Last Friday saw the running of the Athletics Carnival. Participation and spirit across the day was very good with students displaying their house colours whilst competing with 100 more points scored this year. The final result was a comfortable victory to Leichhardt (1,016) over Nixon (868) and Mitchell (862). I would like to thank the parents and staff who made the running of this carnival possible. Without their support these days certainly would not be successful. A reminder that students selected in the school team are expected to attend training sessions (these are held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday after school) in preparation for the South West Track and Field carnival. The South West carnival will be hosted by the high school on Thursday and Friday 27 and 28 August. Assistance in the field and in the canteen is urgently needed. Please contact the office on 4620 8222 if you are able to assist.

**Age Champions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12 Years</th>
<th>Hayden Lawson</th>
<th>Olivia Cochrane</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Years</td>
<td>Jade Smith</td>
<td>Lashaun Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Years</td>
<td>Lochie Pollock</td>
<td>Jessica Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Years</td>
<td>Blake Beardmore</td>
<td>Jesse Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Years</td>
<td>Ned Jones</td>
<td>Alana Schurmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Years</td>
<td>Jaco du Plessis</td>
<td>Stephanie Schiller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Siaosi Mahe</td>
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</table>
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

School Spirit

Sport, physical activity and being healthy is an extremely important part of life and this also builds a sense of belonging. School spirit is a key medium to having students come together and recognise that our differences are our strengths. This was clearly evident with the increased participation at our recent Track and Field carnival. As a school we are intending to increase our focus in this area and specifically target Rugby League and Netball at a higher competitive level to help promote this spirit. Having every student feel a sense of belonging is at the core of St George SHS’s values. Please feel free to attend the Charleville vs St George Open Rugby League match this Friday, 7 August at 1:00 pm and build our community spirit.

Mr Doug Watson
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Week 4 already and so much has /and is happening……..

Just a list of what has happened since last newsletter and will be on before the next one is distributed, is a long list. If you need more detail about any of them please contact the school. Students have been or will be involved in excursions – Year 11 Legal Studies, 11/12 Geography, some Yr 7 – 10 students to USQ Career’s Day, the Eisteddfod, interested girls to Gold Coast Titan’s development clinic and the Sheep Club to the Ekka. In addition there are at-school activities and events including Athletics Carnival, a Rugby League match against Charleville, NAIDOC celebrations, Career’s Market and the Senior Pathways night. All of these events value-add to our students’ school experience but all require massive time and effort on staff behalf – so thank you to the many staff involved.

Students all received report cards for Semester 1. Parent – teacher meetings were then held last Tuesday night; but for those who did not attend, I would encourage you to contact your child’s teachers at any time if you have a question or concern by phoning the Office on 46208222. As a result of the reports, it was then a pleasure, on parade last Wednesday, to have the opportunity to acknowledge those students who had excelled academically or whose effort and behaviour was impressive. There are more details of this in the newsletter.

Ms Jo McGrath
A/HOD Senior Schooling

FROM HoD SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

For many students, assessments can lead to heightened stress. Our year 12s especially may be feeling additional pressure as they think about what they will be doing next year. Good mental health is important in each of our lives. Those who are mentally healthy are better equipped to meet life’s challenges. There are a range of web based resources available to students that provide information on a range of mental and physical health issues.

http://headspace.org.au/
http://www.kidshelp.com.au
http://au.reachout.com/

Don’t forget year 10 students and parents to come to the Future Pathways evening on the 13 August. SET Plan interviews will take place on 26 August, have you booked your interview time? Year 10 students will use this day as a planning day instead of coming to school.

Year 12 students who are interested in applying for TAFE or University can come along to the QTAC information session on 13 August. Which starts at 6.00pm. We want to see interested students and parents at this important session.

Ms Jo McGrath
A/HOD Senior Schooling

FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Week 4 marks the term as well and truly underway. As students progress through the term it is important for their academic success that they are completing homework. We value homework as an integral and essential part of each student’s education.

Homework in high school can take many forms including:

- Formal homework set by teacher
- Revision of class work
- Reading for future reference
- Assignment work
- Exam preparation

For Junior Secondary students there is also weekly Maths and English homework designed to practise and improve literacy and numeracy skills. These are issued at the beginning of the week and are to be handed in at the conclusion of the week. Our expectation is that students in Junior Secondary should be completing approximately an hour of homework a night.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding homework please do not hesitate to contact classroom teachers.

Miss Kelly Ott
HOD Junior Secondary Schooling
From the Semester 1 report cards, there were many students who have obviously worked hard, achieved well and have demonstrated excellent behaviour in the classroom. As a school we recognised and congratulated these excellent students on parade last Wednesday. Students were recognised for Grade Point Averages and Effort and Behaviour.

