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7 June 2019

Principal's Report



Minimum Standards

Literacy and numeracy skills are essential for success in learning and life after school. This is why students are required to show they have met a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the Higher School Certificate from 2020.

In 2020, your child will need to meet a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to qualify for the Higher School Certificate (HSC).

The minimum standard will ensure that your child is ready for further education and training, employment and life after school. The standard is set at Level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), a nationally agreed standard of functional literacy and numeracy.

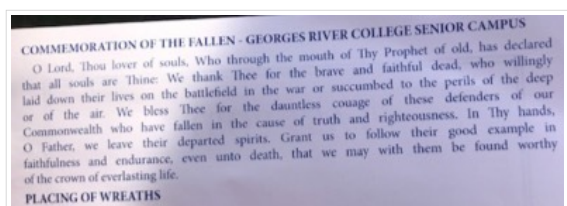
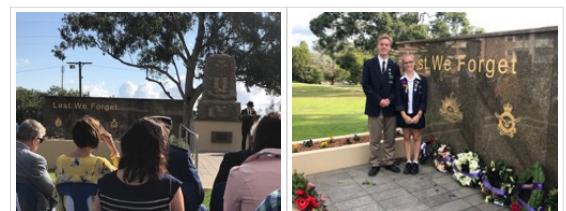
It means students can do things like:

Find the time and date of a music concert on an online ticket website	Calculate the quantity of paint required to paint a room	Estimate distance, travel time and costs for a transport route
Take notes from a lecture or training session	Create a personal weekly budget in a spreadsheet	Write a job application letter
Measure quantities to follow a recipe	Follow safety instructions in an equipment manual	Enter data in a computer-based management system

If your child has not met the standard through NAPLAN, he /she will have multiple opportunities to meet the standard. We will be holding an information evening next term to inform parents and students who are affected.

ANZAC Day Service

I had the privilege of attending the ANZAC Day Service hosted by Oatley RSL. This year, our School Captains Jack Appleby and Claire Larkin were asked to read a prayer and lay a wreath as part of the Service. Both Jack and Claire did an outstanding job at representing the school and were excellent ambassadors for GRC Oatley Senior Campus. Congratulations!



Positive Behaviour for Learning @ GRC Oatley

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is a comprehensive, integrated whole school approach to student wellbeing and behaviour. It is evidence-based and actively promotes positive behaviour. It enables students to develop a clear understanding of required expectations, become responsible for their own behaviour and work together to create a positive, productive and harmonious learning community.

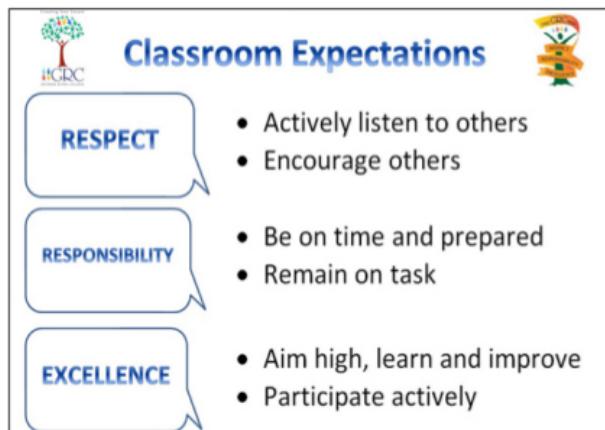
PBL is based on a three-tiered continuum of prevention and intervention:

- **Tier 1** - Universal prevention: school-wide and classroom systems for all students, staff and settings.

- **Tier 2** - Targeted interventions: small group systems for students at-risk behaviourally and academically.
- **Tier 3** - Intensive interventions: systems for students with high-risk behaviour and/or learning needs.

The PBL program at GRC Oatley is underpinned by 3 core values:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Excellence



We are currently in the process of re-signing the school so students are constantly reminded of what we stand for at GRC Oatley. Our Year 11 Tutorial and Year 12 Mentoring Programs have been re-designed to incorporate the teaching of PBL beliefs and values. PBL is a data driven program. Therefore, what we learn from the data, such as, specific inappropriate behaviours which we need to address, effects what we do throughout the school in PBL.

