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29 May 2018

Principal 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. We had a combined school development day

with our 3 middle schools engaging with 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.

The aim of the day was to build on and extend the knowledge and skills gained from a previous professional learning experience by developing understanding an Neurodevelopmental Differentiation. Neurodevelopmental differentiation involves parents and teachers helping students to increase the effectiveness of each of their brain system areas and finding ways to have students succeed by compensating for areas that are taking longer to develop. This may require teachers making small but significant changes to their teaching practice. For example, using flexible groupings or giving visual prompts to students who struggle to follow verbal instructions. It also involves teaching students about their brains and how they learn so they can use their strengths to overcome obstacles to learning.

Teachers from Georges River College Campuses worked together on the day to develop strategies for neurodevelopmental differentiation in their classrooms. Staff feedback on the day was 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.

I have attached an article below for your interest from Andrew Fuller on "How parents can help students in their senior years of schooling?"





How parents can help students in the senior years of school Andrew Fuller

When you have a student completing the senior years of school, everyone in the family is doing Year 11 or 12. Here are a few ideas for coming through these years flourishing, and having everyone's dignity intact.

Parents have a vital role in helping students: Manage time Manage energy Manage stress

Manage energy
Manage stress
Manage to get everything in at the right time
and in the right place.

In addition to this you have to manage

Developing the System Regular planned times for study throughout the year creates better results. Short regular sprints of learning are more effective than long study marathons. To create this you need to work out a system.

Sit down with your student and map out an ideal week including-Times for sleeping (at least 8 hours a night) Times for unwinding and retaxing Best breakfast foods The best times for study The best time of the work for consolidating notes and extending memory Time to catch up with friends Required school hours Time for part time work (less than 10 hours a week) How to handle invitations around exam Without a plan, you are simply left with doing what you like when you feel like it and often feeling like studying is not the most likely emotion in teenagers' lives.

Study sprints should be ideally 20 minutes long and never longer than 50 minutes with a ten-minute break between study sessions.

Usually on the weekend, have some time set aside for organising information and testing memory of new information.

Patiently, talk through the system until you all feel that you have the best plan. Ask them how often you should remind them of the system when they don't seem to be following it.

You may also need to discuss minimizing distractions- excessive social media use, listening to music while studying, multitasking or chatting with firends online is not compatible with studying. Multi-tasking is just splitting your attention and mean you'll need to study four times longer than you need to.

As a parent of a senior school student, keep yourself informed. Come to information sessions and parent-leacher meetings yourself. Stressed students don't always store detailed information well so take notes of key dates and requirements.

Steering students back to the system It is hard to get through Year 11 or 12 without some meltdowns. When a meltdown occurs, rather than starting a long conversation about it or providing a motivational pep talk, think about what your student needs- Food? Rest? Exercise? Some social time? Try to quietly arrange for this to occur

How to deal with the catastrophic thinking Pacifying or reassuring the unsettled senior school student is a fine art. Acknowledge to yourself in advance that anything you are likely to say is probably going to be heard as the "wrong thing"

Generally what you do is more important than what you say. Providing meals, comfort and for some, reassuring hugs is often more powerful than words.

Some teens "freeze up with fear" and want to avoid schoolwork completely. Try to avoid getting into lengthy debates about the merits of the current educational system or their own intellectual ability. Instead, go back to basics. Feed them. Hydrate them. Rest them. basics. Feed them. Hydrate them. Rest them. Then gently bring them back to the topic. Ask them to tell you what they do understand about an issue. If they will initially reply with, "I know nothing" say, "Well, tell me what you think you know". Slowly rebuild confidence.

What to do when the system breaks

what to do when the system breaks down.
When you are planning the system develop a rule of 'never miss twice'. We know there are days when even the most well thought through system falls into latters. Accept this but also plan never to miss twice. For example, I can take a complete break from my study routine for one day but not for two days in a row.

Around August is the most common time for students to become disheartened and lose motivation. However the work done in August and September probably adds more to the final results that any other stage of the year. The reason is that by this time most of

now able to add the higher order thinking and

If taking on new information seems too much at this time, go through the process with them of organising information, drawing up flow charts, making memory aides and consolidating notes

What if my teenager won't listen to me? Have a confidential chat with one of their key teachers so that they can have a conversation with your student directly about their progress and study strategies

How to deal with the build up to exams things as calm and consistent as you possibly can. Ensure that your student has enough sleep, good food, exercise and social

Consider ceasing part time work in the lead up to exams. Also discuss not using or at least, lessening the use of social media sites

If your family has major birthdays during this period it may be worth delaying celebrations until after the exam period.

