Term 3 has been very busy and reveals a wonderful snapshot of all the opportunities on offer here at Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus.

A highlight of the term, indeed the year, has been the production and premiere of our musical Man of Steel. Students from both GRC Penshurst Girls Campus and Hurstville Boys Campus worked tremendously hard to ensure the musical was a success. Of course, such a production would never be possible without the hard work and dedication of the staff involved. Mrs Bell did an amazing job as Director, supported by Mrs Thomson, Mr Holloway, Mr Morgan and Miss Fox. There was also an incredible amount of work that went on in the background. Mr Belinfante did a tremendous job creating the sets and Mrs Harrison also did a very professional job with the make-up. I know that parents and particularly the students were all grateful for the opportunities that were created for them and the success that we all share in creating such a triumph. Well done to all involved.

Our musical would not have been such a success without the support of the staff and students at Hurstville Boys Campus. Our musical is just one example of why attending Georges River College gives our students opportunities that they would not experience elsewhere. Never has this been more apparent than when Year 10 began their Preliminary Higher School Certificate Subject Selection journey this term. A world of opportunity was presented to our Year 10 students when they began the transition to our Senior Campus at Oatley. Our Year 10 students attended a Subject Selection Information Evening and a Subject Market at Oatley Senior Campus. Oatley Senior Campus is a unique learning environment that was created for our middle school campus students to ensure they are given the best options in the senior school. At Georges River College we offer our senior students over 85 courses, delivered onsite and including Vocational Education and Training (VET) and TAFE courses. We offer the largest and most exciting range of Year 11 and 12 courses in NSW, ensuring our students maximise their post school opportunities. As our students transition to the Senior Campus we know that they are joining a learning community that specialises in the learning and welfare needs of older adolescents.

Here at Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus we meet the changing social and educational needs of our girls as they grow. Every Year 10 girl has now met with our Careers Advisor, Mrs Royall, to ensure she is picking the correct curriculum pattern in the senior school to meet her own individual needs.
We also had the opportunity to celebrate Education Week this term. The Georges River College Concert Band and Stage Band performed at Rockdale Plaza and Year 10 students Genevieve M. and Sarasvathy W. were given the privileged opportunity to shadow senior Department of Education and Communities executive. Genevieve shadowed Ms Cathy Brennan, Georges River Network Director and Sarasvathy shadowed Ms Veronica Kapsimali, Director, Strathfield Network. Both girls got to experience the everyday working life of a School Director, participating in a video conference to discuss issues that are impacting on education today, as well as visiting a variety of schools and seeing the wonderful work our Primary School students are doing.

Year 8 also had their Subject Selection Evening for their electives for 2015. Students and parents were dazzled by the creative and engaging displays set up by our staff: CAPA; HSIE; PDHPE; the TAS staff and the magic of their 3D printer creating plastic rabbits before our very eyes, to the real life chickens paraded around the floor by Mr MacKenzie in promotion of our Agriculture elective.

Here at school important conversations have already begun about our School Plan for the next three years. As well as conducting focus group discussions with students and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to invite parents and members of our community to a School Planning Forum on Thursday 11 September at 6.00pm in our school Common Room. This will be an opportunity for our school community to discuss their hopes and dreams for our school, and will give myself and school staff a clear direction on what we need to do and where we need to go to meet the needs and expectations of our community. At the very heart of what we do will always be our students and ensuring we achieve the very best outcomes for them, as well as ensure they graduate as confident and responsible global citizens ready to succeed in the 21st Century.

This term we say farewell to Mr Scott MacKenzie, our Head Teacher Science. Mr MacKenzie will be moving to GRC Oatley Senior Campus to continue his excellent work in leading the success of Science across our College. Mr MacKenzie has made a wonderful contribution to our school and will continue to contribute to the success of our College as he takes up his new Head Teacher Science position. Next term we will be joined by Mr Anthony Adams as our new Head Teacher Science. Mr Adams comes to us as an experienced Head Teacher Science from GRC Hurstville Boys Campus. We welcome him to the GRC Penshurst Girls family and look forward to working with him.

At this point I would like to congratulate Georges River College Peakhurst Campus for achieving 50 years of excellence in public education. If you can, I encourage you to attend any of the special events designed to celebrate their anniversary. It is a case of ‘watch this space’ for us here at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus, as we too will be celebrating an important anniversary next year (our 60th!), and are already planning events to celebrate and mark such an important milestone in the life of our wonderful school.

Ms Noeline Ross
Principal

CAPA Faculty

Visual Arts Excursion

On Tuesday 5 August 2014, Visual Arts students from Years 9 and 10 went into the city to view the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Art Exhibitions, and artworks on display in other gallery spaces. The excursion provided students with the opportunity to identify with artists, styles and techniques which they felt some connection; this experience was to provide some substantial understanding and appreciation as to what makes a good artwork. Students from both Years 9 and 10 will soon be developing their own major art pieces for the year, and the experiences gained at this excursion may have some valued impact on their artmaking. We look forward to seeing their completed work in Term 4.

