



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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The last fortnight has been very busy in our school. Duane shared the importance of snake safety with students, our student leaders led our school through a Remembrance Day ceremony and our students found a new surprise of construction vehicles in the enviro play.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Tues 22 Nov	Year 2/3 History Excursion
Thurs 24 Nov	Prep Transition Day & Parent Information Session 8:40 – 11:00am
Tues 29 Nov	Secondary School Readiness Day 2 – Smart Pants Day – Yr 6
Wed 30 Nov	Secondary School Readiness Day 3 – Year 6
Wed 30 Nov	Year 1 Learning Celebration 6:00pm
Fri 2 Dec	Student Leadership Presentations
Fri 2 Dec	Year 6 Dinner – Green Turtle Café 6:00pm to 10:00pm.
Mon 5 Dec	Presentation night rehearsal
Tues 6 Dec	VITAL Program
Wed 7 Dec	2016 Awards Night & Concert 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Thurs 8 Dec	Report Cards Behaviour Celebration Day
Fri 9 Dec	Last Day of School

Library

During the last two weeks of school we will be auditing our current Library resources. It is required that all Library books currently on loan are returned by no later than **Friday 25 November**.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our World is full of good and bad, and as parents we always want to protect and shelter our children from the bad. The reality though, is that we can't control everything or every situation and we need to let our children develop into individuals therefore we can't hover over them twenty-four hours a day or solve every problem for them. What is important is the way that we as parents and educators build the skills in our children to cope with the challenges of life, to challenge the bad when it is presented to them and instil in them the values of citizenship.

As a Principal, I take the role of providing a safe environment for your children very seriously and as a school we look at the ways we provide safe environments and educate children about what to do in challenging situations. It is also very important for me to work with children in identifying how they could have managed a situation better by looking at their own actions. It is very rare that I have to deal with an issue where both students haven't had some involvement in escalating the issue.

We try to balance the protective processes, such as ensuring staff supervision and using filters on our internet systems, with our education processes of teaching about our school expectations and values such as compassion and tolerance while still allowing children to take reasonable risk, interacting with their peers without adult intervention and exploring their environment through our enviro play areas. As parents we need to do the same by monitoring our children's use of social media and being aware that most have age restrictions of 13 Years and being aware of where and who are children are playing with when unsupervised.

Unfortunately, no matter what we put in place, it is still likely that children will come through schooling with needing to face several challenges to them. Schools are a reflection of the community in which they operate. In schools children come from very diverse backgrounds, family values and some even come with a life that has already presented many challenges that nobody should ever have to face. Due to this, it is impossible for us to predict what any child will say or do and once it is done, it cannot be undone. What is important is our

response as parents and educator in managing our own emotions and immediate reactions to help our children grow and hopefully learn from each and every experience and be able to appropriately manage and challenge the many conflicts that they will face as adults.

2017 Enrolments

Thank you to all of the parents who assisted with our 2017 enrolment survey. We now have a clearer picture of enrolments. There are still a few families uncertain due to work options for 2017, so we have an expected enrolment range of 188 to 199. Our school will be very top heavy for the next few years, with most enrolments in Year 3 to Year 6. We only have 13 Prep enrolments commencing in 2017, which is 1/3 of our normal enrolments.

Our staffing is still uncertain for next year and class allocations will not be able to be finalised until the 19 January.

There are many staffing changes that we are preparing for in 2017, unfortunately most of these changes are farewells. During 2016, we funded the continuation of many positions, however we cannot sustain this funding into the new year.

At the end of this year we will say farewell to the following;

Teachers:

Nyree Buchanan

Dawn Morton

Kylie Rupp

Melony Spencer (Guidance Officer)

Tarnia Doughty (Master Teacher – has recently won the Principal position of Dulacca State School)

Karen Hartley (Required transfer to Rosedale P-12 School due to enrolment numbers)

Michael Henson (Requested transfer to Banksia Beach State School)

Teacher Aides:

Nina Brennan

Trish Martin

Christie Bland

Nikki Hetherington

Returning as class teachers to our school will be; Danielle Tooker, Keryn Heenan and Stephanie Smith.

We will be recruiting a new Master Teacher over the coming weeks and welcome a new Guidance Officer to our school. Mrs Vicki Ladlow has been appointed to replace Michael Henson as a Music Specialist across the cluster in 2017 and we welcome her into the position.