It is not the end of the world Your student's Year 12 result is not their future. There are many other more impor and powerful determinants of success an happiness in life.

Above all, remain calm and believe in you Above all, remain caim and believe in you student. Adding an anxious parent to a panicking teenager is always a recipe for disaster.

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 138 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
Nadine Abbas	Marianna
Sophie Ainsworth	Gallifuoco
Mohammed Al Asadi	Anastasia Gaskell
Charlene Alaso	Samriddhi Ghimire
Hassan Alawieh	Ashleigh Givir
Hussein Alawieh	Curtis Hardie
Carmen Antonaz	Ziwen He
Bryce Arthur	Alexander
Sara Attard	Hekkenberg
Pauleen Babol	Louchelle Hel
Hadi Bazzi	Amy Henry
Matthew Boots	Jasmin Hossa
Kylie Borders	Hena
Niana Boyd-Hawea	Huseinspahic
Harrison Breen	Kulin
Kate Bricknell	Chelsea Huyr
Mikaela Burrows	Sherine Indraputri
Conor Cassidy	Lydia Ishak
Mun Hoe Cheah	Ashleigh Jam
Jin Chen	Jia Jun Jason
Yanlin Chen	Jiang
Yuhao Chen	Aniket Joshi
Xinhui Chen	Ali Kansou
Zhengtao Chen	Samantha
Peter Christoulakis	Karzon
Jayden Cook	Irene Katsadir

FORTIS	MIRABILIS	VIRTUS
Marianna Gallifuoco	Lixian Mak	Daniel Shiu
	Lewis Mallard	Rebecca Silver
Anastasia Gaskell	Anthony McMullen-DiDonato	Samantha Sivasubramaniam
Samriddhi Ghimire	Jacob Merlino	Ibrahim Sleiman
Ashleigh Givins	Sarah Michael	Kiahne Snellgrove
Curtis Hardie	Elena Miovski	Justin Stamios
Ziwen He	Hayley Molloy	Darko Stojkovski
Alexander	Mohamed Morad	Xiao Ting Jessica
Hekkenberg	Jaunita Morutare	Sun
Louchelle Heloui	Deborah Murray	Charlotte Sutton
Amy Henry	Jacinta Murray	Elias Swaiy
Jasmin Hossain	Julius Nesevski	Melissa Talevski
Hena Huseinspahic Kulin	Tiana Nicolaou	Winnie Tang
	Erica O'Brien	Eric Tao
	Nathan Osborne	Wenxuan Tian
Chelsea Huynh	Eleftheria	Ashley Totten
Sherine	Papadopoulou	Gua Hung Kevin
Indraputri	Emily Paterakis	Tran
Lydia Ishak	Hui Amy Peng	Amy Trieu
Ashleigh James	Renata Picardi	Joanne Truong
Jia Jun Jason Jiang	Yuehui Qiu	Julia Tsiamis
Aniket Joshi	Zehua Qiu	Greta Van Wanroo
Ali Kansou	Ali Rajab	Deandre Vaz
	Shanny Ramos	Jewel Vrbanc
Samantha Karzon	Tamara Reynolds	Zhi Qian Wang
Irene Katsadima	Taylah Riedl	Daniel Widders
Chun-Chieh Kay	Daniel Rispler	Debora Widjaja
2 2		

Violet Craven-Miller	Andrea Koc
Sashwat Dahal	Peter Kolista
Natalie Damjanovska	Renee Kollia
Punmile Damrongsakunchai	Alistair Leon
Indiana Darmanin Noah Dolloso Jamie Farr Mya Federico Anna Finos	Celine Li Teresa Li Li Jia Lin Samantha L Candy Lui
Bradley Foster-Martin	

ciski	Caleb Round	Annaliese Wong
tasis	Blake Ryan	Audrey Wood
as	Shahnila Sadruddin	Brooklyn Wu
	Evangelia Sakarellou Kristjan Semmelweis	Etta Wu
ng		Aaron Wunderlich
		Joanna Xu
		Karam Yagan
		Yuting Zhan
Liu		Hui Yu Zhang
		Jingwen Zhang
		Yandan Zhang
		Mengchen Zhao
		Mengjun Zhao
		Shelly Zhao

Nanga Mai Awards

Nanga Mai is an Eora (Sydney) word meaning to dream. The NSW Department of Education held the 12th Annual Nanga Mai Awards in Term 1 to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Aboriginal students, Aboriginal and non-aboriginal teachers and schools demonstrating excellence across a diversity of areas.



