

St George Girls High School

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Monthly Bulletin

July 2012
Vol. 17 No. 6



Parents & Citizens' Association Meeting

Thursday 26 July
Staff Common Room
7pm

Mothers' Committee Meeting

Wednesday 1 August
Library
10am

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to Term 3! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable two week break. This term promises to be a very busy and exciting one as we have come to expect at St George. I must however mention some important events which took place late last term.

One Inspired Evening...

This highlight of the school calendar was once again a triumph! On Tuesday 26 June the school hall was transformed for our annual showcase of works from our Textiles and Design students. MC'd by Caroline Kingsford and Rebecca Radcliffe, each student modelled a garment or fashion accessory with poise and sophistication.

Our Year 11 students transformed a length of purple coloured jersey material into a unique garment. The individuality and creativity of the garments bode well for our HSC class of 2013. Our Year 8 students modelled their pyjama party outfits and Year 9 displayed their "High Tea" apparel. Year 10 ensured that "Love Never Dies" in their theatrically inspired garments. Year 12 and Year 10 Drama students entertained between segments. The regional dance group performed "A Prison of Desolate Dreams" and Angela Xing gave a most impressive solo dance performance. Alison Abdullah of Year 12 performed her HSC dramatic monologue to the delight of the audience. The highlight of the evening, however, was the breathtaking designs of our current HSC class which once again did not disappoint with their major works.

Prior to the evening, students were invited to enter this year's annual design challenge inspired by the circus coming to town which proved to be a most popular and colourful theme! As in previous years the winner of this challenge received her choice of a sewing machine generously donated by Ms Bev Barter of Busy Bee Cottage in Hurstville. Ms Barter has been a sponsor of our Inspired evening since its inception. This year's prize went to Janet Pham. Many other prizes were awarded in what was perhaps the best design challenge yet. Congratulations to all students who participated both on stage and behind the scenes to make it a most memorable event. I also congratulate the event organiser Ms Leto, our TAS faculty and all staff who had input into the night.

Music Ensemble Success

Towards the end of last term our music ensembles enjoyed enormous success. The Stage Band was awarded third place in the Sydney Eisteddfod. This success was closely followed by the Yamaha Music Festival which saw our Concert and Intermediate bands awarded gold. In the Engadine Bandfest all of our ensembles, the Orchestra, Stage Band, Concert Band and Intermediate Band were awarded Gold. This represents enormous success for our performing ensembles. I congratulate all performers as well as Ms Oyston and Ms Hamilton for the level of excellence achieved.

Gala Music Evening

Hopefully many students and parents were able to attend our Gala Music Evening held last Friday. This night gave all members of our school community the opportunity to experience the performance of our many ensembles as well as piano solos from Gina Karlikoff and Calista Yeoh.

This was our 19th Annual Gala Music Evening and, as expected, was a most uplifting and exhilarating evening. Every year we bid farewell to many of our Year 12 students who are most important members of our ensembles. This year we are farewelling many wonderful musicians who have performed in our ensembles for many years, forging friendships across the grades and giving our whole school community pleasure and joy at many performance nights.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following Year 12 students for their contribution to our school: Alison Abdullah, Noellin Acabado, Veronica Chan, Vivian Do, Lilian Engelbrethsen, Annie Fan, Jennifer Feng, Kathleen Grennan, Jessica Horton, Madeleine Houlbrook-Walk, Libby Huang, Surabhi Naik, Rachel Ng, Adeline Rajamanickam, Sylvia Schouten, Cassandra Tam, Cassandra Wong, Clara Wong and Grace Yin. The ensembles will greatly miss your magical music making!

I also thank Ms Oyston, Ms Hall, Ms Hamilton and our many wonderful music tutors for nurturing the talents of our students.

