From Monday 8 until Sunday 14 August, the St. George Sheep Team had the opportunity to participate in the 2016 EKKA competition in Brisbane. Three team members made the long journey for the busy week which saw them compete against over 150 competitors in a range of Young Judging competitions including Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Fleece, Mohair, Angora Goats, and Meat Sheep Breeds. During these competitions, students were judged on their ability to identify, handle and place the exhibits before providing justification for their placements.

In these competitions our team received several awards, with students receiving highly commended awards in the fleece, dairy goat and handling categories.

On Friday, our main competition occurred, which saw our sheep compete against 12 other schools from across Queensland. With an additional animal from last year, our 6 animals were once again awarded Champion and Reserve Champion Poll Dorset Ram, Champion and Reserve Champion Poll Dorset Ewe as well as Grand Champion School Ram (given to the best School Ram at the EKKA). In addition, our school was named as runner-up in the most successful exhibitor and placed 4th for our display. This is an outstanding achievement for our small school stud and reflects the ongoing quality that exists in our animals and reflects the time and efforts put in by our team members.

Our successes and achievements over the course of the week would not have been possible without the help of a number of people. I would like to say special thanks to Kylie Whitaker and Julie Worboys for assisting us with our display and once again an incredible thank you to Sarah Scriven whose enthusiasm, organisation and dedication to the team is what makes everything happen and run smoothly.

The students who represented the school and St George and participated at the EKKA were Courtney Barr, Anne Barr, and Samantha Duffey. Thank you for your hard work.

Thanks to everyone for an excellent showing year.
Further NAPLAN Improvement for 2016

Over the two year period between testing it is expected that students make an 80 point gain, this represents 10 points a term. This year’s results certainly bring a number of celebrates, with reading and writing improving by 10 points and grammar, punctuation and numeracy improving by 20 points above previous improvements. Our Successful English and targeted reading intervention programs are certainly starting to have an impact. This term sees our back to front maths program start which is specifically designed to target numeracy gaps that students have.

I continue to encourage parents to support their student’s participation in NAPLAN testing. It is one of the rare occasions when students can be nationally benchmarked against their peers and receive detailed feedback about literacy and numeracy gaps. This detailed feedback is also used to target programs for students and gives teachers key information on how to make educational adjustments.

Mr Doug Watson
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

On parade on Wednesday, Terry Salmon addressed the school and commemorated the Battle of Long Tan. This precedes the ceremonies held by the St George RSL Sub-Branch on Thursday 18 August.

Future guest speakers for parades include the Police who will be talking to the students about Road Safety Week on 24 August. The police have provided an online link www.jointhedrive.qld.au to find out more information about Road Safety Week.

NAPLAN online trial testing

A big thank you to Col Geiger who assisted us in the online trial, Kyle McNamara who managed the online environment and the Year 7 and 9 students who participated in the trial. The students were exemplary in their aptitude and behaviour.

It is was reported to us that St George State High School had the smoothest testing.

Mobile phones

We are asking that parents support staff when correcting the inappropriate use of mobile phone by students. Currently, for Years 7, 8, and 9 students, phones are not to be accessed by students in class time.

For Years 10, 11 and 12, phones are only to be used by students in class time. Currently, for Years 7, 8, and 9 students, phones are not to be accessed by students in class time.

Attendance Everyday does count

Congratulations to the Year 9 cohort with 92.4% attendance and Year 12 cohort 92.1% attendance for last week. All student should be aiming for 100% attendance.

Lastly, the Big Samba was a hit with both students and teachers. In time and together, the whole school produced a great sound.

Mr Robert Tuppack
Deputy Principal

P & C NEWS

Thank you to those who attended our P & C meeting on Monday night. The P & C is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening in our School and also assist in raising funds to support the School in providing the best possible outcomes for our students.

At our last meeting we discussed our upcoming fund raisers including the “Day to Create” on 22 October and the Tryathon on 13 November. Helpers will again be required for both these events and we would love to hear from anyone who can assist for an hour or so.

A special thank you to our wonderful volunteers who assist in so many of our fund raising ventures, including the tuckshop. An extra shout out to Estelle Scriven who assisted all day at the Balonne Athletics Carnival and regularly supplies home bake.

Keep an eye out for this space in future newsletters for updates on what is happening with the P & C.