This year the Awards were held in the Harbourview Ballroom at Taronga Zoo. GRC Oatley was very proud to have one of our Year 11 students Tallis Brown selected to emcee the day. Tallis's confidence, maturity and sense of responsibility was acknowledged by the Executive Director of Aboriginal Education and NSW Department of Education Michele Hall. Well done Tallis, you are an outstanding ambassador of our school.



Parent Teacher Night

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend our Year 12 Parent Teacher Night. 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

Isaac Cooper

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. 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.



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.

School Contributions

I would like to thank the many families who have promptly paid their Voluntary School Contributions and Subject Fees. Without your support we would be unable to offer many of the wonderful learning experiences that the students enjoy here at GRC Oatley Campus.

Could I ask those who are yet to finalise their accounts, to do so as soon as possible. Fee sheets with itemised amounts were issued last term and posted home again this term. If you have not received one or have misplaced the one you received, please contact Mrs Leanne Roberts, School Administrative Manager for assistance. As you know these funds are critical for our school operation. As always if you are experiencing any financial difficulties, please feel free to contact me at school to discuss.

Anna Girginis Principal

PDHPE Faculty

On the 27th of March 2018, a team of 13 Year 11 and 12 students participated in the Sydney East netball gala day, which was held at Bellingara Netball Courts. Throughout the day the girls competed in 3 games, by their outstanding teamwork and motivational encouragement by their teacher Mrs Cardillo, the girls where successful in the first match of the day. However, they were defeated in rounds 2 and 3. A special congratulation goes to Ashlee Day who made the Sydney East Girls Netball team.



SRC Report

Back in March, both Francis and I got the opportunity to participate in the Secondary School Leadership Program hosted at NSW Parliament. Immediately, we became well acquainted with other enthusiastic school leaders from across NSW. We were taught about the structure of the Australian Parliament and had the opportunity to ask council members about issues that we believed were important. After a guick lunch, we walked through a peaceful park to get to the Government House. Our visit started with a tour of the house specifically looking at the historical progression of governor generals within Australia. We had the privilege in meeting the Governor of NSW, David Hurley and his wife, Linda Hurley. The day allowed us to understand not only the parliament's role in providing a voice for everyday Australians but also the integrity of leadership and necessity for us as student leaders to represent this in our school life for the hopes in making larger steps in the prospective future of Australia.



Careers Report

CAREERS FEATURE FOR PARENTS

Where can you get reliable Careers information in one place?



http://www.jobjump.com.au/

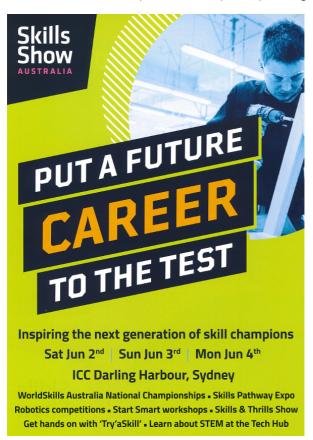


Go to the black star in the top left hand side

and open 'Helpful Links - Everything you
need'

What's coming up for year 12 students next term?

- "My Transition Plan" booklet during mentoring every Friday in June.
- Individual transition planning interviews. All students can request an appointment with an Oatley Careers Adviser to discuss options and help with planning.



Skills Show Australia – save the date, 2nd+ 3rd June

Take your son/daughter and discover the opportunities together. Free entry

- Witness the World Skills Australia National Championships
- Receive valuable careers advice at the Skills Pathway Expo
- Take part in 'Try' a Skill' activities across a variety of skills
- Attend interactive workshops from major partners including the Commonwealth Bank

- Explore the Tech Hub featuring Amazon and VEX Robotics
- Attend the interactive Skills & Thrills Show

Penny Morrison Careers Adviser Ph: 8567 3744

VET Faculty

During term 1 students from 11 Food & Beverage A completed service periods via a very popular pop up cafe. The trolley is parked on level 2 Thursday's at lunch to sell out of our famous caramel slice and milkshakes. Students learn time management, team work, responsibility and how to handle multiple orders. The most difficult part of the job is transferring the trolley in the lift & checking it is stocked for service. Not getting covered in flavoured milk is also a trick when using the milkshake makers.

Great job 11F&BA. Other classes are rostered for term 2.



TAS Faculty

From 2019, TAS will begin the National Curriculum for Year 7 and optional Year 8 roll out. In response to this, last term TAS staff from across all four campuses undertook a full day training course in coding at GRC Oatley. This was led by specialists from the Powerhouse Museum. Coding will now play a significant part in many of our syllabi as a result of the identified need in the *National Innovation and Science Agenda*, released in 2015.

