NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA

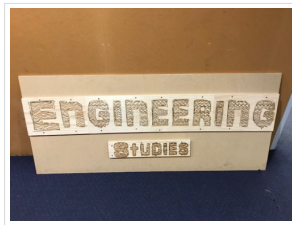
In Week 6 we welcomed at least 400 visitors to our school at our annual Open Evening. Our school motto of *Creating Your Future* was certainly front and centre as we showcased why Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus is the local comprehensive school of choice. I would like to acknowledge the huge effort that the whole Georges River College community made which presented us in such a fantastic light.

A big thank you to all students and staff who volunteered their time on the night. It was fantastic to see our Georges River College pride so obviously on display. Thank you also to our tour guides from the Student Representative Council (SRC).

Visitors experienced a range of activities in science labs, drama rooms, technology labs, hospitality kitchens and art rooms to gain a taste of some of the differences and similarities between senior school, middle school and primary.

Some of the feedback I received from visitors included comments such as "your school has such a great feel to it...", "It is great to see the passion teachers have about learning...", and "Fantastic open night and outstanding facilities....".

Congratulations to everyone and particularly Ms McRae, our Deputy Principal who coordinated the event.



LEADERSHIP BY THE RIVER

Our Year 11 school leaders have been invited to participate in “Leadership by the River” - a Student Leadership Initiative within the Georges River Network. 120 student leaders from primary and high schools will be involved in leadership activities with local Principals to strengthen their leadership skills. In addition to this, participating students will receive mentoring from a range of prominent business and political leaders.

There are two main focuses to this initiative:

- High school leaders will mentor primary school leaders, helping them plan and implement a project they can work on and achieve in 2018.
- GRC Oatley leaders will identify a project they would like to work on this year and watch their efforts come to fruition.

This is a unique opportunity to develop skills for their careers, work in their community and develop resilience and perseverance through challenge.



YEAR 11 AND 12 PARENT TEACHER NIGHT

Research shows that parents have a significant impact on their children’s educational achievements. In fact, parental engagement overrides all other factors that have been shown to influence a child’s achievement. It is therefore critical that teachers and parents develop effective relationships to bridge student learning between home and school.

A note and email have been sent home this week regarding Year 12 Parent Teacher Night (see below for code). I urge all Year 12 parents to make appointments to meet their student’s teachers to discuss HSC progress. Year 12 Parent Teacher Night is scheduled for Tuesday 8th May (4:00pm – 7:00pm).




Book School Interviews Online

Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews for Year 12 will be held on **Tuesday 8th May, 2018 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm** in the School Gymnasium.

BOOKINGS OPEN: Friday 13th April 2018 at 9am
BOOKINGS CLOSE: Friday 4th May 2018 at 12pm

You can now book interviews at times that suit **YOUR FAMILY BEST**. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions. You will need to know your child’s teachers before you begin. **Teachers are listed on your child’s timetable. If your child has two teachers for a subject, please make the booking with the first teacher listed next to the subject.**


 School event code

To book an interview with your child’s teachers enter the school event code. Then follow the 3 simple steps.


 1 Enter your details
 
 2 Choose teachers
 
 3 Choose times



When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close on **Friday 4th May 2018 at 12pm**.

Year 11 Parent Teacher Night is scheduled for Thursday 5th July (4:00 pm – 7:00pm). Instructions on how to book appointments with teachers will be sent home next term.

P&C AGM

Our P&C AGM was held on Tuesday 5th March at 7:00pm in the Horseshoe Theatre. It is essential that parents, as partners in the education process, have a right and a responsibility to play an active role in the education of their children. The P&C enables parents and citizens to meet together to determine the needs and aspirations of the school community.

P & C meetings provide a forum for parents to learn about the activities at the school, raise concerns and have input into the decisions affecting their children.

