'Annie Jnr' showcases our students' talents

After much anticipation the 2016 musical, 'Annie Jr' was performed on 20 and 21 May. As the curtains opened the crowd went silent and remained that way for the hour and a half performance, mesmerised by the talented students on stage. The performances on both nights were wonderful, with Saturday almost selling out due to rave reviews from the Friday night.

The orphans took their parts very seriously, Warbucks and Grace were forever poised, Rooster and Lily were devious, Bundles/Drake/Burt Healy looked very familiar, Miss Hannigan scared everyone and Annie raised the roof every time she sang.

It was a fantastic two nights with many happy memories being made on and off the stage. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank my dedicated cast and crew, without your commitment and help, the musical would have never become a reality. A special thanks to Ben Lawson, Royce Cox and Angela Garner whose help was above and beyond. The P and C provided a delicious supper of antipasto platters and desserts.

Until next time, Miss Taggart
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Great Opportunities

Although academic outcomes are seen as our core business, schools also play an important role in building the student’s social and emotional capacity through the opportunities and experiences that they have. Building on the success of the Kokoda Challenge in Toowoomba, which saw students and teachers pushing their physical boundaries, students have had the opportunity to grow in the area of the Arts with the school musical, ‘Annie Jnr’. I would also like to publicly acknowledge the hard work of staff, P and C volunteers, parents and students in making this event happen and to especially thank Natalie Taggart for taking on directing this huge event. The quality of our musical was one of the best I have seen and the feedback from the community certainly supports this. It is with great pride that I am able to acknowledge the talent and success of our students in an area that we are looking to expand in the school.

Mr Doug Watson
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

At St George State High School, our focus is not only on academic outcomes, but also the health and wellbeing of all of our students. In an effort to support our students socially and emotionally, the school has a Student Support Team as well as different programs running throughout the year. In addition to this, Mrs Kuhz, Mr Leadbetter and Miss Rakich attended the Positive Schools Conference last week to identify how best to build a Health and Wellbeing framework to promote a positive learning culture at our school and to support the social and emotional health of all of our students.

If your child is experiencing difficulties or has any concerns please encourage them to talk to their relevant Head of Department in addition to the below staff:

- Sarah Scriven – Youth Support Coordinator
- Joy Weatherall – Community Education Counsellor
- Richie Teunis – Chaplain
- Mrs Woodrow – Guidance Officer
- School based health nurse – currently advertised

As well as having access to key support staff, students have also had the opportunity to take part in a Cyber Bullying and Sexting information session this week, as well as the Mental Health Workshop that is occurring next week on the 2 June to give students practical skills on identifying and coping with stress. Both of these sessions focus on student wellbeing and how they can make a difference not only in their own lives, but the lives of others. If you are concerned about the health and wellbeing of your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Miss Kelly Ott
A/Deputy Principal

FROM HoD SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

We are now past the half way mark for Term 2 and at this stage of the term students are well and truly engaged in learning and undertaking assessments and assignment. The Year 11 and 12 students will sit their formal end of semester exams during the structured exam block time in week 11. 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.

Musical

On Saturday night I had the pleasure of watching the school musical. The talent of our students was exceptional! I would like to congratulate the entire cast on their commitment and efforts to master their lines, songs and dances. It was a truly sensational representation of our high school. An enormous thank you to ALL staff who worked so hard to make this happen.

Term 2 Attendance to Date

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who reached 94% attendance during week 6. Year 11 reached 82% and Year 10 86%. Regular school attendance has a positive impact on students’ academic results and their social and emotional wellbeing. Students in the senior school are regularly tracking their attendance with the goal to reach 90%.

Student Learning Accounts

During tutorials, Year 11 and 12 students have been logging onto their learning accounts. This learning account is a web-based record for each Queensland student which charts a student’s progress through senior learning activities. Students can access their learning account through the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) Student Connect, a password-protected website - https://studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au/. I encourage students to log onto the website regularly to track their progress and update personal details.

Year 11 External Assessment

The Queensland Government has announced a steady and considered transition to revitalised senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. Designed to meet the needs of current and future students, the features of these systems will be:

- a model that uses school-based assessment and common external assessment
- new processes that strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- a move away from the Overall Position (OP) rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Further information about the changes can be found at: https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te

In preparation for the introduction of a new senior assessment system from 2018, St George State High School is thrilled to be one of approximately 250 Queensland schools taking part in external assessment trials. This will involve our Year 11 English students sitting the exam on Friday 27 May and our Year 11 Maths B students sitting the exam on Wednesday 1 June. To maximise the learning opportunities for the trial, the assessment will be administered under secure conditions, and graded externally. This will enable QCAA to evaluate the effectiveness of its processes for delivering external assessments. The trial also offers an opportunity for our school to become familiar with the use of subject-based external assessments and gain additional information about the progress our students are making in their senior studies.