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 school a child will truly be supported in reaching their learning potential.

As I spoke with parents and caregivers throughout the afternoon, their feedback was very positive – complementing 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.

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.

Upgrades to the Learning Environment at GRC Oatley Senior Campus

During the holidays, we commenced on a number of significant upgrades. The combined project with our P&C of refurbishing the courtyard adjacent to the gymnasium is well underway. We were also fortunate enough to be granted \$12000 by David Coleman MP to allocate towards this project. The triangular courtyard on Level 3 has been added to the project to ensure the students have ample exterior learning spaces and areas to debrief.

The refurbishment of the Library interior also began during the holidays. Painting is complete and we have dismantled the old borrowing desk. We are currently in negotiation with suppliers for new seating and furniture that will allow for collaborative learning spaces. We look forward to our students enjoying the new spaces shortly. Watch this space ... we will keep you updated.

The learning environment for our students continues to be a priority and there will be further work in the coming months.

Student Representative Council Executive IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Jack Appleby School Captain

Why did you want to be in the SRC?

I wanted to be in the SRC to make a difference in my school and be a voice for the student body. I wanted to improve the students pride in their school, and I saw being in the SRC as a way to do that.

If you had to choose only 3 adjectives to describe yourself, which would you choose?
Fair, Hard-Working & Honest

Knowing what you do now, what advice would you give your 13-year-old self?
Do not give up ever. Know that eventually everything works out exactly as it is supposed to, and do not let others control your happiness!

What is your favourite quote? Why?
'Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is a mystery but Today is a gift. That is why it is called the Present' – This quote is significant to me because it teaches you to live your life in the moment, to move on from your past and to never be certain of anything in your future.



Claire Larkin School Captain

Why did you want to be in the SRC?

I wanted to be in the SRC so that I could be part of the school community. I wanted to create positive change to negative school environments and promote a fun and creative atmosphere for not only my year but for those that follow.

If you had to choose only three adjectives to describe yourself, which would you choose?
Enthusiastic, Passionate and Determined

Knowing what you do now, what advice would you give your 13-year-old self?
I would tell myself that I am capable of achieving anything I put my mind to, as well as not to worry about other people's options for me. I need to focus on important issues such as our environment.

What is your favourite quote? Why?
'Worrying makes you suffer twice – Newt Scamander. This is my favourite quote because it reminds me to stop worrying about the past and things I cannot change and live in the now. Focus on goals I can achieve now, friendships I can create and new memories I can make.



Rithysak Yous School Vice-Captain

Why did you want to be in the SRC?

It is always my passion to represent people I love, in this case, my fellow students. This passion drives me to become the member of the SRC.

If you had to choose only three adjectives to describe yourself, which would you choose?
Passion, patient, integrity

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give your thirteen-year-old self?
Knowing what I know now, I would tell my thirteen years old self to be more engaged and involved with both the school and the local community.

What is your favourite quote? Why?
My favorite quote "Courage is not the absence of fear but rather the judgements that something else is more important than fear" because it shows how people who have courage to do things see beyond the intangible barriers of fears. Fears can be easily overcome by courage.



Ella-Rose Liasides School Vice-Captain

Why did you want to be in the SRC?

I have always gravitated towards opportunities like the SRC, because I like to bring new knowledge and ideas to the table. I wanted to reflect the opinions of others and promote fairness and opportunity in my school.

If you had to choose only three adjectives to describe yourself, which would you choose?
I am honest and determined. I like to think that I am funny, but realistically I am just impatient.

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give your thirteen-year-old self?
I think I'd just remind myself to be as authentic and open as I can be. Embrace criticism, know that your opinions will change but you do not need to compromise your morals but be brave in all things. I think this is a lesson that I am still learning now, but thirteen-year-old Ella especially needed to hear.

What is your favourite quote? Why?
"Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are"
I have always loved reading and really believe that it has an unequivocal power to make us better, more empathetic people. Books have this special power to transport us into worlds of our own imagination because our language can be as a tool of creation and joy. That is why I love to read and write - to enter the worlds of others and create worlds of my own.