FROM HoD SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

We are now halfway through the term and our senior students are well and truly engaged in learning and undertaking assignments and assessment. The Year 11 and 12 students will sit their formal end of term exams during the structured exam block on Thursday and Friday of week 9 and all of week 10. In that time students will only attend school for the sessions in which they have exams/catch up sessions unless they are at risk of not completing their certificate courses or have any work outstanding. All Year 11 and 12 Agricultural Practices students will complete seven days of block training to complete the remaining competencies in their Certificate II.

OP Students

Last week our Year 11 OP eligible students met with their academic mentors to discuss their learning journey so far and how they can continue to improve. During these interviews students received their first OP prediction. Our OP eligible students also attended a QCS workshop in Roma on Friday. (see details further in this newsletter)

Attendance

As we are now in the peak of exams and assignments, it is as vital as ever for all senior students to attend every lesson, every day. Please avoid making medical, dental and other appointments for your children during school hours. Please do not allow your children to stay at home to complete assessment.

Currently the attendance rates in the Senior School for term three are -

<table>
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<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Year 12</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>88%</td>
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Year 10 Certificate II in Volunteering

Next week all Year 10 students will be volunteering at the Balonne Senior Games. The games provide a wonderful opportunity for our students to be active in the community and contributes towards the 30 hours required for students to successfully complete the Certificate II in Active Volunteering.

Year 10 SET Planning

During weeks 5 to 9 of this term, all Year 10 students will begin the SET planning (Senior Education and Training Plan) process. The SET plan helps students structure their learning around their abilities, interests and ambitions and outlines the individual student’s aspirations and desired learning pathway as they transition to the senior phase of learning in Year 11. In the SET plan, students identify whether they will pursue a technical (traineeship, apprenticeship, or employment) or a tertiary (university) pathway during or after high school.

To assist students in mapping out their future, students will complete a SET Plan booklet to investigate and learn more about the options available and make steps towards completing a draft SET plan. By the end of Term 3, students will be in a position to make a more informed choice about subject selection for Year 11 or learning and earning with an employer.

SET Plan interviews will be held during week 2 of Term 4. SET Plan interviews involve a representative of the school, Year 10 Parents/Carer and the student. I look forward to planning your child’s pathways with you.

Mrs Kelly Kuhz
AHOD Senior Schooling
FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

As the term progresses we see a fall in attendance rates across Junior Secondary. While it is a busy time of the year and the flu season is still around, it is imperative that students are at school every day possible. Our goal for all students and cohorts is to maintain an attendance rate over 90%. Our attendance data for Term 3 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>88.7%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▼3% from Week 4</td>
<td>▼3.8% from Week 4</td>
<td>▼1% from Week 4</td>
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</table>

Research has shown that students with attendance rates of 85 per cent or less, due to unexplained reasons, are often:

- 4 times more likely to be suspended or excluded
- 1.5 times more likely to not finish Year 10
- 3.5 times more likely to not obtain an Overall Position (OP) 1-15

Similarly, there is a direct correlation between higher levels of attendance and better academic performance. For students who are involved in school excursions and representing school sport, these days are counted as school days and are not counted as absences. If you have any questions relating to your child’s attendance rate, or how to support your child’s engagement please do not hesitate to contact the school. Remember, every day counts!

Year 9 Camp
Deadlines for camp are fast approaching and numbers are needed to finalise camp programs. Notes and a deposit are due by the end of Week 7 with final payment due by Friday 9 September. If you are interested in your child attending this year’s Year 9 camp please return notes and organise payment as soon as possible.

NAPLAN Online Trial
Thank you to all students who were involved in the NAPLAN trial last week. It was a valuable process for both the QCAA and the school as we move towards online testing modes in the future. Special thanks to Kyle McNamara for all his hard work ensuring the software was ready for the trial.

Opti-MINDS
This year we have a small team heading to the regional division of the 2016 Opti-MINDs competition in Roma on Sunday 28 August. The students have selected the Social Science challenge and are busy putting together the final touches on their presentation. Best of luck to students and many thanks to Miss Keim and Miss Wood for accompanying the team to Roma.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the academic progress or social and emotional health of your child please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miss Kelly Ott
HOD Junior Secondary Schooling

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER

There are a range of online programs and apps that can be accessed to support Teens and Parents during different stages of their life. These are often useful as they can be accessed at any time day or night. Below are a few of the apps recommended by Queensland Health Ed-LinQ.

