Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the 2013 school year. I trust that you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

This year, we welcome 2 new students to St George School. A warm welcome to Lara Palmer who is commencing school for the first time and to Kara Crawley who has commenced in year 7. We trust that our new students and their families will enjoy their time at St George School.

Our classes this year
As in 2012, we have ten classes. We continue to have three teams: Primary, Middle and Secondary. In Primary 1 class, we are trialling a flexible staffing model with a composite of two classes. There are two other classes in Primary, two Middle classes and four Secondary classes.

This term your class teacher will contact you regarding a meeting time to develop your child’s personalised learning plan. The meeting will set the individual learning priorities for the year. Where necessary, the meeting will also provide the opportunity to review your child’s Health Care Plan, any physical management issues and/or therapy recommendations.

Staffing
This year, we welcome back Emilie Bell to our teaching staff. We welcome Helen Nicol, Robyn Gallyot, Gina Kulcer and Tahnee Sawyer to our school learning support officer staff.

Leah Ponzio will continue as librarian for one day a week. Thursday will be our library day this year commencing in week 3.

Karen Baker, Narelle Minati and Celeste McGrath will continue as our office staff with Karen in the role of School Administrative Manager.

Curriculum Focus
In 2013 it is planned that our teaching staff will become familiar with the new Phase 1 syllabuses of the national curriculum developed by the Board of Studies ready for implementation in 2014. I have attached information on the phased introduction of the national curriculum, for your information.

In the past St George School has followed a thematic approach for the delivery of the curriculum. This year our primary classes will continue with the thematic approach with Transport as the theme for first semester. The Middle and Secondary classes are trialling aspects of the History national curriculum this year selecting Ancient Egypt for first semester.
Professional Development Day
Last Tuesday, our professional learning day covered mandatory update on child protection issues. Staff also completed mandatory on line training on managing anaphylaxis. In the next month, all staff will complete online Emergency care training. At the end of last term all staff completed the annual CPR training.

Anaphylaxis training will be required every two years. Emergency care training is required every three years.

School Captains
Congratulations to Kyle Brindley and Rosie Talevskia who are our school captains this year. The official handover of this role occurred at our 2012 Leavers’ Assembly. We look forward to our captains representing the school at special events.

Important Dates for your diary...
Tuesday 19 February  Years 7 & 9(male) vaccination
Thursday 21 February  School photo day
Wednesday 13 March  P&C Meeting
Friday 22 March  Coffee & Chat
Friday 29 March  Good Friday
Monday 1 April  Easter Monday
Friday 12 April  Last day of term
Tuesday 30 April  First day term 2 for students

The School Plan
Our school plan 2012 – 2014 indicates the priority areas for student learning and staff professional learning. Focus on meeting the targets set in the plan will continue throughout 2013.

The focus areas are:
- Partnerships
- Literacy & Numeracy
- Technology

Items for Sale
This section provides an opportunity for families to sell items that may no longer be needed or have been outgrown.

If you would like to sell any item, please send information and if possible a photo and I will include in our fortnightly newsletter. You may wish to send the information via email to the school email account or my own:

stgeorge-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au or

diana.murphy@det.nsw.edu.au

FOR SALE:  Electric bed (see photos):
Cost: $900.00
Excellent condition, very comfortable.
Mattress and mattress protector included.
For further details please contact Jan on 0438 296 206 or 9524 9845.

Celebrating birthdays in January
Many happy returns to
Kelly Chuk - turned 5 on 4 January
Kate Beardsley - turned 14 on 21 January
Nicholas Threlfo - turned 7 on 27 January

Direct Debit
To assist families with any payment to school, the following is provided for your information:

Name of account:  St George School Gift Fund
BSB:  032-001
Account:  165970
(Payments to the Gift Fund are tax deductible)

Community Notices
No community notices this week.

This newsletter is forwarded home to all families as a hard copy and also electronically to families where email addresses have been provided to the school.