Enviro Inspiro

Once again our enviroclub leaders have entered this state-wide competition which required them to produce a DVD highlighting an environmental initiative they have instigated within the school. In 2010 the team was highly commended and last year they were placed third. This year their film reported on the group's activities over a wide range of initiatives which showed "more than just a veggie patch" is happening at St George. They achieved second place and have won \$2,000 to be used for an environmental initiative and also individual prizes for the students who produced the DVD. I congratulate students Shirley Zhao and Sharika Kabir of Year 12 and Philippa Meikle of Year 11 on their successful submission! Thanks to Ms Duffy for her co-ordination of our environmental initiatives.

Head Teacher Social Science

Late last term I convened a panel to select a new Head Teacher for the Social Science Faculty. The panel was unanimous in offering the position to Mr Bowen who comes to us from Westfield Sports High School. Highly experienced in teaching Business Studies and Economics, Mr Bowen also has a law degree which will no doubt assist should he need to teach Legal Studies! I would like to thank parent representatives Mr Costello and Ms Jan and staff representatives Ms Castle and Ms Brown for assisting in the selection process. Mr Bowen will commence duty in Term 4. Meanwhile Ms Brown will continue as Head Teacher relieving.

Year 10 Subject Selection Process

A most successful and well attended Subject Selection Market and Parent Information Evening was held on the last Monday of last term. I wish to thank Ms Castle and Mr Ponder who explained the HSC requirements to students and parents. Year 10 submit their initial subject selection requests early this term. We do our best to satisfy the majority of students' subject selections. Occasionally a small number of students may find their choices are not available. These students will be assisted to make a second selection.

Best Wishes Year 12

I extend everyone's best wishes to our Year 12 students who begin their Trial HSC examinations on Friday 27 July. This is an intensive and stressful time for students and their families. For some students these examinations will be followed by HSC examinations in languages, drama and music. Students will also be submitting their major works in courses such as visual arts, English extension 2 and textiles and design. I assure all Year 12 parents of our commitment to support your daughter through this time and ask you to contact the school if we can assist in any way.

Office Staff give to Hamlin Hospital

Late last term the administrative staff of St George Girls decided to run a cupcake sale to raise funds for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. The hospital enables women who suffer from obstetric fistulas to receive medical treatment which cures their condition. The foundation also trains midwives to attend births in remote areas, thereby preventing more women from suffering this condition. Through the baking ability and generosity of our office staff \$775.80 was raised for this most worthy cause. Well done to our wonderful office staff!

Student Success

As illustrated by the many successes mentioned previously in my report, we really do educate the "whole girl" at St George Girls High School. Although we have only been back to school for three days at the time of writing I have had communication about many individual students who have experienced success recently and I would like to acknowledge them. This list is in no particular order but simply illustrates the talents our girls possess in a wide range of fields.

In golf, Michaela Scheetz, Jessica Widarma and Keona Lee won the Jack Newton Shield School Teams Championships in May. Keona also won the Girls' 12 and Under Nett Champion title, the overall girls' Nett Champion and the Leonora Wray Junior Salver. Michaela won the Girls' 17 Nett Champion.

In netball, Carol Lin and Christiane Haitidis played in the NSW Representative Carnival.

In public speaking, Ruby Hillsmith and Yatha Jain participated in the Evatt Trophy Model United Nations Competition State Final.

Deputy Principal's Report

Year 12

Year 12 will be commencing Trial HSC exams on Friday and parents should ensure that their daughters do not do 'all night' study sessions. They are better off facing an exam rested and alert. Last minute cramming is rarely effective and often counterproductive. If your daughter is ill contact the school, obtain a medical certificate and get her to organise an alternative exam time. Do not send her to school with a certificate and a request us to take her illness into consideration. This cannot be done. She must either present for the exam or have a legitimate excuse and doctor's certificate. We cannot retrospectively cancel or moderate an exam once sat.

Year 10

The process of subject selection for the HSC is now under way with girls having made their initial choices and the school now needing to decide what subjects run and how subjects are placed against each other. Please be assured that we do everything we can to ensure the majority of girls get what they want but also be aware that no system will ever be able to guarantee that every student gets her subjects.

