

St George School

Newsletter

6 April 2016



Dates for your diary

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| 7 April | Anzac Day
Commemoration
11.30 Assembly |
| 8 April | Term 1 ends |
| 27 April | School resumes for students |
| 26 May | P&C Meeting |



Principal Message

Dear Parents/Carers

It is difficult to believe that our first term 2016 is drawing to a close this week. It has been a productive term. The most significant event in the school calendar in first term is the planning meeting that teachers hold with parents to set the learning priorities for the year. The support of families in this process is sincerely appreciated.

Annual Report

The St George School Annual report for 2015 will be loaded onto the school website at the end of the week. This report is a summation of the directions, school programs and activities undertaken in 2015. Last year was the first of our three year plan and there is specific reference to our achievements in working towards the goals identified in the plan.

ANZAC Day Commemoration

On Thursday 5 April, a special assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day will be held at school. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Western Front during World War 1. During this assembly the publication *Here They Come - a Day to Remember* will be read. This book shows students that Anzac Day is significant to many Australians, is an important part of Australian community life and is a respectful event containing commemorative traditions and symbols.



Celebrating Student Achievements

Our assemblies provide the opportunity to celebrate student effort and successes. It also provides the opportunity to celebrate birthdays.

Congratulations to our award recipients at our most recent assembly:

Gerasimos Kizi
Lara Palmer
Samuel Sirio
Matthew Chiotis
Vanessa Gazal
Natalie tassone
Liam Mcmanus
Michaela Brown
Nafez Mohamad

Many Happy returns to our April birthdays:

Ruby Balkwell turning 13 on 10 April
Lauren Green turning 15 on 20 April

School Spectacular auditions

Congratulations to our 12 students who auditioned for the 2016 Schools Spectacular. We will hear the outcome of the audition next term. Participation in the Schools Spectacular in 2015 was a rich and rewarding experience for students. We look forward to a similar experience this year.

Harmony Day and Easter Hat Parade

A few weeks ago we held a special assembly to celebrate **Harmony Day**. Harmony Day recognises the diversity of students' cultures and languages. Staff and students represent twenty-eight nationalities at St George School. All students and staff were represented in a banner which exhibited the colours of the flags of 28 nations and was hung in the COLA area. The students played musical instruments and moved to the song 'We are Australian'.

Our Primary classes celebrated Easter with a **Easter Hat parade**. The millinery arrangements were outstanding. Our thanks go to the families and staff who made this event special for the students.





Betty is Leaving

Congratulations
Dr Mak



Best wishes
from all of us.

Congratulations, Farewell and Best Wishes

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Betty Mak at the end of this term. Betty has been an outstanding professional at St George School for approximately 12 years.

For the last two years Betty has worked to have her medical qualifications from Taiwan recognized in Australia. It has been a lengthy and onerous process. Last week, Betty received advice that she is now registered to practice medicine in Australia. Betty was a paediatrician in Taiwan.

Betty will leave St George School at the end of the week and commence at Engadine Central Medical Centre from the commencement of next term. She will also work in Hurstville on Saturdays.

We have been very fortunate to have had the expertise of Betty at St George School. We are very proud of her achievements but will miss her enormously. We wish Betty well in her future profession.



Transition to NDIS

At our most recent Coffee & Chat meeting we focused on NDIS.

Our investigations indicate that the NDIS process is still evolving as areas across Australia move over to NDIS.

NDIS will commence in South East Sydney from July 2017.

NDIS

St Vincent De Paul (Vinnies) has been commissioned to provide essential Local Area Coordination (LAC) services to transition people living with a disability in NSW into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

From January 2017, Vinnies will set up LAC services in the Sydney and South East Sydney areas. More information is available from the following site:

https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/NSW/Disability_Employment/Local_Area_Coordination_for_the_NDIS_Rollout/

The NSW Department of Education is also providing information to assist the process and to support the interface between NDIS and schools. I have attached Fact Sheet 1 which is information for schools.

St George School P&C

Our first P&C meeting for 2016 was held on Thursday 3 March.