Phakakaew Koy Silachan SRC President

Why did you want to be in the SRC?

By joining the SRC, I not only became a voice for my cohort, but I am given the opportunity to help develop and execute new initiatives and projects at Oatley, which was aimed at enhancing the student-learning environment.

Additionally, the fundraisers that the student body organise gives students a way of giving back to the community.

If you had to choose only three adjectives to describe yourself, which would you choose?
Passionate, Hardworking, Idealistic

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give your thirteen-year-old self?
The biggest advice I would give myself would be to take a breath and enjoy being 13. I would tell her to stress a little less, have confidence to give everything a go and have fun. I feel like the early years of high school is not only for studying, but it is also a time for discovering new areas of interests and exploring the world around you.

What is your favourite quote? Why?
My favourite quote is "A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence." —James N. Watkins. I love this quote because, it reminds me to stay motivated – that you don't have to start out being the smartest, strongest or the best, but if you live everyday constantly improving and staying diligent, then you will succeed.



Michelle Ding SRC President

Why did you want to be in the SRC?

Being a proud student of GRC Oatley, I felt a sense of urgency from the limitations in the creative aspects of school developments. As the student's voice to express concerns, I believed that by being part of the SRC would have provided me with the best opportunities to invest changes.

Concentrating on giving back to the school and community, the SRC facilitated the authority for the enforcement of values, which the school upholds.

If you had to choose only three adjectives to describe yourself, which would you choose?
Passionate, determination, diligence

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give your thirteen-year-old self?
Looking back to first starting high school, I would advise myself to concentrate on the development of interpersonal skills and the exposure to various opportunities external to the school. Having always seen the HSC as the finish line, I wish that I had recognised at an earlier stage the infinite possibilities each individual can gain beyond school.

What is your favourite quote? Why?
"It always seems impossible until it's done" –Nelson Mandela. This quote has given me the motivation to break down difficulties or issues into smaller solutions that accumulate until the barriers are overcome. Impossibility is only an excuse to avoid failure.

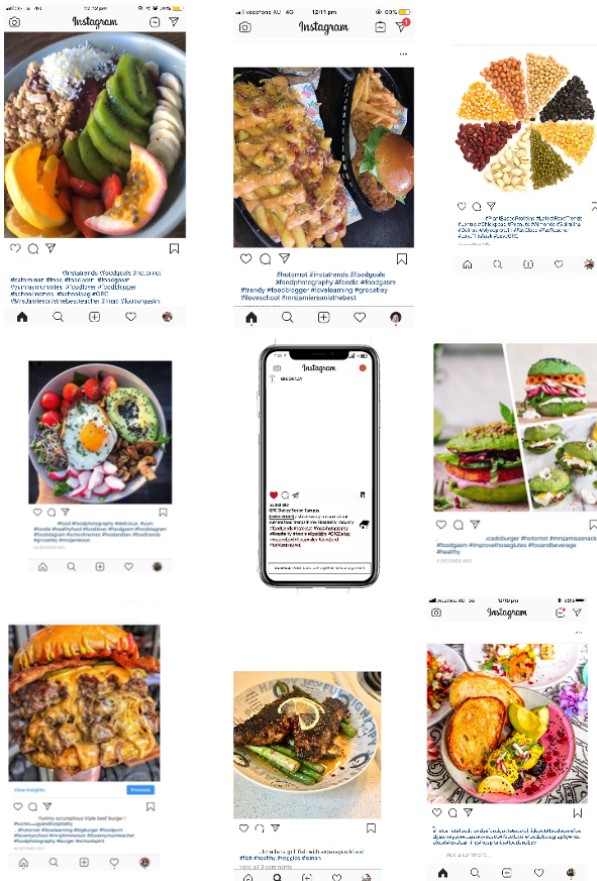
Diary Dates – Term 2

- Public Holiday – Monday 10th June
- Year 12 Post School Options Parent Information Night – Tuesday 18th June
- University Expo – Wednesday 19th June, 2019
- P&C Meeting – Monday 17th June (7:00pm)
- Week 8 – Year 11 reports distributed
- Year 11 Parent Teacher Night – Monday 4th July (4:00 pm – 7:00pm)

Anna Girginis
Principal

VET Report

Over the last 5 weeks, Hospitality Food and Beverage students have been working on a unit about sourcing and using information on the hospitality industry. Students have been studying current trends and emerging technologies that are used by establishments to promote their establishments. We have looked at social media and the appropriateness of using Instagram for posting current food trends and applying ALARM techniques to improve writing skills and literacy.