Year 11

Girls should be starting to clarify what units of study they will take into Year 12. They must have a minimum of 10 units of study but many of our girls start the HSC course in Term 4 with 12 or 13. Our advice is that girls should drop subjects or units when they feel comfortable with their decision. The majority of our girls are doing 10 or 11 units by the time they sit the HSC, having shed units as they gained a clearer understanding of the units most likely to be included in ATAR calculations.

Student Welfare

Since the issue of the last Gazette, the following students have been presented with Dragon Badges:

Michelle Chow (3), Maxine Koh (3) and Rebecca Lee of Year 8.

Sidney Tulau and Annie Yuan of Year 9.

Michelle Meng of Year 11.

Alison Abdullah (2), Emma Bayliss-Chan, Jacinta Britton (4), Veronica Chan (2), Kelly Chan (2), Samantha Chin (2), Davian Fung, Vida Ke (2), Tamima Khondaker (3), Caroline Kingsford, Mira Mahapatra (5), Dharani Nadarajah (9), Aimy Nguyen (3), Rebecca Radcliffe, Meera Seeramaran (3), Sarra Swami (2), Cassandra Tam (5), Sarah Thomas, Annie Tran, Ivy Vuong (3), Carol Wang (2), Shelley Wo (2), Clara Wong, Stephanie Xu (4), Priscilla Zhang (3) and Lucy Zhou of Year 12.

The following students have been presented with Super Dragon Badges:

Mira Mahapatra (2), Dharani Nadarajah and Cassandra Tam of Year 12.

In chess, Shirley Gu will represent Australia at the world under 16 Youth Olympiad held in Istanbul Turkey (see her story and photo elsewhere in this gazette).

In art Jewel Huang won the Kogarah City Council Senior Youth Art Prize for her work titled "Beautifully Eroded".

In theatre and dance Claire Riley will perform with the Australian Theatre for Young People and the Sydney Dance Company.

In music Calista Yeoh won first prize in the Sutherland Shire and St George Youth Music Awards as well as the people's choice award for her piano performance.

In acting, Brenna Harding has been working hard as one of the stars in the production of "Puberty Blues" soon to be screened on Channel 10, while Natalee Venegas has just returned from a trip to England with the prestigious Performing Arts Unit Drama Company.

This is just a sample of the many awards and successes enjoyed by our wonderfully talented students.

Well done girls!

Applications for Years 8-12 Entry

Each year a small number of vacancies may occur in Years 8-12. The application package is now available from the school. The selection is determined by a panel comprising staff and parent representatives. The closing date is Tuesday 31 July and applications must be handed in to the school office by 3.00pm on this day.

Congratulations

I would like to congratulate the following students for receiving Principal Certificates:

Chloe Gratsounas (2) and Celia Tulau (3) of Year 7.

Spriha Goswami (3) of Year 8.

Jessica Shao and Sidney Tulau of Year 9.

Well done to all of these girls and to all who have experienced personal success this term.

Yours sincerely
Carole Knott

Green Corner



No Tree For Me!

Hi do you remember me?

I'm **Rose**. Thanks to St George Girls High School sponsorship I can continue living at Featherdale Wildlife Park. I really loved visiting your school on Green Day 2011.

In September there will be a fundraiser to continue my sponsorship.

Juka Sun
Year 11



Year 9 Camp

Our tests have finished and what do we do? We go to our Year 9 camp! It was raining, windy and EXTREMELY cold but that did not stop us from having loads of fun. 149 of us got on our singing buses and in no time we arrived at Stanwell Tops. There we were split into groups to go on various activities that consisted of giant swing, carting, abseiling, mission impossible, archery and vertical clusters. This packed agenda was truly memorable.

The giant swing was the funniest! During that activity we heard it all. There were the normal yells but also a goat sound and Mr Cowper screaming like a girl. But that was only because he was student-pressured into doing so.

In abseiling we wanted to embarrass Mr Davis but it turned out he was a pro at it and ended up showing off to all of us.