We will see a couple of changes with other teachers through the year, with John Hancock teaching 7 days a fortnight, Cathy Hancock teaching 8 days a fortnight and Kate Lucas will presently fill a Local Relieving Teacher position based from our school to cover any staff leave.

One thing that I have learnt about this school is that a lot changes over the Christmas period, so we will need to wait as late as possible before the release of classes and teachers.

Electronic Communication

Over the last few weeks parents will be receiving information about two new forms of communication that will be occurring from our school. The first is an offer of registration with QParents. QParents will allow parents to modify contact information, track their child's absences, obtain previous report cards and pay for excursions and activities through the QParents App. Further functionality around this App will occur over the next few years, including live access to student timetabling and behaviour information.

The second form of communication will come through MGM Wireless. This will be a text message notification system that will commence from the first day of Term 1, 2017. Parents will be notified of any unexplained student absence by 9:30am each day. Parents will be able to reply directly to notifications to provide reasons for absence and can notify electronically in advance of any expected absences. This system will also allow for bulk information to be distributed rapidly such as the event of a school closure or delays to buses from an excursion.

These two new resources, along with the existing QSchool's App, will move the majority our communication platforms away from email to messaging services and will assist to ensure we can get information out to parents rapidly and across multiple mediums.

Reporting

The Semester Two reports will be sent home with the oldest in the family on Thursday 8 December. Please be aware reports will not be available before this date. If a student is absent for the last two days of term, these reports will be posted home. The Semester Two report only reports on student achievement of skills and content covered this semester. As the context and assessment types differ each semester, it is not uncommon for changes in student results to be reflected on the report card. It is important for parents to not only look at the result, but also the level of effort applied to achieve the result.

Year 6 Readiness for Secondary School Days

On Tuesday the 29 November and Wednesday 30 November our Year 6 students will participate in two days at Rosedale as a part of our Readiness for Secondary School. These two days are focused on Secondary School programs, activities and services generally, not just Rosedale P-12 School. Students are provided tastes of the various subjects that are introduced in Secondary School and explore the differences of school operation in a Secondary Environment. Year five students from the two classes will be combined on these days. Permission forms and additional information will be sent home to parents closer to the days.

Year 6 Dinner

A reminder that payments for the Year 6 Dinner must be paid to our school by Friday 25 November. RSVPs have now closed with final numbers notified to The Green Turtle Café.

Final Transition Day

Thursday 24 November will be the final transition day for Prep this year. This will be an outdoor transition (weather permitting), and will also include the final information session for parents. School staff will meet the Kindy and families at the front of our Prep classrooms from 8:40am. The parent information session will be held from 9:00am in the Library.

Parents or a supervising adult must be in attendance with each child, unless their child is joining the sessions with the Agnes Water Childcare. Children joining in with the transition days are asked to bring a small morning tea, hat

and sunscreen on each morning. While attendance at each day is not necessary, it is highly encouraged as the sessions build confidence and preparation for school commencement.

GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

Behaviour Celebration Day

Our Term Four Behaviour Celebration Day will be held on Thursday 8 December. We will again celebrate student behaviour with a beach day at 1770. We would love to see all children participating in this rewards day. For children to participate they must continue to demonstrate our school behaviours of I am a Learner, I am Safe, I am Respectful and I am Responsible. I am so proud of our students and the changes we have seen in our school over the last two years, where now 97% of our students continue to demonstrate appropriate behaviours every day. It would be fantastic if we could have 100% participation in this terms event.

Presentation Night

Our 2016 Presentation Night will be held on Wednesday 7 December at the Agnes Water Community Hall from 6:00pm. Our Presentation Night is a combination of performances from each class and presentation of school awards. From Prep to Year 5, awards are presented for the Highest Academic Achievement in Mathematics, English, Science and The Arts as well as the, I am a Learner award. Year 6 students are eligible for additional awards and bursaries for sports and citizenship. We also announce our 2017 student leaders on the night. We do not announce or inform any parents of award recipients before the night. Please join us for another exciting night on the 7 December.

P&C Executives

There is only one more official P&C Meeting to conclude the 2016 school year on Monday 21 November. Our P&C is an important contributor to programs and positive school promotion. We are desperately seeking additional parents to become general members and take on executive positions in 2017.