This course gives the students a basic understanding of the safety factors surrounding the beach.

Our students have been learning swim safety in North Cronulla heated pool where their swimming ability is assessed. They have also been practising deep water floatation techniques. The theory session includes lessons in safe swimming, avoiding rips, first aid and rescue.

The students are really enjoying this course and have shown improvement in their water safety skills. Well done!

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/dFSgEa5nx3w?rel=0&wmode=transparent>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFSgEa5nx3w>



Gardening Programme

Students in the Blue Class are participating in a joint gardening programme with our mainstream students.

The programme includes skill building in preparing and making a garden, making compost, irrigation techniques and maintaining and planting a vegetable garden.

Alvin, Andrew and Adrian are extremely motivated in learning these new skills and look forward to this lesson each Thursday.



Support Faculty Report

Surf Survival Programme, North Cronulla SLSC

Over Term 2 the students are participating in a Surf Survival Programme.

Music

Congratulations to the 20 students who participated in **“In Concert 2019” at Sydney Town Hall** on Tuesday 21 May 2019. We began the day with rehearsals at 9.45am and ended with the concert from 7pm to 9.30 pm. It is a very long and exhausting day but one which all the students have spoken about in a positive way, with some even asking if they will do this again next year.

Well done to Yr 11 students Louise, Sarah, Lina, Valandou, Isabel, Adele, Andrianna, Frederick, Venus, Caitlin, Jey, Karina, Jacob, Jacinta, Vy, Sidney and Yr 12 students Jeremy, Jack, James B and Joshua.

I asked all the students to write down something about being involved in “In Concert”, some quotes from the students who attended are:

“An amazing experience to sing in such a large choir”

“The orchestra was really good, it surprised me that it was students my age playing at a professional level!”

“Being a part of the mass choir is a whole different experience. The voices created beautiful harmonies. It was amazing!”

“First time as a little voice in one huge choir. It was way different from the practice days. When all the voices came together, it created an incredible, amazing harmony which made me completely surprised. One of the best experiences I have had.”

“I will forever look back on and cherish”

“A good experience, observing ensembles, Jazz bands and a 700 person choir.”

“Hearing the story of Casey Donovan and how she believed in what she wanted to do was an inspiration to me.”

“I hadn’t before seen an orchestra perform that close to me and that brilliantly.”

I would like to congratulate the students on their commitment, wonderful attitude and behavior at all the rehearsals and the performance. I hope that the students in year 11 who were involved this year will join with us again next year.

Year 12 Music students are busy making final preparations to their HSC repertoire. Showcase and trials are approaching very quickly with Showcase being in Week 4 next term.

Please click on the link to watch our students perform at In Concert:

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/337666411?byline=0&portrait=0>

<http://vimeo.com/337666411>



Annette Lynch
Music Teacher

What’s happening in Drama?

Recently, Year 12 Drama students commenced work on their HSC Group Projects. They are now hard at work devising their original pieces for the HSC exam.

Year 11 have completed their first assessment – an Individual Performance based on acting skills studied in Term 1.

All drama students will be participating in a physical theatre workshop in the coming weeks, run by ‘the *Legs on the Wall*’ – Sydney’s premiere physical theatre company.