When we first saw the carting let's just say they were more like tricycles; no one was really impressed. Once we got on we found out that they were actually quite challenging. As soon as we got the hang of it, it became really fun and we got to see Mr Scott, Ms Mileski and Ms Papas' competitive side as they raced around the track.

In Mission Impossible we found ourselves having to resuscitate a dummy or if you were in some other, meaner groups just poke and twist its broken leg even further. We also had trivia night where we got to watch a hilarious performance by the teachers and even an excellent Bollywood dance that had everyone clapping and cheering.

At night our cabin was lucky enough to have Mrs Moncrieff sing us a lullaby. On behalf of all of Year 9 we would like to thank Mrs Jospe and Ms Zhang for organising this really enjoyable camp and another big thank you to all the teachers who gave up their times to supervise a bunch of chatty girls.

By Taciane Jondral and Cheryl Anthony
Year 9

Music Camp 2012

On Wednesday 30th May, 91 extremely excited girls arrived early at school, ready to depart for music camp. After overcoming difficulties in transporting percussion gear from the music rooms into the buses (getting the big timpani through the door), we were ready to board the buses. With instruments, costumes, luggage and junk food, as well as enthusiasm and hyperactivity, we strapped on our seatbelts. Bags of junk food were ripped open even before we turned out of Palmerston Street.

Following an hour on the buses, we arrived at Stanwell Tops. After unloading everything, we ate morning tea and put our suitcases away in our cabins. Despite being warned that this camp would be full of 'intense' rehearsals, our enthusiasm had not waned. Rehearsals and tutorials began immediately after unpacking. Our rehearsals consisted of perfecting the repertoire we had chosen for our upcoming performances (Sydney Eisteddfod, Yamaha Festival and Engadine BandFest). Luckily we were generously fed by the staff at Stanwell Tops. After lunch we were ready to dive back into another rehearsal.

That afternoon we had a break from rehearsals and went to activities. Activities included the Giant Swing, Cart Racing, High Ropes Course and Survivor. This year there was no torrential rain to dampen our spirits. One of the Survivor activities was climbing up a rope ladder to grab the 'fruit'; Miss Hamilton really struggled with this one. Another activity was to swing across a 'canyon' and land on the tyres. A few people used the excuse that they couldn't get across because of their long legs but Miss Hamilton proved it possible and seemed to be very pleased with herself. After activities there was free time or a stage band rehearsal before dinner. We ate dinner then watched The Muppets Movie before having spare time to wind down. Encouraged to actually sleep, we hopped into our bunk beds.

With breakfast at 8am, we sleepily emerged from our cabins. We had rehearsals and tutorials throughout the morning and really started noticing the improvements. Only stopping for morning tea and lunch, rehearsals continued until activities in the afternoon. A cappella renditions of our pieces could be heard all through the campsite.

Arguably the highlight of music camp was the Trivia Night hosted by Year 11. This year's dress up theme was 'musical era or group'. The winning costumes were Year 12's Burlesque and Year 9's Jackson 5. Making guest appearances also, were Kiss, Justin Bieber, Gotye, Willow and Jaden Smith and One Direction. The teachers dressed up as the Beatles, complete with a yellow submarine. A special mention goes to Miss Leto for her amazing mathematical rendition of an old Black Eyed Peas song.

Emerging from our cabins even sleepier than the previous day, it was unbelievable how quickly camp had passed. We had final rehearsals in the morning and almost all of our pieces had come together. We loaded instruments then luggage onto the buses after eating lunch. That afternoon 91 sleep-deprived girls

returned to school. On camp we had improved so much and also strengthened and formed new friendships.

We would like to express an enormous thank you to Ms Jospe, Mr Howden, Miss Leto and Miss Hanson for coming along and joining in on all the fun we had during the 3 days and of course a HUGE thank you to Ms Oyston and Ms Hamilton for organising the whole camp and being spectacular and patient conductors.

By Caitlin Semsarian and Andrea Wan
Year 9

World Under 16 Youth Chess Olympiad

Shirley Gu of Year 9 is a highly talented chess player who has been chosen to represent Australia in the World Under 16 Youth Chess Olympiad to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in late August.

