

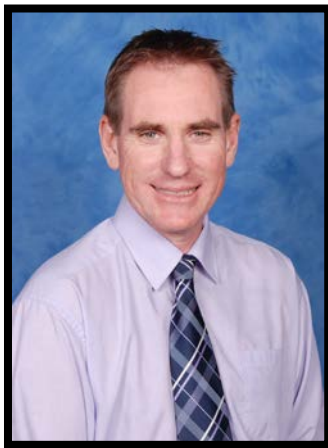


# PENSHURST GIRLS CAMPUS

## NEWSLETTER

Term 1  
14 February 2014

### Principal's Report



Welcome back to a most positive start to the 2014 academic year at Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus. Everyone including staff and students have had a relaxing summer break and are extremely motivated for the start of another educational journey this year.

Late last year our Principal Anne Ross was appointed Director Georges River Network, this position involves working with and supporting 38 Primary and High schools in the Georges River area. We all wish Anne the very best in her new position and look forward to working with her in her new and extremely important role. This appointment will result in the selection of a new Principal and this process has begun this week and should conclude by the end of term.

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus celebrated exceptional **Higher School Certificate** results at the end of last year.

- HSC DUX achieving 98.7
- Two first, one second and one 18th in NSW
- 113 students named on HSC Distinguished Achiever's list
- 115 students gained dual HSC and TAFE credentials
- 153 students gained Australian VET Framework qualifications
- Numerous HSC major works projects that were chosen for HSC Showcase events.

At Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus we also focus on the education of the whole person by offering a wide range of extra-curricula learning experiences for the students. We will build on the successes of 2013 and look forward to a variety of programs in 2014 which will include:

- **Georges River College Band** program continues with Stage and Concert Band. Our campus will also continue the Vocal Group and music tutorials as well a new Rock Band.
- The **Creative and Performing Arts** across the college will build on the success of "Henry" in 2013 and stage a musical in Week 5 of Term 3.
- **Multicultural and Language program** continues with visits from Chukushi, Kojimachi as well as Italy and Japanese trips.
- **Sporting programs** continue to be integral to student fitness and wellbeing, Year 7 will continue to have the opportunity for grade representation. Programs such as Jump Rope for Heart, the Premier's Sporting Challenge, carnivals, grade sport and knock-out competitions will challenge and engage our elite sporting girls.
- **Student leadership** opportunities will continue with the SRC, Peer Support Leaders, Peer Mediators, Peer Tutors, House Captains, Social Justice Group, Duke of Edinburgh and Volunteer program.
- **Transition and Gifted and Talented programs** from Year 7 to Year 10 will build on the many existing successful programs as well as embrace the newly appointed Campus Engagement Head Teacher Sally Pankhurst. 2014 will see new transition projects with feeder primary schools around gifted and talented teaching and learning programs.
- **Student Welfare** programs will be further enriched with PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) introduced across the College in 2014. The program is designed to prevent problem behaviour and reward positive behaviour by explicitly teaching and reinforcing appropriate behaviour. The launch day for PBL is 28 February.
- Extended **Learning Support** Programs across Year 9 and 10, Career Pathway strategies in Year 10, the Homework Centre in the library and ESL programs across the key learning areas.

#### **BYOD - Bring Your Own Device**

The Bring Your Own Device policy is being formulated for Year 9, allowing students to bring a mobile device (not a phone) to school to enhance and support their learning. Before the girls can bring a device they will need to sign a user charter outlining their responsibilities and rules for the correct use and management.

We will have a Device Day later this term to allow Year 9 girls to test their devices prior to bringing them full time to school. The **key test** is the connection to the schools wireless network. The department's Wi-Fi network installed in high schools operates on the **802.11n 5Ghz standard**

WiFi 802.11 (a,b,g,n). Devices that do not support this standard will not be able to connect.

If parents are unsure if their daughters' device will connect please call Ms Zhou our TSO (Technical Support Officer) on 9580 3141 ex 144.

For Parents who are experiencing financial difficulty don't worry. Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus have numerous older DER laptops that the girls can borrow from the TSO Ms Zhou. These laptops are fully functioning, have all the necessary software and can connect to the wireless network.

In 2014 we will be investing in more mobile devices to support teaching and learning. These devices will be stationed in the Library and supported by our Computer coordinator Ms Kimber and TSO Ms Zhou.

### **School safety a reminder**

The safety of our students before, during and after school is of prime importance. One issue that has been raised by community members, P&C, staff and students is the pedestrian crossing opposite the school's front entrance. In working with our school community, staff at Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus will be monitoring the crossing in the morning and afternoon. This monitoring will assist the girls to cross in a safe manner and should also allow improved traffic flow and reduce driver frustration.

