



# AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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## Kindy Buddies

Our future school leaders had the chance to meet some of our prospective Preps for 2017 last week as a part of our transition program.



Over the next few months our Year 5 students will continue to build a relationship with these children to assist in their readiness for schooling. Thanks to Jo and Marianne from bushKIDS for helping with the morning.



## Interschool Soccer

Our Year 4-6 students represented our school with pride at last Friday's Friendly Soccer Carnival against Discovery Christian College. Teams of five played five rounds versing either DCC and AWSS teams.



## Calendar of Events

Date	Event
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
Mon 5 Sept	Principal & HOC Meeting
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
<b>Saturday 17 September – Sunday 2 October: September School Holidays</b>	
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**

I sincerely appreciate the input we receive from parents about our school and programs. It is only through parental input and consultation that we can continue to grow while holding onto the traditions or activities that matter to our community. Over the last few weeks we have had several opportunities for parents to provide input into our school, firstly with our School Opinion Survey and more recently our Uniform Survey and Tuckshop Survey. We have seen some of the greatest levels of community input into these recent collections of responses with almost 50% of the school community already responding. While the school opinion survey is now closed, the Tuckshop and Uniform Surveys will remain open until Friday 9 September. The surveys can be accessed at the following links:

#### **Uniform**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5HHYK6Q>

#### **Tuckshop**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56YCXDK>

If you don't have web access at home and would like to complete the surveys, please come into the school and we will provide you access to one of our computers.

#### **I am Safe, I am Respectful and I am Responsible**

Over the last two weeks, we have seen an increase in students believing it is okay to use punching or kicking to resolve conflicts and students not taking personal responsibility for their behaviours that lead to conflict to begin with. In most instances these issues have been between friends or have started because a friendly game has become heated due to an argument about the rules.

To help reduce this, we have been discussing the message in classes and on parade that it is never okay to use physical behaviours to solve problems. However we also emphasise that it is just as important that we acknowledge that if we say things to hurt others, we need to take responsibility for the consequences that occur from this.

In schools we use the High Five Strategy with children, where each finger represents a key step in dealing with problem situations;

1. Talk and act friendly. Don't give anyone the reason to be nasty to you. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
2. Talk firmly. Make it clear that you don't like what someone else is doing to you. This is tricky for children as it means they have to reduce their emotional reactions to make it clear for others that they are not playing.

3. Ignore. Where possible ignore the verbal behaviours of others. Others are often looking for your attention and reaction. If we don't give it to them, then the problem will often go away.
4. Walk away. Remove yourself from the situation and move closer to someone who can help you if the problem continues.
5. Tell an adult. If the problem is continuing and you can't resolve it yourself, make sure you tell an adult that can help.

It is important that this message is reinforced from both school and home and that as adults we teach and model for our children other ways to solve their conflicts. Your assistance in reinforcing these messages with your child is greatly appreciated.

#### **Principal Absences**

Where possible, I try to avoid being away from the school, especially lots of days in a row. Unfortunately, a series of meetings that I have to attend have been scheduled closely together over the next two weeks. I will be out of the school next Tuesday Afternoon, all day Wednesday and Friday of next week. These are regional Principal meetings focusing on our performance data and departmental operations. On each of these days, Mrs Leigh Tankey will be the teacher in charge. On Monday 5 September, Mrs Tankey and I have a meeting for most of the day, with a focus on building greater alignment in our cluster schools. Mrs Allison Harris will be the teacher in charge on this day. Any non-critical matters will be left for me on the days where I am back in the school.

#### **GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS**

##### **Surf Program Equipment**

Our surf gear is about to get a much needed update with a few new boards, helmets, rashies, storage racks and repairs to our existing boards. These new additions to our program, while expensive, were greatly needed to help ensure that this program can continue for several more years. Our surf program is one of the Friday Electives that are offered to our Year 4 to Year 6 students in Term 1 and Term 4, and annually we have up to 40 students participate in this elective. Students in Year 4 to Year 6 will again have the opportunity to nominate for sporting electives before the end of this term, with preferences going to Year 6, then Year 5 and finally Year 4.

##### **Prep Transition**

Agnes Water State School has a proud history of providing education to the community of Agnes Water, 1770, Captain Creek and surrounding areas.

Our mission is to develop highly numerate, literate, confident and independent learners who are resilient and prepared for an ever-changing future.

An important part of this learning journey begins in Prep and our school recognises the importance of children feeling prepared for school and welcomed. At Agnes Water State School, we achieve this through several transition opportunities. Our Kindy-Buddy Program is well underway, where children from Agnes Water Childcare develop friendships with our future school leaders. We also open our doors to future children of our school through our Easter Bonnet Parade, Under 8's Day and formal transition visits.

To find out more about our offerings and enrolling your child into Agnes Water State School we will be hosting the first of several information sessions on Monday 5 September from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in our school hall.