**GPAs (Grade Point Averages)**
A score of 5 was allocated for each achievement of A or VHA, 4 for a B or HA, etc, a total generated for each student and then an average calculated to produce a GPA.
- Highest GPA in each year level (received $10 tuckshop voucher and a certificate)
- All students with GPA of 4 or more (received a certificate)

**Effort and Behaviour**
- Excellent for effort and behaviour in every subject - $10 tuckshop voucher and a positive postcard
- Majority of excellent in all subjects - a positive postcard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Year 12</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest GPA</td>
<td>Dennielle Dohle 4.63</td>
<td>Tylah Fontaine 4.63</td>
<td>Sophie Schiller 4.6</td>
<td>Jesse Wilkinson 4.75</td>
<td>Courtaney Barr 4.33</td>
<td>Teri Strugnell 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA of 4 or more</td>
<td>Chelsea Beardmore, Thomas Desgrand, Rebecca Hoolihan, Paige Houlahan, Harry Johnson, Samuel Killen, Latai Matapa, Cameron Moloney, Joseph Ricketts</td>
<td>Lauren Fraser, Jarrod Grayson, Janica Lamprecht, Lashaun Miller, Kelly Whitaker, Grace Woodrow</td>
<td>Lily Codrington, Isobelle Griegg, Jessica Johnson, Daniel Moran, Sophie Pike</td>
<td>Isabel Anderson, Kingsleigh Anderson, Elly Halpin, Anika Labuschewski, Harry Scriven, Anna Strugnell</td>
<td>Hannah Anderson, Mallory Bartlem, Madison Espie, Taneika Freeman, Siaosi Mahe, Bronwyn Pike, Tearna Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All excellent Effort and Behaviour</td>
<td>Jaheedah Arendse, Dennielle Dohle, Tylah Fontaine, Latai Matapa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tearna Smith</td>
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On the 20 and 21 July, 50 students from across the Balonne cluster converged on St George State School for the annual Beginners Band Camp. Students from Thallon, Bollon, Dirranbandi and St George participated over the 2 days.

The students had the chance to play in a large ensemble (some for the first time) and meet students who have only started their instrumental journey this year.

The students rehearsed 3 pieces over the two days and then performed a concert for the primary school, teachers and parents.

A big thank you to all the helpers over the 2 days, to all the parents that transported students to and from camp and the continued support at home, something like this cannot happen without you.

Luke Todd — Music Teacher

The P & C in conjunction with the School is looking at redeveloping the area between the resource centre and G block. We are looking at the planting of two large shade trees and some curved barriers, this could be concrete, timber or even a 300 mm hedge, and the addition of permanent seating for students, this could be anything from a picnic style to concrete block style. The school really needs a softer, greener feel, as a P and C this style of green seating area concept could be expanded around the school. This would create a real and calm learning atmosphere, that would allow various stages to be completed in a working bee style activity. It also has the additional advantage of allowing the school to purchase some of the materials.

Have a look at the picture to the left - it gives the area a real atmosphere with only a few shade trees and barriers but also provides multiple areas for seating.

This is obviously an advanced version of what we will be able to achieve, but it may give you an idea of what we are looking at. If the area is successful, we would envisage expanding the area to the front of the school in front of S block.

We would love to hear from anyone with a passion for gardening to share their ideas with us in consultation with the school administration team, to ensure Education Queensland guidelines are followed. If you would be interested please let one of the P & C members know!

Michelle Strugnell — P & C Secretary

On Wednesday 3 June some of our students sat the ICAS National Science competition. This competition is an independent evaluation of students’ academic ability in aspects of Science and provides insight into their understanding.

All the students are to be commended for their participation and in particular, Harry Scriven in Year 10 who achieved a Distinction. Congratulations also to Teri Strugnell and Bronwyn Pike (Year 12) who each achieved a Credit.

Anne Brimblecombe — Extension co-ordinator
Callum Lancaster is the newest school based trainee at St George High School. Callum will be studying a Certificate III in Agriculture AHC30110.

Callum will be working with the Rogan Pastoral Company to undertake this qualification. He will attend the workplace on Mondays and complete his school subjects on Tuesday through to Friday. This opportunity will allow Callum to gain a nationally recognised qualification whilst completing his senior schooling.

Congratulations Callum!

If you have any questions about the school based apprentice/trainee program please don’t hesitate to contact me at the high school 46 208 222.

Melissa Scriven
Transition Officer

Tuesday 28 July, students in the senior Ag Science class were visited by the local vet, Teagan Fitzwater. The students are currently undertaking an assignment about Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) where they have to compare and contrast two techniques that would be able to be implemented into the production plan of a local beef or sheep producer. Teagan spoke with the students and provided a PowerPoint presentation that they will be able to refer to throughout their assessment.

Many thanks must go to the St George Vet practice for their ongoing support of our Agriculture Program and especially to Teagan Fitzwater for sharing her knowledge and expertise with us on the day!

Ashley Stuart—Ag Teacher

It is a syllabus requirement of the Senior Geography subject that students undertake a field study once a year. This year students travelled to the Beardmore Dam to collect data about the water quality, wildlife and vegetation of the area. The students used special equipment to test the pH, turbidity, temperature and electro-conductivity of the water, which allows them to make decisions about its ability to support life and be used for agricultural purposes. Some special wildlife was found during the study such as a spoon billed heron, baby fish and codium fragile (ultra-green algae). It was a cold and blustery day but the students did their best to collect data and test their ideas. The final results confirmed that while our water doesn’t necessarily look great, it has a good pH level and is capable of supporting life and being used to grow plants and crops.

