“It's All About The Base”

Well, the Year 11 and 12 Chemistry students were working hard on quality control again this week. This time their task was to determine the concentration of acetic acid in three different brands of vinegar by titration. Since this was an assessment task, the students had to design their own procedure, choosing an acid-base indicator that would work. All participants correctly selected phenolphthalein (one of my favourite indicators) which turns pink at the end-point of the titration. It is important to add exactly the right volume of the base, sodium hydroxide – down to the last drop – to turn the diluted vinegar solution very slightly pink, and then to repeat the titration with three volumes that agree to within 0.1 mL! All students completed this task successfully. As you can see in the photos, the very pale pink colour of the solution in the conical flasks is a testament to the high standard of their laboratory skills.

Australian food standards mandate that vinegar must contain at least 40 g/kg of acetic acid. The higher the concentration, the more flavoursome the vinegar. I’m sure you will be relieved to find out that all three brands passed the test. In order of increasing acetic acid content, Black & Gold brand contains less than Cornwell’s, with Anchor vinegar the winner with the highest concentration.

Of course the importance of adding exactly the right amount of the base, sodium hydroxide cannot be overstated. As Meghan Trainor sings . . . “It’s all about that base!” . . . or she would if she knew about Chemistry.

Karen McKechnie - Chemistry Teacher
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Moving from Good to Great

Having students accessing quality resources in the school and at home, is critical to providing high quality student outcomes. For 2016 a number of additional resources are being included to support students; for example additional textbooks, learning resources and digital devices. Each year, the school and P and C review the Student Resource Scheme. The school is proposing to increase the junior secondary SRS fee to $180 for years 7 to 9 and senior secondary SRS fee to $150. Community members are welcome at the next P and C meeting to further discuss these changes.

1 to 1 laptop Program

At the end of 2015 a majority of the federally funded NSCCF laptops are out of warranty and the federal government is not continuing with the program at this time. However the community, staff and students see the continuation of this program as an essential resource to deliver quality education. At this time the school is still investigating options and over the course of this year various options have been considered from; bring your own device, school purchased, additional computer labs and the technical solutions that need to sit behind the various options.

At this stage the best fit is a school purchased device which is leased by the students and expanding the program to include year 10. The nominal cost is approximately $150 per year for students at this stage and no decision has been made yet about transitioning, however a final decision will be made early Term 4 in preparation for 2016.

FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Is anyone feeling like ‘where has the year gone’? Well, it has been frantic – the QCS test is over for another year and fingers crossed our students achieve great results.
This week, anxiety peaked among our cohort of students as they demonstrated their knowledge, practical and higher order thinking skills to show what they have learned so far this term. It’s now time to recharge over the spring holidays and I hope everyone has a relaxing couple of weeks.

Next term, the Year 12s only have 33 school days left, the Year 10s and 11s have 38 school days left. In this time, we have more assessments and exams, speech night, Year 11 Camp, Leadership selection and Graduation just to name a few.

In Term 4, our goal is to hit the 90% target for attendance. Every minute missed equates to missed opportunities, and I believe all students should maximise class and learning time every day. Absences need to be reported to the school each day a student is absent.

Happy holidays everyone, and I will see you all for our last term for 2015!

Ms Jo McGrath
A/HOD Senior Schooling

FROM HoD SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

FROM The Deputy Principal

September holidays next week – I know there are a number of staff and many students, especially Senior students who are eagerly looking forward to this break. In the past term we have tackled QCS tests, subject selections and information evenings, SET plans for Year 10 students, QTAC applications, SW Athletics Carnival, Ekka Week with the Sheep Club, football matches against Charleville, Girls’ football trip, Careers’ Market, Senior Games at Warnawee, Eisteddfod, Music camp and playouts not to forget loads of quality teaching, learning and assessment!

A very sincere thank you to all who have offered, organised, encouraged and supported these events and activities for the students and congratulations to those who have made the most of all opportunities that were available.

FORMAL UNIFORM ON WEDNESDAY next term

A reminder that all students are required to wear full formal uniform each Wednesday from the start of next term. Please be aware that recipients of Speech night prizes must all have full formal uniform including black shoes.

