OPERATION PHOENIX

WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS THE GOAL? HOW WILL IT HAPPEN?

WHO WE ARE:

Operation Phoenix is Golden Grove High School's extension of the Change Makers from the Professor Zhao Entrepreneural Network. The operation consists of students that aim to change the culture of their school. They have the guidance of their teachers, but all ideas, goals and actions are made by the students.
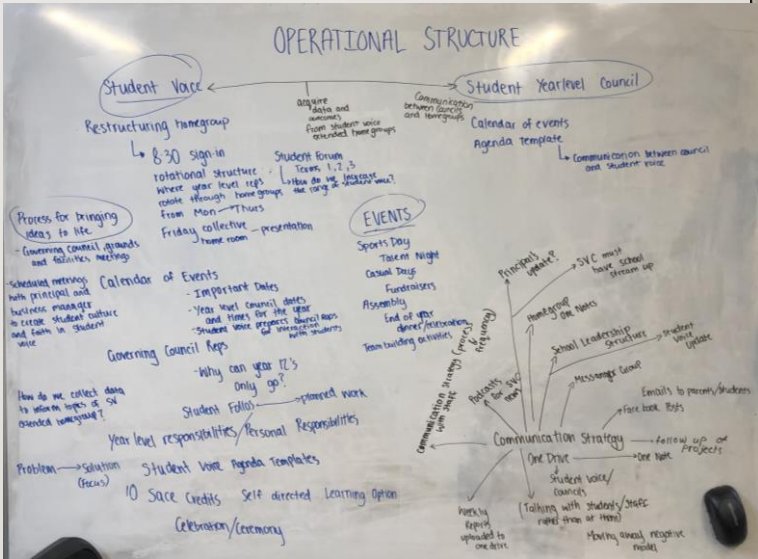
Golden Grove suffers from a lack of culture, and that is what Operation Phoenix wants to fix; to create a better school culture. This is a broad goal that we are aiming for and a few of the processes that will be undertaken are present within this presentation.
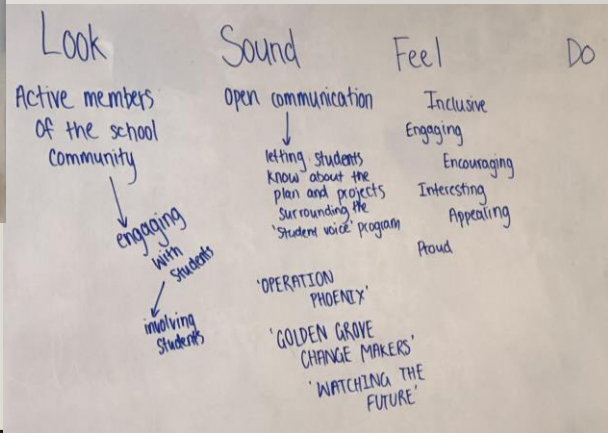
PROCESSES

MEETINGS, DISCUSSIONS, PLANNING AND ACTIONS

- During lunchtimes, Operation Phoenix and teachers met to start planning how we were going to change the school culture. As with all plans; mind maps, dot points and lots of talking were the main focus of the meetings.

STARTING TO TAKE ACTION

- After realising that to start changing the culture, Student Voice had to be changed, we started planning how we would re-model the structure. This would be the first set of actions that the Operation Pheonix team would make.

- While these projects started happening behind the scenes, a student forum was planned to gain the students opinion on how they would want their culture to be improved. The biggest issue that we knew could resolve was the lack of pride and respect students had for our school bathrooms. This project became student voice's responsibility, and we hoped by taking on this task we would be able to develop our ideas and make progress on our goal.

STUDENT FORUM

STUDENT THOUGHTS, FEEDBACK AND IDEAS

A forum that focused on the students and thier opinions about the school

- One of the first things discussed in the meetings was getting the students thoughts and opinions on what they wanted to see in the school. We felt, that to improve the culture, we had to really get the students involved so that they felt their voice was truly being heard.

