



Kenwyn St  
 Hurstville NSW 2220  
 Subscribe: <http://grchurstville.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: [hurstvillb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:hurstvillb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
 Phone: 02 9587 3199  
 Fax: 02 9553 8264



3 March 2017

## Principal's Report

Firstly, I would like to welcome all new families and welcome back to all students and families, we are looking forward to a productive year of learning at GRC Hurstville Boys Campus.

### Staff Changes

Welcome to Mr B. Robin to take our newly formed Stage 4 Autism class, Miss M. Allen to the PDHPE Faculty, Mr D Tipple as relieving Head Teacher TAS and Visual Arts, Mr D. Polyzoidis to the TAS Faculty and Miss L. Kelly also to the TAS Faculty.

At the time of printing we are conducting 2 merit selection panels:

1. Newly established Head Teacher Special Education and
2. Autism teacher (for our Stage 5 class)

During Term 1 Mrs Saffery is acting Head Teacher Special Education and Mr Myhill is Head Teacher Mentor to help new teachers to our school transition to practices and programs. Welcome back to Mrs Loughlin who returns part time from maternity leave. Mrs Loughlin will be Head Teacher English Mondays to Wednesday and Ms Stauss will be relieving Head Teacher on Thursdays and Fridays.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

### Why Does Attendance Matter?

Australian research shows that attendance matters for achievement. The more a child misses school, the worse things get for academic performance.

Regular attendance not only improves academic results, but enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer

group and assists in building important coping and friendship skills. Confident students are less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour.

Regular attendance relieves stress and makes school easier.

We have a great deal of support here at GRC Hurstville Boys Campus to help students in the form of a School Counsellor, Year Advisors, the Welfare Team, Learning and Support Teachers, Careers Advisor etc. if you feel like you need support, please come and speak to us.

In the next few weeks we will be contacting parents/carers of students whose attendance is causing concern.

Please explain all absences with seven days. This can be done by responding to SMS, by phone, note or in person.

Under the Education Act 1990, all absences must be explained within seven days, it will be recorded as an unjustified absence and this will appear on your child's report.

If you are not receiving a SMS when your child is away could you please notify the school and update your details.

Absences add up quickly!

### 1 Day A Week

Per Term	Per Year	7-12
2 weeks	40 days	1 Year & 1 Term

### 5 Days A Term

Per Term	Per Year	7-12
1 weeks	20 days	120 Days or 2 Terms+

Absences can add up really quickly and can affect your child's academic, social and emotional progress. School attendance is the LAW – every day counts and can make a difference. Be at School!

## LATE IS NOT GREAT! SCHOOL STARTS AT 8.40AM

Being on time is important and at Georges River College, Hurstville Boys Campus, we actively encourage all students to be on time. If you are late please make sure a note is supplied to explain why, with a valid reason. If your child is late without a valid reason the absence will be recorded as an unjustified partial absence and this will appear on your child's report.

### ARE YOU LATE TODAY?

#### DID YOU KNOW?

When you miss just.....	That equals....	Which is .....	And therefore, from kindergarten to Year 12, that is.....
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour a day	½ a day of learning per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year OR nearly a term a year	Over 2½ years of learning
School starts at 8.40am – Get the most out of school, arrive on time!			

### JUSTIFIED & UNJUSTIFIED ABSENCES

We understand that on occasion, your child may need to be absent from school.

JUSTIFIED	UNJUSTIFIED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being unwell, sick, having an infectious disease – doctor's certificate required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sleeping in</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having an unavoidable medical appointment – evidence is required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missed the bus</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attending a recognised religious holiday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic or road works</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. funeral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minding a sibling or</li> </ul>

JUSTIFIED	UNJUSTIFIED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>helping a parent at home</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview with school personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shopping</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus delayed – school will verify</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hair cut or other non-urgent appointment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved leave granted by the Principal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undisclosed "family issues" or "personal reasons"</li> </ul>

Parents are required to **provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence**. Parents can contact the school by telephone, written note, text message or email. Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe, the school will record the absence as unjustified on your child's record.

**Please note that receipt of a note or verbal explanation from a parent for a listed "unjustified" reason as shown above does not make the absence justified.**

**Leanne Larcombe**  
**Principal**

### Deputy Principal's Report

#### And we're off

Welcome back to all of our students and families and a special welcome to our new year 7's and their families. I hope that everyone enjoyed the break and continues to enjoy this long, hot summer.

Every year we return to school having reflected on the year before informing our new goals and resolutions. Resolutions are all about improvement. I hope that all boys return in 2017 with new directions and aspirations to achieve their academic potential and take steps towards becoming successful quality young gentlemen.