Coding has previously only been seen in traditional computer subjects ranging from basic coding using *Scratch* in younger years through to more complex programs in years 9-10 Information and Software Technologies, through to HSC Software Design and Development (SDD). From next year, GRC Oatley will be expanding coding to be incorporated into Design and Technology, Engineering Studies, Information Processes and Technology, Textiles and Design (through e-textiles) and of course SDD.

GRC Oatley are working together with all three middle school campuses to ensure a 7-12 holistic vision of TAS that encapsulates the love of lifelong learning and preparing our students for the jobs of the future. Our teaching and learning programs are designed to backward map what is required for

HSC success and ensure successful attainment of these skills in our middle school campuses.

In the future, we may be seeing GRC alumni transform the Opera House into a magical artwork for Vivid using coding.... jobs of the future in action!





Science Faculty

Uloola Track excursion with Year 11 Investigating Science

As an introduction to their major Depth Study, Investigating Science students were able to explore Dharawaal Country near Waterfall, with help from National Parks and Wildlife Service ranger Julie Gallan. This was part of the field research on "Firestick Farming" which included looking at recently burnt bush and areas that had been regenerating for many years.

At the beginning of the day, food was left out on cards to attract insects. Predictions that ants would be more attracted to sugar solution than biscuits or meat were proven to be wrong. (Sausage was their food of choice). However, it will remain a mystery, as to how many of the pieces of card, weighed down by rocks along with the food in this experiment disappeared.

Many students found that Dreamtime stories about "Old man Banksia" made sense whilst looking at the plants and hearing about their uses. Also interesting, was learning about the existence of "male" and "female" trees, as well as finding out about the many applications of plants for medicines and food in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Julie also showed how plants could aid relief of insect bites. Logan tested this by applying it to one hand and not the other. He reported that the paste from the plant stopped the itch.

Solomona and Jack took some great photos, including those of dreys where possums sleep. Mohamad found interesting Hakea pods, which were located throughout the whole area. We saw evidence of large wallaby footprints and tail tracks. James Munroe, our Community Engagement Officer was able to explain further about plants, spotting animal tracks and gave fantastic perspectives of Māori interactions with our natural environment. Everyone was surprised when Zac's sharp eyes spotted tadpoles swimming around in shallow puddles on the bushfire track.

Grasshoppers in long grass had students hopping all over trying to catch them to examine, spiders were found camouflaged and huge bull ants were avoided. Logan was able to explain how bull ants had been used for suturing by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for large open wounds. Fortunately, we did not have to test this out!

Students were surprised to see a memorial along the track for five rural fire service volunteers who died trying to protect the bush and homes. This explained why after this tragedy, turnarounds for fire trucks were added to this important fire trail.

Students including Jimmy, commented that the bushland was beautiful. They discovered that there was a remarkable variety of plants and wildlife in the area and everyone enjoyed having time with their friends. Of course, having a day outside, away from regular school work was popular! We all went home tired but having a much greater appreciation of the bush so close to where we live.





English Faculty

GRC Oatley's Debating Season Has Begun

GRC Oatley is participating in the Year 11 Metro Premier's debating challenge. Our first debate was against St George Girls High School on the issue of whether senior students should be able to access school education from the home setting.

We won the toss and argued for the topic. Our first speaker Laura Bancroft created a detailed and credible model of how senior students could access education from the home setting for theoretical aspects of subjects for up to 40 per cent of the time

Our second speaker Ella-Rose Liasides and third speaker Jack Appleby with the support of our forth speaker Jayden Danes argued the benefits of a flexible on line delivery of education is the development of student self-directed learning, student responsibility, student well-being and educational innovation.

The debate was passionate and close. The opposition raised issues relating to inequalities in education that may occur if this model of tuition was to be adopted. GRC rebutted these objections confidently and competently but at the end of the day were unable to convince the adjudicator that these inequities would not be overcome. Although disappointed with our loss, St George Girls are to be congratulated for an excellent debate and the GRC debaters are proud of their eloquent efforts!

Our next debate we are hosting and will be against Randwick Boys High School on a topic relating to Law. We are busy reading up on current issues relating to changes in legislation in Australia and look forward to putting forward our arguments and opinions.

CAPA Faculty

GRC Stage Band - Port Macquarie Tour BIG BAND BLAST 2018

The GRC Stage Band is preparing for its annual tour to the Big Band Blast in port Macquarie.