- A student forum was designed to survey a random selection of students across the school. This forum consisted of activities that resembled Professor Yong Zhao's leadership structure. The students produced ideas to make their school a better place, then started planning how they would make that happen.

STUDENT THOUGHTS, FEEDBACK AND IDEAS

- Students continuously mentioned that they felt they were not being heard. That they didn't like the school environment and that they had no support from teachers. They said to resolve these issues, they wanted, problems to be followed through and be resolved, have a more creative and cleaner school environment and to have the teachers be more understanding.

- As important as hearing the student's opinions is, we also needed to know what the teachers thought. The most common response teachers had for how they wanted to improve the school and interaction with students, was to have classes be more enjoyable and casual. They thought about activities that would connect students with teachers and how they could improve their own attitudes to make this successful.

REMODELING STUDENT VOICE

MAKING CHANGES TO CONSTRUCT A MORE PRODUCTIVE STUDENT VOICE

- Student Voice in our opinion, is a tokenistic platform. By discussing what student voice is and does, it became obvious that student voice did not evoke a positive response amongst the students. It was more of a label known for saying problems would be fixed, but nothing would be resolved. By moving away from the tokenistic platform, that are more event organisers than an accurate representation of the school's "voice", we could see massive changes and improvements within our school community and further our goal of changing a culture.

STUDENT VOICE PORTFOLIOS

The current portfolios are Grounds and Services, Community Development, Wellbeing and Defense.

- These portfolios are the main focus for student voice and any work that is done is always based on the portfolios and what they each stand for..

- Given that these portfolios where created when they were relevant to what the was needed for the school at the time, some are now outdated and unnecessary. We now believe that they should be adjusted or changed accordingly so that they are best suited to what the school currently needs and to enforce the culture shift that we are aiming for in GGHS.

INTERACTION WITH GGHS HOMEGROUPS

DO THE STUDENTS FEEL THAT THEY HAVE A VOICE?

- We already knew that the students did not feel that they were being heard and so to improve this and to create more opportunities for feedback to be given on the school we have brainstormed some ideas to make this happen.

- To change this we have decided that instead of student voice being centered around their homegroup location they would be out and interacting with other homegroups for around 2-3 days each week. This would help to develop stronger relationships with other students and encourage more students to step up and use their voice.

COUNCILS AND CONNECTIONS

REMODELING THE COUNCILS, REESTABLISHING ROLES, CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS, ETC

- Remodeling student voice was connected to remodeling the councils. Distinguishing the difference between the student council and student voice was confusing. Therefore, it was decided that this structure had to be changed.

- To do this we are making an outline of what the council is for and what Student Voice is for. By creating this outline it is clear what each group does, and the productivity level is increased.

- Over the years, student voice has become less connected with the rest of the GGHS students and so this year we are making this issue a big priority and making sure that we really listen and take on board their feedback.

THE TOILET PROJECT

CREATING AN INVITING CULTURE

STUDENTS HAVING an INTEREST in THEIR SCHOOL (S.H.I.T.S)

- GGHS has faced troubling behaviors regarding how the toilets are respected in the school. Vandalism of the school toilets has been poor and reflects the lack of pride students have. The conditions of the toilets created major upset amongst staff and students which meant immediate action had to be taken.

- Student Voice put out a survey to collect ideas that the students themselves wanted to see in the newly designed toilets. Thier opinions were very important in order for this project to happen and it was one of the most successful surveys that had student participation. With the feedback received, a new stage of planning began, where designs were being developed.

CONCLUSION

- To conclude this presentation, we have a few clips from the Operation Pheonix team in which they answer the question "Why did you join Operation Pheonix?"

THANK YOU!

GOLDEN GROVE HIGHSCHOOL CHANGE MAKERS

OPERATION PHOENIX