

St George Girls High School

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Monthly Bulletin

November 2011

Vol. 16 No. 10



Parents & Citizens' Association Meeting

Thursday 24 November 2011
School Library
7pm

Year 7, 2012 Orientation

Monday 5 December 2011
Assembly Hall
9.30am

Mothers' Committee Meeting

Wednesday 7 December 2011
Library
10am

Speech Day

Friday 9 December 2011
Assembly Hall
10am

School Certificate Presentation

Friday 9 December 2011
Assembly Hall
1pm

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

As this is the last Gazette for 2011, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents of St George for their support of the school in so many ways. The members of our two parent organisations the P&C and the Mothers' Committee are a group of people totally committed to supporting the staff and students of our school. Both the P&C and the Mothers' Committee have contributed to faculties enabling them to purchase teaching and learning resources and also donated prizes to students at our graduation ceremony and speech day. The P&C have also paid for the installation of air-conditioning in the school hall which was much appreciated by Year 12 during their Trials and HSC examinations. Many successful events have been organised by the P&C and Mothers' Committee which have brought our families together and created a community committed to supporting the values of our school.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the teaching staff at St George for their dedication, professionalism and hard work in ensuring that each girl in their care is challenged and encouraged to reach her own personal best in academic and co-curricular activities. I would like to thank the ancillary and support staff, a group of people who contribute immeasurably to the positive culture and climate of our school.

We are bidding farewell to a number of important and highly valued staff members this year. Earlier this year Mr Seed retired from teaching after thirty eight years, the last twenty six of them spent at St George Girls. Mr Jagelman also retired after thirty seven years of teaching, the last eight years spent as Head Teacher Languages at St George. Ms Voss retired after thirty eight years of teaching, the last twenty six years spent at St George. Ms Field retires after thirty six years, the last thirty four years spent at St George. Ms Vourdanos also leaves our school to pursue other career interests. I wish all of these esteemed colleagues the very best for the future and thank them for their dedicated service to our school and to Public Education.

I want to thank our executive team for their leadership of their faculties and in particular my two Deputy Principals, Mr Morris and Mr Ponder for their total commitment to the school and their valuable advice and assistance to me.

I wish all our families a happy and safe holiday. I look forward to working with you again in 2012.

Higher School Certificate and School Certificate Over

I am sure a feeling of relief settled on many families with the final HSC examination. Both the Higher School Certificate and School Certificate Examinations have finished without incident. I was impressed with how well the girls coped with the pressure and supported each other throughout this stressful time. It certainly bodes well for their results that all students seemed satisfied with their performance. Whatever the outcomes I feel sure that all students gave of their best and I know we all will be very proud of them when their results become available.

Peer Support

Year 10 will have their peer support training over two days this week. They will be taken through a series of activities designed to develop their leadership skills and to prepare them to assist Year 7 students in their transition to St George next year. As in previous years, I am sure the girls will thoroughly enjoy the course and gain in confidence as a result. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the organiser Ms Williamson and all the teachers who volunteered to deliver the course to Year 10.

Year 11

Year 11 will sit for their first HSC Assessment tasks in the week commencing 25 November. It is important that all students familiarise themselves with the school's assessment policy and procedures and follow them. If a student is ill on the day of an assessment task she must contact the school by phone in the morning, obtain a medical certificate and be prepared to sit the task or an alternative task on the first day of her return to school. We wish Year 11 well in the upcoming assessment period.

Important Information and Dates for the Last Two Weeks of School

Our Annual Speech Day will be held on Friday 9 December. Only prize recipients and their parents will attend the ceremony. This will be followed by a ceremony for Year 10 when they will receive their School Certificate. Year 10 students and their parents will attend this assembly. All other students will be granted leave on this day.

Unlike in previous years, however, the week commencing 12 December will be a normal school week for all students from Years 7-11. Students are expected to attend unless they have been granted leave. The last official day of school for students will be Friday 16 December. Monday 19 December and Tuesday 20 December will be School Development Days when staff will undergo professional learning activities.

