

# ST GEORGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Diana Murphy, Principal  
2 February 2018

## Welcome to the 2018 school year

### Key dates

#### Year 7 Vaccination

Tuesday 13 February

#### School Photos

Wednesday 21 February 2018

#### P&C Meeting

Thursday 1 March at 11.30am

#### Harmony Day

Wednesday 21 March 2018

#### Good Friday

30 March 2018

#### Easter Monday

2 April 2018

#### Coffee & Chat

Friday 6 April 2018

#### Last day of term

Friday 13 April 2018

#### First day term 2 for students

Tuesday 1 May 2018

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new school year. We trust that you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday and coped well with the humid and varying temperatures.

We started the year with enthusiasm and high expectations of ourselves and for our students. It was rewarding to see the students return to school with smiles and eagerness.

This year, we extend a warm welcome to St George School to three new students: Zeinab Saleh, Kyah McGroder and Manar Saleh. Zeinab has transferred from another school and has commenced in Primary 4. Kyah and Manar are commencing school and will be in Primary 1. We trust that their journey at St George School are rich and rewarding.

## Classes in 2018

We continue in 2018 with staffing for ten classes and nine classes operating. We continue to have three teams: Primary, Middle and Secondary. Each team is supported by an executive teacher: Janelle Ferguson is the assistant principal for the Primary team, Ana Mowle for the Middle team and Annette Fulller for the Secondary team.

This month, your child's class teacher will contact you to schedule a meeting to develop a [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

There are currently three teacher vacancies that will be filled this term. These vacancies are the result of a retirement, promotion and transfer to the country region. There may be some changes to staffing depending on the outcome of recruitment. However, if changes do occur, then it is likely to be next term or at the beginning of second semester.

## Procedures for late arrivals and early leavers

Parents are asked **to sign their child in and out** if there is partial attendance for the day. Attendance at school is a legislative requirement and accurate record keeping is required in order to meet the requirements of this legislation.

A **sign on/out sheet** is located in the foyer of the office.

## Music program

This year, Daniel, musician from Rhythm Village will continue to teach music on Wednesday. This program is funded by the St George Children with Disabilities Fund.

## Consultation by Family and Community Services on supported accommodation

The NSW Government wants to hear your views on how we can improve resident protections for people with disability living in supported group accommodation. If you would like to have input the link is:

<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/reforms/resident-rights-consultation>

If this link is not live for , go to the *NSW Family and Community services* site. On the Home page, click on *Reforms and Initiatives* and on the left hand side, at the end, click on *Resident Rights Consultation*.

## 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.

## School Development Day

Our school development days provide the opportunity for professional learning and completion of mandatory training. In term 4 last year all staff completed CPR training and face-to-face anaphylaxis training.

On Monday this week, staff completed online mandatory Child Protection training update for 2018. Outcomes for this training were:

- Analysis and discussion of reporting, when to report, process for monitoring suspected risk of harm
- Understanding of use of the Mandatory Reporter Guide
- Awareness of attendance as a child protection issues, working with other schools and role of mandatory reporters
- Awareness of processes relating to disclosure and involvement of other agencies.

For the remainder of the day, a speech therapist and representative from Zyteq technologies provided training in the use of eye gaze to support the integration of eye gaze training into the classrooms and class programs. Outcomes for this training were:

- Understanding of the eye gaze camera as an eye tracker
- Awareness of purpose of calibration
- Awareness of adjustments to settings
- Overview of software program - GRID 3 and understanding of scope of software for eye gaze
- Understanding of how to make adjustments for individual students

## School Captains

We congratulate Natalie Tassone, Mohammed Jomaa and Joshua Sale who are our School Captains for the year. Mohammed, Natalie and Joshua will represent the school at events this year such the combined schools Anzac service held in Hyde park.

## New School Plan 2018 – 2020

Last year we had consultation meetings with with staff and parents about our new school plan. The priorities identified are use of technology to support teaching and learning (including eye gaze technology), implementation of new curriculums, literacy (communication) and numeracy.

A draft plan with be presented at the next P&C meeting on Thursday 1 March 2018.

## Therapy support at school

With the introduction of NDIS, there has been an increase in therapy support for students.

Schools work with parents and therapy providers in a number of ways to help ensure that therapy services meet

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the needs of children and young people and support their participation in learning. This may include contributing to therapy assessments and planning therapy interventions.

However, schools need to focus on teaching and ensure that students do not miss out on important learning time. Hence, time for therapy support is to be negotiated with the teacher to ensure that disruption to learning time is minimised. Meal breaks and lunchtimes are opportune times for therapy support.

More information about the formalisation of this process will be forwarded to families later this term.

