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9 October 2019

Principal's Report



Farewell Year 12

I would like to thank Year 12 as they prepare for their final week, for their service to the school, their goodwill and their humour. This is a special group of students who have a great deal of potential. More than that, they have endeared themselves to the GRC Oatley family.

The completion of Year 12 marks an important milestone for Year 12. Some have triumphed over particularly difficult personal challenges to reach this point. Their life will be very different from now on – now is a time for them to take a few moments to reflect on the things they have done to this point, and celebrate the great things that they have accomplished. Not all year groups are described by their teachers as witty, articulate, compassionate, motivated and intelligent. These words were used because, through their actions, they have demonstrated these qualities. Whether it be as part of the Creative and Performing Arts, the Industrial Arts, technology or computing sphere, linguistic ambassadors, authors, researchers, budding titration experts, the sporting arena or the magnificent service given by the leadership team. Collectively they have built the school spirit which makes it such a pleasure to be a part of GRC Oatley Senior Campus.

What a year group they have been. I will remember them so fondly and wish them well in their new careers, educational opportunities and unknown ventures. It's always such a pleasure to work with, see growth, and maturity and watch the progression from youth to adult. They are truly a credit to both their parents and the school.

Year 12 (2020) SRC Induction Ceremony

This term we welcomed parents into our school for our SRC Induction Ceremony. Student leadership at GRC Oatley Senior truly reflects the quality of students we have in our school.

At our school, student leadership is expected and practised on a daily basis. The quality of this leadership, especially that demonstrated by the Captains, Vice Captains, SRC Presidents and the SRC, is a critical determinant in creating loyalty, pride and ethics within our school. Student leadership is about giving respect, not demanding respect. It's about respecting the human rights or everyone, of other people and your own.


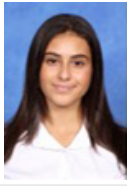
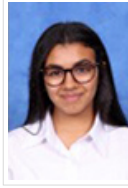

On behalf of the school community, I congratulate our outgoing Student Representative Council on their wonderful achievements. They have excelled at ensuring that high quality student leadership, founded on the school's values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence, underpins our school's ethos, and I thank them on behalf of the GRC Oatley community for their outstanding leadership of the student body over the last twelve months.

I am extremely confident that our incoming 2020 SRC will rise to the challenge and build on the strong legacy that this year's student leadership team have left. They will be charged with successfully implementing changes to structures within the school from a student perspective, as well as being the sounding board when students' views on issues relating to their school are required.

I wish that many more people could have sat on the Selection Panel with me as we listened to the pride with which the students, who were inducted into Student Executive positions, spoke about their school. The desire to serve and give back to our school was a very humbling thing for a Principal to listen to and a credit to each and every one of them. All of the students demonstrated heightened levels of commitment, care and compassion for others and the responsibility that comes with decision-making that has the potential to impact on so many.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Straney for her enthusiasm and hard work in leading the SRC and for her commitment to student leadership. She has committed a tremendous amount of time and energy into ensuring that student ideas and initiatives not only come to fruition but are successful in achieving what students set out to do.


It is with pleasure and great pride that I announce the following students as the 2020 senior leaders:

2020 SCHOOL CAPTAINS		2020 VICE CAPTAINS	
			
<i>Afan Baig</i>	<i>Valandou Contzonis</i>	<i>Barbra Abbass</i>	<i>Jasmine Awad</i>

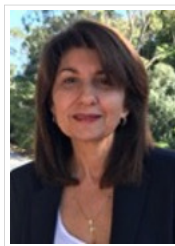
2020 SRC PRESIDENTS		2020 Year 12 Student Representative Council	
		Isabelle Basevski Mohamad Baydoun Brendan Chan Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts Christopher Fellas	Hani Jebeille Jacqueline McGowan Lauren Saliba Teresa Smith Kevin Zhou
<i>Matthew Sanders</i>	<i>Ida Chou</i>		



STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Grant Kennedy – Head Teacher English	
	<p>Years at GRC Oatley – 11 years</p> <p>Subject Area - English</p> <p>Previous School – GRC Peakhurst Campus</p> <p>Why did you become a teacher? – To help make a difference in the lives of students and encourage them and help them realize their potential.</p> <p>Favourite Holiday Destination - Canada</p> <p>Favourite Food - Pasta</p> <p>Your Quirkiest Trait – Being passionate and true to your beliefs</p> <p>Favourite Joke – What’s another name for Santa’s elves? Subordinate clauses</p>

Sophie Ventouris – Head Teacher Mathematics



Years at GRC Oatley: 11 years as classroom teacher and 7 years as Head teacher

Subject Area: Mathematics

Previous School: Hurstville Boys High School

Why did you become a teacher? I became a teacher as I wanted to share my passion of mathematics with others and I wanted to inspire and instil my love for learning in my students, so they become lifelong learners. I enjoy working with children and it gives me great pleasure in being able to assist them to achieve to their potential and become the best they can be.