I am looking forward to a productive and successful Term 4; especially to the year 12s as they rapidly approach their last days of formal schooling. I wish everyone an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

Mrs Lynne McCosker
Deputy Principal

FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

As the term draws to an end, students are busy completing assessment and it is a good time to reflect on students attendance rates. Earlier in the term it was identified that our goal for all students is to achieve and maintain an attendance rate of 90%. This week letters are going home to students whose attendance rates are below 85% for the year with a snapshot of students’ attendance data.

Research has shown that students with lower attendance rates are:

- 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.

To acknowledge those students who have met and exceeded the attendance goal, letters are going home to congratulate and recognise their hard work.

Our goal for every student at St George State High school is to maintain attendance rates of 90% or higher and make every day at school count. Should you require any support in helping your child achieve the school’s attendance goal for Term 4, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Ms Jo McGrath
A/HOD Senior Schooling
The weekend of 5 and 6 September, the High School P& C catered for the biennial Doctors’ Conference. This was a huge undertaking as gourmet dishes were prepared and presented throughout the weekend. There were many compliments, with delegates thoroughly enjoying the menu provided. This would not be the success it was without the help from volunteering staff, students and parents. Thank you to everyone who was involved.

Melissa Scriven

Bryn Stokes has successfully obtained a school-based traineeship with Fred and Lou Stokes of “Powrunna”. Bryn will be attending the workplace on Thursdays to complete a Certificate III in Agriculture. He will then attend school throughout the remaining school week to complete his Year 10 subjects.

Melissa Scriven - Transition Officer

Another massive day of netball last Sunday 6 September! This time it was for our Junior Vicki Wilson team. Held at Nell. E Robinson Courts in Kearney Springs Toowoomba, it was a long but enjoyable day for the eight girls. The girls travelled to the venue thinking they were only to play five games – but were pleasantly surprised to find themselves in the semi-finals, ultimately playing seven games against some of the district’s most established teams. The girls gave the day their best effort, placing 4th in Division 2 overall. Thanks to Hayley Nolan, Dennielle Dohle, Reeghyn Beardmore, Sophie Pike, Kingsleigh Anderson, Jesse Wilkinson, Taliah Brown and Keisha Cubby for their commitment on the day. Lastly, a HUGE thank you goes to Kathryn Dohle for coaching and umpiring on the day. Without her efforts, our participation in regional carnivals would not have been possible this year.

Amy McKenna - Manager
The scoop on technology.

Sadly we are racing at full speed towards the end of the year. Looking back, have you got some New Year’s Resolutions that haven’t been ticked off? Well it’s not too late to start! There are plenty of great apps to help you achieve your goals!

If you wanted to learn a new language, try ‘Duolingo’. It’s free and available for iOS and Android.

Did you want to save the environment? Reduce your carbon footprint? ScannerPro will let you take photos and turn them into editable PDF’s. Available for iOS.

There are many of us who ‘forget’ important dates or tasks. If your resolution was to be better organised, Wunderlist is an app to help you organise yourself better. It is free, and available for iOS, Android and Windows.

What about an app which helps you to cite and create bibliographies? One way to help improve your academic results! RefME is a free app which is available on iOS, Android and web.

POSTIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Zingers are just one of the tools we use to recognise positive behaviour in our school. Teachers have awarded over 3500 Zingers so far in 2015, and those are just the ones that have made it into the Zinger box! Imagine how many more we would have recorded if it wasn’t for the washing machine! Zingers are an important part of our school and aren’t just used as a one off reward. They go towards our weekly tuckshop draw and end of term mega draw. Once a student receives 20 Zingers, they earn a Gold Zinger which enters them in the iPod draw that happens at the end of each term. Zingers also represent points that go towards the annual Care Challenge where a care group is awarded a trophy at the end of the year. It is a big job counting all of those Zingers, but we are lucky that Mrs Thorn loves to do it!

PBL Team

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.
- **GUITAR LESSONS** Acoustic or electric, bass & vocal. Small group & private lessons. Styles—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.