Literacy and Numeracy in Drama

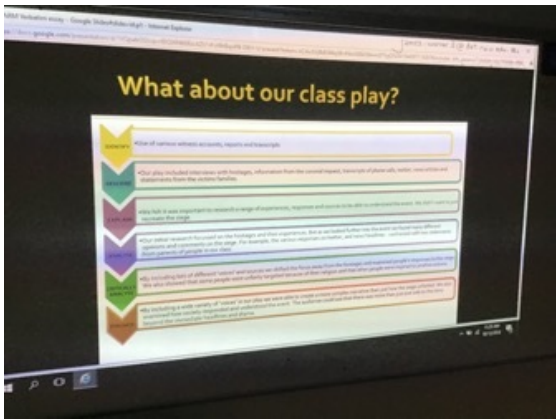
Drama is a subject in which students learn in diverse ways, as highlighted at the recent DRAMA NSW Annual Conference, which Mrs Pryce attended. The sessions and guest speakers emphasised how Drama encourages students to communicate and problem solve in unique ways. Some examples from our lessons in Week 4:



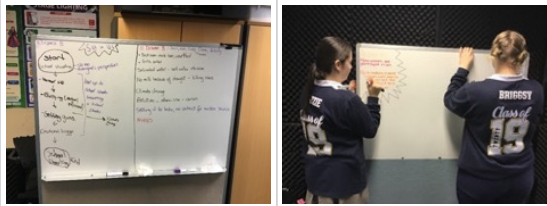
- Using numeracy and problem-solving in Year 11 Drama to complete a stage design activity.
- Reviewing video footage of rehearsal to critically reflect on progress in Year 12 Drama.



- Using ALARM to structure essays.



- Using planning skills to structure performances.



- Working in pairs to practice scripts.



HSIE Report

On Thursday 9th of May, Year 11 Geography and Ms Rooney went to the Royal National Park to investigate the biophysical interactions found along the Wallamurra Track. We started our day with a wildlife expert Julie, who introduced us to the various species that we could spot while walking along the track. After this introduction we hopped back on the bus and headed to the start of the track where we met with our guide Jill and spent the rest of the day.

Over the course of the day we investigated biophysical interactions and recorded our findings in a booklet. We followed the track for 4.7 kilometres, finding ourselves in different environments, starting in the heath, then into woodlands and finally ending in the rainforest. As we entered a different area, we split into smaller groups and took measurements of various factors that affect the environment such as, temperature, soil moisture and the GPS location. We also compared these findings of each zone we walked through. Throughout the day we also used the GPSs given to us by our guide Jill to mark where we found signs of animal life and any man-made structures to preserve the national park.

Overall, the day was a success and we learnt a lot about the Wallamurra track and the biophysical interactions. We also got to use our practical skills in the field. We would like to thank our guide for the day, Jill and Ms. Rooney for organising the day.

By Jaden Ametson & Samantha Burford





Debating and Public Speaking Report

GRC Oatley had their final debate earlier this month on the 6th May. They were up against tough competition with St George Girls being formidable opponents. The topic was: 'should the endorsement of political candidates and parties by religious leaders be banned'. Oatley were the negative. Kenton as first speaker constructed a strong argument based upon the importance of free speech and the need of religious freedom in Australia. This was his second ever debate and was excellent in his argumentation. Laura Bancroft and Rithysak Yous rebutted St George Girls argument thinking quickly on their feet and passionately expressing their team line.

Unfortunately for us St George Girls arguments won the debate but it was our best debate of the season as all speakers implemented past adjudicator's suggestions. The adjudicator of the debate commented at the high standard of the debate and how refreshing it was to see a debate where both sides were genuinely engaging with political issues in an intelligent manner.

GRC Oatley also participated in the Plain English Speaking competition. Laura Bancroft and Rithysak Yous along with other delegates from our region and the Sutherland Shire delivered both prepared and impromptu speeches on a variety of issues. Laura spoke passionately on the misrepresentation of feminism and the harms of this for both men and women, Rithysak cleverly questioned the assumptions of socialism and equality and the benefits of meritocracy. Both delivered an impromptu speech on 'It's certain'. Congratulations to both Laura and Rithysak who have excellent skills in conceptual thinking and constructing argumentation on their feet.

Rithysak successfully advanced to the Regional finals where he competed against schools across Sydney's inner western suburbs, southern and eastern suburbs. GRC Oatley was the only public comprehensive school represented at this level. Rithysak was able to deliver again his prepared speech on the benefits of meritocracy for Australia and his impromptu topic was 'Balancing Act'. Rithysak was unsuccessful in reaching State semi-finals but we congratulate him on his achievements in Public Speaking and Debating this year.



