School's out forever...

St George State High School farewelled another Year 12 cohort last Friday at the end of year Valedictory.

Students, staff, parents and community members attended the annual ceremony to congratulate the exiting Year 12 students on completing their schooling years and to wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

The ceremony was compered very capably by Jesse Wilkinson and Harry Scriven, the Welcome to Country by Yr 11 Indigenous Ambassador Brodie McGuire before the St George State High School Band played the National Anthem, “Happy” and “Hall of Fame”. Principal, Mr Doug Watson addressed the audience about time. Time is constantly changing and is something you cannot get back. He spoke about the importance of getting things done the right way the first time and that investing time will lead to change before presenting the School Captains and Vice Captains with a gift from the school.

Mr Watson and Miss Wood then announced the 2016 Care Challenge Shield winner, McKenna’s Machines, ahead of Goddard’s Game Makers and Happy Haywards.

Representatives from each year level then addressed the Year 12 students, congratulating them, thanking them for their friendship and wishing them all the best for their futures, whether it be at university, in full-time employment or taking a gap year.

Jessie Twidale and Ned Jones as School Captains then had the last word with their Valedictory address. A delicious morning tea was then enjoyed by students, parents and staff in the library. Good luck Year 12s!!
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Class of 2016

Congratulations to the Class of 2016 for setting a new standard, at this stage we are projected to have 100% Queensland certificate of Education, 100% OP 1-15, our highest number of students attaining a Certificate II or higher qualification and no student failed a subject on exit. This is an outstanding effort and a credit to staff, parent and the community’s support.

School Improvement Review

At this stage both positions are in the final stage of merit selection and within the next week we should be able to release the outcome. The Head of Curriculum and Junior Secondary is a workplace reform of the Master Teacher position and will see this position target pedagogical practice in the classroom and student engagement.

Mr Doug Watson
Principal

FROM HoD SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

To the Year 12s, you all looked amazing at your Formal. Enjoy a well-deserved holiday before you embark on the next incredible adventure in your lives. In closely monitoring the Year 12s, I am proud to say that everyone will receive their QCE. Certificates will be mailed out to the students from 19 December 2016. Students should receive this the following week. Any Year 12 students who sat the QCS Test can now access their results. They were released and made available on learning accounts on 16 November. If your child has not received their result, please go to the student connect website www.studentconnect.qca.qld.edu.au and log on to view their awarded grade. Students’ QCS Test results will be confirmed on the Senior Statement they will receive as part of their Senior Education Profile in December. Final Year 12 results and OPs and FP$s will be available in student learning accounts from 9am on Saturday 17 December.

To the Year 11s, wishing you a fun-filled, challenging and exciting Leadership Camp. You will learn and grow so much on this camp and I look forward to working with you next year. Good luck to all Year 11s applying for Senior Leader positions in 2016. Panel interviews will be held on 30 November. All applicants have been given an interview time and I would ask that students please arrive 20 minutes early so you can peruse the interview questions.

To the 10s, with just a short time before you too are on holidays, all the best for your break and come back to us ready to work hard and achieve your best next year.

Mrs Kelly Kuhz
A/HOD Senior Schooling

2017 Student Resource Scheme

All outstanding school fees are now overdue.

Please note that prior to being accepted into the 2017 Student Resource Scheme or being eligible to participate in optional school activities all overdue accounts must be paid.

If you would like to enter a payment plan to bring your account into order, please contact Ben Lawson, Business Services Manager on 07 4620 8222.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

In my first semester at St George State High School, I have learnt that this school has strong and proud traditions shown through our events such as Awards Night and Valedictory, Long Tan and Remembrance Day ceremonies. We will continue to build on these and celebrate and commemorate occasions such as these and we welcome the wider community to be part of our school.

One of the highlights for me was the Australian Defence Force Academy drill and career information. Our Year 10, 11 and 12 students watched, listened and interacted with personnel from ADFA and gained an insight to career pathways. Some students were so inspired that they have investigated career pathways for themselves.