Over 3 days the GRC Stage Band will perform, join in 'jam sessions' on stage and in parks, participate in various workshops, be part of a traditional New Orleans style street parade, and enjoy the Viva Las Vegas big band concert with international artists and guests.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Pryce for organising the tour and to the GRC Oatley P&C for their ongoing support with the costs of the tour.



Tour shenanigans in 2017

GRC Stage band is looking for more players – intermediate to advanced level.

Positions available: Trombone, trumpet, saxophone, guitar

Training positions open: Drums, bass, piano, vocal (a 'training position' means you will be doubling an existing player who is in Year 12)

Do you play one of these? GRC Concert Band wants you!



Rehearsals: 3.30pm, Tuesdays - Oatley Senior Campus All levels of ability welcome.

Support Faculty

Working in the George's River Senior College Support Unit is an extremely rewarding occupation for a teacher for many reasons. There is the opportunity to build friendships with and support the families of students with disabilities. There is the opportunity to enjoy life and see the world through the eyes of some of our most precious students and there is the privilege of standing beside them in some of the most difficult and uncertain times of their lives as they transition towards post school options.

Work Placement

Work placement is one of the key building blocks of the Senior Special Education Program. We offer a range of options to suit students of both varying abilities and disabilities. These include more structured and supportive environments like Ascalon at Kogarah, where disabilities are catered for and Coles at Engadine, where teachers support work bound students closely.

A new innovation this year has been to enable the more independent students in the Unit to attend work without direct support. At present John Martello is doing a fabulous job working in the bakery at Coles Sutherland where he both travels and works independently. John has been so successful that staff have asked John to do extra hours during busy times. We are very proud of him

Tadros Mankarious has also taken a step up in Work Placement this year by attending and working in the bakery at Coles Sutherland every Friday. Tadros takes great pride in his work and is building some great friendships with his co-workers.

Seeing all of our student's progress and witnessing them tick off age appropriate outcomes is a wonderful aspect of the lives of all of the staff in the Support Unit. We can only marvel at the extra level of hard work and dedication it takes them to succeed.

At the end of 2017, 3 out of our 4 year 12 leavers had gained paid, meaningful employment before the start of 2018.

Do you have a workplace that would be enhanced by taking on a student for work experience? We are always looking for new business to help support our students by allowing them to spend time engaged in work experience, if you think your place of work could offer us that wonderful opportunity please contact Priscilla Wille on 85673700.

Priscilla Wille Head Teacher Special Education





HSIE Faculty

Clean up Australia Day

On Friday the 13th, our Year 11 Geography and a number of Year 12 students partook in a united effort to rid our school of waste. Their aim was to promote an environmentally conscious school community. Approximately 40-50 students took place in this day, which is part of a larger, national initiative that aims

to create a healthy environment, and stop debris invading and disrupting our precious ecosystems.

Clean up Australia Day, was founded in 1989, and has three main goals: to reduce waste, recycle waste, and save energy. Our mission, at GRC Oatley, was to reduce the waste, existing in our school. As our school is surrounded by local flora and fauna, it is vital to our local environment, that we must support and protect it, to create a sustainable, and healthy school community.

Why is this important? Cleaning up our school, is incredibly important, now more than ever, as our biosphere is in crisis. New technology brings new dangers. Since plastic has become the main form of packaging, inventions such as micro plastics have destroyed widespread environmental mayhem. We must confront the issue and convince others to change, not only for others, but for them. After all, it is their world, and we do not get a second chance to fix our planet, so all of us must chip in, and do our part to keep this precious planet, from slipping into an unmitigated disaster. We don't all have to speak at the United Nations on climate change and pollution, the real difference starts in our backyards. I commend the students of Oatley Senior Campus, for creating a united front, and making a difference to their local environment.



These students have committed to a nationwide effort that sparks change within our nation, and our general community. Here are some statistics that show how important it is to contribute to this initiative: About 80% of the trash removed each year on Clean Up Day would have been recyclable if it hadn't been left to deteriorate in the environment, over 1 million seabirds and 100,000 sea mammals are killed by pollution every year and, in 2016 about 682,245 volunteers have already removed approximately 16,657 tonnes of trash from 7,117 registered locations.

So next year will you take up the challenge, and contribute into making our environment safer, cleaner, and more enjoyable to the community. These students worked for one hour, and that was enough to make a difference, as they worked together to help our environment. These students should be congratulated, on their hard work, commitment, and dedication, to such a terrific initiative that makes our world a better place to live in. Good job Oatley Students!!