Favourite Holiday Destination: Rhodes, Greece.

Favourite Food: Seafood

Your Quirkiest Trait: I can act as a human calculator when not too tired.

Favourite Joke: Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7, 8, 9!

NRL St George Illawarra Dragons

It is with pleasure that I announce to our school community that Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the St George Illawarra Dragons.

What does this mean for our school and how does it benefit our students?

Our partnership with the St George Dragons, NRL and Hurstville United has been nurtured over the past few years by our VET Sports Coaching teachers. The aim was to set up a sports program for our students which had a sense of purpose and gave students access to meaningful programs.

This year I have been working closely with Craig Young (Chairman Executive Officer of the St George Illawarra Dragons) and Holi Taufa (President of Hurstville United) to formalise the partnership. This partnership brings with it:

- Upgrade of our School Oval – approx. \$1.3 million
- Upgrade of our Indoor Weights studio
- Stage 6 SLR students accessing modules from the sports coaching and training program
- Students being able to gain Level 1 referee accreditation
- Students being able to referee PSSA rugby league games
- Students having the opportunity to represent the school playing a variety of Rugby League format to strengthen our links to play for Hurstville United as well as
- Access to the St George Illawarra Dragons rewards program – this initiative will reward students showing

excellence in areas of school work, attendance, sport and leadership. Rewards could include: invitations to watch pre-season training programs including lessons in performance analysis, sports science and practical training sessions.

- St George Illawarra Dragons accessing our school facilities for their women's rugby league teams and juniors.

As a keen St George Illawarra Dragons fan, I can't think of a better team to be associated with. Even under the current climate, I am happy to stand up and proudly say "#Go the Dragons"!



Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) Visit

Two decades ago, the NSW Department of Education commissioned a research study on effective teaching practices that underpin HSC success (Ayers, Dinham & Sawyer, *Successful Teaching in the NSW Higher School Certificate: Summary of a Research Report for the NSW Department of Education and Training, 2000*).

With HSC outcomes continuing to be highly valued by students, parents, teachers and communities, the Department of Education is again, conducting a study that will provide contemporary evidence of the teaching practices that support students to achieve their optimal HSC performance. The aim of this study is to investigate effective HSC teaching practices, including identifying exemplars of practice in current educational contexts. The output of this study will support the efforts of other areas of the department developing professional learning to improve the quality of Stage 6 teaching.

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus was invited to be part of this research study as our school has been identified as achieving high HSC results for Mathematics AND English courses. **Not only have we achieved high HSC results, we have sustained high performance over a four-year period (2015-2018).** The research consisted of interviews and observations of teaching practices.

HSC Examinations

The Higher School Certificate Examinations begin on Thursday 17th October. Many students have already experienced the HSC due to major works being submitted for marking. We wish Year 12 great success for these examinations.

Term 4

As this is the last newsletter for Term 3, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their support throughout the term and to the staff for their ongoing commitment to the students at GRC Oatley. Term 3 is an extremely hard term on teachers as we prepared students for HSC Trials, HSC

examinations and major works not to mention report writing, Year 12 references, Year 12 graduation and formal.

Year 12 Graduation and Year 12 Formal

Stay tuned for all the glitz and glamour in the next newsletter!

Anna Girginis
Principal

Science Report

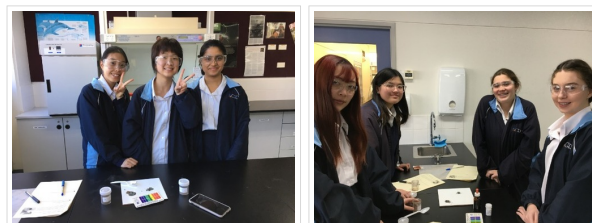
Biology Field Trip – The Ecology of GRC Oatley

During week 4 of this term, Year 11 Biology students were given three lessons to take part in field work to explore our own Oatley campus. This included open woodlands and the quarry lake. In the field study, the students observed the biodiversity of each area, comparing the difference in the flora and fauna. On day one, we had some time to observe the variety of bird species in each area and counted how many of each species that inhabit the environment. At the lake, we saw Pacific Black Ducks, ibises and to our surprise, a mother Masked Lapwing with her two chicks waddling by her feet. We walked around and noted the different types of relationship between the organisms as well as the relationship with the environment. We observed magpies and mynas fighting for food sources at the open woodland and the algae providing resources for the organisms in the lake.

On day 2, we used quadrats and transects to find the abundance and distribution of the plants found in the open woodlands.