Some families wish to commence their vacation earlier as they are either travelling overseas or interstate. If you wish your daughter to be granted leave for family reasons please indicate this in writing. Please also state the expected date of her return to school in 2012 so we will retain her position at St George.

2012

The 2012 school year commences on Friday 27 January (staff only) Monday 30 January (Years 7, 11 Peer Support Leaders and new Year 11 students

and Year 12) and Tuesday 31 January (Years 8, 9, 10 and the rest of Year 11). If students are returning to school after these dates, parents must write to me before the end of the year informing me of the details so that leave can be granted.

Uniform Shop Opening Date

Please note that the uniform shop will be open on Saturday 10 December and Friday 27 January.

Congratulations

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

Andrea Efthymiou, Elsa Feng (2), Pearl Khisa, Lily Lasic Latimer, Amy Lawrence, Clarissa Lim, Lucy Liu and Fiona Pylotis of Year 7.

Annie Yuan (2) of Year 8.

Yu Ying Mak (3) of Year 9.

Sharika Kabir (2), Lakshmi Logathassan and Amy Phan of Year 11.

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

I wish all members of our community a happy, safe and enjoyable holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in 2012!

Yours sincerely
Carole Knott

Deputy Principals' Report

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish all our parents and students a happy and safe festive season. Reports will be issued for Years 7-9 on 8 December and it is important that students and parents take the time to carefully examine teachers' comments and to heed advice about avenues for improvement for 2012.

For Year 10 parents, I look forward to seeing you on 9 December at our School Certificate presentation ceremony. The ceremony will be conducted after the speech day assembly at 1.00pm. As the school does not receive the girls' certificates until 8 December we cannot issue the reports and School Certificate material any earlier. I'm sure the girls will be justly rewarded for all their efforts. A reminder that school does not finish for Year 10 until 16 December which is a change from previous years.

Parents of Year 11 girls have a big year coming up and it is important that staff, parents and students work as a team to achieve HSC success. The first sustained HSC assessment period will commence for Year 11 on 28 November. The girls are not expected to be in attendance except for assessment tasks and there is a lay day on 29 November due to industrial action. We wish them well in their tasks.

Mr Morris

Green Corner



Green Day 2011

What a successful day, with 10 various workshops for all students across Years 7 to 10 ranging from Waste Audit, Green Web, Sydney Water, Ausgrid, 1 Million Women, Sutherland Environmental Centre, Recycling and Weed Identification, Amogh Sarda (from NSBH) and of course "ROSE" the Koala that St George Girls High School is now sponsoring who came with Featherdale Wildlife Park.



Rose the Koala Signing in at the Front Office

Our Keynote speaker was Deborah Tabart OAM from Australian Koala Foundation. Eleven schools from across the region also attended to present workshops to classes at St George Girls High School to broaden their understanding of what is happening in other schools as well as to refine and develop an interschool environment network.

The schools included: Engadine High, Sylvania High, Kogarah High, Lucas Heights Community School, Blakehurst High, Moorefield Girls High School, Sydney Technical High School, Newtown High School of Performing Arts, Sydney Girls High School, Canterbury Girls High School and Kingsgrove High School.



Australian Koala Foundation

No Tree No Me



We would like to thank the P&C, Mothers' Committee, Southern Game Meat, Black Forest Smokehouse Marrickville, and IMB for their support and financial assistance that made the day possible.

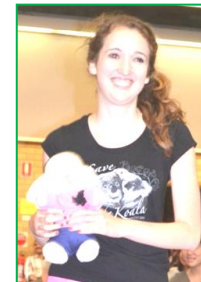
Thank you to all the Year 10 students and staff, especially the Enviro Student Committee for all their hard work and Ms Ruck and the crew of Year 10 students who planted approx 100 plants on Green Day.



Congratulations to all! Just over \$2000 was raised for the Save the Koala Foundation.