As the trial will involve Year 11 formative assessment only, there will be no impact on a student’s Year 12 exit result in the subject. We wish all students participating in the trial the best of luck! Special thanks must go to Miss Amy McKenna and Mrs Anne Brimblecombe for helping to organise and prepare our students for the exam.

Mrs Kelly Kuhz
A/HOD Senior Schooling

St George State High School
Office Hours
8am - 4pm Monday to Friday
Please phone during these hours or leave a message on 4620 8222.
Please advise the school office of all student absences ASAP

SCHOOL WATCH
13 17 88

A/HOD Senior Schooling
FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

2016 Premier's Reading Challenge

Reading plays an important part in students’ lives during their school years and beyond. It allows children to actively engage their imagination and opens up a world of educational opportunities. In 2015, more than 150,000 students and children throughout Queensland took part in the Premiers’ Reading Challenge reading more than 1.95 million books. The 2016 challenge is for Queensland students from Prep to Year 9 to read or experience the allocated number of books for their reading level during the period of 16 May to 26 August 2016. To complete the challenge, Year 5 to 9 students must read 15 books. Information including guidelines, suggested booklists and how to register can be found at www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge.

Bullying. No Way!

St George State High School is committed to providing school environments which maximise the educational opportunities and outcomes for all students. Queensland state schools have programs in place to address issues relating to bullying, harassment and discrimination. Behaviour at school is managed supportively to achieve a positive learning environment for the benefit of students, staff and parents. If you have any concerns regarding repeated patterns of bullying or any other matters, please contact the school. ‘Together we Achieve’.

Mr Wayne Batiste
A/HOD Junior Secondary Schooling

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER

Being a Friend versus Being a Parent

It is interesting when considering the number of children and adults alike who believe that a Mum or Dad should be a ‘friend’ in preference to being a ‘parent’. The job of being a parent is so much more than being a friend and holds a great deal of responsibility. This is worth some discussion.

What does being a Parent mean?

● Being there for your child – to talk with them, take them places, stay up late waiting for them to come home to know they are safe, helping them with homework that sometimes is beyond your own knowledge, having school meetings with teachers, preparing lunches for years on end (this alone would test any friendship)

● Being with them to celebrate the good times but also to help them through the difficult times (and at times the difficult times out weigh the good times)

● Even when they say ‘I hate you’ you give them unconditional love by answering ‘I love you’ and adding ‘but I don’t like your behaviour’ (not many friends would last the distance if they felt unloved).

● Using tough love when needed (letting them know when they have done the wrong thing; getting them to take responsibility for their actions; setting limits)

● Saying ‘no’ – and sticking to your decision when you know it’s in their best interest (this takes energy and strength to resist the emotional blackmail and the language that comes with this eg. you’re ruining my life/ my friendships/my future). Life not always going ‘your’ way actually helps build resilience/ it’s the struggles that make us stronger (we could go on and on with the benefits of ‘no’)

● Letting them know what they are doing well but also letting them know what they may need to improve on (which they may not want to hear)

● Being honest but not harsh eg. if an outfit is inappropriate who better to tell them than a parent (a friend most probably wouldn’t)

● Being the shoulder to cry on but eager to talk through the issue causing the problem

● Modelling good behaviour and educating your child with skills needed for them to be ready for living in the community – socially appropriate people are more employable than those lacking such skills

In drastic times - dropping everything and coming to their aid – at these times putting their needs before your own

It takes more than a friend to be a parent. It takes love, commitment, selflessness, and endurance. Let’s congratulate ourselves for lasting the distance. If you or your child require support, please contact me or the office to make an appointment.

