



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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Mental Health Week

Students were involved in a range of activities on Thursday 13 November to help stimulate mental health, promote healthy lifestyles and reduce stress.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Tues 25 Oct	Principal at ASIST Training
Tues 25 Oct	Prep Transition Day 8:40 – 11:00am
Wed 26 Oct	Principal at ASIST Training
Thurs 27 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Fri 28 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Fri 28 Oct	World Teachers' Day
Wed 9 Nov	Prep Transition Day & Parent Information Session 8:40 – 11:00am
Tues 8 Nov	Principal Meeting
Wed 9 Nov	Principal Meeting
Thurs 10 Nov	Principal Meeting
Wed 18 Nov	Volunteers Morning Tea
Mon 21 Nov	P&C Meeting
Thurs 24 Nov	Prep Transition Day & Parent Information Session 8:40 – 11:00am
Tues 29 Nov	Secondary School Readiness Day 2 – Year 6 only
Thurs 1 Dec	Secondary School Readiness Day 3 – Smart Pants Day Yr 6 only
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
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



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Celebrating Success

Earlier this fortnight, the annual School Opinion Survey data for state schools was released. This survey allows parents, students and school staff to contribute their thoughts on areas that we are doing well and need to improve. This year's results show that we are heading in the right direction, with one of our highest rates of student, parent and staff responses and our highest parent, student and staff satisfaction rates ever. This feedback from parents, staff and students indicates greater satisfaction than like-schools and state averages in most areas of the survey. While I am pleased with the survey responses with over 95% parent satisfaction in most categories, it is important for our school to make sure we remain focused on sustaining this satisfaction and reviewing our practices to ensure that we are providing an outstanding school in all areas of operation.

Prep

For the last few years, Prep has been the first year of schooling in State Schools, meaning that if a child commenced at a State School, they had to complete Prep before moving into Year 1, however this was not mandatory for independent schools. As of 2017, Prep has become compulsory as the first year of schooling for all schools in Queensland and forms part of the compulsory schooling years. In 2017, there are also some significant changes to early enrolment into Prep in State Schools. For information regarding enrolment into State Schools please visit; <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/find-school/enrolling.html> or contact our school to arrange an enrolment interview.

2017 Enrolment interviews for Prep will be held between 14 November and 2 December. Families that have returned enrolment forms for 2017 will be contacted by our school to arrange a Prep interview with parents and their child.

Our Transition Days for Tuesday 25 October, Wednesday 9 November and Thursday 24 November will be held from 8:40am to 10:50am, 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.

Unfortunately the Parent Information session planned for Tuesday 25 October has had to be cancelled. The

information session on Wednesday 9 November will include a Read and Grow Session run by Bush Kids as well as information about enrolment and school programs. The parent session on Thursday 24 November will be with the Principal. The two parent sessions will be held from 9:00am to 10:30am in the school hall.

Absence Data

This last fortnight has been one of our best fortnights of attendance this year with 8 days over 90% attendance and Friday 21 October being our highest attendance day all year with 97.2% attendance. However, we are still averaging 57% of absences being for other reasons than illness. Our goal is to get to 92% average this term. To achieve this, we need to drop the number of absences that are for other reasons than illness. Your assistance in ensuring your children are at school every day unless ill is highly important to their education.

2017 Class Lists and Teachers

While we are still heavily focussed on the 2016 school year, I know that many parents and students are starting to think about 2017 class allocations and teachers. As discussed in our last newsletter, we will have some changes in our school staffing in 2017 due to changes in student enrolment and returning teachers. We will not be able to make any final decisions about class structures and teacher allocations until the start of the 2017 school year, as we have had to do for the last few years. We are currently seeking information from parents regarding enrolment returns. Parents are able to complete the hard copy enrolment return or online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/awss.

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.

Student Leadership Selection for 2017

We have begun our student leadership selection process in readiness for 2017 with Year 5 students currently showing their capacity to be outstanding role

models for our school. A very large proportion of our Year 5's aspire to be leaders in 2017 and have already committed to the Kindy Buddy program. Over the next 6 weeks students in Year 5 will be observed closely for leadership, initiative and peer support in helping to determine our school captains and general school leaders. Applications for leadership positions for 2017 will be signed off by staff late Term 4, with presentations on Friday 2 December and announcement of our student leaders for 2017 will be at our presentation night.

