



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative

QSO

Brass, Woodwind and Percussion musicians from the QSO shared their love of music with students at Agnes Water State School on Thursday 11 August.



DINO SCIENCE

Students were engaged in a world of learning about dinosaurs through a puppetry performance.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Mon 15 Aug	P&C Meeting 4:00pm
Mon 15 Aug	Buy-a-Bale Fundraiser
Tues 16 Aug	UNSW Mathematics Competition
Thurs 18 Aug	Kindy Buddy Program Commences
Fri 19 Aug	Interschool Soccer Carnival
Thurs 25 Aug	Assistant Regional Director Visit
Thurs 25 Aug	Book Fair
Fri 26 Aug	Book Week Dress UP
Fri 26 Aug	Lock-up the Principal Fundraiser
Sat 27 Aug	Opti-Minds Challenge
Mon 29 Aug – Fri 2 Sept	Parent Teacher Meetings
Wed 31 Aug	Principal Meeting
Thurs 1 Sept	School Photos
Thurs 1 Sept	Kindy Buddy Program
Thurs 1 Sept	Fathers' Day Stall
Fri 2 Sept	School Photos
Fri 2 Sept	Principal Meeting
Fri 2 Sept	Fathers' Day Stall
Mon 5 Sept	Prep 2017 – Parent Information Session
Tues 6 Sept	Twilight PD Session – Teachers
Wed 7 Sept	Prep Transition Day
Fri 9 Sept	Disco
Mon 12 Sept	Interschool Debating Day 2
Thurs 15 Sept	Kindy Buddy Program
Fri 16 Sept	Behaviour Celebration Day
Saturday 17 September – Sunday 2 October: September School Holidays	
Sat 1 Oct	Junior Aquathon
Sun 2 Oct	Agnes Water Triathlon
Mon 3 Oct	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tues 4 Oct	Term 4 Commences
Mon 10 – Fri 14 Oct	Year 6 Camp
Sat 15 Oct	Trivia Night – Tentative
Mon 17 Oct	Student Free Day
Thurs 20 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Fri 21 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Thurs 27 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Fri 28 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Wed 7 Dec	2016 Awards Night & Concert
Thurs 8 Dec	Report Cards Behaviour Celebration Day
Fri 9 Dec	Last Day of School



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Wow! What a busy two weeks we have had across our school. The NED program kicked off our fortnight, with a fantastic inspirational show with key messages of;

Never give up
Encourage Others
Do your best

Not only did this session encourage positive behaviours amongst our students, but reinvigorated the coolness of yo-yos. From next week, students need to keep their yo-yos at home.

Last week ended with the Dinosaur Science Program, CQU program at Rosedale and District Athletics. I am very proud of the way our students represented our school while in the community and with visitors to the school.

This week has been just as busy, with our interschool soccer training commencing, debating teams beginning their research topics and our week has culminated with the very rare opportunity of having elements of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra Visiting our school. Having musicians from QSO visit our school has taken twelve months of planning that would not have been possible without the work of our Music Teacher Mr Henson. Thanks Michael for arranging this opportunity for our students.

During the last fortnight, we have also received our school and individual performance for the 2016 NAPLAN for Year 3 and Year 5. As always there are areas of strength, but also areas for us to continue looking at how we can assist children in achieving high performance.

Our Year 3 data is now showing consistent performance similar to national and like school performance in reading and writing, with gains in numeracy and spelling performance this year.

Our Year 5 data shows a gain in performance from 2015 to 2016 in Numeracy and Grammar and Punctuation.

One of our most significant improvements is the reduction of students in the lower bands of performance, however we still need to look at how we sustain and increase the number of students operating in the top two bands of performance.

NAPLAN does not only give schools an opportunity to compare student performance nationally on this test, but assists with our moderation of our reporting. Our school has a very strong correlation between student

performance on NAPLAN and the academic achievement results that are provided to parents on report cards. This is very important and shows that the marking and judgement of student performance is consistent with State and National expectations.