Congratulations to the parents who were appointed in the following positions:

- President – Helen James
- Vice President – Caroline Boots
- Treasurer – Dr Jim Tran
- Secretary - Kanela Finos

SCHOOL AND P&C CONTRIBUTIONS

A big thank you to all members of the Georges River College community who have paid their school contributions so rapidly.

Unfortunately, we still have a significant number of families who have not yet managed to pay their outstanding contributions. If you are one such family I’d urge you to pay your contributions as soon as possible.

Our P&C Association welcomes payment of the P&C contribution, which also assists the school to provide additional resources above those provided for through global funding sources.

Anyone experiencing financial difficulties should contact me in confidence so an appropriate arrangement may be made.

WHAT IS THE HSC MINIMUM STANDARD?

From this year, **Year 9 NAPLAN tests** will no longer be an early way for students to demonstrate the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy needed to receive the HSC from 2020. This change has been made to ensure NAPLAN remains focussed on its original diagnostic purpose and reduce unnecessary stress on young people.

The NSW government remains committed to requiring a minimum standard to receive the HSC due to the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for success in everyday life. Students will show they have met the HSC minimum standard by passing online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills, which are available for them to sit when they are ready from Year 10 until a few years after Year 12. A minimum standard of literacy and numeracy is required to receive the HSC from 2020 to reflect the importance of literacy and numeracy for success in daily life.

HSC students will need to meet the HSC minimum standard in three areas – reading, writing and numeracy.

The standard is set at level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), which means students will have the basic reading, writing and maths skills needed for everyday tasks and future learning after school. It includes skills for tasks such as:

- following safety instructions in equipment manuals
- understanding a mobile phone plan
- writing a job application
- creating a personal weekly budget.

Literacy and numeracy skills are essential for success in learning and life after school. Together with the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, the HSC minimum standard is part of an effort to extend the literacy and numeracy focus up into secondary school.

Who needs to meet the HSC minimum standard?

Students sitting the HSC in 2018 or 2019 do not need to meet the HSC minimum standard.

- Year 10 students
Students in Year 10 this year (2018) who did not receive a Band 8 or above in the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN tests will need to take the minimum standard online tests between now and Year 12 to receive your HSC in 2020.

If students achieved a Band 8 or above in one or more of the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN tests, they are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that area/s and will not need to sit the corresponding online test/s.

- Year 9 students
From this year, Year 9 NAPLAN tests will no longer be available as an early way for students to demonstrate the standard.

This change has been made to ensure NAPLAN remains focused on its diagnostic purpose and to reduce unnecessary stress on young people.

- Exempt students
Where possible, all students in NSW should be supported to develop core literacy and numeracy skills required for success in life after school. Some students sitting the tests will be eligible for disability provisions or be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard in order to receive their HSC.

END OF TERM 1 AND START OF TERM 2

We are rapidly approaching the end of a long term. School will finish at 1:40pm on Friday 13 April and all students are expected to attend until the end of classes on that day. Students will return to school on Tuesday 1 May.

As this is the last newsletter of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the staff and students for their hard work and the parents for their ongoing support. Have a safe and happy holiday and I am looking forward to a productive Term 2.

Anna Girginis
Principal

VET Faculty

At GRC Oatley we have a large number of students who undertake the Hospitality course as part of their pattern of study. This course allows students to work towards a Certificate II in Hospitality or a certificate II in Kitchen Operations. Throughout the Food and Beverage course, students need to prepare and serve a range of functions to be eligible for their national qualification. Over the part 2 terms, we have seen the Hospitality students run functions including the inaugural White Ribbon Breakfast at the end of Term 4 last year and a pop up café for open night.

The students rose to the challenge and presented two amazing functions for the school. I would like to personally thank the teachers and students for their hard work.

Rebecca Jamieson
Head Teacher VET



TAS Faculty

Year 11 and 12 Design and Technology, Industrial Technology-Timber and Electronics and Textiles and Design enjoyed a day out at the Powerhouse Museum. The purpose was to show the students the Shape exhibition, which is the annual HSC Showcase of Excellence of Major Projects in Technology subjects.

