



# AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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## Stingers Win Cross Country

Congratulations to Stingers who won the 2017 Cross Country. Points from Cross Country go towards our House Trophy. Stingers' win places them in a strong position going into the Athletics Carnival in the last week of this term.



## Final Results

Stingers: 122 points

Sharks: 103 points

Rays: 102 points

The following students will represent our school at the 2017 District Cross Country on the 11 May in Bundaberg. Good luck to these students.

2007 - Maxi Wood, Riley Thompson, Mia Poustie and Ruby Fisher

2006 - Elias Fischer, Zachary Klicker, Hannah Thompson and Shayla Thompson

2005 - Caio Kerr, Joshua Yeats, Sara Arpas and Sharvani Ghiggioli

## Calendar of Events

| Date          | Event   |
|---------------|---|
| Mon 24 April  | P&C Meeting   |
| Tues 25 April | ANZAC Day Public Holiday<br>5:45am ANZAC Day Dawn Service<br>9:30am Assembly for Street March |
| Wed 26 April  | Year 6 High School Information Session @ Agnes Water  |
| Mon 1 May     | Labour Day Public Holiday   |
| Wed 3 May     | AFL Gala Day - Boys   |
| Tues 9 May    | NAPLAN - Language & Writing   |
| Wed 10 May    | NAPLAN - Reading  |
| Thurs 11 May  | NAPLAN - Mathematics  |
| Mon 15 May    | P&C Meeting   |
| Tues 16 May   | AFL Gala Day - Girls  |
| Tues 16 May   | Principal Meeting   |
| Wed 17 May    | Principal Meeting   |
| Mon 22 May    | Principal Meeting   |
| Tues 23 May   | Principal Meeting   |
| Tues 23 May   | UNSW Digital Technologies   |
| Wed 24 May    | Principal Meeting   |
| Fri 26 May    | Under 8's Day   |
| Fri 26 May    | Interschool Chess Tournament  |
| Tues 30 May   | UNSW Science  |
| Thurs 1 June  | Bundaberg Show Holiday  |
| Wed 7 June    | Interschool Debating  |
| Mon 12 June   | UNSW Writing  |
| Wed 14 June   | UNSW Spelling   |
| Fri 16 June   | Jump Rope for Heart   |
| Tues 20 June  | Semester One Report Cards   |
| Wed 21 June   | Athletics Carnival  |
| Thurs 22 June | Athletics Carnival  |
| Fri 23 June   | Behaviour Celebration Day   |

## ANZAC Day Commemoration

Our students commemorated ANZAC in our school service on Friday 21 April. Our school was joined by veteran Keith Gear from the Agnes Water RSL Sub Branch. I am very proud of our student leaders and the way they ran our parade. Our school will participate in the Dawn Service and Street March on Tuesday 25 April.



### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Welcome back to school for Term Two. I hope every family had a wonderful and safe break. It was pleasing to see the majority of students return for the first day back on Tuesday and only a couple of broken bones from the Easter Vacation.

Term Two is the busiest term in the school calendar and it is also one of the most interrupted terms with public holidays and sporting events. It is important that students are at school every day possible as we there is a great amount of learning and assessment that takes place in readiness for end of semester reporting to parents.

On top of the large number of events occurring this term, we have a heavy focus upon looking at how we can continue to improve outcomes for students. I have committed an additional \$14 000 this term to student support programs, allowing us to extend our intervention programs to support numeracy for students which is one of our priorities for 2017. Pending the success of this support and model, there is the opportunity for this to be continued for the remainder of 2017, providing an additional 69 hours of teacher aide support in our school each fortnight.

Our teachers are also looking closely at their practices and analysing the strategies that they implement in their class that have the most impact upon student outcomes. This improvement strategy called "Sprints" was trialled in the Year 4/5 class last term with a close focus on improving student recall of multiplication facts and application of strategies to solve multiplication problems. Over a four week period specific strategies were adopted in the classroom which resulted in student improvement in these skills greater than their peers during the same period of time. This process which will be rolled out across the school this term allows our teachers, with the support of our HOC, Master Teacher and myself to look closely at our practices, sharpen our focus on improvement and share effective and proven teaching strategies.

I am very excited about the opportunities this process offers in taking our school to the next level of improving outcomes for your children.

### **Car Parking Update**

The Gladstone Regional Council and State Government are continuing to work through responsibilities and designs to address the car parking and pickup areas at our school. I will be representing Education Queensland at a Council Meeting in early May to discuss the third and newest draft of plans produced by Gladstone Regional Council.