Our Prep Transition Days will be held on;  
Wednesday 7 September – 9:00am to 11:00am (Prep Transition Day)

Tuesday 25 October – 8:40am to 11:00am (Prep Transition Day and Parent Information Session)

Wednesday 9 November – 8:40am to 11:00am (Prep Transition Day and Parent Information Session)

Thursday 24 November – 8:40am to 11:00am (Prep Transition Day and Parent Information Session)

**Children attending these transition days must be accompanied by a parent or be with the Agnes Water Childcare.**

Enrolment packages for 2017 are now available from our school office.

### **Disco**

On Friday 9 September our school will be holding a "Party" themed disco in our hall. The night is broken into two sessions; 5:00pm – 6:15pm for our Prep to Year 2 students and 6:15pm to 7:30pm for our Year 3 to Year 6 students. A sausage sizzle, drinks and glow sticks will be on sale during the night. Cost of entry is a gold coin. The disco is a no pass out event, requiring students to be signed in and checked out of the disco. Parents and younger siblings are welcome to stay for the disco. We are also seeking parent helpers to assist with sales and the sausage sizzle.

## **HEAD OF CURRICULUM NEWS**

### **Sharing Best Practice**

This fortnight the school has been buzzing with excitement about writing. So many teachers and students have been stopping me to proudly share the writing efforts in their classrooms. As I have outlined in previous newsletters, the writing program we have adopted for use in our school is the Seven Steps for Writing Success. All of our staff have now been trained and are enthusiastically implementing the program daily. The persistence they have shown in implementing a new program has been inspiring and the children are starting to reap the benefits and produce some terrific work. Our prep students have been immersed in a brainstorming strategy called 5+1 senses. They had to choose a special place and use the senses to describe that place. Over the course of a few weeks they worked in small groups (fantastic for sharing creativity) and they produced a Haiku – a poem with three lines (1st line five syllables, 2nd line seven syllables and 3rd line five syllables) to describe their spot. Some examples include:

Playing fast Frisbee

Feeling happy, quiet and calm

Smelling my snow peas

Surfing at Springs Beach

It makes me feel calm and safe

Smelling of sunscreen

Hearing bees buzzing

Touching the slippery dirt

Sun hot on my skin

We are so excited to see this level of beautiful writing produced from the early years classrooms. It reinforces yet again that when we raise the bar and have high expectations our children rise to them. If you would like to help your child at home you can make the 5+1 senses into a guessing game. In this spot I see...I hear...I smell...I taste...I touch...I feel... It could be as simple as describing the park or the beach. By practicing thinking like this it will improve their ability to think and describe – and this will make the brainstorming part of their writing so much easier.

## Persisting with Homework – life-long habits

Building emotional intelligence in our children gives them the tools to have fulfilling and successful futures. It is such an important trait and is something we can have in the front of our mind at all times. One way we can teach emotional intelligence at home is when we are helping our children with their homework or assignments. So many times parents hear, "This is boring." Or "I can't do it." when sitting down to do homework. If we have to struggle with them it can be exhausting and unpleasant for everyone. However, by teaching them to NOT run away from these feelings of discomfort and to stick at things we don't like or can't do, we get the strength to stick with and get the more out of things we do like. Wilson McCaskill, author of *Children Aren't Made of China*, likens it to playing football. "If we like playing footy, we have to stick with the uncomfortable and painful fitness training that makes it possible for us to play really well – and enjoy the game. When we do play really well, we need to remember that it's because we are getting through the parts of training we don't like." When we hear them say "I just can't do it" McCaskill says there is an important word we need to add – YET. "Yet is a vital word and children must learn to use it. When a child says, "I can't do this," the remark indicates a belief that the condition is permanent and unchangeable. We must point out that they can't do this yet, but with perseverance and effort they just might be able to. Yet encourages hope. It implies that things will change. It encourages children to enter into a process. It suggests that the situation is temporary and asks children to be more optimistic in their outlook. Yet is one of our least used words. It needs to be used with much greater frequency."

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

As Father's Day falls before our next newsletter I just wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate all of the dads in our lovely community. Thank you for being parent helpers in our classrooms, for being such fast runners on our Athletics Day, for encouraging a love of reading and footy and fun. We hope you have a special Father's Day and know we appreciate the fantastic job you all do.

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

Yours in Learning,

Mrs Leigh Tankey



# GRAND FINAL

**SUNDAY 28TH OF AUGUST**

**1:00PM**  
**MARLINS V CUTTERS**

**3:00PM**  
**TIGERS V HAWKS**

**CANTEEN AND BAR OPEN**  
**RAFFLES TO BE WON**  
**FUN FAMILY DAY!**



## SIGN ON DAY



## Find your pathway

Nippers is a great way for your children to make friends, be active, learn lifesaving skills and enjoy the beach in a safe environment. The whole family can have fun! Get down to Agnes Water SLSC for sign on day and find out how to get involved.

### Details

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August  
9am-11am  
Agnes Water SLSC, Surf Club Ave

### Cost

Juniors (U6-U14)	\$70
Seniors (U15 and over)	\$95
Family (2 adults plus ALL Children under 18)	\$280

### More Info

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