Apps for Teens
- Bully Beater App: Strengthen self-confidence and resilience
- De-Stressor App: Controls stress
- i-Boost App: Strengthens self-esteem and resilience
- Friend-Maker App: How to meet and make friends

Apps for Parents
- Parent Todays Teenager App: Provides the essential skills and confidence a parent needs to effectively parent their teen through the teenage years
- Tough Talk Time App: Provides the skills and confidence a parent needs to conduct the difficult potentially relationship destroying discussion a parent must have when their teen engages in risky or irresponsible behaviour.

Mrs Annette Woodrow
Guidance Officer

Boomerang Business

Last week saw our junior Year 8 and 9 ITD students take a break from usual classes to make their own boomerangs as part of NAIDOC week. Students were given a plain rectangle piece of wood, and were required to design, shape, cut out, file, sand and burn a design on the top of their boomerangs in the short space of two lesson. There were many creative and inventive designs! After design and production, students were given the opportunity to test our their boomerangs on the back oval - and were lucky enough to be joined by our wonderful Deputy Mr Tuppack and Mr Watson. The test was a success - with boomerangs going far and wide, spinning in the most incredible turns and directions - we had lots and lots of fun. Special thank-you to our super Manual Arts Instructor Kylie Whitaker for everything!

Miss Veronica Rakich
ITD Teacher

Breakfast Club in action
CEC Joy Weatherall along with teachers, Miss Woods and Miss Weatherall at St George State High School have approached Care Balonne, St George Housing Company, Chaplaincy Committee, Webster’s Foodworks and Cornett’s IGA and Kellogg’s about a donations towards breakfast ingredients for the newly formed Breakfast Club.

Breakfast is supplied to students from 8am to 8.30am each morning in the Home Ec kitchen. Any student can come along and enjoy cereal, toast, milo and tea. Occasionally bacon and eggs will be on offer as will fruit in the warmer seasons. Pop along, have a bite to eat and a chat to Joy, Miss Wood and Miss Weatherall.
On Wednesday 27 July, seven Year 11 Legal Studies students attended a mock court trial, a ‘moot’, at the Glennie School in Toowoomba. Students had an authentic mooting experience, where they were able to apply their knowledge of the legal system to the scenario. They were certainly entertained by the lively ‘barrister’ and moved by the dramatic skills of some of the Glennie girls. This will be a valuable experience for the girls to draw on when we complete our criminal law unit next year.

Amy McKenna
Legal Studies Teacher

On Sunday 31 July, our senior netball team travelled to Toowoomba to compete in the Vicki Wilson cup. The girls qualified for the next level of Vicki Wilson when they were awarded runners-up at Southwest Trials in Roma earlier this year. Since the beginning of term, the girls have been training hard despite several disruptions, and were ready to play their best against some tough teams.

The girls performed impressively, winning three games against Toowoomba Christian College, St Joseph’s Stanthorpe and Harristown State High School. They also came second in three games against Downlands, Fairholme and Goondiwindi, showing great school spirit and resilience throughout all games. We also managed to watch the nail-biting Firebirds final in between games! Thanks to our Senior Vicki Wilson Team 2016: Jessie Twidale, Keeley Neighbour, Madison Spackman, Brittany Cochrane, Jesse Wilkinson, Kingsleigh Anderson, Haylee Cochrane and Sophie Pike. For our four Year 12 girls, Jessie, Brittany, Madison and Keeley who have been playing together since Year 8, Sunday was bittersweet and the girls gave it their best for their last carnival together.

A big thank you must go to Miss Kym Weatherall for her commitment in coaching the girls and to the parents who drove their daughters, helped umpire our games, acted as cheer squad and provided much needed snacks. Days like this certainly cannot happen without your support.

Miss Amy McKenna
Netball Manager

Friday morning, 12 August, was a 6am start for our OP eligible students as they travelled to Roma to participate in a QCS workshop. This workshop provided some valuable skills for our students to achieve the best result possible in the QCS test.

The key message from the workshop was that the QCS test is the most important test our students will ever do and preparation is the key to achieving the best result on the test and in their senior subjects. Our students were advised to study twelve hours a week, study in groups, and complete practice exams and assignments. Thank you to Mark Morris for driving the bus.