GRC Hurstville Boys Campus prides itself on the quality welfare and resilience programs we offer to the boys. This year already we have students involved in the 3 Bridges Community "own it" program. This highly successful program was delivered last year but called the "Switch" program. It is designed to assist young men to explore and challenge themselves to be leaders in their own lives. The objectives are to improve confidence and resilience, to provide life education and awareness and to link boys with support networks and services.

The Links to Learning with 3 bridges is collaboration with Department of Education and Westfield Hurstville. This program involves 15 boys in total from year 8 and 9 and focuses on supporting students to engage with learning by improving their education, future employment or study and life skills.

Years 7 and 8 will be taking part in the "High Resolves" Global Citizens and Leaders program. The Collective Identity module

provides boys with a deeper understanding of race, diversity and a more deeply felt appreciation of the inherent unity of the human race. The Social Justice module will instil a personal sense of responsibility to make the world a fairer place.

Year 10 will be engaging with the Business Concierge program later this term. This will prepare boys to prepare a resume and with skills to getting a part time job.

Whilst these courses attract a small cost, I have been able to get funding to significantly reduce it. I ask that you get the money into the school promptly after you son brings home the information/ permission note.

At GRC Hurstville Boys Campus we value student welfare and discipline as an important aspect of a conducive learning environment for everybody. We are a Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) school, that provides a balanced approach to discipline and welfare, based on developing student responsibilities encouraging our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence.

In demonstrating these values, I ask that you support us in making sure that your son is in full school uniform every day including leather shoes. Sneakers can only be worn by year 8, 9 and 10 boys on Wednesday sport day. Year 7's need to bring their sport uniform and sport shoes in their bags, when they have sport and PE practical lessons timetabled.

Our Schools procedures are well outlined in your son's diary. Ask him to sit with you and go through it together. Also discuss our "Use Another Word" strategy and sign the pledge. We presented this strategy at assembly recently and we would love you to use it at home to reinforce that we will not tolerate disrespectful language in our wonderfully diverse and multicultural school.

Attendance every day and punctuality to school is expected, unless a student is seriously ill. Lateness is not acceptable without a very good reason and is regularly checked. A text message is sent to parents when their son is absent or late. Please send a note of explanation on the day your son returns to school.

I would like to inform all parents that we run a homework centre every Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 3.15pm to 4.15pm in the school library. Staff are available to help your son with homework and assessment tasks and it is FREE.

Our P and C is a small group of passionate parents and staff who support the teaching and learning at the school. Carolynne Farrell (parent of Nathan Farrell year 8) is our president. We would like to grow this team with new parents particularly year 7 parents. If you would like to be part of the decision making 'engine' of the school please send an email to aphrodite.cox@det.nsw.edu.au. Our first meeting is on Monday 6th March at 5.30pm. Meet at the front administration office.

I really look forward to a highly successful year for all boys and for continued positive partnerships and support from our school community.

**Aphrodite Cox**  
**Deputy Principal**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Term Dates	Event
Term 1 2017	
March	
6	P&C Meeting 5.30pm
16	Sydney Trains School Program Years 9 & 10
17	Recognition of Student Excellence Assembly (ROSE) for T1 2017
21	Harmony Day
31	School Cross Country Carnival
April	
7	Last day of Term 1
Term 2 2017	
April	
26	Students return
May	
4	Year 7 2nd Vaccinations
16	Zone Cross Country
22	Year 10 Exams Week; Year 8 Assessment Week
29	Year 9 Exams Week; Year 7 Assessment Week
June	
12	Queens Birthday Public Holiday
19	P&C Meeting 6.00pm
26,27	Zone Athletics Day 1 & 2
27	Oatley Curriculum Expo 4pm to 7pm
30	Last Day of Term 2

## GRC Hurstville Boys Campus 'Mentoring Program'.



### GRC Hurstville Boys Campus 'Mentoring Program'.

Welcome back everyone for 2017. By now all students have settled into the new year and are actively engaged in their learning. After having taken leave during Term 4 last year, I have returned to our school this term in the role as *Head Teacher Mentor*, while

Mr Waterworth will continue in the role of relieving Head Teacher HSIE.

The 'Mentoring Program' that I am undertaking, is designed to provide support for newly appointed teachers to our school, assist with the integration of teachers who have joined our staff from the other schools within our college and provide guidance to our newly appointed Head Teachers.

The program has been developed to personally meet the needs of each staff member involved, depending on their level of experience, position held at school and current knowledge of the daily operations of GRC Hurstville Boys. As a result of this, the program is designed to support the professional growth of our new teachers who benefit from having regular meetings with experienced staff members.