On our last lesson, we measured the abiotic factors in both the open woodland and the quarry lake. We made quantitative measurements which included using the soil probe to test the soil moisture and pH level and a portable meter to test the salinity, temperature and the pH levels of the lake water. While testing the measurements for the quarry lake, we spotted the one and only eel we have in the lake. Even though we were only given three lessons, we were able uncover the abundance and distribution of biodiversity within our school.

By Renee Chung and Isabelle Hsu (Year 11)



Titration competition

Students from GRC Oatley have progressed to the National Titration Competition. The National Competition is the grand final for Australian Chemistry students performing sophisticated laboratory techniques.

Participating in this prestigious competition on a national level, is a great honour for our school. We are one of the few comprehensive government schools to make it to this level. The competition was held at University of NSW on 14th September.

For those that aren't familiar with titration, students compete in teams of three to determine the concentration of unknown solutions accurately to four decimal places. Students must be competent with the challenging techniques and be able to do the calculations.

Whilst we didn't come home with a blue ribbon, we certainly put up a good fight. Our team consisted of Jackson Chen, Dheeraj Panjwani and Jordan Xirodimas. It was an excellent experience for all involved. This is the 10th year our school has participated in the final round of this competition, and it is a matter of great pride for our school to be competing at such a high level.

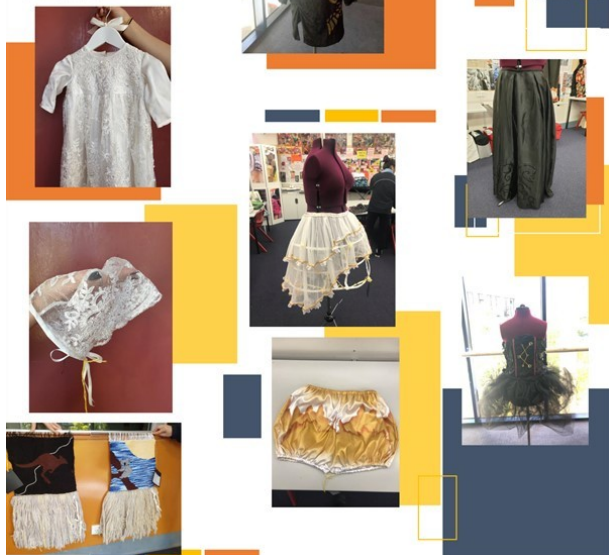
Irlanda Price
Harmeet Sandhu



TAS Report

Textiles and Design

With a variety of choices for textiles focus areas, the Textiles and Design Major works allow students to investigate a wide range of styles and skills. This year major projects included costuming, apparel and textiles artwork.



TAS Major Works 2019

Students in the TAS faculty have finished major works for another year. With almost 60 students across Industrial Technology – Timber and Furnishing, Design and Technology and Textiles and Design, it has been immensely busy time for students and staff alike. I would like to thank Mr Sands, Miss Little, Mr Salter and Ms Kalan for all the time in holidays and school terms that they have given to help students.

Head Teacher

Mrs Jennifer Donald

Industrial Technology – Timber and Furnishing

Major projects in this area ranged from bedside tables to deck chairs. The creativity of students is to be commended.



Design and Technology

Major Design Projects

When choosing their Major Design Projects, students have a diverse range of choices. One of the advantages of Design and Technology is the chance to spend your time investigating and researching topics that are chosen by the students.

Design Areas

Students have produced Major Projects that span to include architecture, apparel, digital technologies and mixed materials. The addition of two new 3D printers to the resources available for students has enabled a higher quality of prototype to be developed.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_FZwp2dXkE

VET Report

Students enrolled in a VET course while studying for their HSC undertake 70 hours of work placement in their chosen field of study. Every year we get the pleasure to nominate a student who has successfully completed the work placement component of the course. Southern Sydney Business Education Network is a non for profit organisation funded by the government to provide organised work placement opportunities for students. The 2019 VET excellence award for demonstrated commitment to work placement and outstanding achievement

was held on Thursday 12th September at NSW Parliament House Sydney. The GRC Oatley award recipient was Victoria Gibson-Lin in Hospitality Food and Beverage. Victoria was recognised for outstanding completion of work placement at Queens Pastri Ramsgate and Oliver Brown Hurstville. Both establishments praised Victoria on her outstanding abilities and professionalism within the work placement. Victoria has a positive attitude towards her Hospitality Food and Beverage course and is always engaged with the content of every lesson, both theory and practical. This accolade is well deserved. Congratulations Victoria.



CAPA Report

HSC CAPA nominations

Each year, the Department of Education showcases outstanding HSC projects and performances across a range of subjects.

Congratulations to the following students, who have had their major works nominated for possible inclusion in a HSC Showcase event:



Rian Sauvan - nominated for *OnStage* - HSC Drama Individual Performance.