Mrs Kelly Kuhz
HoD Senior Secondary

QCS workshop to assist our students

2016 Vicki Wilson netball

Mooting in Toowoomba
Monday 15 August saw a small touch of Brazil Carnival street music come to St George State High School. Brazilian Street Carnival Music involves large groups of people playing together, driven by the percussion section, to produce enormous sound. Steve Schulz, who has been teaching and playing the drums for over 20 years, conducted the students in the Rec Centre and produced an explosion of hands-on, musical teamwork. Groups of students were each given an instrument and taught three simple rhythm patterns using simple phrases from local vernacular (Bob’s ya Uncle). Using hand signals, aural cues and some remarkable discipline, Steve then lead the students in layering up these different rhythms, sometimes in unison and at other times in complex combinations. The students shared a unique experience as they learnt to work as a group within a large ensemble, also when not to play and to listen and watch—themselves, the bandleader and everyone around them. Rhythm, timing, pulse and tempo were explored while having fun with music and using instruments such as a drum kit, hand drums, sudo drums, tambourines, cowbells, bells and go-go bells, claves (rhythm sticks made from broom handles etc) and shakers made from milo tins, drink bottles with rice, pebbles or chickpeas in them.

There were no Olympians in sight but the sound of Brazil was certainly in St George on Monday. Students and staff are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and participation and their cooperation with each other while enjoying this activity.

Year 10 students have been working hard in ICT learning Robotics. They have been developing skills around coding, building mechanics and problem solving. To tie in with the Rio Olympics they then had a very exciting sprint race where the only catch was they had to make their robot move without the use of wheels.

Ms Angela Garner  
ICT Teacher
Community Notices

- **WANTED FIREFIGHTERS** Hey St George! Ever wanted to be a firefighter without giving up your current career? If you live in St George, you are in luck! QFES is on a quest to appoint more auxiliary firefighters in the area. Our auxiliaries are paid, part-time firefighters who often perform their duties while also working in other professions. They are on-call 24/7 and down tools if there is a Triple Zero (000) call. Just like full-time firefighters, auxiliary firefighters attend fires, road crashes, chemical spills and other rescues. To find out more call 4671 8112 #firefighterfamily.

- **ST GEORGE BRANCH OF LITTLE ATHLETICS**—Hosting a Training Coaching Course for Track and Field 7 August at 8am $100. Phone Jo Hersey 0427 251 556, Sally Beardmore 0400 054 192 or Naomi Wilson 0458 233 077

- **DRAGON COUNTRY MARKETS** Saturday 20 August 10am - 2pm Demo and Learn to skate

- **STORY TIME @ THE LIBRARY** (2nd Tuesday of every month). Whilst the stories and activities are aimed at two to five year olds, all children are welcome to come along.

FOR SALE

1 x HP10A (Q2610A) Black Toner Cartridge
Normally $185.39 ONLY $130 o.n.o.
Box opened but cartridge still sealed

1 x HP51A (Q7551A) Black Toner Cartridge
Normally $154.83 ONLY $90 o.n.o. (unopened)
Phone the office on 4620 8222
to make an appointment if you wish
to see a staff member.

REMINDER

ALL Student Resource Scheme payments are due Week 2 of Term 3, Friday 22 July. Current statements were posted home on Friday 24 June advising any outstanding fees. Payments can be made in a variety of ways.

**DIRECT DEPOSIT**
Commonwealth Bank, St George   BSB:   064429   Account Number: 00090019

**EFTPOS** and **Cash in school office**

**BPoint** - details on statement

**Cheque** - Made out to St George SHS, deliver to the school office or post to PO Box 209, St George, Qld 4487

Pathways to Resilience Team

The Pathways to Resilience Team are returning to St George to run the Wings Training (over 2 Saturdays) and the combination of Building Resilience in Families and Looking Beyond Behaviours (2 sessions in one evening with dinner between).

**Building Resilience in Families** (5:30 - 7pm)/**Looking Beyond Behaviours** (7:30 - 9:30pm) - Thursday 11th August, 2016 (Please be aware the Looking Beyond Behaviour is aimed at educators, although all are welcome) - dinner provided between the sessions. Venue to be confirmed.

**Wings** - Saturday, 13 August AND 20 August 9am to 3pm.....morning tea, lunch and resources provided. Venue to be confirmed.

Please register with Alison (0477746233 or afish37@eq.edu.au) for catering purposes for all workshops by Tuesday 9th August, 2016.