No doubt this will assist our new members of staff to settle quickly into our school, so that they can then focus on meeting the needs of all our students and the high expectations that parents have of our teachers at GRC Hurstville Boys Campus.

**Mr Myhill**  
**Head Teacher Mentor**

## 2016 HSC Results

Congratulations to our 2016 Year 12 students who, individually and collectively, performed very well in last year's Higher School Certificate (HSC). There is an expectation that we will do well, that our students will be stretched and challenged and that our teachers will do their very best – and more! – to assist students in realising their potential.

- **HSC DUX** - Nerisa Grace Chan (ATAR - 96.9)
- **ATAR >90** - 23 students achieved an ATAR result of 90 or greater
- **Top Achievers List**
  - **Thanh Ly** Chinese Beginners 1st in State
  - **Hicham Jansis** Arabic Extension 1st in State
  - **Panagiota Damigou** Modern Greek Continuers 1st in State
  - **Jasmine Handsaker** Tourism, Travel and Events 1st in State
  - **Nerisa Grace Chan** Business Services
- **HSC Distinguished Achievers List** - 53 students were named on the list
  - 95 Band 6 / E4 were awarded
  - 507 Band 5 / E3 were awarded
  - 634 Band 4 / E2 were awarded
- **Major Works Excellence Nominations**
  - **Call back 2016** Isabella Russell for Dance. Nominated in 3 categories:
    - Major performance
    - Core performance
    - Core composition.
  - **Space 2016**  
Vaughan Griffin for Design and Technology  
This major work was subsequently selected for exhibit at The Powerhouse Museum
- **TAFE Credentials**
  - 126 students received TAFE credentials
  - Six courses delivered on site at GRC Oatley Senior Campus.

- **Vocational Education and Training (VET)**
  - 121 students gained Australian Vocational Framework Qualifications
- **Notable Course Results in 2016**
  - English Extension 2 – 100% of students in Bands E3 and E4
  - English Extension 1 – 100% of students in Bands E3 and E4
  - Chinese Background Speakers – 86% of students in Bands 5 and 6
  - History Extension - 84% of students in Bands E3 and E4
  - Mathematics Extension 1 – 82% of students in Bands E3 and E4
  - Mathematics Extension 2 – 87% of students in Bands E3 and E4
- **Subjects with a state vs school mean >2**
  - Business Services VET
  - Entertainment VET
  - French Beginners Hospitality – Food and Beverage VET
  - Hospitality - Kitchen Operations VET
- **Subjects with > % of Bands 5 and 6 compared to the state**
  - Ancient History
  - Business Studies
  - Chinese Background Speakers
  - Community and Family Studies
  - English Standard
  - English Extension 1
  - English Extension 2
  - History Extension
  - Mathematics Extension 1
  - Mathematics Extension 2
  - PDHPE
  - Senior Science
  - Visual Arts

Congratulations to our Year 12 , 2016 and their teachers for the excellent HSC results.

GRC Oatley is proud to be a comprehensive school catering for both academic students seeking university entry and those seeking an alternative curriculum and entry to TAFE and employment.

## ENGLISH REPORT

### Welcome

The English Faculty would like to extend a warm welcome to the parents of our Year 7 students, as well as the parents of returning Year 8, 9 and 10 students. English is the national language of Australia and is the internationally recognised language of business and commerce. Therefore, mastering English should be at the top of your son's educational priority list. Conquering the English language can be challenging, frustrating and time-consuming, but it is a necessary component of your son's education. In English, students will

learn about the power, value and art of the English language for communication, knowledge and enjoyment.

This year, the English Faculty will be focusing on improving students' writing. Students have completed a pre-test to determine their existing literacy skills against the NSW 7-10 Literacy Continuum writing clusters. We will be working on improving students' paragraphing, sentence structure, punctuation, spelling and vocabulary.

## Year 7

This term, Year 7 will be completing a unit on 'Identity'. They will write their own autobiography and complete 'Who am I?' activities, as well as read extracts from biographies, short stories and picture books. Students will be introduced to the Super Six Comprehension strategies in this unit, learn about the features of narratives, and key terms in visual literacy.

## Year 8

Year 8 are starting the year with a 'Multiculturalism' unit. Students will consolidate their skills in poetry analysis, and the identification and understanding of literary techniques. Specifically, students will read both Indigenous and non-Indigenous poems to begin the year. They will then explore the concept of multiculturalism and read a class novel.

## Year 9

Year 9 are starting the year with a 'Heroes and Villains' unit of study. The focus of this unit will be on drama and students will begin the year exploring conflict, stage directions, dramatic techniques, improvisation and the elements of a narrative. Students will then read and perform the play 'Frankenstein'.