A number of our new parents attended and it was an opportune time to welcome our new families.

At the meeting we covered topics such as the Annual report, the St George School class moves, the intensive swimming program, our sensory theatre and proposal for our Coffee & Chat sessions.

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 26 May. This will be our AGM.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Community Notice:

Advertisement of services provided by Susan Heetveld.

(The reference to teacher in the advertisement is a general comment and not necessarily specific to St George School)

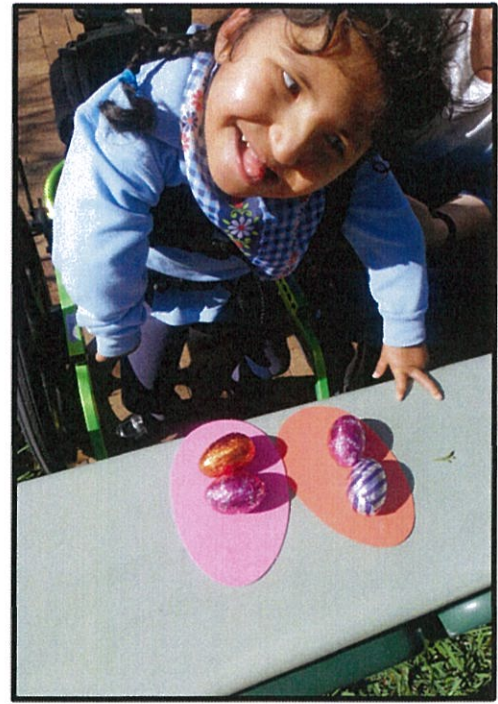


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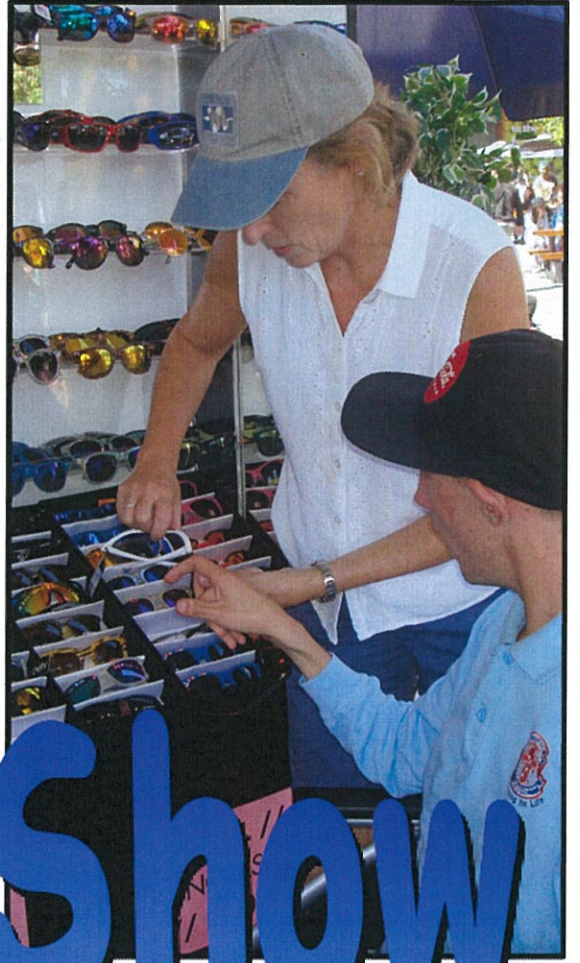
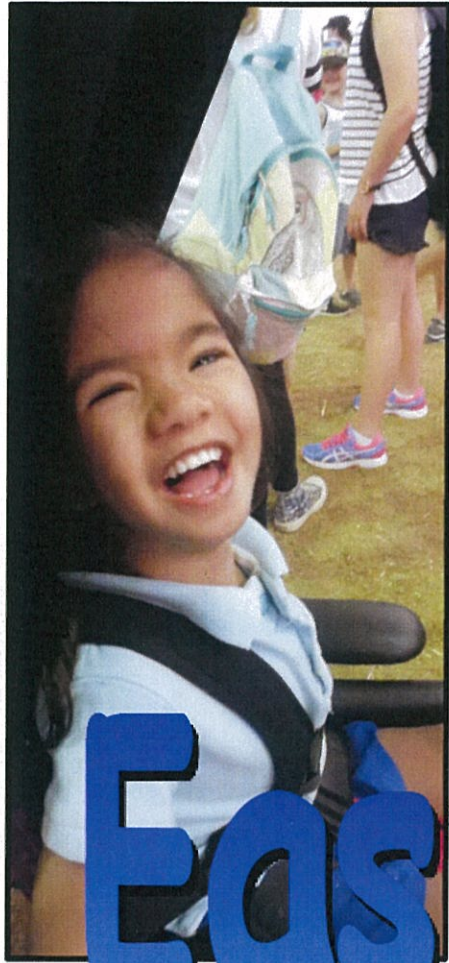
Email: stgeorges-school@det.nsw.edu.au