Koori Art Expressions Art Excursion
On Tuesday 19 August 2014, 42 Year 8 Visual Arts students attended an excursion to the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The purpose of this visit was for students to be provided with an opportunity to examine traditional and contemporary Australian Aboriginal art, and the various techniques employed by these artists. In addition they explored European artworks and Colonial and Impressionist Australian Art. The students also viewed a special exhibition dedicated to the development of Contemporary Australian art.

Whilst exploring this large range of works, the students were asked to consider what ideas, techniques and styles of art that they could use in their response to the NAIDOC theme for the year ‘Serving Country – Centenary and Future’.

The excursion was enjoyed by the group who worked beautifully throughout the day despite the wet weather.

In the coming weeks these students will attend special art workshops which will focus on the development and creation of our school’s entry in the Koori Arts Expressions 2014. This art exhibition is being held this year at the Sydney Powerhouse Museum and it will be on display for about three months.

**Man of Steel – The School Musical**

During Week 5 this term, our school was heavily involved in showcasing its School Musical, which was a combined GRC Hurstville Boys and Penshurst Girls Campuses production. It proved to be once again most enjoyable for those participating in and viewing the production. Special thanks go to all the staff and students involved, especially Mrs Sandi Bell, Mr Joshua Holloway and Mrs Virginia Thomson.

*Mr Garry Belinfante*
Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts

**Wool 4 Skoels Competition**

Congratulations to Carey C. (Year 7) who received an Honourable Mention in the State finals Wool 4 Skools Competition. Students were required to design a garment inspired by the 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, 90’s or today. Carey’s entry was inspired by today’s fashion and she created her design for the actress, Charize Theron.

*Mrs Linda Harrison*
Technology and Applied Studies Faculty
We hope that everyone enjoyed the grand feast and we look forward to next year’s Biggest Morning Tea.

Angel Y.
Year 9 SRC student

Year 7 Technology

Year 7 Technology (class 3), have been learning how to use the sewing machine. The first item they have constructed is a pyjama bag where they have created seams, hem and inserted ribbon. The next challenge for the students is to construct a pair of boxer shorts for themselves. They are also creating an original logo, swing tag and product label for the shorts using various computer software.

Mrs Linda Harrison
Technology and Applied Studies Faculty

Child Studies Excursion

Over the past two weeks the Year 9 Child Studies classes have been visiting the ‘My Little Sunshine Early Learning Centre’ in Penshurst. The students have had the opportunity to observe the children at play and see firsthand the ways children learn through play. This has been an excellent opportunity for our girls to experience what is involved in working in Child Care.

This excursion has been a valuable learning experience for both Penshurst girls and the children at the ‘My Little Sunshine Early Learning Centre’.

Miss Caroline Joy
PD/H/PE Co-ordinator

Chinese Students Visit

On Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 August, GRC Penshurst Girls Campus were privileged to host students and teachers from Jiangxi No.2 Middle School.

As many of us already know, China is a beautiful country with a rich culture that has so much to offer, and many of the students in our school who are fascinated by it are fortunate enough to learn more about China through the Chinese language course offered in our school. It covers everything from learning how to read, write and converse in Mandarin to understanding the complex history and traditions that are so different to our western Australian culture. Recently, Year 10 Chinese students have been learning how to describe our daily routine on a typical school day in Mandarin. Through this topic, we aim to widen our Chinese vocabulary and improve our pronunciation further which we have been honing since Year 7.

Australia is one huge mixing pot – every culture and ethnicity in the world confined on a mass piece of land to share ideas, cultures and traditions; co-existing in harmony for the betterment of the nation. Over the two days they spent with us, the Chinese students engaged in a series of activities which caused them to also grow a fascination with our country as we are fascinated by theirs. On the first day, we held a welcoming assembly where speeches from both school Principals were made. A part of our school’s musical ‘Man of Steel’ was performed, and Jiangxi No. 2
Middle School students sang ‘Fly Me to the Moon’ and told hilarious jokes. The two schools also exchanged presents as a display of our friendship and gratitude towards each other. Our school presented books about the history of Penshurst Girls and Australia whilst they presented us with a very impressive Chinese calligraphy set. The exchange students were buddied up with the students from our school and they followed us into our normal classes so that they could get an idea of the Australian education system.

Saying goodbye was the hardest part. We truly enjoyed the time we spent with them and made friends and life-long memories that we’ll bring with us after we move on from high school.

Anica S.
Year 10 student

Year 8 Wellbeing Day

On Thursday 31 July, Year 8 was lucky enough to have a Wellbeing Day, which was organised by our Year 8 Advisers: Mrs Nesci and Mrs Byrne and funded by the P&C.

