



ST GEORGE STATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"Caring, Learning, Achieving Together"



clever • skilled • creative

VOLUME 20 Issue 10

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**HEAD OF
CURRICULUM**

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EXPERIENCED

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Mrs Alison Fisher

SENIOR TEACHERS

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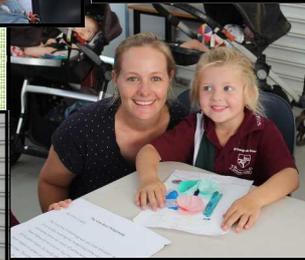


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Awesome Showcase!



From the Principal

Term 1 has gone by so quickly it is hard to actually believe we have been back at school for 10 weeks. Staff and students have been working hard at engaging in learning and in developing in their knowledge and skills within the Key Learning Area strands of the Australian Curriculum. I would like to thank the staff of St George State School for their hard work and dedication to learning and commitment to their job. What an amazing staff we have! I would also like to thank the St George Community for making me feel so welcome and working closely with me in getting to know your families, their needs and walking alongside me to engage in this learning journey together.

Staffing

The end of this term also means some changes to the staffing of classes. We are farewelling some staff and welcoming others. While I acknowledge that this is a time of celebration for those who are leaving us for various reasons, it can also be a very unsettling time for your child. Please do not hesitate to see me to discuss the needs of your own child or children should they need support.

We are saying farewell and good luck to Mrs Harrison from Prep as she embarks on her greatest role in life – becoming a mother. The Prep Class has been so lucky to have Mrs Harrison as their teacher and I know she will be very missed by the students and parents. We wish you all the best, Mrs Harrison, in the coming weeks and can't wait to see your little bundle of joy!

We are also congratulating and farewelling Miss Jessica Bail, who is moving off class into another role within Education. Miss Bail was the successful applicant in an Early Years Coach interview process. Miss Bail will still be seen around the school on many occasions as the Early Years Coach role is based at the school. She will also be travelling to many schools within and beyond the Balonne Cluster. The Year 1/2A class met Mrs Margaret Hannan on Monday when she came in to spend the day with them, getting to know the class. Mrs Hannan is an experienced teacher from the Northern Territory who has worked in remote communities before and is very excited to be joining the school.

Mrs Alison Fisher and Mrs Rina Bowhay will be coming off their class to work in a support teacher role within the Special Education Program for the remainder of the year. They are sad to leave their class, but are also looking forward to the challenges of the year ahead in supporting students across the school with their learning needs. Miss Kate Horrex is returning to the school from her acting Principal role. She is well remembered and well loved by the children of 3/4A and they have already reconnected on Thursday afternoon. Welcome back Kate! The staff, students and parents are very happy to have you back 'home' with us.

P&C

Your P&C needs you! The P&C currently do not have a full Executive Committee. We require four positions to

be filled in order to have a P&C Association – President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Currently we do not have a President, and we only have an interim Secretary. We require two more parents to step up and take on Executive roles on the P&C. On Tuesday evening we held a Special Meeting of the P&C Association so as to engage parents and the community in taking on Executive Positions of the P&C. It was disappointing that this meeting could not go ahead as there were no parents in attendance willing to nominate or take on the roles, and we did not even achieve a quorum. The impact of not filling these positions will take on significant effect if not filled. If we do not have an Executive Committee of four positions, then the P&C will have to close and be placed into caretaker mode – which means that the overall running of the tuckshop, uniform shop, fundraising, P&C Projects will not be able to continue. The tuckshop and uniform shop will have to close their doors, fundraising will cease, excursions (including our participation in Balonne Sport) will have to cease and we will not be able to attend Year 6 camp. To cease all operations would be devastating to the whole school community. I understand that taking on a role like President or Secretary can be a daunting task, and you may be thinking "I don't have the skills to do this". So long as you have a heart for your child's school to grow and improve, desire to have an impact or create change, you will be able to do whatever you put your mind too! I implore any parents who have been thinking about taking on a position, who have felt "I will do it if they are desperate" realise that this is the case. Your P&C needs you now more than ever. I am sending home a letter to every family today to explain this in further detail. We will be holding another Special Meeting of the P&C on 24 April at 6:00pm to fill these positions. I would be happy to meet with any interested parent between now and then to discuss how you can be involved and what help and support is available to you in your role.