To help support the safety of our girls I would ask parents and carers to be particularly careful in dropping off and picking up your child in the morning and afternoon. There are significant fines and loss of points when double parking, stopping in a bus zone or stopping across a driveway. The practice which is of most concern is when parents stop on or near the marked foot crossing. This can result in a fine of \$405.00 and two demerit points, but more importantly places the students at greater risk of harm.

To make our school a safer place I would encourage parents to use our drop off zone on Austral Street. The drop off zone is on the left hand side heading north just after the school crossing. The

use of a 'No Parking' zone is only to drop off and pick up passengers, for a maximum of two minutes, and stay with your vehicle. The time of these zones are 8.00 - 9.30 am and 2.30 - 4.00 pm each school day.

*Mr Mark Treacy  
Acting Principal*

**Penshurst Girls Campus**  
Open Night – Monday 3 March  
5.00pm - 7.30pm

- Information session
- Student led campus tours
- Presentation and performances highlighting the rich opportunities offered by GRC Penshurst Girls Campus

<http://www.grc.nsw.edu.au/penshurst-girls>  
PRINCIPAL: Anne Ross  
Enquiries: 02 9580 3141



## **INVITATION**

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 7 Students

The GRC Penshurst Girls Campus P&C would like to extend an invitation for you to join us at the annual

### **2014 WELCOME EVENING**

**Tuesday 18 February 2014**

**GRC Penshurst Girls Campus – School Hall**

**6:30pm – 8:00pm**

It is an informal evening where members of the school community will be able to meet other parents from Year 7 and to chat to teachers. You will also have an opportunity to meet the P&C Committee.

The evening will commence with an official welcome, information of the Year 7 curriculum will be available and performances from the talented girls at Penshurst.

Two members of staff, one Mandarin speaking and one Cantonese speaking will be in attendance to support language requirements for parents.

The P&C will be providing complimentary finger food and light refreshments throughout the evening.

Looking forward to meeting and greeting new parents to our school.

Helen James, Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus P&C President





# Languages Matters

## *Broaden your Horizons*

Learning languages gives you more than just the ability to read, write and speak in a language other than your own. On a community level it promotes cultural awareness and understanding, enriching the lives of all Australians.

Current trends in globalisation mean that employers seek culturally diverse workforces. The ability to speak more than one language significantly increases your employability, career mobility and chances of promotion.

At Peshurst, we have been delighted with the dedication and enthusiasm of students learning Japanese, Italian and Chinese. Throughout the year there will be many opportunities for students to be involved in rich activities such as Short-Film and Essay Competitions, Online language learning activities and authentic cultural, craft and cooking activities such as making Carnevale masks, Origami (paper folding), and Calligraphy as well as cooking delicious foods such as Chinese noodles and Spring rolls.

## *Saturday School of Community Languages and Open High School*

Languages can extend subject choices and give students a greater appreciation of their own language and culture. Students who wish to study a language which is not offered at Peshurst Girls can enrol to study through the Open High School or the Saturday School of Community Languages. Please come and see one of us as soon as possible in the Languages staffroom if you want to find out more about the languages available or to enrol.

## *Language Perfect [www.languageperfect.com](http://www.languageperfect.com)*

Students can access the Language Perfect website and be involved in the Language Perfect World Championship. So log on and start practising your language skills! If you are studying a language outside of school such as at Saturday School or Open High school, please come and see us if you would like access to this fantastic language learning website.

"The limits of my language are the limits of my universe."  
Ludwig Wittgenstein

*Mrs Janelle Byrne, Mrs Maree Nesci and Ms Vicky Kuang  
Languages Faculty*

## Student Eyecare Program

The school is pleased to announce that it will be running the FREE Student Eyecare Program during Term 1. The optometrist, Janey Alderman, will be onsite during school hours to provide students with a comprehensive eye examination. This will be done by appointment only. Each attendee will receive an individual report regarding their eye health and a



prescription will be provided if glasses are required. Please note that this service does not sell glasses and the prescription can be taken to any optometry store.

The program's aim is to detect visual problems that may interfere with your child's learning abilities and subsequently hinder their academic potential. The Student Eyecare health service is available to local students and is free as it is covered by Medicare Australia.

Students received an information letter about the program in Roll Call. This note contained a cut off slip for parents to complete and return to the school. Parents need to indicate on this slip if they would or would not like their daughter's eyes to be examined at school.