Careers

GRC UNIVERSITY MARKET

Yr 12 students interested in higher education **SHOULD** attend this event. Parents are welcome.
8.30am Wednesday 19th June 2019 Monk Theatre
Hear from the experts. Who will be presenting?

SRC Report

Leadership by the River

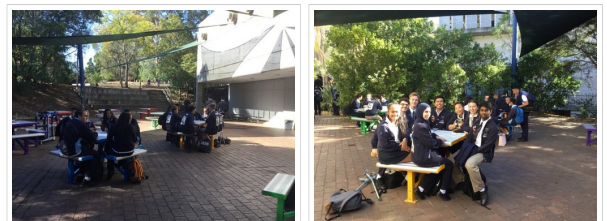
Our Year 12 SRC have been able to see some key elements of their Leadership by the River project come to fruition. Last year the group fundraised to revamp the courtyard area outside the gym and purchase new outdoor furniture for this under-utilised area. We were lucky enough to receive \$20,000 from our P&C and our local Federal member, Mr David Coleman contributed \$12,000 of funding towards this project. The school also contributed \$20,000 towards the project out of RAM funding.

The furniture arrived last term and our Year 12 construction classes were actively involved in assembling the outdoor settings. Our new GA, Greg, has worked hard to secure the furniture so that it is now in place and available for use by our students in their breaks. The funds raised enabled us to purchase extra furniture to extend the project into the triangular courtyard as well.

Congratulations to all involved – wonderful to see all of this work over 18 months come to fruition.

Visit to NSW Parliament House

Two students from our leadership team - Jack Appleby and Ella-Rose Liasides represented the school at a recent event at Government House and NSW Parliament. They toured both venues and were able to see democracy in action through our NSW State Parliament.



GRC Oatley Spirit Week

Our Year 11 Leadership by the River group are working on a project to create school spirit. Week 7 of Term 2 has been designated as Spirit Week with a range of activities planned including: Donut Day, Guessing Competition, Quizzes, Sports and Mufti Day. Throughout the week there will be a GRC Oatley Amazing Race being held with house teams completing challenges – culminating in the final challenge on Friday 14 June.

Wellbeing Report

Youth Health Forum at GRC Oatley

On Thursday the 16th of May, Oatley hosted 40 students to participate in a Youth Forum coordinated by Advanced Diversity Services. The forum was aimed at students who had recently transitioned from an Intensive English Centre or were newly arrived to Australia and consisted of students from GRC Oatley and Beverly Hills IEC. Through a range of practical activities students were encouraged to share their knowledge on the health care system in Australia and how they can access a range of support services. The data captured during these activities will be collated by 2Connect and will form a comprehensive document outlining the physical and mental wellbeing needs of this particular group of learners. The day was a collaborative effort between Advanced Diversity Services, Georges River Council, Head Space Hurstville and GRC Oatley. The day was made a further success through the supervision and support of Mrs Peta La Motte and Mr James Munroe who helped make our guests feel welcome. The forum is a biannual event, and we look forward to continue working with local services to ensure the wellbeing of all our students.



Breakfast Club

At GRC Oatley we acknowledge the important role nutrition plays in learning. Through 2019 we have been running a Breakfast Program on Monday and Friday mornings to ensure that all students begin the day with nutritious breakfast - ready for a day's learning. The program provides students the opportunity to meet with staff in a supportive and friendly environment and discuss any challenges they might be facing in their school or personal life. Any student is welcome to attend, have a cup of tea or coffee and a bite to eat, or just to attend to have a chat with staff and fellow students. There will also be visits from local service providers and organisations commencing in Term 3 including; the Commonwealth Bank to discuss finance, the Police Liaison Officer to discuss careers in the police force and any legal concerns and youth workers from

2Connect. I would personally like to thank the staff that attend regularly to speak to students, man the toaster and the coffee machines, and pop in to offer support to our students.

When: Monday and Friday mornings

Time: 7:30-8:30am

Where: The Gallery Cafe on Level 4

Cost: Free

Jessica Davies

Head Teacher Wellbeing (Rel)