Year 12 students attended a lecture where Senior Markers of the Major Projects discussed key points to ensure personal bests can be achieved. Afterwards, they went to their

respective subjects for seminars on further information to support their Major Projects, providing opportunity to ask questions, visually see projects and folio standards to reach the higher Bands and be inspired about what they can do to ensure success.

Year 11 spent time in a lecture on biomimicry (the nature of designers copying nature), were given the opportunity to inspect the Shape exhibition before moving into the STEM centre. Here they explored virtual reality gaming, green screen technology, designing vinyl stickers and badges and speaking to industry specialists on future careers in design. The Wiggles exhibition was a hit with students rekindling their childhood with dancing, making Dorothy the Dinosaur's red roses and having time in the Big Red car. This provided opportunities for year 11 students to connect with their fellow class mates, which is vital for the collaborative design processes they undertake in their courses.

Many students commented on how much the day helped them understand the requirements of success in the Major Project and how inspired they were to continue on with their own design process with their projects. HSC Major Projects begin submission to NESAs from Term 3, week 4.

Leonie Hampson
Head Teacher TAS (Rel)



Careers

GoIT Girls is a program organised by TATA Consultancy Services with the aim to provide insight into IT industry, challenge gender stereotypes by showing women in STEM roles and enhance confidence and employability skills.

With the help of the Careers Advisor, Mrs. Morrison, we decided that this would be a good opportunity to explore the IT field and help us determine if this is what we wanted to pursue in further studies. It was a comfortable and informative week, where we got to meet graduates and senior executives from the company who shared their stories to help us gain insight into the various STEM roles.

We would definitely recommend this program to any other girl interested in pursuing IT, as we believe they can learn a lot from this experience. It is a good place to make connections as well as gather useful information for your future.

Mihika Pande and Clarenze Estenzo
Year 11 Software Design students

Extra -Curricula

Rotary Presidential Peace Building Conference

On Saturday the 17th of March 2018, five Year 12 students from GRC Oatley Senior Campus (Angelique Dhungana, Mitra Sarbaz, Noah Dolloso, Jewel Vrbanc and Kevin Tran), were sponsored by our local Rotary to attend the Rotary Presidential Peace Building Conference at Sydney Town Hall.

A selection of reports on their experiences follows.

The day commenced at around nine in the morning and the conference concluded late afternoon at around five. After I had left the conference my mind was constantly thinking about some of the devastating facts that had shocked us about our current world issues today such as modern slavery, displacement and conflict.

All speakers gave us a new insight on how we saw the world and the ongoing issues that corrupt and destroy our societies that we live in. The speaker that had stood out to me the most was Muhammed Yunis, who is the Nobel Peace Prize Winner who is from Bangladesh and is the author of his book *Three Zeros*. His book captures a unique perspective on capitalism, Bangladesh's economic system, the Microcredit and economic inequality. Yunis' book talks about his vision to establish new ideas of capitalism where generosity and altruism are valued just as much as making a profit. Muhammed Yunis discussed how the audience could make an impact to the issue of poverty, and how something as small as a donation to a society deprived of life necessities, such as water and shelter, could be absolutely life changing for those people. Yunis' speech had me in a trail of thoughts about how I can help in deprived societies, how I can make my footsteps permanent, for creating a fairer and healthier place where all humans can live equally and whom can have the rights to clean, safety drinking water, and live in adequate shelter.

One day, if I do become a world correspondent, I am hoping to go and help those in poverty in any way possible so they too have the basic human rights in which no other human, rich or poor, should be deprived of. Injustice plays an immense role on ones' wellbeing. Being deprived of basic human rights counts as an injustice act in society, and this needs to be terminated. No matter what race, age, gender or religion that you are, you should always be treated as an equal and have the basic humanitarian rights.