End of Term

Today we held our End of Term Parade where we announced our Petero's Peeps, held our Mega Draw and gave out our special end of term acknowledgements. Congratulations to all students for your hard work and dedication this semester.

It was also my pleasure and privilege today to enjoy my first School Showcase and to enjoy the magnificent work of our students on display. Mrs Anderson shared with me that a student selected to display work stated "I have never done anything before in a school that has made me proud!". I had goosebumps listening to this story, that something like this Showcase is one child's proudest moment in Education. We need more opportunities for students to feel this level of pride!

B Block renovations

Over the school holidays B Block will be completed and we will have the handover of the keys. The inside of this building is spectacular and I know that teachers are very excited to be moving back into such amazing classroom spaces. Unfortunately, the furniture for the building does not arrive until the commencement of

Week 3 so we will not officially move in there until that week. Teachers will be using those first two weeks to set up their own resources, establish their behaviour walls, take the students up to see the room and use the interactive panel and to practice their new procedures for lining up, entering and exiting the rooms without the distraction of furniture. By the time we move in, we will have established our new routines and learning will be able to commence on the same day as the furniture is unpacked. I appreciate your patience and understanding over the first two weeks waiting for the 'big move' into that space. Once fully functional, we will hold an 'official opening' and invite the community in to celebrate this new learning environment.

Easter Holidays

During the school holidays, the groundsman will be working on the task of installing gates and locking mechanisms at each entrance to the school. At the commencement of Term 2, only the walk-through gates at front of school, bus entrance and at the crossing entrances will be opened at 8:00 am. At 9:00 am all gates will be closed and locked securely – with only the front entrance gate being left open for the community to access during the day. The 4 walk through gates will then be unlocked again at 2:30 pm. This process is being introduced for Workplace, Health and Safety reasons during the school day, and so that during after-school hours our grounds are secure. No vehicle gates will be open or available to staff, parents or the community to access during the school day. The installation of the new watering system will also mean that no vehicles can drive into the grounds around the community centre, hall or tuckshop area at all after the Easter Vacation Period.

I would like to wish you all a very safe and blessed Easter Vacation period. I look forward to seeing you all again in Week 1, Tuesday 17 April for the first day of school.

Contact: Mrs Veronica Kostaschuk
Principal

Behaviour Focus

I am Safe, Responsible and Respectful

I follow our expectations, class rules
and procedures.

Congratulations
Week 9 Attendance
awarded to:

1/2B - 94%

From the Head of Curriculum

Using teaching strategies for effective learning in the classroom

**This week's article will focus on the third type of
Direct Teaching – Structured Overview.**

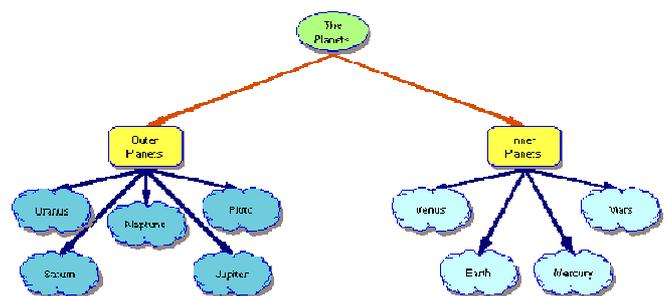
A structured overview is an arrangement of key words and concepts on a topic. The words are organised in a hierarchical structure, beginning with the topic heading. Lines connect the words or subtopics showing their relationship to the central idea and to each other. The conceptual map is like a tree diagram with the most general terms at the top moving down to the details or examples at the bottom.

This diagrammatic overview of the topic helps tie new information to existing knowledge. It can be used to introduce a topic, finding out what students already know and providing a framework for studying the topic. It can be added to as the learning progresses or it can be used for review at the end of a unit. It may be teacher organised, teacher and student organised or student organised. It can be used individually, in pairs or small groups.