## Year 10

This term, Year 10 will be completing a unit on 'Justice'. Students will research issues in the media that relate to social justice to develop their understanding of the concept. Students will also explore this issue in a prescribed novel and a film later in the term.

It is paramount that students complete all assessment tasks on time and to the best of their ability. This year, they will receive a RoSA, which means that they must be present on the day of all assessments and submit all tasks. If they do not do this, students will receive a zero mark unless they submit a medical certificate – no exceptions.

## Competitions

This year, our students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitions to develop their public speaking skills, writing skills and teamwork.

## Debating

Firstly, students may participate in the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge which begins this term. We are hoping for one year 7 and 8 debating team and one year 9 and 10 debating team. The aim of the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge is to develop students' public speaking and reasoning skills, and assist them in developing their exposition writing abilities.

In order for our students to adequately prepare for this debating competition, students will participate in three afternoon

workshops to advance their knowledge of the roles of each speaker and to research current events to prepare them for possible debate topics. They will also practise developing a teamline, organising rebuttal, structuring arguments and examples, and utilising their time effectively during the one hour preparation.

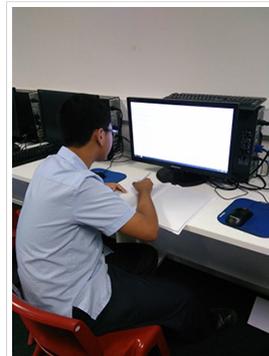
Every debate in the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge is a one hour preparation debate. Teams will not know the topic or which side of the debate they are on until one hour before the debate starts. Once the preparation time is up, three speakers from the team will take turn to speak for eight minutes and present the team's case.

The English Faculty wishes all students a productive year with their learning and encourages all boys to work to the best of their ability in class and at home. If any parents wish to discuss the progress of their son, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**Cally Loughlin and Kim Strauss**  
**English Head Teachers**

## News from the Library

The GRC Hurstville Boys Campus Library is open for students every morning from 8:15 and every recess and lunch break. Students are welcome to browse the ever growing collection, play games and use the computers for homework and assignments. We remind you to be respectful of others by minimising noise and be responsible by leaving the library tidy.



**Marlene Sander**  
**Teacher Librarian**

## THE PDHPE FACULTY

2017 has commenced in a busy fashion for the PDHPE staff. Grade sport trials are now complete and teams have been selected. Summer grade competition begins in Week 5, Wednesday February 22. Students and parents are reminded that permission notes must be signed and returned to the PDHPE staff in order for students to leave the school premises. Fees also need to be paid by Wednesday of week 5. An instalment of (**at least \$40**) to cover Term 1 summer sport must be paid so students can participate in their chosen sport.

As always Term 1 is busy for students and staff. On February 28 our school will hold its annual swimming carnival at Sans Souci Leisure Centre. Parents are welcome to attend and watch their sons' swim if they wish. Students will be transported from school to the pool via bus and will return to school by 3:10pm. This like all school carnivals is a **compulsory** school day and attendance is mandatory. Students have also been given a permission note that includes information for the Athletics Carnival too and students are encouraged to make a payment for that as well. The School Cross Country Carnival will also be held this term in Week 10, Friday March 31.

As we get into the swing of things students are reminded of the School Sport uniform. All students who participate in PE and/or PASS must change into their full Sport uniform at the beginning of PE/PASS lessons. The school PE uniform consists of school PE shirt and shorts. Students' must wear supportive athletic shoes so that injuries are prevented as student wellbeing is paramount.

### **The PD/H/PE Faculty**

**Mr Moore, Ms Sheehy, Mr Rea, Mr Laverance**

## The School Student Transport Scheme

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) provides eligible school students with free or subsidised travel on public transport between home and school, on trains, buses, ferries and long distance coach services.

If a student lives too close to the school to be eligible, they may still be eligible for a School Term Bus Pass which provides discounted travel on buses between home and school for the whole school term. Additionally, eligible students can now apply for travel on light rail .

In areas where there is no public transport eligible NSW residents may receive a subsidy for private vehicles for driving the student to school.

Students with a disability who are unable to travel to and from school under the School Student Transport Scheme may be eligible for assistance under the Department of Education Assisted School Travel Program opens in new window .

You can now apply online regardless of whether the student needs to travel inside the Opal network or in rural or regional areas.

The online application also now covers day students, boarding school students who need daily travel to school from a

term-time address and TAFE school students under 18 years of age.

Depending on the transport operators you select for the school journey, we will advise you whether the student will receive a School Opal card or a rural/regional school travel pass (or passes).

