



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative



Tetra-Olympiad

160 students from Wartburg, Miriam Vale, Discovery Christian College, Rosedale and Agnes Water competed in the first round of our Tetra-Olympiad: Mathematics. The competition was very close with all schools represented in the placings. Congratulations to Nathan, Tremayne, Jaspar and Zac for winning the Senior Primary Division.



| Calendar of Events | |
|---|--|
| Date | Event |
| Mon 20 Mar | P&C AGM |
| Mon 20 - Fri 24 Mar | Parent-Teacher Meetings |
| Tues 21 Mar | Deadly Australians Reptile Show |
| Wed 22 Mar | Qparents, Qschools, School Star parent info sessions. |
| Thurs 23 Mar | Last swimming lesson |
| Fri 24 Mar | Last day for sports Year 4-6 |
| Fri 24 Mar | P&C Disco 5-6:15pm Prep to Year 2 6:15pm - 7:30pm Year 3 - Year 6 |
| Fri 24 Mar | Last parade for Term 1 |
| Mon 27 Mar | Pass the Poetry Show |
| Thurs 30 Mar | Cross Country |
| Fri 31 Mar | Easter Bonnet Parade |
| Fri 31 Mar | Prep Transition Morning |
| Fri 31 Mar | Behaviour Celebration Day |
| Sat 1 Apr to Mon 17 Apr Easter Vacation | |
| Tues 18 Apr | School Resumes Term 2 |
| Wed 3 May | AFL Gala Day - Boys |
| Tues 9 May | NAPLAN - Language & Writing |
| Wed 10 May | NAPLAN - Reading |
| Thurs 11 May | NAPLAN - Mathematics |
| Fri 16 May | AFL Gala Day - Girls |
| Tues 23 May | UNSW Digital Technologies |
| Tues 30 May | UNSW Science |
| Wed 7 June | Debating |
| Mon 12 June | UNSW Writing |
| Wed 14 June | UNSW Spelling |
| Wed 21 June | Athletics Carnival |
| Thur 22 June | Athletics Carnival |
| Fri 16 June | Jump Rope for Heart |
| Fri 23 June | Behaviour Celebration Day |
| Fri 23 June | Semester One Report Cards |



Tie Dye for Tembi

Thanks to Matt Hitchens for his support in running our Tie Dye for Tembi Day. The day was a huge success with \$475 raised through the day and other donations to support Tembi's recovery.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Each fortnight our Head of Curriculum, Leigh Tankey, celebrates one of our wonderful staff at Agnes Water, without ever taking credit



for the fantastic contributions that she makes to our school. Mrs Tankey is not only highly knowledgeable in the area of curriculum development and implementation, but has an unwavering passion for raising the expectations for students. Every week Mrs Tankey is working with teachers after hours, modelling lessons in classes and supporting individual students to help ensure our school can be a great learning environment for everyone. Thank you Mrs Tankey for making our school a positive and supportive environment.

This week, Mrs Tankey our HOC and Mrs Buchanan our Master Teacher, worked with all of our teachers from Prep to Year 6 to ensure that the programs operating in classrooms are engaging, relevant and aligned to the curriculum. Teachers worked collaboratively to create a range of interesting units of work that students will engage in during Term 2. The planning sessions on Tuesday were followed by a school moderation of writing samples from this term.

These collaborative planning opportunities and moderation practices such as these are an important way that our school maintains consistency our practice and judgement around student achievement. I am very proud of the level of collaboration and alignment of assessment from our teachers and keen to see the learning journey of our students next term.

National Day of Action

Today is the National Day of Action against Violence and Bullying. Our classes this week have focussed upon the campaign messages by looking at the way that we speak to each other. In a school we want to build each other up, not tear each other down. Classes have been discussing kindness and the words and ways that we can show this. For more information on the campaign visit www.bullyingnoway.gov.au.