Mrs Duffy

Green Day 2011



Library News

The **NSW Premier's Reading Challenge** celebrated its 10th year in 2011 and having gained strength every year has now evolved into an annual tradition here at St George Girls High School. This year 113 students completed their challenge – to read 20 books before 31 August. Fifteen of these books must be chosen from the challenge list for Years 7 to 9. The library stocks over 700 challenge books, many of which have been written by Australian authors and each year new books are added to our collection.

I would like to congratulate the following **Gold Medal Winners** from Year 9:

Raisa Islam
Kylie Li
Miao-Ling Lim
Laurie Mac
Gabrielle Nguyen
Madeleine Rudder
Shirley Zheng.



Each of these wonderful students has completed the Premier's Reading Challenge for six consecutive years! The students show remarkable determination to have continued from Year 3 to 9.

Twelve students also were awarded the **Gold Award certificate** for completing the challenge successfully for four years. Congratulations to:

Celina Aston, Christine Azer, Wendy Chau, Irene Dasaklis, Trisha Hassan, Kara Ho, Daisy Kelly, Johanna Kennedy, Sandy Nyunt, Shadia Patwary, Irena Tyan, Sylvia Wang and Vicky Zhai.

Online Databases and Journals

I would like to remind all students to register online to get the NSW State Library readers card at <http://sl.nsw.gov.au> – **How Do I: Get a Library Card**. The State Library has links to **Research for My HSC** with resources divided into subject areas. I strongly recommend all students to take advantage of this free

service provided by the State Library. A local library card is a must as well. Local libraries have been allocated funds to provide access to certain databases from home such as the Australian New Zealand Reference Centre.



Biggest Jigsaw Ever Completed

The Big Book Swap raised \$114.25 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. This charity is supported by publishers, authors and booksellers as well as libraries to raise money for books and reading support in the 200 most remote Aboriginal communities in Australia. This will become an annual event for our library and thanks to everyone who participated in the Big Book Swap!



Happy reading for the rest of 2011 and have a safe and relaxing holiday!

Ms Lee

Student Welfare

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

Rubsat Amin, Teodora Bojananic, Jalee Chen, Andrea Efthymiou, Christiane Haitidis, Trisha Hassan, Sisi Hu, Harpreet Kaur, Johanna Kennedy, Pearl Khisa, Amy Lawrence, Kiran Mahboob, Stephanie Noronha, Nina Pirola, Fiona Pylotis, Valerie Tran and Amy Wang of Year 7.

Pratiksha Chuttar and Helen Wang of Year 8.

Yu Ying Mak (4) of Year 9.

Lisa Gong of Year 10.

Rafia Alam, (2), Helena Miao, Jessie Nguyen, Jemma Payne, Amy Phan, Clara Wong and Sharon Wu (2) of Year 11.

Rachel Lee of Year 12.

Parents and Citizens' Association

Firstly, a big thank you to Mr Stanger, Head Teacher Science for his highly entertaining presentation to the meeting. The innovative use of classroom response systems ('clickers') to help science students learn by sharing ideas – in a collaborative environment – was really great to see.

The final P&C meeting for the year will be held on **Thursday 24 November 2011** in the School Library at 7pm. Please note that there will be no guest speaker at this meeting which should finish around 8pm.

Parents are invited to stay for a Christmas supper and celebration in the Library Atrium (an RSVP email has already been sent to the P&C contact list). For catering purposes, if you wish to attend the meeting/supper please contact Ms Knott ASAP via the school phone number 9587 5902.

Stop Press

As we go to print the annual **Multicultural Food Festival** is being held on Friday 18 November in the school grounds starting around 4.30pm. This leads into the Summer Festival of Music in the School Hall at 7pm. It will be an afternoon and evening not to be missed!

(Please visit the [school website](#) in December for photos and other information)



The P&C wish to congratulate all prize recipients at the Year 12 Graduation and 2011 Speech Day awards.

To all students and families – have a happy and safe vacation and we look forward to seeing you in 2012.