At the end of 2015, our school participated in another standardised test - PIRLS, the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study. This is part of the National Assessment Program, which is an ongoing program of assessment agreed to by all Australian Education Ministers to monitor progress towards the educational goals for young Australians and to support ongoing evaluation of the national education system. This assessment is undertaken every five years and is now into its second cycle of assessment. Over 6300 Year 4 students from 286 schools Australia Wide, were randomly selected to take part of the assessment. This assessment is unique, as it not only looks at student performance, but also looks at self-reflective scales for students. Academically this assessment reinforces what we already know about our school and shows that our average performance was similar to national performance, with 87% of our students operating in the Middle 50% of performance or above and no students in the bottom 10% of performance. This correlates to our performance in NAPLAN in reading where our school is consistently performing similar to like schools and National means. One of the interesting findings from this assessment was the self-reflection of our students. Comparatively to national results our students feel;

- They are more tired and hungry than their peers.
- Reading is more boring and are students less likely to want a book as a gift.
- Reading is less valuable as a tool for learning and they have a lower self confidence in reading.

However, our students rate themselves much higher than national reflections in how they feel about this school and identify that they like being at Agnes Water State School.

The recent results through PIRLS and NAPLAN will provide plenty of reflection for our staff on how to continue building and sustaining school performance.

GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

Community usage of facilities.

On parade this week, we spoke about how lucky our school is to have so many after school community programs and opportunities for community use of our facilities. Students were reminded about their

responsibilities in ensuring these programs can continue within the school, such as ensuring they are at their after school programs and not running around the school and accessing facilities they know they are not permitted to access after-hours such as the Library and Computer Labs.

This reminder has come about due to several issues over the last few weeks where we have had students who have either finished their program for the day or are waiting to start and have been running around the school, are in out of bounds areas or have disrupted staff meetings. We have also had student visitors to our school attempting to access facilities. Further we have had several incidents with damage to tennis racquets that we know have been placed away at the end of the school day, but have been found smashed the following day on the tennis courts, as well as some minor vandalism and damage to young trees planted along walk ways.

Supervision of children at after school programs is the responsibility of parents, or program manager as negotiated with program staff.

It is also a timely reminder that vehicles must be parked in the staff parking or outside of the school grounds. Cars are not to be driven onto the ovals or to be parked at the undercover areas on the oval unless previously authorised by the Principal.

It is important that parents and students help to ensure these after school programs can continue on our school grounds.

Chaplaincy Programs

We are excited to again have access to the services of Beth Waghorn as our school chaplain. Beth will work with our school in this role until the end of the school year. During this time we will be working with Scripture Union to secure a new Chaplain for 2017. Over the next few weeks Beth will be commencing several social skills programs. This will be targeted around friendships, conflict resolution and respectful relationships. These programs form part of our Health program and will primarily be run with our Year 2/3 classes and Year 4 students.

Community Input

Over the next few weeks, our parent body will have the opportunity to provide feedback and input through a couple of surveys around our school uniform and tuckshop. We really want parent input into the future of our tuckshop menu and tuckshop operations, particularly as our school continues to reduce in student enrolment and this impacts upon the viability of

running our tuckshop. Further, we have received a great deal of parent feedback over the last couple of years around our current school shirt and we have taken this on board and have begun discussing the future of our uniform. These online surveys will be an important way for our school to ensure we have a majority of input prior to proceeding with any decision making. A letter with survey access will come home shortly.

Thank you to the families who completed the school opinion survey last month. Annually this is an important opportunity for parents to provide feedback to our school. Schools use these responses to help plan around priorities each year and shape the school to meet community and systemic needs. Parents are always welcome to provide feedback at any time of the year and can email any comments to principal@agnewatess.eq.edu.au or provide feedback through our P&C Association pandc@agnewatess.eq.edu.au

P&C Treasurer

Congratulations to Amy Bartlem and her family on their new addition. Unfortunately for our school, we will be saying farewell to the Bartlem family by the end of this month, so we are seeking a new Treasurer. The treasurer role requires only about an hour of your time each week, mainly managing banking, payroll, lodging BAS and preparing monthly financial reports for the P&C Meeting and Principal. If you are interested in assisting our P&C in this capacity, please join us for our P&C Meeting on Monday 15 August – 4:00pm in the staffroom.