BULLYING. NO WAY!
TAKE A STAND TOGETHER

Take a Stand Together is a free app that has tips and advice about bullying.

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Need help?
Kids Helpline www.kidshelp.com.au
1800 551 800
headspace www.headspace.org.au
1800 650 890
Online bullying www.esafety.gov.au

www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story.
2. **Reassure** your child that they are not to blame.
3. **Ask** your child what they want to do about it and how you can help.
4. **Visit** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies.
5. **Contact** the school.
6. **Check in** regularly with your child.

BULLYING. NO WAY!
www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

UNSW

A reminder that entry into the University of New South Wales competitions for Year 3 to Year 6 close on Friday 24 March. Information was sent home on the 22 February to interested children. The competitions cover Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics. Participation slip and money must be returned by Friday 24 March.

Attendance

Attendance every day and being on time counts at school. Each day students participate in new learning experiences. Our start of the day sets up our students for success throughout the day. It is important that students are at school every day and on time by 8:40am. The only time students should be away is when they are ill and in emergent family situations. Reasons for absences such as the surf is up, or it's my birthday are not acceptable reasons for early departure or full day absences.

Our current attendance rate is: 92.7% with 0% unexplained absences. This is a slight drop from last fortnight, but still higher than previous years. Well done to Year 2 and Year 4 students who are sustaining the highest attendance rate of 94.5% and 95% respectively. Our goal is to reach 94% attendance overall for the semester for the school. We can easily achieve this with improved attendance on a Monday and Friday. On these days we are seeing an average of 20 students away across the school with most of these absences being non-illness related.

A reminder that all absences for students must be explained on, or prior to the day of absence with a reasonable explanation. Parents have multiple options for notifying the school of absences;

- Send in a note
- Email the school – admin@agnewatess.eq.edu.au
- Notice through QParents
- Sending a message through School Star
- Ringing the office
- Responding to the text messages sent out advising of an absence.

Any planned absences for 10 school days or greater must be pre-approved in writing by the Principal through an exemption to compulsory schooling. Please contact the office well in advance of any absence that requires this exemption.

Behaviour Celebration Day

The Term 1 Behaviour Celebration event will occur on Friday 31 March (last day of the term). Our behaviour celebration activities are a reward that I offer each term for students who consistently demonstrate the expectations of our school by being respectful, responsible and safe learners. In our school, we understand that childhood is about learning the expectations of society. We all make mistakes and if we learn from these and make the necessary changes, then we can be successful. This principle applies to invitations for behaviour celebration days. If students make a poor choice around their behaviour during the term, we review this prior to invitation and where behaviour has been a one-off and improvements to behaviour have occurred over the term, students will be invited. Where students struggle to meet the expectations, they have the opportunity the following term to demonstrate the expectations and participate. Students not participating in Behaviour Celebration activities are provided a regular classroom program.

Invitations for the Behaviour Celebration Day will be sent home on Monday 27 March.

Easter Bonnet Parade and Transition Day

Our Prep to Year 3 classes and Agnes Water Kindy will be participating in an Easter Bonnet Parade on Friday 31 March from 10:30 to 10:50am in our hall.

The Easter Bonnet Parade will be the final activity of our first Prep Transition Day for 2017. Children eligible for the commencement of Prep in 2018 are invited to join our school for the morning from 9:00am to 10:50am. Children can attend with the Agnes Water Kindy or with their parents. Children need to bring with them their hat for the morning.

P&C Meeting

The Agnes Water State School P&C Association AGM will be held on Monday 20 March 2017 at 3:00pm in the staffroom. This will be followed by the March general meeting. Nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are called. General members are also sought.

Disco

The P&C Association will be holding a disco on Friday 24 March in our hall. Our discos run in two sessions. 5:00pm to 6:15pm is our Prep to Year 2 Disco. 6:15pm to 7:30pm is our Year 3 to Year 6 Disco. The theme for this disco is Heroes and Villains. Entry is \$2. Drinks, sausage sizzle and glowsticks are on sale during the night. Parents must sign their children in and out of the event.