Mrs Annette Woodrow
Guidance Officer

St George State High School

P & C Meetings

Reminder that the meetings for 20th June and 18th July will be conducted at 7pm in the library.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

● AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA The St George Branch Cancer Council Qld. will be holding a Biggest Morning Tea at the Bowls Club on Thursday 26th May from 10 am till 12 noon. $5.00 admission, morning tea, guest speaker, raffle, lucky door, auctions and fun for all. Further enquiries to Marg Anderson or Zenda Kellock (4625 5161)

● BLUE LIGHT DISCO Orange Theme, Prep to 14 years, $5 entry includes dinner, 6pm-8pm at the Cultural Centre

● COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT - This is the perfect opportunity for the community as a whole to get together and plan the future of the Balonne Shire for our future generation Community Planning Project – Workshops for the Communities Bollon, Dirranbandi, Thallon, St George EVERYONE WELCOME “Thinking is Easy & Cheap, so you may as well think Big” Bill Lawrence This project presents an opportunity for communities to come together and develop collective plans to transform and adapt for a better future. Join Us Sunday, 29th May – Thallon 12 noon at Thallon Hall Monday, 30th May – Bollon 11 am at Bollon Hotel Monday, 30th May – St George 4 pm at the St George RSL Monday, 30th May – Dirranbandi Arts Council Building

● MIXED INDOOR NETBALL @ The Centre (Opposite Council Chambers) 10.30am Tuesdays (babysitting possible) 7pm Tuesdays. It’s FREE! For more info phone Jodie Schiller on 0428 974 091

● NOTICE TO ANGLICAN PARENTS - Your children’s Confirmation. Baptism and Confirmation are important milestones in the life of a member of the Anglican Church. Confirmation classes will start in the July school term, ie the first meeting will be in the week of 11 - 15 July. If you are interested, please contact Marion Ellem on 4625 3044, Pam Turnock on 0428 253 343 or Desley Buchanan on 0408253620, or talk to Anglicans in the community.

● ST GEORGE RSL CLUB Order a commemorative paver for the Memorial Wall. Contact Karen Berry 0474 522 256 or email: kb60@live.com.au.

● 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.
Cast

Annie ........................................... Molly Jones
Oliver Warbucks ............................... Jesse Chapple
Miss Hannigan ................................ Isabel Anderson
Rooster Hannigan .............................. Ryan du Preez
Grace Farrell ................................... Emily Killen
Lily St Regis ................................. Charlotte Hayward
Orphans
Molly .......................................... Paige Sudholz
Pepper ......................................... Hayley Moloney
Duffy ........................................... Latai Matapa
Kate .............................................. Charlotte Hayward
July ............................................... Elizabeth Andrews
Tessie ........................................... Anna Moloney
Star-to-be ...................................... Latai Matapa
Bundles McCloskey ............................ Ned Jones
Apple Seller ................................. Jessie Twidale
Dogcatcher ................................. Rhyley Petfield
Lt Ward ....................................... Keeley Neighbour
Burt Healy ...................................... Ned Jones
Drake ............................................ Ned Jones
Annette ....................................... Keeley Neighbour
Cecile .......................................... Jessie Twidale
Mrs Greer ................................. Sophie Pike
Mrs Pugh ...................................... Stephanie Schiller
President Roosevelt ....................... Beau Petfield
Louis Howe ................................. Keeley Neighbour
Orphan 1 .................................. Charlotte Hersey
Orphan 2 .................................. Yasmin Sullivan

Harry challenged by Army

Last week I went to Brisbane to compete in the Chief of Army Cadet Team Challenge. This is a national challenge with all states and territories across Australia choosing a team of ten to compete. The challenge involved many military based activities from clearing land mines to doing first aid at a severe car crash. My favourite activity was shooting one hundred rounds with an F89 Minimi, this was great because it is a machine gun used by the Army and over the hundred shots I improved my grouping from 400mm over 100m down to 200mm (this is better than I thought as the army supervisor I was with told me his best grouping was 170mm). My other favourite activity was the car crash because it was so real with fake blood all over the place, bones sticking out of legs and screaming people everywhere; it was hectic. The patient I was with had a punctured stomach so he vomited blood everywhere (even over me) and he was holding in his intestines in, I treated him up and he didn’t die so I felt very accomplished. At the end of the week we had a large ceremony where our team actually had dinner with the Chief of the Army (in charge of the entire army). When it came time to announce the winning team we all had our hearts in our throats as we waited for the result, however, we came second to Tasmania by ten points out of a possible five thousand.

Harry Scriven, Year 11 Student

Walk Away, Chill Out

On Tuesday 7 June all year 12 students will attend the Walk Away, Chill Out as One Punch Can Kill anti-violence presentation that are being made available to all state school year 12 students in 2016.

Paul Stanley from the Matthew Stanley Foundation will deliver the presentation about the impact of violent assaults on victims, perpetrators, and encourage students to make safe choices about their behaviour and that of their peers.

For further information about the presentation you can visit www.matthewstanleyfoundation.com.au or contact HOD Senior School – Mrs Kelly Kuhz.