Thank you for your continued patience and safe use of the additional parking provided by the school.

### **ANZAC Day**

On Tuesday 25 April, our school will be participating in the ANZAC Day street march and service. We are seeking students from Prep to Year 6 to participate in the parade to represent our school.

Students participating in the parade are asked to assemble at the shade area in front of the Tavern at 9:30am. Students are required to be in their full blue school uniform with broad brim hat. Students must bring their own water bottle for the parade.

The parade will step off at 10:00am and proceed from the Tavern down to the Cenotaph where a commemorative parade will be held. It is anticipated that the parade will conclude by 11:00am.

Parents are also welcome to march with us for the parade.

### **Head Lice**

We have become aware of head lice being present and would ask that you check your child's hair this weekend and treat if necessary. This will help to contain the spreading of them as they are very contagious. Please check your child's head on a daily basis, looking closely at the scalp and checking the nape of the neck for eggs or the actual louse. Head lice are hard to see as they live close to the scalp and the hair must be parted to see them. A louse may be as small as a pinhead, but is usually larger. The eggs (nits) are easy to identify. Look for small silvery white eggs stuck firmly to the hair shaft near the scalp, particularly behind the ears and the nape of the neck.

Anything not firmly attached to a hair is not a nit. Nits found further than 1cm from the scalp usually do not indicate active infestation, as they are no longer alive.

Please see below for treatment options:-

Treatment options

- Only infested heads are to be treated at the same time.
- Pharmacies stock many varieties of head lice treatments, (to be used as directed)
- Apply most treatments to DRY HAIR and coat all hair from roots to tips.
- Detangle hair with a regular comb, separate the hair into sections and comb through the treatment. With a fine tooth comb (preferably steel not plastic), start at the nape of the neck, work from the roots to the tips and look for lice and eggs. Wipe the comb on a tissue until you have combed the entire head. Comb each section twice. (This can be done with head being held over the bath/laundry tub.)
- Remove all NITS (eggs). These are not easily removed from the hair, but must be removed to ensure effective lice treatment
- Repeat the conditioning and combing technique every two days until you find no more lice or nits.

Some causes of treatment failures

- Inappropriate treatment - not following treatment instructions properly.
- Hatching of the lice which survived the initial treatment.
- Product resistance.
- Infestation from contacts that had been inadequately treated or NOT treated.
- Irregular checking.

### **AFL**

This term Year 5 & 6 students will have the opportunity to participate in the District AFL competition in Bundaberg. Our boys and girls teams have always done well under the coaching of Mr Gourlay and this year promises to be another strong year for our teams. The boys' competition will be held on Wednesday 3 May while the girls' competition will be held on Tuesday 16 May. Good luck to our teams.

### **Secondary School Transition**

Rosedale P-12 School is our designated State Secondary School. Our school undertakes various transition programs with Rosedale and general Secondary School Readiness programs. While it is recognised that students may attend various Secondary Schools, we only have a formal readiness program with Rosedale in preparation for Secondary School. Most of the programs we undertake with Rosedale are general in nature and are about students experiencing the opportunities that are presented at Secondary School, no matter the school they end up attending. The first Secondary School Readiness information session will be held on Wednesday 26 April at 2:00pm at Agnes Water State School.

### **NAPLAN**

The 2017 NAPLAN will be held from Tuesday 9 May to Thursday 11 May for Year 3 and Year 5 students. These assessments focus on Literacy and Numeracy skills and are held in the morning session of each of these days. These assessments are important as they provide us a comparative performance to schools across the nation, however they are only one part of the picture of your child's success and educational capabilities. NAPLAN is one type of assessment on a given day. As a school we make judgements around student achievement by looking at student performance across various types of assessment and a period of time with multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate their success.

As NAPLAN is only a small part of our assessment program in schools, we approach the testing accordingly. At Agnes Water State School, we will prepare your children for the testing over the next few weeks by looking at the question types and how to manage their time effectively during this type of assessment. The only other preparation we ask parents to undertake is ensuring that children have a great night sleep before each test and have a nutritious breakfast with health snacks for the day.

On the morning of each of the tests, we will be offering pancakes for our Year 3 & 5 students as a special treat from our new kitchen area.

NAPLAN results are normally released in late August.

