Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

A number of families have already attended or are scheduled to attend a personalized learning plan meeting with their child’s teacher. Your support in assisting your child’s learning is sincerely appreciated. Research shows that schools are more effective when families are involved and work together in the learning process.

P&C Annual General Meeting

Thank you to the parents that attended our meeting last week. We welcomed in our new committee and thanked our exiting committee for their support.

I would like to congratulate our incoming executive: Fay Chiotis as President (Fay was previously Treasurer) Dianne McManus, Vice President Anna Dalianis, Treasurer Melissa Scanlan, re-elected as Secretary.

At our P&C meetings, we include School Council matters so parents have the opportunity to provide feedback on school plan focus areas and to assist the school in procedural matters.

St George Children with Disabilities Fund

Some of you may be aware of the charitable works of the St George Children with Disabilities Fund. The Fund was set up to provide support to children with disabilities in the St George and Sutherland areas. The Fund also supports students who attend St George School and may not reside in their feeder area. The Fund has generously supported the school with specific items such as purchase of modified bikes, contribution to purchase of Variety bus.

Last year the Fund made a significant contribution to the school to assist in funding our weekly Music Therapy program. Previous to last year the program was funded solely by our P&C. The support of the Fund in 2013 assisted our P&C in continuing the program for another year. In 2014, the Fund will be the main contributor to our weekly Music Therapy program.

The Fund and the St George Leagues Club has also donated to the school a modified vehicle, Mercedes Vito, to assist families in the transportation of their child to medical appointments or on holiday outings or trips.
What can St George School do to support The St George Children with Disabilities Fund

Every year the St George Children with Disabilities Fund has a charity golf day in early May to raise money for the Fund.

At the golf day during lunch the Fund has a number of silent auction items. The Fund is requesting that all families donate either a bottle of wine or an item for a gift basket to the value of $15. This will assist the Fund in having sufficient items on the day and it assists us in expressing our gratitude to the Fund for their generous commitment to the school.

Please send the item to school and we will arrange for Garry Morris, Chairperson of the Fund, to collect our donations.

Your support will be truly appreciated.

What do I do if I want to borrow the Mercedes Vito?
The Mercedes Vito is kept at school and the office staff at school coordinate the borrowing of the vehicle. The cost for hire of the vehicle is $5 per day. Families are asked to return the vehicle with a full tank of petrol.

The vehicle is available throughout the year.

If you are interested in using the vehicle over the holiday period, please book early. Sometimes it is necessary to make arrangements when more than one family request the vehicle for the same period.

Repeat item: St George School app for quick and easy access to information for families

We have established a St George app for quick information to families about school events.

The app is for smartphones. To download the app, the title is St George School. The user name is community and the password is stgeorge

When you download, the app will ask you to select a group – you will need to select your child’s class name group. This way you will receive messages and notifications from your child’s class teacher.

If you do not have a smartphone, you may wish to access the information via the app website: http://stgeorge.myauschools.com. Username and password is the same.

Excursion to the Easter Show

You will receive advice this week about our whole school excursion to the Easter Show on the last day of term. We will make arrangements with your driver to transport your child directly to and from the Show.
Report from Leah Ponzio, class teacher and librarian

Last Friday, the Moorefield’s Girls High Band visited us after recess to perform live music. The all-girl band entertained us with their singing, guitar and keyboard musical skills. The girls encouraged us to play our instruments along to the music.

Dean Parratt was celebrating his 9th Birthday on the day so the girls invited him “up on stage” while we all sang Happy Birthday.

Report from Jane Ferris, class teacher – World Water Day

World Day for Water is on the 22 March and students in the Middle Team classes, in preparation for their assembly presentation this week, have been learning about the need for clean water in all countries of the world.

They learned that more than 1,600 children under age 5 die every day from diarrhea caused by unsafe water. Many young children spend 3-4 hours a day walking through dangerous countryside to water sources which are often disease ridden to collect water for their families. Other children of the same age would be in school instead of carrying heavy water buckets.

Our students were shown how fortunate we are in Australia to be able to turn on a tap to get a drink of clean water or have a warm shower to wash.

The classes decided that St George school could help these children in some way.

World Vision is one of the largest providers of clean water in the developing world, reaching a new person with clean water every 30 seconds. Apparently a hand drilled well costs only $3,000 and changes many people’s lives. It would be wonderful if we could support World Vision. At the end of this newsletter we have a tear off slip for donations to World Vision for this very worthy cause.

If you are able to help we would be very grateful for your contribution.
School Year Dates 2014 – 2017
For your information:
I have provided a copy of term dates and holiday periods for the next four years.

Community Notices
Notice for Parents with a child in years 4, 5 and 6 – you may be eligible for a tax offset.

Therapies for Kids

School Contact Details
Phone: 9588 2400
Fax: 9588 5008
Email: stgeorge-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.stgeorge-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

Water well donation
In recognition of the hardships that children endure when fresh water is not readily available, I wish to donate $______ to World Vision for a hand drilled well in developing countries – helping children access an education throughout the world.

Your support is appreciated.

Please note that we will forward the donations we receive as one donation to World Vision. If you need a receipt for tax purposes you may wish to donate directly to World Vision.