Other speakers had given their views, and statistics were absolutely shocking and devastating when I heard them. A Rwandan genocide survivor told us that his experience with genocide was a ten-day mass murder. In total, one million people were murdered in just more than a week. That is 10,000 people killed every day. In the world we live in, many people say it is a perfect place, and some people say our world will eventually become perfect. No more issues of conflict and human displacement will occur again, but there will always be some form of propaganda, and manipulators' who will always try and create new problems.

Another speaker who was talking about human displacement told us that about sixty-six million people around the world are displaced every year. This is an impeccable example of a basic human right being violated. These statistics were the only ones that I could remember. But don't these numbers tell us about our world that we live in? Doesn't it tell us about the people that we are? Doesn't it show us about how we treat other's these days? Everything is an ongoing cycle, one issue arises then it disappears, but it will always manage to comeback around and destroy our race and world. Maintaining world peace is so important to creating a further stable environment and society for the future generations. We will not let these issues that are trying to constantly tear us down, destroy humanity and our world. We are doing and making the most of our lives to try our best for maintaining world peace.

Angelique Dhungana

The Rotary Peace Conference was an inspiring experience for me, several speakers voiced their concerns of peace in our community. The number of topics that had emerged from the event focused on several aspects and concerns that gave me the impression that people in our community are conscientious and aware of many problems in our society.

Throughout the presentation there had been a number of things discussed such as global and local peace, the militaristic perspective of peace; peace-making and peace keeping done by soldiers and the prevention of further conflicts in dangerous countries, the link between economic development and peace, the economic value of peace had a hefty sum.

Building positive peace in our communities requires cultural acceptance for other religions, third-world countries, migrants and refugees. The aspect of thinking globally, acting locally requires people in communities to work for peace in smaller scales; such as concerns of education, Muslim aids, domestic violence, feminism, aboriginal communities, cyber-bullying and action against the ever-present slavery. There was a call to action for us to engage people and build peace, peacebuilding through economic empowerment and donations, UNICEF promoting and protecting children's rights and young people acting through Rotaract, Rotary Peace Fellow Students.

The Peace Conference was an important experience as it had enlightened my awareness of community and economic aspects of peace and as a result an ambition and attitude in helping achieve this peace. The main outcomes I had were an appreciation of many charities and organisations working towards peace. I have also been filled with the ambition to join Rotaract during university, so I can be involved with community actions toward peace.

Noah Dolloso

I have learned that there are boundless implications associated with peace and that world peace growth and development can only be achieved through unity, responsiveness and selflessness. It is not only until we all strive for a similar goal that we are able to solve prevalent issues such as poverty, slavery, human trafficking and conflict – as stated in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

I have learned that we could put a price on peace: how a 2.14% decline in peace which had led to 65 million individuals

displaced, saw a loss of 14.3 trillion dollars – 12.6% of the world GDP in 2016. As stated by Professor Muhammad Yunus – a noble peace prize winner, we can solve socioeconomic problems in a social business way. Hence, we are questioned whether we are capable of being job creators rather than job seekers. Yunus reaffirms the individual's ability to make a change and contribute to peace building in a sustainable way in a business manner.

Additionally, it is vital for governments to understand the essential role of foreign immigrants and the benefits of their participation within our community. There are strong links between refugees and peace for which poor peace would result in more refugees – subjecting more individuals to a lifestyle on the periphery. 77% of refugees are of working age and 65% of refugees are willing to succeed emphasising the great impact foreign individuals would have on our economy and community as a whole. Ideally, more domestic refugee workers would raise government revenue significantly and therefore boost our living standards. Also by allowing immigrants to enter, we are presented as a nation who supports its own Australian ideology of 'giving a fair go' for any individual wishing to find their identity within the Australian community.

We are urged to act locally in communities, building trust with one another through integrated projects and clubs such as Rotary. This enables us to understand more issues such as Muslim Aid, family domestic violence and gender roles. By being actively critical about global issues we are able to further narrow the world's inequality, seek influential socio-political change and ultimately prosper in economic growth.

Kevin Tran