Information Sessions

On Wednesday 22 March the school will be running three repeat information sessions for parents about QParents, QSchools and School Star. These sessions will cover how our school uses these three communication Apps for Apple and Android devices. The sessions will be at 3:00pm-3:30pm, 4:00pm – 4:30pm and 5:00pm-5:30pm. These sessions will be held in our main computer lab (Library block) and does not require pre-registration.

Head of Curriculum News

What is happening in our classrooms?

As we head into our third year of implementing innovative, research based curriculum programs and improving our whole school policies, we are so excited to see the fruits of our labour. This week teachers in our school were released to spend a full day of planning with our Master Teacher, Principal and myself. We spent time examining what a good piece of assessment looks like and how we can make sure all of our students can access this and do their best. We start with the assessment piece

at the beginning of our planning process to make sure what we teach and expose the students to will ensure they have all the tools they need to reach the achievement standard for their year level. It's fantastic that our teachers have the opportunity to plan in this collaborative way, as the professional conversation and collegial sharing that occurs is priceless. We are so proud to see the depth of knowledge our team of teachers has around implementing the Australian Curriculum - and the creative and inventive ways that they design their teaching practice. The way our team has embraced a whole school approach in our classroom programs means greater consistency for our students. We use the same program in Spelling – Words their Way, the same writing program – Seven Steps to Writing Success, the same reading and sight word programs – Jolly Phonics, Jolly Grammar, Magic 100 words and Sheena Cameron Reading Comprehension strategies. Instead of relearning a new way or strategy every time they have a different teacher, students can concentrate on refining skills and deepening knowledge - and teachers and parents can have faith that the programs being delivered are high quality and proven.

Moderation

Our teachers spent a Twilight session after school this week analysing writing samples that we collected from a range of our students at the start of the year. We used our whole school marking guide and together spent time marking and comparing our judgments. This practice ensures consistency in our marking and as teachers we were able to justify what we saw in the work sample to be able to give them the score. We used a feedback process called Two Stars and a Wish where we found two elements the students had done well (the stars) and one main area for improvement (the wish). We then had to recommend the best strategy from our school writing program, Seven Steps to Writing Success, that the class teacher could use to improve the quality of the writing. As a whole our students are generally showing great Sizzling Starts – using a sound or dialogue and action to hook the reader in, but need more work on Banning the Boring parts of

their work. This means they eliminate the parts of the writing that aren't necessary to the storyline. Teachers are using parts of this program in their homework matrix and if you have any questions or would like to learn more have a chat with your child's teacher or visit www.sevenstepswriting.com

How can I make sure my child loves reading?

We all know that reading is an absolutely crucial part of a successful education and I am so happy to have parents ask me for ideas about how to ignite this love of learning in their children. We work very hard at school to ensure we have a balanced literacy program and we teach strategies for prediction and understanding, and decoding and making sense – but there is one factor that we cannot give them at school – all we can do is encourage it. This important factor is the lovely habit of reading at home. This is the time when the love of reading from an early age is fostered. To quote Mem Fox, brilliant children's author, 'We should read to our children whenever possible and wherever possible as often as possible. We should make sure, for instance, that we have favourite books with us in situations when it's clear our children may become bored, anxious, whining, irritable or disruptive. Books take the tedium out of waiting for the doctor, going on a bus, train or plane journey, sitting around waiting for a parent at the hairdresser's or dentist's, a meeting or a friend's place. Books cool things down when children have been upset by arguments or there has been yelling in the house. Books cheer them when they are ill. Books stop them from being fretful in situations when we need them to be well behaved.' Find books that will engage them – comics or magazines or chapter books – keep searching until you find their interest. Create time and space for reading to occur - Mem Fox recommends these essentials – 'encouragement, time, light, silence, warmth in winter and coolness in summer, and the comfort of being allowed to read in bed every night.' If you would like to borrow a copy of Mem Fox's book, Reading Magic, or ideas for some great authors and stories, please let me know. Happy Reading!