Primary Teams Easter Hat Parade







Easter Show



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Fact Sheet 1 - Information for Schools

The NDIS will change the way people with disability access disability support services. Students who are NDIS participants and their families will benefit from school staff understanding these changes.

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is a landmark social and economic reform. It provides a national solution to delivering effective disability support systems.

Through the NDIS, people with disability will be able to access 'reasonable and necessary' supports to achieve their personal goals. The NDIS will give participants greater choice and control over the disability supports they need and how they are delivered.

The NDIS is available to people between 0 and 65 years

A person with disability will be eligible for the NDIS if they have a permanent impairment that substantially reduces their ability to perform tasks or actions in all areas of daily living, and affects their capacity for social and economic participation. It will include children with significant disabilities. Detailed information on eligibility can be found on the Commonwealth NDIS website (www.ndis.gov.au).

Schools are not required to undertake new assessments or draft new reports to support a new NDIS application or assessment. However, schools can assist families by providing any available, relevant assessments and documents that can support the family's discussions with the NDIA about their child's eligibility and support plan, where requested.

The NDIS does not replace the obligations of schools to students with disability

The Disability Standards for Education 2005 continue to apply to schools with the introduction of the NDIS. Schools

remain responsible for providing reasonable adjustments (personalised learning and support) for students with disability, to enable them to fully participate in education.

The NDIS will be responsible for the functional disability supports that children need in any setting or that specifically address their disability needs. For example, equipment that supports mobility, communication aids and specialist therapy for disability.

There will be some overlap between the functional disability supports that the NDIS provides for children and the personalised learning and support provided by schools. NSW and the Commonwealth Governments are working together to determine how this overlap of responsibilities is managed.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will deliver the NDIS

The NDIA is a national, independent statutory authority. It is responsible for determining individual eligibility for the scheme and helping people get ready to participate in the scheme. Once a person is deemed eligible, the NDIA will develop an individualised plan of supports for that participant according to their personal goals and aspirations.

The NDIA currently has offices in Newcastle and Penrith. The NDIS website (www.ndis.gov.au) is a good source of information on the NDIA.

The NDIS will provide functional disability supports

The NDIS will fund supports that address the functional impact of disability on a child's daily living activities. This

includes mobility aids and equipment such as wheelchairs, communication equipment such as hearing aids, home modifications, vehicle modifications, early intervention for disability, support with self-care and support for participation in the community.

The NDIS will also provide support to families and carers where associated with managing their child's disability. These supports will enable families and carers to maintain their caring role and may include help with managing their child's NDIS plan or additional personal care support.

Students and their families can discuss NDIS support plans with their school

Schools work closely with parents in planning reasonable adjustments for students. School staff can ask, as part of this process, whether students are receiving support from the NDIS. Many parents already involved with the NDIS have shown a willingness to share information about their child's NDIS support plans with their school.

Students and parents are not obliged to inform the school whether they are receiving NDIS support. Privacy legislation prohibits the NDIA from sharing any participant details with the Department unless the participant agrees.

