



CELEBRATING PEACE DAY SEPTEMBER 2017

St George School Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Term Four

by Diana Murphy, Principal

Dear Families

Welcome back to term 4. It promises to be a busy term and we are looking forward to the special events and the teaching and learning programs.

Year 12 Formal

The first special event will occur on **Saturday 28 October** with our Year 12 formal. Our four graduating students will celebrate the end of their schooling with family, staff and friends. It is an important milestone in life and a wonderful time to reflect on 13 years of school life.

Important dates for term 4

End of year school reports will be sent home on **Monday 11 December 2017**.

The school year for students ceases on **Friday 15 December 2017**. The

school will remain open until Tuesday 19 December 2017 although the majority of staff will have commenced their holidays.

School reopens for students after the January break on **Tuesday 30 January 2018**. School re-opens on Monday 29 January 2018 which is also the staff school development day.

End of year Concert



Please mark **Tuesday 5 December 2017** in your diary for our end of year concert and presentation day.

This is a wonderful event in our students' calendar and an opportunity to showcase talent and enjoy the day with family, friends and supporters. An invitation will be sent home in the next few weeks.



Welcoming families to school
Education Week last term.



Visiting Bayside Library

Primary classes enjoyed visits to the newly renovated Bayside library at Rockdale last term. The classes enjoyed storytelling and the new, stimulating and inviting atmosphere of the library.

10 October 2017

Staffing Matters

I am pleased to be back in the role of principal this term. I would like to thank Ana Mowle for her professionalism, leadership and management of the school over the last two terms. It would not have been possible to have undertaken another role without the support and expertise of Ana.

In turn I would like to thank Janelle Ferguson for taking on the role of assistant principal and class teacher of Middle 2 over the last two terms.

Following the retirement of Janne Kelly in June this year, I am pleased to advise that Janelle Ferguson was successful in her application for the assistant principal position that Janne vacated. Janelle commenced in her role as a substantive assistant principal at the beginning of this term.

Janelle is an experienced member of the St George School staff. Janelle's greatest strength is her positivity, great sense of humour, warmth and outstanding interpersonal skills.

Janelle will take on the role of team leader for the primary team for the remainder of the year.

I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of Leah Ponzio

to the operation of the school and to the leadership of the primary team this year.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENT

Hengkai Ye

We welcome Hengkai to St George School. Hengkai commenced in our early learning Primary 1 class this week.



School Plan 2018 - 2020

The input of our families into the new school plan is appreciated and will ensure that the views of families into the operation of the school over the next three years will be acknowledged.

To support the planning process we have asked you to respond to the online Tell Them from Me survey (TTFM). This survey is anonymous and will close at the end of next week on Friday 20 October.

Our Coffee & Chat this term will also provide the opportunity to talk about family priorities as well as school and state priorities.

The evaluation of our current practices will also assist us in identifying areas for improvement. Your feedback from the TTFM survey, staff feedback from the TTFM survey as well as teacher evaluation of current projects will guide us in establishing strategic directions for the next three years.

Key dates for parent participation:

P&C Meeting Term 4

26 October 2017 at 11.30am

Coffee & Chat

Friday 17 November at 10.00am

10 October 2017

JACK OUR COMPANION DOG



JACK

Clare Pritchard is parent to our companion dog, Jack, who has been coming into school on transition days.

He is well loved by the students. Jack is always exuberant and happy to be here and has become a lovable companion to our students.

Jack was kindly donated by WMD Law in Sutherland.

Many Happy returns to...

October birthdays:

Elliot Austin – 18 on 1 October

Brett Houdek – 14 on 11 October

Tahlia Chigione – 5 on 16 October

Winnie Lawrun – 8 on 22 October

Edith Gilmore – 5 on 23 October

Oscar Young - - 6 on 23 October

SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR

We are pleased that our school has been accepted again into the Schools Spectacular performances. This will be the third time for St George School.

Rehearsals commence next week at Busby West PS.

The performance days are on Friday 24 November and Saturday 25 November 2017 at the Qudos Arena at Sydney Olympic Park.

The theme is *Own the Moment*.

Tickets are available from Ticketek.

PAYMENT OPTIONS AT ST GEORGE SCHOOL

There are various ways families can make payment to the school, as required:

- 1) POP (parent online payment) – on the school website, click on Make a Payment
<http://www.stgeorges.schools.nsw.edu.au/>
- 2) Eftpos, if visiting the school
- 3) By phone for credit card payment
- 4) Cash
- 5) Cheque.

Direct deposit, electronic funds transfer is not available as an option.

Community Notice

Article in the Leader regarding dental service for children with special needs.

St George School
2a Marshall St
Kogarah NSW 2217
Ph: 9588 2400



Website:
<http://www.stgeorge-s.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Join us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgessp>

Email: stgeorge-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Jack with Joshua, Kate and Elliot



Jack

Jack will continue to come to school part-time as he becomes accustomed to students across the classes.

10 October 2017

Patients in safe hands

BY GARY HAMILTON-IRVINE

EMMA Jay isn't your usual dentist.

Dr Jay works solely with special-needs patients.

She is one of two registered dentists specialising in that field in NSW, according to the Australian Dental Association.

Her patients include a wide range of people living with mental or physical disabilities or dental phobias.

Dr Jay spends a lot of her time working out of Kogarah and Miranda, and told the *Leader* one of the most rewarding parts of her job was meeting fascinating people.

"The people are really interesting," she said. "The carers and parents - they do an amazing job and I really enjoy meeting all those people."

She explained there were plenty of strategies to care for people living with special needs who were in need of dental work.

For example, she said she would often use a heavy blanket on some patients which stopped them moving around and kept them calm, or even simply had patients

hold something in their hands as a distraction.

While that may sound simple, Caringbah's Kay Sanger said it was something entirely different to see Dr Jay at work.

Ms Sanger said she was blown away watching Dr Jay care for her son, Matthew Sanger, who suffers from a severe intellectual disability.

"Matthew lives in a home in Caringbah and a carer has come with me every time [to visit Dr Jay] and they think she is like a miracle worker," she said. "She is absolutely brilliant. She is just wonderful with him."

Australian Dental Association (ADA) NSW president Sabrina Manickam said specialist dentists, who deal with special-needs patients, were few and far between.

"There are only a handful of dentists in Australia who are registered specialists in special-needs dentistry, and they're some of the most versatile and flexible members of our profession."

"The work they do is so important because people with intellectual or physical disabilities, or medical



SPECIALIST: Emma Jay is a unique dentist working solely with special-needs patients.

Picture: John Veage

conditions, or mental health needs can be at increased risk of oral health problems," she said.

"Having a dentist who's experienced in treating patients with special needs can help improve their overall health and quality of life."

Dr Jay works out of prac-

tices in Kogarah, Miranda and Crows Nest, as well as St George Private Hospital and a few retirement homes across Sydney, through her own business The Special Needs Dentistry Practice.

She graduated from the University of Sydney and worked in the Sydney Dental in Albury.