

# St George School Newsletter

Diana Murphy Principal

5 March 2015



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the 2015 school year. We trust that you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

It was a blustery and wet start to the year. We usually feel concerned about the extreme heat and humidity!

We start the year with enthusiasm and high expectations of ourselves and for our students

## Key Dates:

Thursday 5 March –  
P&C Meeting AGM

Friday 20 March –  
School photos

Friday 20 March –  
Coffee & Chat

TBA – Easter Show  
School program  
excursion

Thursday 2 April – Last  
day first term

This year, we welcome four new students to St George School. Our new students are pre-schoolers and will start together in Primary 1. A warm welcome to Joshua Welch who commenced yesterday. Sophie Groll will commence today and Eva Giatsios and Bella-Rose Thiel will commence next week. We trust that our new students and their families will enjoy their time at St George School.

## Classes 2015

As in 2014 we have ten classes. We continue to have three teams: Primary, Middle and Secondary. Primary 2 will be a composite class using the same flexible staffing model that was trialled in 2013 and repeated in 2014. There are two other classes in Primary, two Middle classes and four Secondary classes.

This term your class teacher will contact you regarding a meeting time to develop your child's personalised learning plan. The meeting will set the individual learning priorities for the year. Where necessary, the meeting will also provide the opportunity to review your child's health care plan, any physical management issues and/or therapy recommendations.

## Staffing

Annette Kay assumes the role of relieving Principal on Mondays and Tuesdays this term whilst I continue in the Principal School Leadership role this year. We welcome Annette to this role. Annette is an experienced and successful executive who is highly valued and respected throughout the school. We wish Annette well in her new role.

This year, we welcome Angela Stupar as a permanent member of staff. We welcome Kay Dagli as a temporary School Learning Support Officer. Eve Campbell has increased her days from 2 to 3 days. Leah Ponzio will continue as librarian for one day a week. Monday will be our library day this year.

Many happy returns to our  
January Birthdays



Kate Beardsley- 16 on 21 Jan  
Nicholas Threlfo - 9 on 27 Jan

## Next P&C Meeting

**Thursday  
5 March 2015**

**in the staffroom  
at 11.30am**

**All welcome**

**This meeting will also  
be the Annual  
General Meeting**

## For Sale

This column is for families who wish to sell goods.

No items for sale this fortnight

## Intensive Swimming

We have been successful in engaging Emma Wilson, one of our casual teachers, for intensive swimming. Emma is an experienced special education teacher and a qualified swimming instructor.

Next week the Primary classes and Middle one will have intensive swimming. Swimming (hydrotherapy) for Middle 2 and the Secondary classes will commence in week 3 and not next week. Middle 2 and the Secondary classes will have intensive swimming in week 5 i.e. the week commencing 23 February.

## Curriculum Focus

In 2015, implementation of the national curriculum continues:

- Kindergarten to Year 6 - Mathematics, Science & Technology with History as optional
- Years 8 and 10 - English, Mathematics, Science, History

In 2014, the new English syllabus was introduced for Kindergarten to Year 6. At St George School in 2014 the new English, Mathematics, Science and History syllabuses were introduced to our secondary classes Years 7 – 10.

## Professional Development Day

Last Tuesday, our professional learning day covered the annual mandatory update on Child Protection. Staff also completed mandatory training on the Department of Education and Communities' Code of Conduct.

## School Captains

Congratulations to Aaron McEwan and Gabby Nappa who are our captains. Gabby will share the captaincy with Nasya Hazali who will assume the role in second semester. The official handover of this role occurred at our 2014 Leavers' Assembly. We look forward to our captains representing the school at special events.

## The new School Plan 2015 - 2017

The new school plan will be finalised in the next two weeks.

Our three strategic directions are as follows:

- *Students are engaged and successful in their learning, attain increasing independence and have a voice*
- *A high performing, collaborative staff with a deep understanding of quality teaching and learning and curriculum implementation for students with significant learning needs.*
- *A collaborative stimulating learning community that models values and promotes student ability.*

## Community Notice

Pam and Phillip Miller from Masonicare have been wonderful supporters of St George School for many years. Through the support of Masonicare we have been able to establish and equip the sensory room, enhanced the physical environment and purchased school and learning resources.

Tomorrow evening Pam and Phillip have organized another charity event for the school. I appreciate that it is short notice but if you would like to support this event it will be held at the Mason Club, Roberts Rd Mortdale. See flyer for further information.

### School Contact Details

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