Students using structured overviews can:

- link new information to existing knowledge
- think about relationships between ideas
- learn to categorise ideas
- clarify their thoughts
- learn key vocabulary.

The following is an example of a structured overview that a class could have completed throughout a term whilst learning about planets and the Solar System. (www.askschools.ca/curr_content/hutt/strateg/structured_overview.htm)



Contact: Mrs Glenda Moloney
Head of Curriculum

**School resumes for
all students
Tuesday 17 April**

Students of the Week

Congratulations to our students who received Student of the Week Awards for Week 10, Term 1, 2018.

Prep

Kyannah Hooper - For excellent behaviour, effort and attendance. (Being Responsible)

1/2A

Taetum Casey - For excellent behaviour, effort and attendance. (Being Responsible)

1/2B

Jaden Kunaka - For fantastic attendance, effort and behaviour. (Being Responsible)

1/2C

Sophie Squire - For excellent attendance, behaviour and effort. (Being Responsible)

3/4A

Mack Squire - For excellent attendance, behaviour and effort. (Being Responsible)

3/4B

Bryson Risson - For always trying his best. (Being Respectful and Responsible)

3/4C

Sienna Saunders - For an amazing term. (Being Responsible)

5/6A

Madalyn Hearn - For a super effort with assessment. (Being Responsible)

5/6B

Mackenzie McGowan - For an amazing term of learning. (Being Responsible)

5/6C

Kelsey Graham - For always trying her best. (Being Responsible)

Instrumental Music

Dylan Teffer - For always working hard in Instrumental Music. (Being Responsible)

The Arts

Emma-Leigh Turnbull Bennett - For fantastic effort in The Arts. (Being Responsible)

HPE

Kelsey Graham - For great work during HPE. (Being Responsible)

Chappy Champ

Lillian Stenhouse and *Zinema Collins* - For being safe, responsible and respectful. (Being Safe, Responsible and Respectful)

Goal Getters

Congratulations to our students who received Goal Getter Awards for Week 10, Term 1, 2018.

Prep

Miranda Oliver - For taking pride to complete work neatly. (Being Responsible)

1/2A

Quade Cowburn - For smashing his reading target. (Being Responsible)

1/2B

Shelby Banks - For an awesome effort with her Science Assessment. (Being Responsible)

1/2C

Izaiah Weatherall - For an amazing effort with his assessment. (Being Responsible)

3/4A

Claire Stenhouse - For a great effort with her writing task. (Being Responsible)

3/4B

Seaira Turnbull - For using lovely manners. (Being Responsible)

3/4C

Isla McNamara - For working hard on her handwriting. (Being Responsible)

5/6A

Dylan Teffer - For working very hard to reach behaviour goals. (Being Responsible)

5/6B

Tye Clark - For an incredible effort in English Assessment. (Being Responsible)

5/6C

Montana Cochrane - For giving her assessment taste a 'red hot go'. (Being Responsible)

Instrumental Music

Hayden Langley - For a fantastic effort in Instrumental Music. (Being Responsible)

The Arts

Jedd Davis - For being a good listener. (Being Responsible)

HPE

Lincoln Walker - For working hard on set tasks. (Being Responsible)

AWESOME!



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY



From the Head of Special Education Services

English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D)

EAL/D learners from all cultural and linguistic backgrounds face the challenge of learning a new language. At the same time as they are learning English, they are learning curriculum content through this language.

EAL/D learner groups in schools include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- students of migrant heritage born in Australia
- students born overseas
- students who have or are acquiring Auslan as their first language.

By school age, children have learned the languages and dialects to which they have been exposed from infancy. Some students enter our schools as fluent users of several languages/dialects.

When the language of the classroom is not a language that a learner is proficient in or perhaps even familiar with, the learner has a language barrier to overcome. It is important to remember that students who are learning the language of our classrooms, Standard Australian English (SAE), have the same ability to learn as their SAE speaking peers. EAL/D students are learning Standard Australian English at the same time as they are learning curriculum content which of course is delivered, discussed, modelled and shared with peers in Standard Australian English.

In order to minimise barriers to EAL/D students access to curriculum, teachers at St George State School:

- Identify the language demands of the learning experiences and tasks of the classroom
- Recognise the SAE features that each student finds difficult
- Use explicit language teaching in the context of curriculum learning.