Michael Costello	Marion Downey	Mark Yan	Aparna Hegde
President	Secretary	Secretary	Treasurer
0408 195 739	0401 713 850	0410 665 198	9385 1569

Mothers' Committee

Last Meeting: Wednesday 2 November

Our Guest Speaker was Mrs Cooper, Head Teacher PDHPE, who gave a very informative outline of the wide range of topics studied and sporting activities offered under the PDHPE curriculum. Mrs Cooper outlined the progression of the subject though Years 7 to 10 with topics presented in consideration of age relevance and directed to enable students to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

Mr Morris, Deputy Principal, provided us with a regular update on what has been happening around the school with examinations, school reports, staff appointments and preparations for next year as well as Orientation and Information Days.

At the end of the year, we will farewell our long serving members Megan Eriksson, Carolyn Baehnisch and Dora Shapiro. Megan served as President of Mothers' Committee for a number of years and this year as Secretary, making an invaluable contribution to the school over this time through the committee. Carolyn served as Vice President and committee representative in the Uniform Shop for a number of years and has also made an invaluable contribution to the school as all profits raised are returned to the school for the benefit of all students. Dora has also been a committee member for a number of years, always generously contributing. Thank you all for your great generosity in giving your time and energy to benefit all of the students at the school. We wish you and your daughters all the very best for the future.

There are many who have contributed to the success of Mothers' Committee this year. Thank you to our Secretary, Megan Eriksson, our Treasurer, Maria Radcliffe and our Uniform Shop committee representatives, Carolyn Baehnisch and Meryle Chandra for your efforts and generosity. Thank you to Annie Hong for her continued generosity and for taking on the Uniform Shop roster. Thank you also to Donna Kwong, Deborah Cassell, Celia Ziegler, Julie Anne Hayes, Beverley Correia and Sophie Norved for your support and generosity.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 7 December at 10am in the Library

Uniform Shop News

The Uniform Shop will be open on the following days:

Monday 5 December 2011 at the conclusion of Year 7, 2012 Orientation

Saturday 10 December 2011 from 9.30am to 11am especially for Year 7, 2012

Friday 27 January 2012 from 9am to 11.30am

Wednesday lunchtimes during term from 12.45pm to 2pm.

Thank you to the Year 9 students who have already purchased their Senior Uniform. There are still a few weeks left to purchase your uniform for next year.

Don't forget to get one of the new senior backpacks while you are there.

Could Year 9 girls and anyone who has outgrown their uniform please consider donating their unwanted uniform items to the school? Donations can be placed in the container near the door of the Uniform Shop. Good quality items are resold and other items are sent to charity. All profits from the Uniform Shop are returned to our school.

Volunteers are urgently needed to help in the shop. Mothers who speak Cantonese or Mandarin are needed to assist new parents purchasing uniforms for their daughters, especially during the Year 7 Orientation Day.

If you are able to assist, please contact Annie at annie.p.hong@optusnet.com.au or on 0412 022 084 or speak with Mrs Lana Winger at the school.

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

Our meetings are very informal and provide a great opportunity to be involved with the school community, meet other parents and find out what is happening at school from the Principal and Guest Speakers.

Involvement with Mothers' Committee 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 and come to our meetings.

Volunteering to help in the Uniform Shop is a great way to be involved in the school community and meet other parents should you be unable to attend our committee meetings.

We wish all students and their families a wonderful Christmas holiday break and look forward to meeting some new parents at our first meeting in 2012.

First Meeting Next Year: Wednesday 1 February 2012 at 10am in the Library

Lisa Tulau	Maria Radcliffe	Megan Eriksson
President	Treasurer	Secretary
0407 007 211	9533 5303	9580 1167(wk)

St Georgians

The St Georgians meet in Room 5, at 7.00pm on the fourth Thursday of each month during school term.

Our final meeting for 2011 will be Thursday, 24 November in the School Library at 7.00pm.

We are always keen to meet new members, and look forward to seeing you there!

Pam Appleby	Diana Renton	Melissa George
President	Treasurer	Secretary
9587 0355	9580 3282	9522 2527
(after 6pm)		(after 6pm)

St George Girls Make News!