In the morning, a guest arrived at our school to talk us through our positives and negatives. Mr Francis showed an inspiring presentation, which revealed that not everyone can be good at everything but they should still approach their talents and flaws in a positive way. His work is generally centred on helping people (especially teenagers) develop a positive mind, so that they can hopefully think about their own wellbeing. His work has certainly had a positive impact on us.

After the presentation we headed outside towards the grass area located near the teachers’ car park to have morning tea which was prepared by the students of class 8TE6 and our Year Advisers. The muesli bars served to us were made by class 8TE6 with the assistance of TAS teachers: Mrs Hooper and Ms Samuels. They used the freshest and healthiest ingredients which were collected by Mrs Howard. Fruit and yoghurt were served together with the muesli bars and that gave us a boost for the day.

On this day we also participated in three activities named Take Charge, Take Heart and Take Time. These fun activities highlighted the importance of having a healthy mind, healthy body and healthy life. The activity Take Time involved doing yoga exercises with our Visual Arts teacher Ms Swan and guest yoga instructor Nicole. Thank you to both fantastic yoga instructors for a pleasing and relaxing exercise. The next activity Take Charge taught us how to control our life and organise our daily activities, so that our personal life and school life won’t clash. Thank you to Miss Reid and Mrs Sender for teaching us how to independently organise our life. Our final activity was Take Heart which involved creativity. We were given white cardboard to draw, decorate or doodle on something that inspires us, and used art equipment generously given by teachers. This activity brought out our hidden creativity, exotic dancing skills and socialising skills. Thank you to Ms Samuels and Mrs Thomson for helping us make our beautiful hand-made cardboard posters and also for enduring our fantastic dancing skills.

Finally, in the afternoon, former GRC Peakhurst Campus and GRC Oatley Senior Campus student, Michael AuPrince arrived at our school to present an inspiring speech about his one-legged life. He was quite a talented student as well as a swimmer, skilled musician, one-legged basketball player and Paralympian. He told us what motivated him to become a professional swimmer despite the loss of a leg, how he became a Paralympian and also demonstrated how he swam in the 2012 London Paralympics, winning a gold and a bronze medal. His inspiring and motivating story will drive us to achieve beyond our limits.

Karaoke was a bonus activity none of us realised we were going to have until it was time for us to sing at the top of our lungs. We sang Titanium by David Guetta and Que Sera by Justice Crew all in sync, exactly like a choir. After singing happily, Mrs Nesci and Mrs Byrne had yet another surprise. A little happiness kit was given to each of us and each kit had: An eraser so you can make your mistakes disappear, a coin so you can never say “I am broke”, a marble in case someone says you have lost yours, a rubber band to stretch yourself beyond your limits, a piece of string to tie things together when they fall apart, a heart to remind you love is all around and a boost bar for when your spirits need a lift (and yes, there was an actual coin in the bag).

On behalf of Year 8, I would like to thank all the teachers and guests who sacrificed their own time, belongings and money to organise and contribute to this event. Special thanks to Mrs Byrne and Mrs Nesci for organising this event during their own time. Hopefully you loved the gifts we and Ms McGarrity bought for you. We all had a fantastic time and enjoyed socialising face to face without relying on our phones.

Jennifer L.
Year 8 student
Study Skills

Procrastination

Are you afraid to start a project because it seems to be too big to ever finish properly? Do you find yourself doing anything else, perhaps even cleaning your room, rather than the work? As the due date looms, do you start to panic because you have not left enough time to complete tasks to the best of your ability? This is known as procrastination.

Sometimes the reluctance to start work is understandable. A big project or assessment task can seem to be overwhelming. Replace negative self-talk such as "I can't do it." with positive thoughts and plans around how you can do it! The solution is to be organised by using a simple schedule.

Your first step should be to carefully read the assessment requirements. If you are not sure what they are, ask your teacher. Your teacher will be happy to make sure that you fully understand what needs to be done.

Next, look at how the task can be broken up into a number of smaller achievable goals. (This is known as chunking.) Once you have decided what the smaller steps should be, check how much time you have available. Draw yourself up a timeline or schedule. Place these smaller goals into the plan. However, it is important to make sure that you have included time for regular activities such as dance classes or sport. An example of a week 1 schedule might be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thurs</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet Research on dragons</td>
<td>Dance class</td>
<td>Further library research and making a bibliography</td>
<td>Plan poster; design make list of materials required</td>
<td>Buy poster materials; start ruling up poster</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Free Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
<td>1-1½ hours</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By creating a timeline which has the completion of all work a few days before it is due, you will be able to work steadily and complete your assessment task with less stress. This will allow you extra time should there be any computer issues, family commitments or problems that affect your finishing on time.