Congratulations to our graduating year 12s and I wish you well and above all do the best you can.

Mr Robert Tuppack
Deputy Principal

FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

It is crunch time for Junior Secondary students with assessment period just around the corner. The graduating class of 2016 has set an excellent example for all students with 100% pass rate for every single student in Year 12. Crucial to their success was high attendance rates and making every day count. This is great message for our Junior Secondary students to take on board as they finish the term. Congratulations to Year 7 who once again have the highest attendance rate in Junior Secondary. Our attendance data for Term 4 to date is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90% 91.4%</td>
<td>83.3% 83.9%</td>
<td>85.3% 82.1%</td>
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<td>▼1.4% from Week 4</td>
<td>▲.6% from Week 4</td>
<td>▼3.2% from Week 4</td>
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Transition Program

The transition program for Year 7 students is well underway with all of our feeder school participating in the transition afternoon in Week 6 and many students attending enrolment interviews last week. Next week on Tuesday the 29 November, there is a full day orientation program for all Year 6 students where they can experience a typical day in Year 7 and become even more familiar with St George State High School. Many thanks to the teachers who have been involved in our program this year.

Enrichment Week – Anyone Can be a Hero

This year Junior Secondary students will have the opportunity to participate in an enrichment week during the last week of school that has been designed to enhance and support students’ wellbeing. This year our theme for the week is ‘Anyone can be a hero’. A presentation from Motivational Media entitled ‘Everyday Heroes’ will commence the week and allow students to start thinking about the concept of a ‘hero’. The rest of the week will build on this media presentation and reflect on students understanding of heroes with society, heroes throughout history and the personal qualities students can display to be heroes themselves. There will also be sessions relating to self-esteem, mental health and wellbeing as well as a first aid awareness course. Some of these sessions include: Heroes work together, Heroes need strong minds, Heroes need to feel good too and Heroes can save lives. A program and information letter will be sent home early next week for parents with an overview of the week.

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

Mr Robert Tuppack
Deputy Principal

Excursion Instrumental Music Carols at Balonne Tuesday 6 Dec from 6.30 pm. Coordinator Luke Todd

Next year this column will appear permanently in all newsletters so that parents are aware of information that has been sent home with students within the last fortnight.
After 30 years of dedicated service to St George State High School Mrs Elaine Kann was sincerely farewelled on Wednesday 2 November at an afternoon tea at Riversands Winery.

Mrs Kann will be warmly remembered as the Librarian who assisted not only the students but the teaching staff with any enquiry and was the go-to lady who knew and remembered almost every teacher and student that came through St George SHS.

Current and past staff came together to congratulate Elaine on a wonderful career, thank her for enthusiasm, fondness and warmth and to wish her the very best in her retirement.

Thank you to Leisa Mulholland who made Elaine’s delicious cake.

2017 School Leaver Strategy

What’s next for school leavers? Vocational education and training could be the smart next step

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is the right choice for many school leavers. VET qualifications can provide students with a pathway to employment or a stepping stone to university. The Queensland Government subsidises more than 300 qualifications, allowing eligible school leavers to gain a qualification at little or no cost.

All school leavers, from Year 10 to Year 12, can register to receive more information about vocational and training opportunities in 2017.

By texting YES to 0476 850 648, school leavers can start receiving text prompts in 2017. The texts will connect them with information about training opportunities. Young people can choose how much or how little information they receive and they have the option to opt out at any time.

Please encourage your school leaver to register with this service.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) is collecting the young person’s mobile number for the purposes of providing them with regular updates on training opportunities during 2017. The mobile phone number will be accessed by authorised employees or contractors of DET. The young person’s mobile number will not be given to any other person or agency unless they have given us permission or we are authorised or required by law. If you have concerns about how the mobile has been used please contact 1800 210 210 (this is a free call). Opt out details will be provided on every text sent by DET. This information service will automatically end on 1 December 2017.

Standard charges will apply to SMS messages sent to us. SMS sent to the young person will incur no additional cost.

Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week was celebrated in October. Valuing your mental health, was a week dedicated in increasing people’s awareness and fighting the stigma associated with Mental Health. It was a week to remind people to check in with their work colleagues, family friends and loved ones and let them know you are there. The week focused the activities on “Healthy Body, Healthy Mind” by providing fruit cups, BBQ breakfast, oval walks and aerobics all of which were free for the students to participate. I have also established a “Rag Rug” construction where students could all sit down, have a chat with others whom they may not usually associate with and contribute towards creating a unique rug to be placed in the new ‘Health & Well Being Hub’ in 2017.

Miss Sarah Scriven
Youth Support Coordinator

St Pat's Mass for Yr 12s

St Patrick’s School welcomed our Year 12 cohort to the annual Year 12 Mass on Tuesday 25 October. Each year our senior students attend the mass with the whole of St Pat’s school where prayers are offered for successful end of year exams, thanks is given and blessings are made on each of our students. This year, St Vincent de Paul gave each of the attendees a St Christopher key-ring, wishing them safe travels into their futures. St Christopher is the patron saint of travellers. As students beginning their education, the Prep students blessed the Year 12 students. It was indeed an emotional ceremony for our senior students.

Thank you to the staff at St Patrick’s who continue to value and support our local students.
The periodic table of the elements lists all of the elements that are found on the Earth (and some that humans have made). An element is a pure substance that cannot be chemically broken down into a simpler substance. There are 118 elements listed on the modern periodic table, but 3 of them (numbers 113, 115, 117 & 118) currently have no names because their existence has yet to be confirmed.

Mendeleev is credited with inventing the modern periodic table as a way to organise the elements so that the properties of those placed in columns are similar.

Most of us know what iron or tin or carbon look like, but amongst the other elements there are many that are unfamiliar. In Chemistry this week, the students were able to see & touch real samples of 73 element (or products that contain the element. Our amazing laboratory assistant, Mrs Di Bergmann organised the acquisition of many elements that we didn’t have at school and we would like to thank Nicole at the St George Florist for the donation of helium in a balloon, Glenda at St George News for lending us a set of calligraphy pens (they have ruthenium in the nibs), Mitre 10 for lending us a smoke detector (containing Americium) & luminous paint (containing radium), Marlise and Joe from JCMs who donated 2 x spark plugs (containing iridium and yttrium) and Northern Smelters at Woodridge for donating samples of cadmium, antimony & bismuth.

The students arranged the samples to form a giant periodic table. The activity was enjoyed by all.

Of course we do amazing things in Chemistry . . . periodically.

Mrs Karen McKechnie
Chemistry Teacher

When you swallow some food or drink, it moves through a tube called the oesophagus into your stomach. Normally, we eat sitting down or standing up so gravity pulls the food downwards – towards the centre of the earth. Have you ever wondered if you can swallow when you’re upside down – against the pull of the Earth’s gravity? The Year 8 students have learned about the digestive system in Science and they did an experiment to investigate this question.

Some of the class volunteered to do a handstand against a wall and try to drink water while they were upside down. It worked and they were all able to swallow the water. Why? The reason is that when you swallow some food (or drink) the muscle behind the food contracts and the muscle in front relaxes. The food is pushed forward. The relaxed muscle then contracts and the next one relaxes and the process continues all the way along your oesophagus in a process called PERISTALSIS.

The body is truly an amazing machine. Of course ‘Reverse Peristalsis’ is not quite as pleasant.

Mrs Karen McKechnie
Science Teacher
The latest Zinger Winners were James Claxton and Ned Jones.

RMC-D work experience

Sean Beckman, Brad Schurmann, Zack Popp and Lockie Pollock have completed 24 hours of modified work experience activity with the Royal Military College - Duntroon (RMC-D).

During this time Sean, Brad, Zack and Lockie participated in Battle Block One Delta where they observed and participated in elements of this exercise within the St George Region gaining exposure to Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles (PVMs), Engineers, Mechanics, Drivers, Signallers, Water Transport, Medics, Catering and Army Officers.