This competition is a prestigious international teams competition. Shirley is currently the third ranked girl in the Australian Girls Under 16 category. In an already distinguished career she was 2010 NSW Girls Champion (under 18), a feat she achieved when just 13 years of age. The school wishes her all the best for the challenge ahead.



Sport

Zone Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to our wonderful athletes who competed so successfully at the Zone Athletics Carnival. St George was the best performing girls' school, winning the pointscore by over 200 points. An outstanding effort! Below is the list of Age Champions.

12 years – Vienna Williams – 2nd

13 years – Celia Tulau – 2nd

14 years – Kaelyn Rahardja – 2nd

Vicky Chen – 4th

Miela Malyon – 5th

15 years – Chrisann Huynh – 3rd

16 years – Joanna Jusmin – 5th

17 years – Angela Yang – 1st

Sport Fees

There are still outstanding sport fees for Terms 1 and 2. Please understand that in order to pay our instructors, all students need to pay their fees.

Parents and Citizens' Association

Our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** was on 28 June 2012. All committee positions were declared vacant and nominations sought from attendees. May I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee, representatives, parents and community members for their efforts this past year?

The incoming P&C office bearers for 2012 – 2013 year are:

- President – **Mark Yan**
- Vice President – **Katia Vardakis**
- Treasurer – **George Mak**
- Secretary (Minutes) – **Marion Downey** and **Poay Jan** (shared duties)
- Secretary (Correspondence) – **Henry Tam**
- Finance Committee Representative – **Andre Flamer-Caldera**

The next meeting of the P&C will be held on **Thursday 26 July 2012** in the Staff Common Room from 7pm. There is plenty of parking on Victoria Street and entry to the school is via the front gate. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available on arrival.

Our guest speaker for the meeting will be **Mrs Williamson Head Teacher Welfare**. These presentations start our meetings and conclude before 8pm.

For the Diary:

Two Important P&C dates for Term 3:

- Next fundraiser BBQ at Bunnings Rockdale on **Sunday 19 August** (see attached flyer)
- Father Daughter Dinner at St George Leagues Club on **Saturday 1 September** ... so start organising your table of 10 now!

*** **More fundraising news...** the **Sydney Entertainment™ Book 2012 – 2013** is now available and has an exciting addition this year ... the new *Wish Card* offer which will allow EB Members the opportunity to save 5% EVERY TIME they shop at Woolworths, Big W, Dan Murphy's and Woolworths/Caltex Petrol Stations (see attached flyer) ***

I look forward to seeing you at our July P&C meeting.

Mark Yan

Mothers' Committee

Last Meeting: No July meeting due to the School Holidays

Hope the school holiday break was enjoyable for all and we look forward to meeting some new parents in Term 3 at our monthly meetings.

Involvement with the Mothers' Committee through our monthly meetings is a rewarding and worthwhile experience, should you be able to reschedule or take a couple of hours out from your work or other commitments. Our meetings are a great way to be involved with the school community, meet other parents and find out what is happening at school from the Principal and Guest Speakers. The Committee holds 9 meetings each year and you will be made most welcome whenever you are able to attend.

Our major fundraising functions are management of the Uniform Shop and organisation of the annual Mother and Daughter Dinner. Our members also serve as parent representatives on staff selection and review panels. All funds raised by the Mothers' Committee are used to purchase necessary items for the school with \$13,540 contributed in early 2012 to meet Faculty Requests for a variety of resources.

The Committee has also started a new fundraiser with Petals Florist Network, an online florist offering local and worldwide flower delivery for all occasions. Ordering through the SGGHS link www.petals.com.au/stgghs enables 15% of the flower value of the purchase to be donated to the Mothers' Committee. Please consider using our fundraiser next time you order flowers and feedback on your experience in using the fundraiser would be greatly appreciated by the Committee, via the school email.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1 August at 10am in the Library

Guest Speaker at our next meeting will be Ms Oyston – Head Teacher Music.