### **School Shirt Design**

Thank you to the many families who have provided feedback for our uniform change. The final survey has now closed and a decision has been reached around our school shirt that will be brought in from 2018. This shirt design will be added to our Code of Dress, along with the new house shirts and bucket hats that were approved earlier this year.

Existing students will have until 2020 to be fully swapped to the new uniforms. Preps and any new enrolments in 2018 will be required to purchase the new uniform.



Our existing house shirts are on sale until stocks run out at \$12.00 each. The house shirts that were pre-ordered will arrive early May. Additional house shirt stocks will become available over the year and full stock will be in place ready for 2018.

The updated Code of Dress will also include the days that House Shirts can be worn. This will be restricted to Friday's only.

### **General Uniform Information**

It is a reminder that our school has a Code of Dress which outlines the uniform requirements for all students.

We are starting to see an increase in incorrect hats, shorts and jumpers being worn in the school. Students who are not in uniform are required to provide a written note with a suitable reason for each day they are not in full school uniform.

Where a student has a wrong piece of uniform that can be removed ie, hat, jumper, jewellery, students

will be directed to place these items back into their bags and will be advised not to return these to school. This includes non-school coloured items.

Appropriate footwear is also necessary. Students must be in shoes that can be worn for sport based activities each day. Slip on shoes, sandals and thongs are not appropriate footwear.

Continual breaches of our code of dress will result in consequences for individual students.

### **Bundaberg Show Holiday**

While our school operates in the Gladstone Regional Council, it forms part of the Bundaberg schooling area and is aligned with services that are supported from Bundaberg, including bus transportation and our feeder high school of Rosedale. It also aligns with the Agnes Water Childcare who have operated the Bundaberg Show Holiday as a public holiday in the past. Our school investigated the options of moving our show holiday in 2015, however the impacts of this outweighed remaining with the Bundaberg show holiday as the school has done for the last 27 years. Agnes Water State School will be closed on Thursday 1 June for the Bundaberg Show Holiday and will be open during the Gladstone Show Holiday in August.

### **Transition Days**

Unfortunately due to the required closure of the school, we were not able to hold our Easter Bonnet Parade at the end of Term 1 or our first Transition Day for our future Prep students. The next Prep Transition event is our Under 8's Day. This will be held on Friday 26 May from 9:00am to 11:00am. This event is open to Agnes Water State School students in Prep to Year 2 and families with children who have not yet reached school age.

### **P&C Meeting**

The April meeting of the Agnes Water State School P&C Association will be held on Monday 24 April at 3:00pm in the staffroom. We are always seeking additional parents and families to join our P&C.

## Head of Curriculum News

### **Curriculum Implementation**

This week Mr Buchanan and myself attended a Curriculum Roadshow in Bundaberg to hear key Regional messages and updates on how schools are implementing the Australian Curriculum. We were very encouraged to hear that the journey we have been undertaking in our own implementation at Agnes Water State School aligns with their vision – we are well on the way. Together with a strong leadership team, our teachers have a deep understanding of the curriculum, they work together to design assessment that will give students every opportunity to demonstrate the achievement standard for their year level and we have moderation practices that ensure our judgement is consistent. As with so many things in life, it is what happens in the day to day happenings – the good habits – that make the difference. The daily practice of sight words, the daily reading aloud, the daily mindfulness practice – these are the small things that make the difference. At Agnes Water State School, we are a team of educators who are collectively dedicated to ensuring that your child succeeds. Please stop by your child's classroom or give me a call if you have questions about the Australian Curriculum in our classrooms.

### **How can I make sure my child loves writing?**

#### **Ideas for Writing**

You may notice in some of our homework matrixes that children are being asked to complete a 'Show, Not Tell' using different ideas. Your child should be able to tell you all about this fantastic strategy. It is an activity that we use as part of the implementation of our school writing program – Seven Steps to Writing Success- as discussed in previous newsletters. If they are stuck for ideas about what to write get them to think of the five senses associated. Students across our school are so fortunate to have teachers who are very dedicated to this fantastic program. They use every opportunity to obtain an exciting piece of writing from the class. In Mrs Hancock's 1/2 class this week they wrote recounts about the cross country race. Normally when we ask children to write a recount

we are met with groans and reluctance. However, now that children are being taught the tools of success they are more than eager to put pen to paper. See the following example by Lilly...