### Sad news

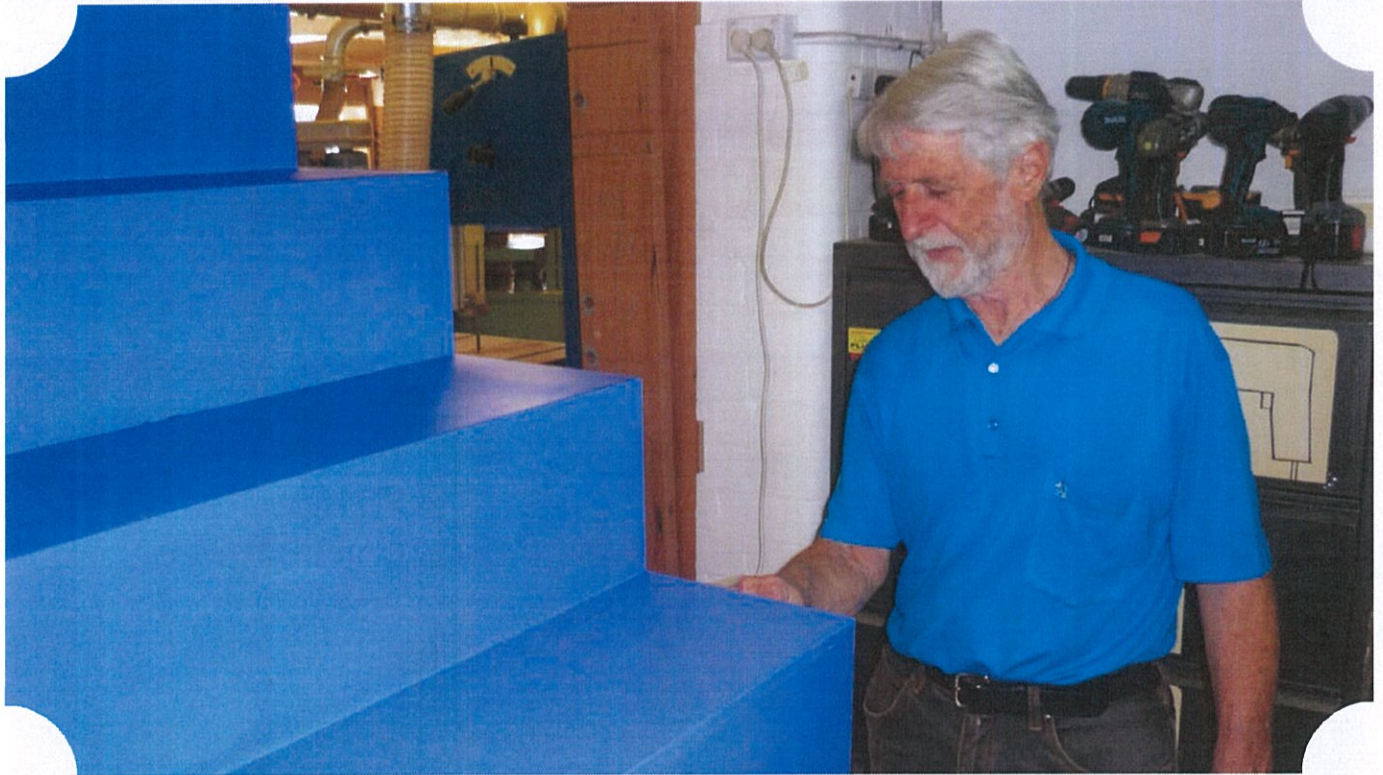
I am sorry to advise that Aaron McEwan, former student, passed away on 30 December 2017. Kaylene McEwan, Aaron's mother, advised that Aaron had been moderately unwell in 2017 with 5 hospital stays. Over the Christmas weekend, he became very unwell and did not recover. Kaylene said he passed away peacefully. Aaron was 20 years old.

### Support from the Men's Shed, Hurstville

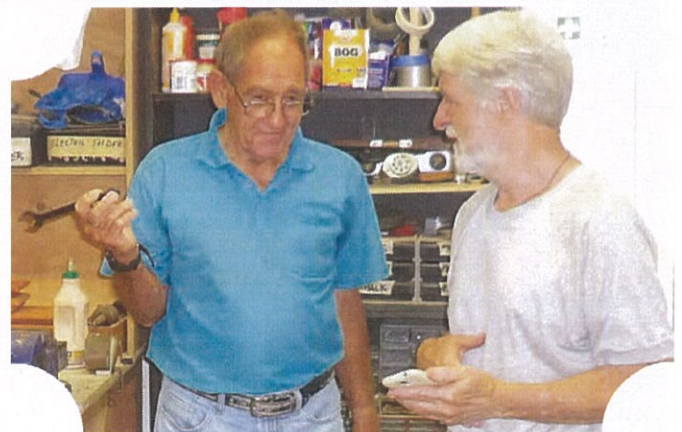
Paul Cox, former engineer and volunteer at the Men's Shed, was asked to construct stairs to assist students to access the new trampoline. We are indebted to Paul for his imagination and ability to address the needs of the students at St George School. A few photos have been included.

# Paul's Stairway to Trampoline for St George School

St George School provides education for students with severe physical and multiple disabilities from Preschool to Year 12. The school's drawing area includes suburbs in the South-Eastern Sydney area



**Paul's credo "It should not only be good - it should look good!"**



**John & Paul - Steps Collaboration**

**John - About to test Paul's "Stairmanship"**

## Paul's Stairway to Trampoline



**Paul's- Completed Steps  
(unfolded)**

**Paul's- Completed  
Steps (folded)**