Uniform Shop News

The Uniform Shop now stocks a navy blue *Senior Backpack* which is smaller than the Junior Backpack and does not have the school logo. This chiropractic backpack, approved by the SRC, is well suited to the needs of senior students and is priced at \$55.

Due to a price increase from the manufacturers the cost of the school blazer will now be \$170 as of 1 August 2012. Blazers will need to be ordered and paid for before the end of February 2013 to ensure their arrival for Winter 2013.

The Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday at lunchtime during term from 12.45pm to 2pm. Please note that the girls' lunch break commences at 1.10pm. Payment is by cash or cheque only (No EFTPOS facilities).

The Mothers' Committee always meets the first Wednesday of the month (except during school holidays).

Lisa Tulau
President
0407 007 211

Maria Radcliffe
Treasurer
9533 5303

Donna Kwong
Secretary
0407 319 222

St Georgians

Our meeting in July is the Annual General Meeting, and we'd love to see any interested parties come along. We meet at the school (details below) and would love to see some new faces at our meetings. We have a great group of ladies, and it's a fun, relaxed atmosphere if you are interested in joining.

We have a new Theatre Party outing coming up, "Brush with a Body" on Wednesday 22 August. Tickets are only \$20 – it's a great night out. This promises to be a comic romp – we all know laughter is good for the soul, so why not join our merry band? Proceeds go to the school.

The St Georgians meet in Room 5, at 7:00pm on the fourth Thursday of each month during school term. Our next meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 26 July 2012. We are always keen to meet new members, and look forward to seeing you there! TheStGeorgians@hotmail.com

Pam Appleby
President
9587 0355
(after 6pm)

Diana Renton
Treasurer
9580 3282

Melissa George
Secretary
9522 2527
(after 6pm)

Know your

SCHOOL ZONES



Fines and demerit points for parking offences in SCHOOL ZONES



SCHOOL ZONE parking offences	Fine	Demerit Points
Disobey 'No Stopping' sign	\$298	2
Disobey 'No Parking' sign	\$165	2
Double Park	\$298	2
Stop on / near Pedestrian Crossing	\$397	2
Stop in Bus Zone	\$298	2
Stopping on footpath / nature strip	\$165	2
Stop on / across driveway	\$165	2

Parking restrictions are in place for safety reasons. For further information on safety and road rules, please go to www.kogarahnsw.gov.au/schoolzones.

The information contained in this leaflet is correct as of 1 July 2012, however is subject to change by the NSW Government without notice.

A school safety education initiative from Kogarah City Council and the NSW Police



Coming Events

Tuesday 24 July	Gazette issued on school website
Wednesday 25 July	Year 11 Japanese Excursion, City, 9am – 3pm UMAT
Thursday 26 July	Parents and Citizens' Association Meeting, Staff Common Room, 7pm St Georgians Meeting, Room 5, 7pm Year 12 Stuvac Chemistry Competition
Friday 27 July	Trial Higher School Certificate commences MUNA, Sydney University, 8.45am – 3.07pm
Friday 27 July – Sunday 29 July	Ski Trip
Monday 30 July	Regional Athletics Carnival
Tuesday 31 July	Regional Athletics Carnival
Wednesday 1 August	Mothers' Committee Meeting, Library, 10am
Thursday 2 August	Mathematics Competition
Friday 3 August	Year 11 Music Excursion Australian Music Day
Saturday 4 August	HSC French Continuers Oral
Monday 6 August – Friday 10 August	Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 9 August	Year 11 Biology Excursion, City, 9.15am – 3.07pm Year 8 French Excursion
Saturday 11 August	HSC Japanese Oral
Wednesday 15 August	Year 8 Visual Arts Excursion, City, 8.45am – 3.07pm Year 10 Winning Edge Seminar, Assembly Hall, 8.45am – 3.07pm
Thursday 16 August	Years 10, 11 and 12 Music Excursion

It is important that payment for excursions is made to the Finance Office prior to the payment deadline