If you have any questions regarding the Student Eyecare Program please contact Alison Edeling (Relieving Head Teacher Welfare) via the Office on 9580 3141.

## Yr 7 Vaccination Schedule

The NSW Ministry of Health offers all Year 7 students free vaccinations recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council. These vaccines are important and protect students through to adulthood. All Year 7 students

### Upcoming Dates

#### *Term Dates 2014*

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| Term 1: | 30/01 - 11/04 |
| Term 2: | 29/04 - 27/06 |
| Term 3: | 15/07 - 19/09 |
| Term 4: | 07/10 - 17/12 |

#### *Term 1 2014*

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 18/02    | Year 7 Welcome Evening                 |
| 20/02    | School Photos                          |
| 21/02    | Year 7 Vaccinations                    |
| 24/02    | School Swimming Carnival               |
| 3 & 7/03 | St George Zone Swimming Carnival       |
| 5-7/03   | Year 7 Camp                            |
| 11/03    | Chukushi Visit                         |
| 14/03    | Year 10 Geography Excursion            |
| 18/03    | P&C Meeting                            |
| 19/03    | Sydney East Regional Swimming Carnival |
| 21/03    | Year 10 Mock Interviews                |
| 28/03    | SRC Induction                          |
| 01/04    | School Cross Country Carnival          |
| 7 & 8/04 | CHS State Swimming Carnival            |
| 11/04    | ANZAC Day Assembly                     |
| 11/04    | Last day of Term 1                     |

#### *Term 2 2014*

|       |                                |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 28/04 | Staff return - Development Day |
| 29/04 | All students return to school  |
| 07/05 | Kojimachi Visit                |
| 27/05 | School Athletics Carnival      |

received an information package on the course of vaccinations provided during their orientation program.

At Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus the 2014 NSW Vaccination Program for Year 7 will be taking place on the following dates:

Visit 1: Friday 21 February 2014

Visit 2: Friday 23 May 2014

Visit 3: Friday 19 September 2014

If you have any questions about the program please contact Alison Edeling - Relieving Head Teacher Welfare on 9580 3141 or the Immunisation Unit of Public Health on 9382 8333.

## Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received awards:

### Bronze Award

Year 8: Vicky X. and Jennifer L.

### Gold Award

Year 10, 2013: Elaine T.

## Parent Tips

### Ready for high school

Can you recall what you were most apprehensive about when you started high school? This video of Year 7 students explain why teens shouldn't be worried about starting high school, and how they can get off to a great start in the first few days.

Watch the videos:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/what-happens-in-year-7>

### Kik messenger

Does your child use Kik? Police have described it as "the No.1 social media problem involving teenagers", but most parents would barely have heard of messaging app Kik before last week.

Find out what it is:

[http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology\\_glossary/7wOF/5353/Kik+messenger](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology_glossary/7wOF/5353/Kik+messenger)

Why cyber safety experts are concerned:  
<http://www.smh.com.au/digital-life/digital-life-news/experts-warn-of-apps-hidden-dangers-20131130-2yif3.html#ixzz2mYlkXFyd>

## 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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## Secondhand Textbooks

The Sustainable School Shop is Australia's largest resource of second-hand textbooks for secondary schools, and is used by many families and schools across Australia.

All families can easily access these texts by registering on the Sustainable School Shop website ([www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)), which is free.

Sustainable School Shop - 1300 683 337

## GRC Penshurst Girls Campus

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PENSHURST NSW 2222

PH: 9580 3141

FAX: 9580 6373

Email:

[penshurstg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:penshurstg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Website:

<http://www.penshurstg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

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**WHEN?**  
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Janet McEwen 9580 8008  
E: [Janet.McEwen@youthzone.com.au](mailto:Janet.McEwen@youthzone.com.au)  
[www.poledepot.org](http://www.poledepot.org)

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# P & C Chat Time

Hello all

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and your girls are settling into 2014.

Welcome to all our New Year 7 parents and students, I hope you all are settling into GRC.

Our next meeting will be held 18 March 2014; there will be a short AGM meeting at 7.00pm followed by the usual P&C meeting.

Special guest speaker will be Mr Mark Treacy, Acting Principal, who will be speaking about the Year 7 Assessment Booklet and Procedures whilst the focus is on Year 7 the principal is the same for Year's 8-10 as well so all parents can benefit from this evening.

If anyone would like to donate their old school uniforms it would be greatly appreciated, we are trying to build up our stock, so we will be able to open our "Uniform Shop".

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*

## Photo Gallery

