On Wednesday 5 August, St George State High School officially opened their 2015 NAIDOC week celebrations. This year’s NAIDOC theme is We All Stand on Sacred Ground. This year the theme highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ strong spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea.

A formal NAIDOC address was held to officially open our NAIDOC day Celebration. The NAIDOC cake was cut by Aunty Daisy Brown and Aaron Turnbull-Smart. NAIDOC activities included traditional games, Aboriginal rock painting, food tasting, fried scone cooking and boomerang painting. A community brunch was also held for parents, community members and students.

St George State High School would like to thank the Indigenous community for attending our NAIDOC day, the St George NAIDOC committee for providing us with the official NAIDOC cake, Wayne Curtis (St George Aboriginal Housing Company - Sport & Rec Officer), Gavin Waters (St George PLO), Jenny Weatherall (Domestic Violence Family Support Worker) Kerry Weatherall and Jaiden Davis for providing the school with activities. Also, huge thanks to the school NAIDOC committee - Brittany and Haylee Cochrane, Casey Smith, Kirra Duiker, Taliah Waters, Shari and Jennifer Woodridge, Kelepi and Kanahe Matapa, Skye Duncan and Aaron Turnbull-Smart for all their planning, effort and commitment over the past four months.

Kym Weatherall - CEC
FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Moving from Good to Great
This semester sees the school focusing heavily on resources and targeted use of these, to greater support students. As we continue to upgrade rooms, facilities and equipment, our focus now moves to teaching resources and structures within the school. Quality experiences, in class resources and textbooks are the key to lifting and improving outcomes for all students.
Culture and Spirit
A fantastic effort by the open boys Rugby League team in its 28-16 defeat of Charleville SHS. The whole school was able to come together to support and cheer on our team in a very close game until the last 15 minutes, where the teams mental strength was able to see them run in some late points. A special thanks also needs to go to Mr Morris and Mrs Ratcliffe for all their effort in making this event happen. We truly have great staff that are willing to go the extra miles to support students.
Great Opportunities
Last week saw a number of great opportunities afforded to students with the Careers & Courses Expo, Instrumental Band teaming up with the last Thursday to the Future Pathways night and QTAC information session. Each parent and their child MUST have an interview at the school. The meeting will take place for approximately 30 minutes. During this meeting, we will look at your child’s post school destination, career goals and intended subjects of study. Each student’s journey must be mapped out carefully to ensure that their chosen subjects match towards their intended pathway; that they are QCE eligible and they are choosing subjects which reflect their interests and strengths. If you have not made an appointment, please do so urgently by phoning the school officer. It is compulsory for all students to participate in the SET Plan process. I look forward to planning your child’s pathways with you.
September 1 and 2 is the scheduled date for the QCS Test. I wish all students who are sitting the test every success. The following schedule applies for the QCS Test.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Week 6 of Term 3 – and all students will soon be engaged in assignment drafting or completing final copies in many of their subjects. As parents, you can support this process and ensure your child produces his/her very best effort by:
- Knowing/checking the assessment calendar for due dates for both drafts and final copies
- Encouraging your child to set aside sufficient time (maybe reduce working hours)
- Discussing the task with your child
- Providing a suitable study / working place in the home
- Discussing / assisting to organise study plan / assignment attack plan

It is also important to know that a draft that is completed to the best possible standard will ensure the best feedback from the teacher and in turn an optimal end result.

It is decision time – Yr 12s needing to decide on QTAC preferences, Yr 10s completing SET Plans and important subject selections for 2016 and the Junior Secondary information evening to come. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you need any help with these decisions.

Exam Blocks for 11/12
Year 11/12 exam block is from Friday 11 September to Friday 18 September. Students will be provided with an exam timetable and must be present for all scheduled sessions on this timetable. Timetables will be handed out next Wednesday 26 August. Provided all assessment work is complete, Yr 11/12 students do not attend when they do not have a scheduled exam session.

FROM HoD SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL
I would like to say thank you to those parents and students who turned up last Thursday to the Future Pathways night and QTAC information session. It was a busy night as far as information sessions go, but I hope everyone took away valuable messages relevant to their children.

For Year 10s, SET Plans are happening on Wednesday 26 August. Each parent and their child MUST have an interview at the school. The meeting will take place for approximately 30 minutes. During this meeting, we will look at your child’s post school destination, career goals and intended subjects of study. Each student’s journey must be mapped out carefully to ensure that their chosen subjects match towards their intended pathway; that they are QCE eligible and they are choosing subjects which reflect their interests and strengths. If you have not made an appointment, please do so urgently by phoning the school officer. It is compulsory for all students to participate in the SET Plan process. I look forward to planning your child’s pathways with you.

FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL
This week marks the half way mark of term 3 and there are many upcoming events involving Junior Secondary Students:
- This week students in Year 7 & 9 receive their individual NAPLAN reports in the mail.
- Sunday 23 August - Opti-Minds team is competing in the Maths/Engineering division at the regional competition in Roma.
- Friday evening 27 August – A group of Year 7 students are hosting a short film festival showcasing their work from a two day film workshop titled ‘In the Bin.’
- Wednesday evening 9 September – Junior Secondary Information Night in Year 7 classrooms. 5:30pm - Year 6 students transitioning into High School. 6:30pm - Year 8 students transitioning into Year 9.

Please contact the school should you require any more information about any of these events.

Mr Doug Watson
Principal

FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Ms Jo McGrath
A/HOD Senior Schooling
On the 4 August, 21 eager and very talented music students braved the cold and dark to board the bus that travelled to the Eisteddfod. There were many discussions, plenty of music and lots of singing as the excitement built on the trip to Goondiwindi.

After having breakfast at McDonalds, it was straight into the amazing Rockband performance of “Up” once we arrived at the Eisteddfod. The Senior Concert band played a great rendition of “Happy” and “Dynamite”. They received a 3rd place.

Congratulations to both groups. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Mark Morris for driving the bus, all the students and Mr Todd who dedicate their time and effort to music. They left a great impression on Goondiwindi and it was a pleasure for me to say they came from St George State High School.

Kylie Whitaker

The 2015 St George and District Careers and Courses Expo was held on Thursday 13 August 2015 at the Balonne Skill Centre. There was a daytime session for the school students to participate in the expo in their class groups with their teachers. The High School was pleased to welcome local, Queensland and tertiary education course providers to our expo.

This year the event allowed both school students and community members to access business, industry and education and training providers. With access to university staff, TAFE colleges, Defence Force Recruiting, Queensland Health Service, Queensland Apprenticeship Services and a range of other local and visiting industry and business staff, all those attending the expo were expected to receive expert advice about the full range of tertiary course and career options.

The expo provides a unique opportunity to speak with representatives from the various educational and training bodies, both local and visiting. Exhibitors had highly qualified staff on hand to answer questions and provide advice. They also had brochures and course information sheets for people to access.

The Queensland Health Service had the Hand Dynamometer, a grip strength indicator for students to test, which proved very popular. Also, various equipment brought in by local businesses allowed students to interact with practical applications of various careers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those exhibitors who came and supported the 2015 St George Careers & Courses Expo. I am certain all students who attended came away with many questions answered and information to help guide them on their future career pathways.

Melissa Scriven
Transition Officer
POSTIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

What does a classroom look like where students are respecting each other’s right to learn and the teacher’s right to teach? Are there hands up? Is there calling out? Students talking to each other? Depending on the classroom context this may look different. Sometimes a respectful classroom is students talking and working together collaboratively. Sometimes it looks like chaos, where students are working on different projects with different timelines. One thing that a respectful classroom has in common is just that – RESPECT. Students know expectations and work within those boundaries, trying their best and staying on task. A respectful classroom is one that is enjoyable to be in.

PBL Team

COMMUNITY NOTICES

- St George RSL Club Order a commemorative paver for the Memorial Wall. Contact Karen Berry 0474 522 256 or email: kib60@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. Sytles—Blues, Jazz, Rock & Pop. Alan Espie Ph. 0487700711.
- STORY TIME @ THE LIBRARY 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10.00—11.00am. Phone the Library on 46253 375 for further information.

A REMINDER FOR HOME ECONOMICS – Yr 9 & 10

Student responsibilities:-
- homework
- choose a recipe, organise ingredients, do a work plan
- supply a container to cook with OR a container to take food home

No home economics equipment SHOULD be going home – some students need to return containers of any sort that have been generously lent out and get themselves better organised in future. Thank you to those students who are always organised with the correct things.

Any donations of usable storage containers or ice cream containers with lids would be welcomed.

Thank you. Julie Worboys—Home Ec Teacher

2015 Early School Leavers survey

The Queensland Government is conducting its 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 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/exitsurv/ or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.

MAJOR ZINGER DRAW

Congratulations to the students below who have consistently displayed one or more of the four school expectations well done!

SAFE, RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, PREPARED

Week 2 – Charlotte Hayward & Bryce Sewell
Week 3 – Jarica Lamprecht & Trai Draper
Week 5 – Jayden Rayner & Macy Coveney

Year 7 HOMEWORK GROUP

Tuesday & Thursday
8.00am to 8.30am
with Miss Taggart in the Year 7 classroom

Year 8 MATHS

Mondays
3.15pm - 4.00pm
Mrs Lauren Thorn.
Covering concepts delivered in class and extension work.