ST GEORGE & SUTHERLAND SHIRE
Leader
Australia's best community news website

Community Newspapers of Australia's
"Best Community News Website"
for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Presidential date

A STUDENT from St George Girls High School, Kogarah, will be in Parliament House when Barack Obama visits the national capital this week. Lakshmi Logathassan was one of only five Sydney high school students to win the Hughes essay-writing competition. She will be in the Parliament session on Thursday when the US president addresses the nation's leaders. The competition's aim was to inspire youth to build their leadership skills.

**St George and Sutherland Shire Leader
15 November 2011**



On the 17th of November, I jumped out of bed at 4am, high on excitement and a Krispy Kreme overload from the night before. I was going to attend Barack Obama's Presidential Address to the Parliament of Australia, Canberra.

This amazing opportunity was awarded to me after I won equal-first place in an essay writing competition run by Hon. Craig Kelly MP for students entering HSC studies in 2012. I was required to write an essay on the given topic of "Australia-America relations and why you would want to meet President Barack Obama".

Many have marvelled at Barack Obama's gift of oratory. However, after witnessing his speech in the flesh, my eyes were opened to a whole new world of oration. His ability to stir such palpable enthusiasm and inspire his audience with the spoken word left me in absolute awe. From the most humble and unorthodox beginnings, President Obama's journey to the height of the political ladder is testament to the fact that with self belief, determination and hard work, anything is possible.

I am most thankful to my local MP, Craig Kelly, for organising this competition. I will remember and cherish this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many years to come.

Lakshmi Logathassan
School Captain 2012



Coming Events

Sunday 20 November – Tuesday 22 November	Duke of Edinburgh Silver
Monday 21 November	Four Year 10 Students, Sydney Girls High School, 10am – 2pm
Tuesday 22 November	Gazette Issued on School Website Year 8 ESSA Test Year 9 Japanese Excursion, City, 8.45am – 2.25pm
Wednesday 23 November	Year 10 Winning Edge, Assembly Hall
Thursday 24 November	Peer Support Training Parents and Citizens' Association Meeting, Library, 7pm St Georgians Meeting, Library, 7pm
Friday 25 November	Peer Support Training
Monday 28 November – Monday 5 December	Year 11 Assessment Examinations
Monday 28 November – Friday 2 December	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 30 November	Year 9 Food Technology Excursion, Caringbah, 8.40am – 3.07pm Year 7 Science Incursion, Planetarium
Thursday 5 December	Year 7, 2012 Orientation, Assembly Hall, 9.30am Year 7 Surf Awareness
Friday 6 December	Year 7 Friendship Day Year 8 Science Excursion, City, 7.45am – 4pm
Thursday 8 December	Years 7, 8 and 9 Reports Issued. Speech Day Rehearsals
Friday 9 December	Speech Day, Assembly Hall, 10am School Certificate Presentation Ceremony, Assembly Hall, 1pm
Saturday 10 December	Uniform Shop Open, 9.30am – 11am
Monday 12 December	Year 11 Food Technology Excursion, Rockdale, 9am – 11am Year 10 Trial Rowing, Como, 7.15am
Wednesday 14 December	Year 12 Chemistry Excursion, ANSTO, 8am – 2.30pm Higher School Certificate Results Released
Thursday 15 December	ATAR Results Released Year 12 Morning Tea
Friday 16 December	Final Day of Term 4 for Students
Monday 19 December	School Development Day
Tuesday 20 December	School Development Day
Tuesday 20 December – Friday 23 December	Duke of Edinburgh Gold Camp
Friday 27 January 2012	Uniform Shop Open, 9am – 11.30am

Commencement Dates for 2012

Friday 27 January 2012 – Staff Only
Monday 30 January 2012 – Years 7, 12, new Year 11 and Peer Support Leaders
Tuesday 31 January 2012 – Years 8, 9, 10 and remaining Year 11

**It is important that payment for excursions is made to the Finance Office
on the days as designated by classroom teachers.**