The NDIS provides the opportunity to develop wrap-around support for students

The development and implementation of an NDIS support plan provides a good opportunity to ensure school and non-school disability supports complement each other and support each child's progress. Parents should be encouraged to talk to the school about their child's NDIS planning process and their planning around the type of support they access and how it is arranged.

NDIS funded supports will change as children grow and develop and as they move between stages of schooling. Individual NDIS support plans are reviewed regularly. Plan reviews provide additional opportunities for schools to work with students and their parents and carers to ensure that NDIS and school supports continue to complement each other and benefit the student.

NDIS-funded therapy provision

The NDIS will be responsible for funding specialist therapy supports previously funded by NSW Ageing Disability and Home Care. Where therapy is included in an NDIS plan, families will choose therapy services from a range of non-government and private providers.

Providers, whose therapy services are accessed through an NDIS plan, may seek to deliver their services to

students during school time or on school premises. Schools may choose to facilitate this delivery where it integrates with the delivery of curriculum and educational supports as parts of reasonable adjustment for the student, taking account of the operational requirements and educational objectives and priorities of the school.

It remains at the principal's discretion to decide what services are delivered in schools or on school grounds, taking into consideration the educational needs and priorities for students and the school.

The NDIS is rolling out progressively in NSW

The NDIS commenced in NSW in July 2013 in a trial area centred in the Hunter region. The trial expanded from the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) to the Lake Macquarie LGA in July 2014 and Maitland LGA in July 2015.

On 1 July 2015, rollout of the NDIS started for children aged 0 to 17 years living in the Penrith, Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Hawkesbury LGAs (the Nepean Blue Mountains District).

From 1 July 2016, the NDIS will be implemented progressively across the rest of the state. NSW is committed to completing transition to the full scheme of the NDIS by July 2018.

Further information about the transition to the NDIS can be found on the NSW Government NDIS website: www.ndis.nsw.gov.au.

Transition of people into the NDIS is carefully planned

The NSW and the Commonwealth Governments will transition supports for people with disability to the NDIS in an organised way. This schedule will include specific transition planning for children.

People currently receiving disability services funded by NSW Ageing Disability and Home Care will continue to do so until they are transitioned to the NDIS.

The NDIA will provide direct support to help participants and their families and carers identified through this process to get ready for the NDIS.

The NDIS supports broad community engagement

The NDIS supports broader engagement of people with disability in both specialist disability and mainstream service systems. This includes helping children and their families to identify supports available through services

provided to all people in the community, through informal family and community supports, as well as through specialist disability support.

More information

The NDIA website:
www.ndis.gov.au

The NSW Government NDIS website:
www.ndis.nsw.gov.au

Disability, Learning & Support
1 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
disability.support@det.nsw.edu.au
<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/disability.php>

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Postural & Paediatric Exercise Therapy

In need of some regular exercise therapy for your child?

Need some postural support and positioning recommendations for at school and at home?



- Weekly or fortnightly 30 minute sessions are conducted 1:1 with your child at school. Sessions concentrate on conditioning, strength, balance and sensorimotor integration.
- Positioning recommendations and beneficial simple exercises are recommended to teachers in the classrooms and to parents/caregivers at home.
- Standing/walking equipment and wheelchairs are regularly checked for sizing and benefit, as well as recommended if the need is there.
- Wheelchair seating assessments can be conducted in liaison with wheelchair distributors.

I have been working as a postural exercise therapist within Disability for over 15 years, privately and as part of the Sylvanvale Therapy Team. I use a range of equipment to help stimulate balance, strength and posture. Parents have found this regular conditioning is helpful in maintaining or improve their child's current skills. Teachers have been thankful of the regular intervention and positioning ideas that helps the student's abilities in class.

I currently have a number of slots available if you are interested. Pricing is either **\$75 per session** on a casual basis or a discounted **\$330 per term** with fortnightly therapy sessions. Doing the sessions fortnightly with a home programme in place, keeps the cost down but the ball rolling.

Feel free to contact me to arrange a time to meet and discuss your child's therapy needs.

Have a safe and happy holiday,

Susan