“Celebrate what you want to see more of.” Tom Peters

This week I would like to celebrate the efforts of one of our 5/6 teachers, Mr John Hancock. Mr Hancock’s love of all things science means that students in his classroom enjoy learning related to the world around them - from making bird houses to examining how seeds form and grow. An assessment piece that they are working towards is an investigation of the bat colony at Miriam Vale – and then creating a persuasive recommendation about the environmental impact this is having. By making sure learning is relevant and interesting to the students, Mr Hancock ensures our students understand our local context. Thanks Mr Hancock, we appreciate you!

Please share what you see...email me at ltank1@eg.edu.au so we can all benefit from the dedication of our educators. I look forward to continuing to be a part of this very professional, caring and inspiring team.

Yours in Learning,
Mrs Leigh Tankey

Who can do Little Athletics?
Queensland Little Athletics venues are able to cater for children from 3 to 16 years of age, with many Centres able to cater for athletes with a disability. No matter what your skills or ability Little Athletics is all about family, fun & fitness[®] and making sure you can be your best[®].

How will I learn?
Many Centres have coaches to help you improve and learn about athletics so you can get the most out of your involvement with Little Athletics. Learning is fun and in no time you will see your personal best (PB's) performances improve.

What are the benefits?
If you are fit it makes you feel good about yourself and you have the energy to do anything. Young people who take an interest in sport are more likely to stay fit for life.

What does my mum, dad or family have to do?
Apart from making sure you get safely to and from Little Athletics, your mum and/or dad or your family make great helpers and officials and coaches of the future. Organising, raking, recording, directing and measuring are all jobs families and helpers are asked to do.

What events can I do?
Depending on your age group Little Athletics offers: Sprints, Middle and Long Distances, Hurdles, Relays, Walks, Shot Put, Discus, Javelin, High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump and Cross Country.

How friendly is it?
You will find no shortage of friends or friendships at Little Athletics! Little Athletics has provided a friendly environment for over 50 years with millions of Aussies enjoying their experience. If you are uncertain or a little shy, bring your best friend and do Little Athletics together.

How do I join?
Simply visit our website to register online or contact your nearest Centre for details. You can join at any time!
Run, jump, throw, have fun and be healthy.



— To find your nearest Centre visit www.littleathletics.com.au or contact:
COME & TRY LITTLE A'S SAT MARCH 18TH 9AM
ENQUIRIES - MELANIE 0408 808 179

Jetstar
Little Athletics Queensland
Call (07) 3892 9400

State Association:
littleathletics.com.au
Jetstar Little Athletics Queensland
PO Box 265
Sunnybank
Queensland 4109

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2017 school calendar Queensland state schools



| DECEMBER 2016 | JANUARY 2017 | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
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| APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY |
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| AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER |
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| DECEMBER | JANUARY 2018 | | |
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the future



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on coding and robotics, visit
www.advancingeducation.qld.gov.au

- School terms
- State school holidays
- Public holidays
- Staff professional development/student free day

There are 194 school days in 2017.
Semester 1 2018 commences for teachers on January 18
and for students on January 22.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Staff professional development days for teachers are January 19, 20, April 3, 4, 5, and October 16. Schools are able to decide when their flexible days will be held, as long as they are in the school holidays or out-of-school hours.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Public holidays are set by the Industrial Relations Minister. Public holidays for a local show are not shown due to diversity of dates across the state.

FINAL DATES FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE

November 17 is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. November 24 is the final date for student attendance in years 10 and 11.

Some schools in regional, rural and remote areas will close for the Summer holidays on December 1.

The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication (September 2016) but may be subject to change.

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit

www.education.qld.gov.au



Queensland
Government