Toys from home

We have seen a significant reduction in the number of toys brought from home this fortnight. Thank you parents. It is a reminder to all students and parents that toys are to remain at home, unless being brought in for a specific classroom task at the request of the teacher. Our school has a large variety of lunch time activities and resources for students to access during their breaks, so there is no need for children to bring in personal items. Reminders have been given on parade to all students.

Student Free Day

The Student Free Day on Monday 17 October, was a highly productive and informative day for teachers in our cluster of schools, furthering our understanding of practices in Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Technologies. It is recognised that Student Free Day's can be difficult for some families, however the value that these days add to teacher practice is extensive and we have already seen teachers enhancing their practices and opportunities for students this week particularly in Coding. A huge thank you to Tarnia Doughty (Master Teacher), Leigh Tankey (Head of Curriculum), Nyree Buchanan (Year 1 Teacher), Katrina Kruger and Josh Morris (Deputy Principals at Rosedale) for their efforts in preparing the conference and presenting on the day.

Student Excellence

Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the Spelling Tournament on Friday 21 October. I am very proud of our teams, their enthusiasm for participation and their overall results. In the senior division, we placed second and won the junior division. We are also very fortunate to have 9 students representing Wide Bay Burnett at the Brisbane International in January 2017. Congratulations to Tom Moody, Charlie Weir, Jack McDougall, Connor Yeats, Abbie Burton, Caio Kerr, Chloe Gilbert, Amy Sevensen and Nathan Gilbert for their selection in our school team.

School Uniforms

Thank you to the many parents who responded to the uniform survey last term. The results have now been discussed at our last P&C meeting and there is agreement to proceed with the next stage of renewing our school uniform. The next stage will be the presentation of three design ideas to the school community along with several fabric choices. Once these designs and fabric options are available, parents will be asked to contribute their input again, before we finalise the design.

In addition to our regular school uniform we have invested in a representative team shirt that is owned by the school and provided on loan to students who are representing our school at competitive events, such as the Academic Triathlon and Inter-school Athletics. This shirt has a slight variation in the blue to help it stand out and a distinctive wave pattern to tie in with our locality. We will have these shirts from November this year.



Year 6 Dinner Confirmation

The Year 6 Graduation Dinner is confirmed for Friday 2 December at Green Turtles Café. The menu and pricing is currently being finalised and will be provided to families with official invitations shortly.

Presentation Night

Our 2016 Presentation Night will be held on Wednesday 7 December at the Agnes Water Community Hall. 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 are 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

Sharing Best Practice

Our cluster of State Schools from Rosedale, Wartburg, Winfield and Agnes Water gathered together for a day of professional learning in the areas of literacy, numeracy and technology. The theme for the day was 'Discovering Best Practice – Collaboration Across the Discovery Cluster and is a first exciting step for our schools.

Our aim is to improve the learning outcomes for all students in our area through continued



collaboration and moderation between schools and teachers. Tracy Corsbie, our Regional Director for the North Coast Region, opened the conference, and addressed staff about current initiatives and direction for education, with one of her important key messages for educators being that teaching is about hearts, hands and minds, and that the rewards of teaching come in the form of making a difference in the lives of our students. Tracy's messages were warmly received by everyone in attendance, even more so in the knowledge that this is the first time a Regional Director has visited our lovely area.

The teachers spent the remainder of the day attending keynote sessions and hands on workshops run by teachers and school leaders from various schools. Teachers and teacher aides were able to discover many great practices throughout the day through conversation walls, classroom displays and scavenger hunts, all designed to build working relationships and further enhance the fantastic work that is happening in our schools.

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

Next Friday 28th October, we will celebrate World Teacher's Day. Teachers chose their profession for so many reasons – the most important being to work with your lovely children – their progress is our greatest reward. We know that this type of dedication requires a lot of energy and one of the best ways to boost energy is to show gratitude. So, this week I would love to encourage you to sit down with your child, maybe put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboards!) and write a thank you note to your teacher – a great life-long habit to instil. It could go something like this....

To the dedicated teachers,

Thank you for making learning fun and relevant by actually getting to know what my children like – and how they learn. Thank you for seeing their potential and insisting that nothing less than their best is allowed. Thanks for letting them having their 'off' days and caring enough to stop me and see what might be going on in their life. Thank you for seeing what I like about them and celebrating this with me – and for teaching them that our differences make us special. You make a difference to our family and our community-you deserve to know this and be celebrated. Happy Teacher's Day!

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