

## ■ Strengths-based approaches update

During the last term break I was fortunate to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Positive Psychology held in Montreal, Canada. In addition to presenting a paper on the strengths-based approaches used at our school, it was interesting to find out what else is happening around the world in this field. One new aspect of positive psychology is strengths-based parenting. Effective home/school partnerships are critical to the success of children at school and, although it is not our place to tell parents how to raise their children, the science behind strengths-based parenting and alignment with what we currently do here at George Street is worth considering:

1. **Children's strengths should be named from a young age.** Lists of identified strengths that are open to modification, evolving in nature, and increasing in number, benefit children, regardless of their age. Focussing on strengths from an early age benefits engagement and self-efficacy which, in turn, assist successful learning outcomes. When children's strengths emerge, they should be named, regardless of whether subsequent strengths development happens or not.
2. **Focusing on children's strengths balances "at risk" with "at potential".** The strengths approach seeks to acknowledge what children can do without ignoring what children cannot do. Any attention given to building children's strengths should not be at the expense of addressing deficit. As children become older their strengths can become important protective factors and an essential component of developing resilience.
3. **There are four key strengths-based parenting strategies.** (1) Encourage a growth mind-set in children (strengthen their strengths), (2) role-model strength identification and development in your own life, (3) scaffold children's strengths by being strategic in affirming, resourcing and suggesting new ideas, and (4) provide opportunities for "deliberate practice" that challenge children just slightly ahead of what they can do.

A recently published book, "*The Strengths Switch: how the new science of strengths-based parenting can help your child and teen to flourish*" by Dr Lea Waters, is available for borrowing from the school office. There is much in this book that aligns directly with our strengths approach at GSNS, as well as offering many practical ideas for parents. Attending the world congress was an interesting and rewarding experience and I'm grateful to the Board of Trustees for their support.

Kind regards

Rod Galloway (Principal)

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## Diary Dates @ George Street Normal

Tue 12 Sep	Polyfest - Kapa Haka and Pasifika - 5.00pm-8.30pm, Edgar Centre
Sat 16 Sep	GSNS Fair
Tue 19 Sep	Board of Trustees meeting 7.30pm, Staffroom
Mon 25 Sep	PTA meeting 7.30pm, Staffroom
Wed 27 Sep	Georgestock music night 7.00pm, School Hall
Fri 29 Sep	Last day of Term 3



# NEWSLETTER



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# George Street Normal School



## Fair 2017

Eight more sleeps until ....  
Our 2017 George Street Normal School Fair!



**Saturday 16 September**  
**11.00am-2.00pm**

The school fair is our major fundraising event this year. A hardworking team of parents, under the leadership of Caroline Orchiston and Anne Robertson, have been planning this event since term one and now we invite our whole school community to come and ensure it is a success.

The funds raised at the fair will be used to further develop our playground for your children. The most important thing we need at the fair is people. Please tell everyone you meet about the fair, "like" our Facebook 'George Street Normal School Fair 2017' page and share it with your friends on social media.

Local businesses have been very generous and we have a record number of wonderful packs created for the silent auction. At the silent auction, each pack has a list where everyone writes down their bids. At around 1.50pm we will close the bidding and the person who has the largest bid wins. You can check what others are bidding and add a new bid, you just need to make sure you have the last bid!

Each time we have a fair it gets bigger and better. This year we have more food: School-house Cafe, candy floss, hot chips, curly fries, real coffee, drinks, pulled pork buns, bacon butties, hamburgers, sausage sizzle, cakes and sweets. This year we have more fun: Flick, pony rides (with ponies like in the movie *Frozen*), jousting noodles, wounds and scars, pamper palace, henna hands, and loads of games with prizes. If you are feeling lucky we have the silent auction, the chocolate wheel and the tombola. We also have more to buy: three clothing stalls (adults, children and labelled clothing), elegant junk, white elephant, class stalls with crafts and treats. We also have our fabulous toys and book stalls.

The fair is a great opportunity to actively support your children and your school. See you on Saturday 16 September!

Kind regards  
GSNS Fair Committee

A working bee will be held this  
**Saturday, 9 September, from 1.00pm  
to 3.00pm** to move items for the fair  
to parts of the school where they will  
be used. All help welcome.

**Please note:**  
There will be no  
school assembly next  
week



## GSNS Value of the Term — Consideration

Consideration, across the nation  
Would help us all to get along so very well.  
Consideration, at this location  
Is looking after everyone before yourself.



# A Parent's Guide to GSNS #15



## Georgies Holiday Activity Programme



Bex is coming back and, together with the Georgies team, has another exciting programme planned for the October school holidays. Registration forms and an outline of the daily activities are now available. Enrolments, together with payment for whole or part days, should be handed in to the school office by **Thursday 21 September**. Limited places. WINZ subsidies available.

### ■ Reminder

Parents are reminded that children should not bring valuable toys to school. We also ask that scooters and bikes are named and locked during the day.



## Georgestock 2017

George Street Normal School Music Night

**Wednesday 27 September 7.00pm**

**School Hall**

**All Welcome**



### ■ Welcome

Welcome to Jerry (Kindle 1) who began school for the first time recently. We also welcome Omar (R22) and Julia (R9). Our current roll is 498.

### ■ Parent Survey

We are currently inviting feedback about our school via a parent/caregiver survey that is enclosed with this newsletter. You may prefer to complete the same survey online at <https://goo.gl/forms/9pUrb2klFvp8urWT2>

### ■ Enrolment Information for 2018

The George Street Normal School Board of Trustees invites applications from parents who wish to enrol new children at George Street Normal School between 1 January and 30 June 2018. Enrolment at our school is governed by an enrolment scheme and the deadline for applications for out of zone places for the period 1 January to 30 June 2018 is **Friday 15 September 2017 at 3.00pm**. If the number of out of zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected according to set criteria and ballot results. If the number of out of zone applications doesn't exceed the number of places available, children will be enrolled on a first in, first served basis until our maximum roll is reached.