HEAD OF CURRICULUM NEWS

Seven Steps to Writing Success

As you all know we have been working hard to implement the Seven Steps to Writing Success program. I know we have all seen the

improvements in our student writing firsthand – this is an absolute credit to all of our staff. Last term we collected writing samples from 75 students at the beginning and end of the term after they had been taught Seven Steps daily in their classrooms. We marked them using a NAPLAN guide and then sent the results away to the Seven Steps team in a program called Track My Success. They have returned the results and showed where the students improved. The majority of our year one students nearly doubled their scores with an average of 45% improvement and the older students' writing had me laugh out aloud on more than one occasion!

'The overall results from the classes that were assessed are very positive. There has been an improvement of a 20% or more in half of the NAPLAN Marking Criteria, with an overall improvement in writing scores of 22%. A great achievement!' Seven Steps Tracker – Kathleen Killick

The exciting part of this program is that the writing from the majority of children has become interesting and humorous. They understand that they need to engage the reader with different strategies such as dialogue and building tension and are really giving it a great go. The next step now is to continue our implementation and next year will be a great opportunity to really hone in on the Seven Steps right from the beginning of the year.

Last Friday I had a lovely parent email me the clip below about kindness – it fits in perfectly with the message we are giving our students about how our actions can change a person's day for the better. There is a great Seven Steps writing activity called The Ripple Effect Game you could play with your child after watching the clip. The Ripple Effect Game named after a book by Tony Ryan, is based on the idea that one small act of kindness can often have long reaching effects. Here's the game. In groups, one person thinks of one small thing they could do that's 'nice'. (e.g. Person 1: I let my sister borrow my music CD.) Person 2 plays the sister and says how this affected them. (I took it to a friend's party. Everyone got up and danced and had a great time.) The game goes around the whole group – only there is a deadline. The last person in the ring has to make their act of kindness

return some good to the first person. (That is, the story comes a 'full circle.')

It's a great way to practise endings - and random acts of kindness – and might be helpful on long car trips!

<https://youtu.be/nwAYpLVyeFU>

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

One of the greatest ways we can show our children that we value their education is to help out in our lovely school. Today we say thank you to the parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles for working with us in our classrooms. Your time, in this seemingly ever busy world, has such worth – especially when you devote it to our children. Our teachers are very grateful and our students feel special. Thank you for your wreath making skills, your play dough modelling skills, your impeccable cutting-out skills, your reading comprehension skills, your sandwich making skills, your book covering skills and much, much more - your actions speak louder than your words ever will.

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

1770 SHUTTLE

Expressions of interest

R.E. Miriam Vale School Bus Run - High School Students.

With the end of the school year is fast approaching and only a few weeks left in the final term of 2016, we would like to inform you that the Miriam Vale School Run from Agnes Water/1770 will be continuing next year.

For those of you thinking about secondary school options available for your year 6 leaver, a change for their older siblings or even someone you know, you may want to consider Miriam Vale State School as an option for years 7 – 10.

Some Great points about Miriam Vale State School:

- Small classes across campus
- Full grade classes (no mixed grades)
- In ground swimming pool – Swimming programs run in term 1 & 4
- Undercover sports court
- Separate play areas
- Music enrichment program
- School Musicals – Biannually
- School & P & C Subsidised Excursions each Semester
- M.A.D Night every year (Music, arts, Drama)
- LOTE Program offered with a Sister School and Pen Pal Program
- Secondary Electives – Including Horticulture, Business and Economics, metal and Wood Technology & The arts
- Year 10 extensive Careers Program including White Cards, RSA, RSG, CQ Uni Programs, Cert 2 in Tourism with CTIA.
- The bus trip is only 35 minutes from Agnes, this will give your child more time before and after school.

Our new bus is modern, air-conditioned, has reclining seats, is spacious, fitted with over shoulder seatbelts and airbags. Is regularly serviced, is 6 monthly government inspected.

Our friendly professionally trained drivers hold all the relative licence requirements and all background and driving history checks. We are Department of Transport accredited

Due to the popularity with more parents considering Miriam Vale as a schooling option we advise early enrolments with the school and to secure your child seat early on the bus next year - first in best dressed!

There are 13 seats available, we need a minimum of 6 students to be viable operate.

Cost - \$90 per week

To secure a bus seat in 2017, please contact Richard or Nicky at **1770 SHUTTLE** on **04 7770 5934** or email us at 1770shuttle@gmail.com

To enroll your child at **Miriam Vale State School 2017**, please contact **Sharlene** on **(07) 49746333** or email at swats48@eq.edu.au

2017 school calendar Queensland state schools



<p>DECEMBER 2016</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>JANUARY 2017</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>
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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