Book Week

Our annual book fair will be held during the week of 22 – 26 August in our Library. Books will be on display Monday 22 – Wednesday 24 August. Over these three days, students will visit the book fair with their class and the display will be open to parents from 8:15am to 8:40am. **Students will be able to purchase books on Thursday 25 August before school and at each break and will be open after school until 3:15pm.** The book fair will be open again on Friday 26 August from 8:15am to 8:40am for last purchases. Our school receives commission on the sale of books and all profits go into adding new books to our Library. On Friday 26 August we finish book week with a special dress up parade at 9:00am. Students come dressed as a character from a book they love. The best dressed book character from each class will receive a gift voucher to be used at the book fair immediately after the parade. This parade will conclude with a few surprises.

HEAD OF CURRICULUM NEWS

Sharing Best Practice

This week the Seven Steps writing focus we covered across the school was refining the way we brainstorm. Students were given a topic (The Big Mistake!) and together we brainstormed ten good ideas before choosing the one that we could write about. Research from the Seven Steps program shows that authors have to spend over one third of their time brainstorming before they write – we need to give this skill to our students. Their creativity is astounding! They are really enjoying the process, and from thinking together as a group they were able to brainstorm possible problems, characters and even the ending of their story – all in the planning process. There is nothing more heartening as a teacher to hear groans of disappointment when you ask children to STOP writing rather than start. “I just want to keep writing my story” was said more than once – this program gives them tools to express their creativity as and we continue to develop a whole school approach implementing this program we will see great success.

On Wednesday 3rd August a team of dedicated Agnes Water State School students joined forces with Gidarjil Green Army and Gladstone Regional Council to work on regenerating the area behind the sand dunes on Main Beach, Agnes Water. The project was run in conjunction with Planet Ark and provided a wealth of knowledge about how we can continue to work together to protect and restore our beautiful coastline. Many a blister was earned with the hard-working 3/4 class and their lovely teacher Mrs Rupp toiling in the winter sunshine digging holes and watering trees. It was exciting to discover the trees that had survived from last year’s tree planting as well.

Each Tuesday and Wednesday at second lunch children join in for some fun and exciting games of chess. It has become more than just playing a game – these students are helping each other, problem solving – developing resilience by losing games and working out ways they can improve. Chess Club has given students an opportunity to grow and learn in a fun, safe environment. Special thanks to Jerry, our groundsman, who gives up his lunchtime to offer his massive wealth of knowledge to helping teach this magnificent game. We have an idea in the pipeline of a school tournament next term involving parents and students – stay tuned for more details.

Celebrating Success

This week I am celebrating the tireless efforts of Mrs Marilyn Window – our P/1 teacher. Mrs Window’s highly organised and colourful classroom provides a wealth of learning opportunities for our learners and they are thriving under her care. Mrs Window dedicates herself to making sure her students are always learning

and always made to feel that they belong. The class pet – Pig the Pug, has provided many fun experiences and allowed students to share so much of themselves through the class journal. Thanks for your efforts Mrs Window, we appreciate you!

Please share what you see – we welcome feedback about your child’s education...email me at ltank1@eq.edu.au so we can all benefit from the wealth of knowledge in this lovely community.

Yours in Learning,

Mrs Leigh Tankey

Agnes Water SLSC

JUNIOR SIGN ON & SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Sunday 28 August 9:00am – 11:00am

Main Beach



First timers need to bring their birth certificate.

TUCKSHOP – URGENT HELP NEEDED

We are desperately seeking a relief tuckshop convenor and other parent helpers. Please see Deb in our Tuckshop on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.