Stick closely to your plan. Each small step that you complete is one step closer to finishing. (A journey of a thousand miles must start with the first step.) Before you know it, you will have reached your final goal. When your work is all finished, carefully checked and handed in, make sure that you celebrate a job well done!

Finally, don’t forget, we have the 324 Homework Centre open on Mondays and Tuesdays between 3-4pm. Teachers are available to help you with tasks and advice for any issues that you may have with schoolwork.

Mrs Sally Pankhurst
Head Teacher Engagement

Sydney Tower Challenge

On 24 August I challenged myself and climbed the stairs of Sydney Tower. There were 1504 steps to conquer and although I did struggle with the winding stairs, the heat and confined space, I thought this is nothing compared to living with autism. I did this for my sister, Hannah and the 90 students of Giant Steps. This is a school specifically for autistic children and relies on the generous donations of others to operate. On Sunday, my team ‘Hannah’s Climbing Crew’ raised just over $3,000, while the total event raised just under $150,000. I was inspired to see the elderly, the disabled and overweight people all trek up those stairs and make it to the top!

Yasmin K.
Year 8 student

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received awards:

**Bronze Award**
Year 7: Ashley C., Amy H., Samira H., Reza K., Stephanie K., Gitta K., Jiayi L., Sophia R., Phakakoew Koy S., Judith T. and Heidi X.
Year 9: Ojasvi G. and Lucretia N.

**Silver Award**
Year 7: Lizz G.
Year 8: Sophie G.
Year 9: Angela H.

**Gold Award**
Year 8: Sophie G.
Year 9: Angela H.

**Important Reminder:**

Students are to travel directly to and from school before and after school. Students are not to loiter around Penshurst shops.

When in our community, we expect exemplary behaviour from our students. Each girl is the caretaker of our school’s reputation and this responsibility is an important one.

We expect the highest standards, in behaviour, in uniform and in citizenship. The reputation that we create now is the legacy all girls will benefit from in the future.

Ms Noeline Ross
Hello all

Well half the year has already gone! As you are all aware we recently showcased the amazing talent within both GRC Penshurst Girls and Hurstville Boys Campuses in our school production of ‘Man of Steel’. What an amazing production. Congratulations to all the wonderful cast and backstage crew on a truly great production. Special thanks to Mrs Bell, Mrs Thomson and all the staff for their efforts in organising the show.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 September at 7.00pm in the Staff Common Room.

Our guest speaker will be Ms Noeline Ross, Principal, who will be providing information to us regarding skills our girls need to be successful in the 21st Century and ways parents can support their daughters in their learning at home. This was carried over from our last meeting.

Our recycled uniform shop will be open on the following dates - 31 October and 28 November 2014. If anyone would like to donate their old school uniforms it would be greatly appreciated, so we can keep our uniform shop stocked.

If you would like to be added to the P&C’s mailing list to be kept up to date with the P&C minutes please contact me.

Mrs Helen James - P&C President
Mobile: 0410 296 092
Email: helenjames6@optusnet.com.au

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Chinese Translation

The Principal’s Report translated into Chinese is available on the website a few weeks after the publication date.

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Second-hand Uniform Shop

Friday 31 October from 7.45am to 8.20am

P & C Meeting

Tuesday 21 October 7.00pm
Staff Common Room
All welcome!

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Library Homework Centre

When??? On Mondays and Tuesdays in the Library

324 It’s FREE

It is in the Homework Centre, a Maths teacher is available on both days ....

Other specialty teachers are also available.
A teacher list will be in the Library.

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NAIDOC Week Assembly

This term began with our NAIDOC week assembly. NAIDOC week is an opportunity for all Australians to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.

It is an opportunity to learn about, reflect upon and acknowledge the unique contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made to the development of Australia.

The NAIDOC theme for 2014 was Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond. This theme honours all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have fought in defence of country, and not just in the World Wars.

The school community was privileged to have guest speakers who shared their stories and their heritage with us. We also had proud students from GRC Peakhurst Campus who came to present awards and share the meaning of NAIDOC week. There was also a fantastic performance by the indigenous dance troupe from Matraville Sports High School who shared their creative and cultural expression through dance.

Understanding and appreciating this rich cultural heritage is the foundation of understanding what it means to be an Australian. Thank you to Mrs Chochula for organising the assembly and to Ms McGarrity for liaising with Matraville Sports High School and securing their talented performers.

Ms Noeline Ross

Entertainment Books

This is your last chance to purchase your copy from the Front Office.

Sydney and Sydney North come together in one big Book!

Introducing the 20th Anniversary Sydney Edition incorporating Sydney and Sydney North in one Book! Discover hundreds of valuable offers up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for many of the best restaurants, arts, attractions, hotels, tours, shopping and much, much more!