*I go down to the race track. My heart is beating. It feels like it's about to jump out of my chest. On your marks, get set, go. Bang!! I go up the hill. Half way up my legs felt like jelly. I'm coming up, I'm coming up, I'm coming up. I came 8th. After the race I was sweating. I had sunscreen draining off my face. By Lilly*

Another great activity you can do at home to get the ideas flowing is a 'Paper Conversation'. While your kids are at the table waiting for dinner give them a piece of paper and a pencil and tell them they can't talk. They must have a conversation using only writing – it soon emphasises why we value spelling and neat writing because they are writing for a purpose and people need to be able to understand what is written. These ideas all promote fun and creativity in writing, getting the ideas flowing and letting them enjoy it. You could also add the challenge to see how many of their sight words or spelling words they could include in their Paper Conversation. It promotes wonderful conversation and is very beneficial to helping them improve in writing, spelling and sight words.

### **"Celebrate what you want to see more of." Tom Peters**

This week I would like to celebrate the efforts of our fantastic PE teacher, Mr Stu Lane. This week we held our Cross Country, and his level of organisation and attention to detail ensured the day ran smoothly – in turn giving our students the best opportunity to succeed. He prepared the students in the weeks leading up to race last term and it was very clear that there was as strong focus on sportsmanship – so many competitors were great sports – and should be proud of how they conducted themselves. Mr Lane works so hard to build positive rapport with all of his students and in turn they are rewarded with life-long habits of being healthy through physical activity – we appreciate you Mr Lane!

Please share what you see...email me at [ltank1@eq.edu.au](mailto:ltank1@eq.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

### **Master Teacher News**

This week our school ran parent information sessions on three free Apps that are used by our school to communicate with parents. Each App is available for IOS and Android devices.

### **QSchools**

QSchools is an information application for parents that is connected to our School's website. It offers easy navigation of our school website and access to regularly accessed information such as newsletters tuckshop menu, calendar and policy documents.

IOS



Android



### **QParents**

QParents enables parents to view their child's academic history, attendance, manage contact details and make payments for upcoming activities. Parents can also notify our school of any future absences.

IOS



Android



### **School Star**

School Star is produced by MGM who manages our text notification system. This App will provide parents with notifications, rather than text messages (saving our school significant costs). It also retains all messages posted and enables parents to message the school.

IOS



Android



Nyree Buchanan  
Master Teacher

# 2017 school calendar Queensland state schools



| DECEMBER 2016  | JANUARY 2017   | FEBRUARY   | MARCH  |
|--|--|--|--|
| S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3<br>4 5 6 7 8 9 10<br>11 12 13 14 15 16 17<br>18 19 20 21 22 23 24<br>25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7<br>8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>29 30 31 | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4<br>5 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>12 13 14 15 16 17 18<br>19 20 21 22 23 24 25<br>26 27 28          | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4<br>5 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>12 13 14 15 16 17 18<br>19 20 21 22 23 24 25<br>26 27 28 29 30 31 |
| APRIL  | MAY  | JUNE   | JULY   |
| S M T W T F S<br>30 1<br>2 3 4 5 6 7 8<br>9 10 11 12 13 14 15<br>16 17 18 19 20 21 22<br>23 24 25 26 27 28 29    | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3<br>4 5 6 7 8 9 10<br>11 12 13 14 15 16 17<br>18 19 20 21 22 23 24<br>25 26 27 28 29 30    | S M T W T F S<br>30 31 1<br>2 3 4 5 6 7 8<br>9 10 11 12 13 14 15<br>16 17 18 19 20 21 22<br>23 24 25 26 27 28 29 |
| AUGUST   | SEPTEMBER  | OCTOBER  | NOVEMBER   |
| S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5<br>6 7 8 9 10 11 12<br>13 14 15 16 17 18 19<br>20 21 22 23 24 25 26<br>27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S<br>1 2<br>3 4 5 6 7 8 9<br>10 11 12 13 14 15 16<br>17 18 19 20 21 22 23<br>24 25 26 27 28 29 30    | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7<br>8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>29 30 31 | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4<br>5 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>12 13 14 15 16 17 18<br>19 20 21 22 23 24 25<br>26 27 28 29 30    |
| DECEMBER   | JANUARY 2018   |  |  |
| S M T W T F S<br>31 1 2<br>3 4 5 6 7 8 9<br>10 11 12 13 14 15 16<br>17 18 19 20 21 22 23<br>24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 31 |  |  |

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- 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](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)



**Queensland  
Government**