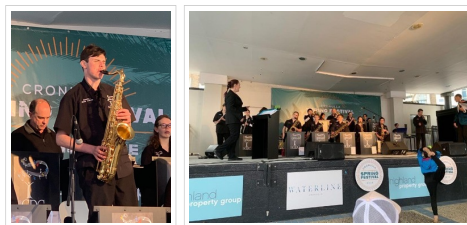
Aqeelah Toefy – nominated for *CallBack* – HSC Dance Core Performance and Major Study Performance.

This exemplary achievement has been the result of months of hard work and dedication from these students.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNGQ2XdsDtU>

GRC Stage Band

The GRC Stage band recently performed at the Cronulla Spring Fair. They entertained an appreciative audience of hundreds and got everyone tapping their toes.



Support Report

Student in the spotlight – Victor Clark

Throughout their time at Oatley students in the support unit study a subject called 'Work & The Community' as part of the program they undergo work experience across the 2 years they are here.

We work closely with businesses and also outside agencies to assist students in gaining meaningful employment. Post school, some students will undergo a SLES program – a School Leavers Employment Service at an agency of their choice. The SLES program is funded under the NDIS. This program is for young people who still need to refine their skills for work. Those students who are job ready can access a DES program a disability employment program, which is not funded through the NDIS, but with the government and Victor Clark has done just that, he engaged with APM employment in Sutherland.

Victor has been successful in gaining employment at Coles Kirrawee where he has been doing work experience this year on a Wednesday. Victor has been successful in gaining a 3-day position and we wish him every success in the world post school. Kathryn from APM Sutherland worked with the school and Coles Kirrawee to help secure the position. She will also be an ongoing support for Victor and his family.

Congratulation Victor – you thoroughly deserve it.



Fizzy Grapes – cross-curricular learning

During the term a new band has evolved – The Fizzy Grapes!

Students in the Support Unit Red class (Autism support class) have been working with their support unit teachers as well as their CAPA teacher Mr Gerrard to form the Fizzy Grapes. This wonderful experience saw outcomes for PDHPE, music and art all come together through the development of the band the

Fizzy Grapes. Mr Gerrard has used his expertise to assist the students in learning an instrument and working on all coming together to play an entire song. The students have had to work as a team, they had to turn take and be respectful of each other and their individual abilities. The experience has also brought out the creative side of all the students, not only musically but also with the design of t-shirts & posters with their art teacher Mr Jeffers. All of the hard work comes together at a performance on Thursday the 26th of September – great work to all the students you have done a fantastic job. The experience has been as equally enjoyable for all the teachers involved.



Careers Report

- The Beyond School Study Guide is an excellent resource to assist students and parents to figure out study options and financial assistance along the way. https://www.studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/files/beyond_school_study-guide_interactive.pdf?v=1540767293
- University. Students apply via UAC by 30th September. Students should also view the “future students” link on UNI websites and study the course structure of the degree/s they are considering. To have questions answered phone the university directly.
- TAFE. On line enrolment opens late October. Book an appointment with the TAFE college careers advisers to discuss courses, careers, support.



Penny Morrison
Careers Adviser

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Apprenticeships and traineeships open the door to gaining essential skills, experience and training.

They are a combination of paid employment in the workplace as well as formal learning and skills development through a Registered Training Organisation such as TAFENSW.

In today’s competitive job market, it’s important to have the right technical skills and qualifications. Employers all over Australia hold apprenticeship and traineeships in high regard.

Apprenticeships and traineeships are available in over 500 careers.

To assist Year 12 students gain an apprenticeship or traineeship for 2020, an Apprenticeship and Traineeship Morning was held at school on 11 September.

Recruitment staff from 1300apprentice conducted aptitude testing and interviews with interested applicants. It is hoped

that those students who were successful through the process will gain an apprenticeship to start in 2020.

Steps to becoming an apprentice or trainee;

Explore

<https://vet.nsw.gov.au/>

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

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

Find an Employer

Search job vacancy ads in your local paper and online

<http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/>

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

<http://www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/>

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

Talk to friends and family to see if they know of any opportunities.

Apply for a job through a Group Training Organisation such as Master Plumbers Apprentices Limited Electrical Group Training, Australian Training Company

For free advice contact your local apprenticeship network provider at the link below.

<http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/>

Narelle Collins
Careers and Transition Adviser

PDHPE Report

The Pedagogy Puzzle

M X P C O E F M G I S V L V J A I P T U
 Q A E Q C G D H K K E V N C Q T K B I S
 W M C Y S P K S T X M T O O C A E B U M
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ACHIEVEMENT
ETHICS
HAMPSON
KERWICK
NESA
PRYCE
VENTOURIS

ATAR
GIRGINIS
JAMIESON
MACKENZIE
NIKOLOVSKI
SCHOOLIES
WILLE

DAVIES
GRADUATION
KENNEDY
MACRAE
OUTCOMES
SYLLABUS
XENIKOS