Luke Everitt—Geography Teacher

Chemistry is very colourful this term as the year 11 and 12 students investigate equilibria for various reactions. Students designed their own procedure to determine if a copper chloride equilibrium reaction was exothermic or endothermic. They placed one test tube containing the copper chloride in a beaker containing hot water and another in a beaker containing an ice-water mixture. Using concepts they have learned about equilibria, they determined that if the solution turned more green in the hot water, then the reaction is exothermic whereas if it is more blue in the hot water, then the reaction is endothermic.

Check out Chemistry student Tom McGee in the photo with the hot water in the beaker on the right to see the outcome of their experiment. Remember, Chemists have solutions!

Karen McKechnie—Chemistry Teacher
**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

- **St George RSL Club** Order a commemorative paver for the Memorial Wall. Contact Karen Berry 0474 522 256 or email: klb60@live.com.au.

- **ST GEORGE BLUE LIGHT FORMAL DANCE PARTY** Friday 21 August @ “The Centre” 6:00pm to 8:00pm. $5 Entry Fee. Ages Prep to 13 yrs.

- **GUITAR LESSONS** Acoustic or electric, bass & vocal. Small group & private lessons. Styles—Blues, Jazz, Rock & Pop. Alan Espie Ph. 0487700711.

- **JUNIOR CRICKET** Registration Day Wednesday 12 August @ St George Primary School from 4.00pm. For more information phone Kelvin Bella on 0428 717 284 or Peta Hart on 0413 197 730 or email petahart@gmail.com

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**POSTIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING**

Our behaviour focus to begin Term 3 is ‘Be Respectful - Respect others right to learn and the teacher’s right to teach.’ At St George State High School we believe every student has the right to an education. As a member of a class, no student has the right to disrupt the learning of others. Even 5 minutes of missed learning time in each lesson equates to students losing nearly 67 hours of learning over the year.

PBL Team

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**15th St George & District Courses & Career Markets**

- **Are you considering changing your career?**
- **Are you thinking about furthering your education and training?**

**Who is it for? Everyone! Students, school leavers, job seekers, parents, family members, community and industry leaders etc.**

**For further information phone:**
St George Marist High School Ph: 07/4620 0322 Fax: 07/4620 4399

**For further information phone:**
St George State High School Ph: 07/4622 1893 Fax: 07/4622 0259

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**CAKE STALL & SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

**Saturday 8th August 2015**

8 AM – 12 PM

At the Newsagency

Please support ‘Run For Jake’

All funds raised will go towards the Mater Hospital.

Come on down and join us as we raise money to support this great cause.

In support of Mater Perinatal Hospitals.

Donations for the stall are welcome!

Contact: Nicky Robertson
0448 051 893

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**Reef, Beef and Hope!**

All the prawns, oysters and bugs you can eat along with succulent grass fed beef, delicious fresh salads, desserts, tea and coffee. Soft drinks available for sale.

St George Cultural Centre
Friday 14 August at 6:00pm.

$10/person with funds raised helping to bring hope through the Chaplaincy Service to five schools in the Balonne Shire. Come along to hear more about the program and how you can invest in the life of a young person.

Contact: Lee Anderson 0477 012886. Bookings essential!

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**2015 Early School Leavers survey**

The Queensland Government is conducting an annual statewide survey of students who left school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12 during 2014. The Early School Leavers survey is a short, confidential survey that collects information about what young people are doing the year after leaving school. The information from the survey helps our schools to understand the pathways young people follow after leaving school and to plan services to support transitions into study or employment for our students.

Between July and August, students who left school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12 last year can expect to receive an invitation to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage early school leavers to take part.

For more information, visit www.education.qld.gov.au/exits/ or telephone toll free on 1800 089 607

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**Upcoming St George Courses**

**Register today!**

- **Provide First Aid & CPR Update**
  Thursday, 27 August 2015 8.00am – 5.00pm
  Saturday, 21 November 2015 8.00am to 5.00pm

- **Firearms Safety Course**
  Saturday, 29 August 2015 9.30am to 1.00pm

- **Chainsaw Course – Levels 1 & 2**
  Thursday, 27 & Friday, 28 August 8.00am to 4.00pm

- **Qld Boat & Jet ski Licence Course**
  Saturday, 21 November 7.30am to 4.00pm

To Register Contact Gateway To Training (GTT)
Phone: 07 4625 3238 Email: info@gttc.com.au
Register online at www.gtttc.com.au

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**St George State High School**

**Conradly Invites**

**St George Community**

**To the 2nd biennial AgConnect Field Day**

**Where: St George SMS Agriculture Plot**

**When: Friday October 16**

**Time: From 9.15am – 2.30pm**

A variety of expert presenters from QDAF, AgForce, St George Veterinary Clinic and Vanderfiegs, among others will be on hand to demonstrate the latest advancements in animal technologies, precision agriculture, horticultural trials, pasture, establishment techniques and much more!