Students are identified as EAL/D by parents at the time of enrolment – if you believe your child fits the EAL/D learner group and they were not identified as such upon enrolment you are able to change this by contacting the school administration.

Contact: Mrs Vicky Parker
Head of Special Education Services

St George and District Little Athletics Centre

Our first day of center activities and sign on for 2018 will be Sunday 22 April, 9:30am - 11:00am at St George High School oval.

We will run a 3 activity program each week (9:30am – 11am).

Fees for 2018 - Tiny Tots (3 and 4 yrs)

\$38 and 5-16 yrs \$70

- Day fees \$2 per child per week

There will be a two week free trial for new athletes.

Little Athletics aims to develop children of all abilities by promoting positive attitudes and a healthy lifestyle through family and community involvement in athletics activities.

Little Athletics – For Family, Fun and Fitness!

News from 3/4B

The end of term is upon us and what a term it has been! 3/4B has worked hard to produce some excellent work and develop our skills while having some fun along the way. We have been fascinated with our study of the complex environmental issues throughout the Great Barrier Reef. We have written persuasive texts emphasising the importance of making changes to save the reef and the sea life. Our research of the Mary River Turtle has also been interesting; we have designed posters to inform others about the endangered species.

Our guided reading sessions have helped us improve our reading skills and we have enjoyed reading a variety of text types such as informative, fictional and persuasive. We are learning to take time and enjoy reading a good book; many of us have suggested great books to read as a class.

Students have been gaining Dojo points in class for being on task, following instructions and participating. These points have resulted in lots of individual rewards! Parents are able to log in to Class Dojo and keep updated with photos and messages of what is happening in class. Thank you to those parents who have engaged with our Class Dojo. We love it!

We are looking forward to a well-earned break ready for another jam-packed term ahead. Have a safe and happy holiday!



Contact: Miss Jessica Tully
Class Teacher



**Congratulations to our Tuckshop Voucher Winners:
Kahlala (who won two) and Bryson.**



**Congratulations to our Round 2 Petero's Peeps nominees:
Lily, Levi, Roy, Chase, Phoebe, Ethan,
Emily, Claire, Katie, Layla, Bryson, Josie,
Natalie, Adele, Tom, Ella, Tye, Kelsey and Tom.**

Buffalo Lodge Shield

Leichhardt	5600
Nixon	3530
Mitchell	5870



**Congratulations to our Students of the Week and
Goal Getters for Week 10 Term 1.**



**Congratulations to
Emily who was the
lucky Petero Peep
who received the
signed Titans
football!**

School Calendar

March

Thursday 29 Showcase of Student Work
End of Term Reward
Last Day of Term 1

April

Monday 16 Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 17 Term 2 Commences
Tuesday 24 P&C Special Meeting 6pm
Wednesday 25 ANZAC Day Public Holiday

June

Friday 22 P&C Trivia Night
Friday 29 Last Day of Term 2

July

Monday 16 Term 3 Commences

August

Monday 13 Balonne Shire Show Public Holiday
Tuesday 14 Book Fair
Wednesday 15 Book Fair
Thursday 16 Book Fair

September

Friday 21 Last Day of Term 3

P&C News

- **Bulb Fundraiser** - Order Due date extended until 20 April.
- **School Banking** - School Banking will commence Week 1 of Term 2, and will occur every Friday. Sam Cott can meet with families wanting to sign up on Friday 20 April at 8.30am. For further information, please see Ruth in the School Office.
- **Next P&C Meeting** - A Special P&C meeting is scheduled for 6pm, Tuesday 24 April, followed by a General Meeting at 6.30pm. Executive positions desperately need to be filled.
- **Christmas in July June Trivia Night** - Pencil June 22 in your diary for a fun filled Trivia Night!
- **Tuckshop Update**
 - **Volunteers Needed** - Can you spare an hour or two on either a Wednesday or Friday? Tuckshop is needing volunteers!
 - **Late Orders** - Please ensure Tuckshop orders are placed by 9am.

Contact: Mrs Ruth Beeson
Treasurer