



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative

Footsteps

Students from Agnes Water, Lowmead and Wartburg State Schools spent the week refining their footwork with Footsteps Dance Company. The Dance Instructor, Lisa, was an amazing motivator having all students (and a fair few staff) up and highly engaged in dancing.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Tues 31 Nov	Academic Olympiad Spelling
Wed 1 Nov	Prep Transition Day 3 - 8:40 to 11:00am
Mon 6 Nov - Thurs 23 Nov	Prep Enrolment Interviews
Tues 7 Nov	Athlete Visit
Fri 10 Nov	Student Leader Applications due
Thurs 16 Nov	Prep Transition Day 4 - 8:40 to 11:00am
Fri 17 Nov	Student Leader Elections
Mon 20 Nov	P&C Meeting
Thurs 23 Nov	Native Pollinators - Year 3
Tues 28 Nov	Year 6 Transition Day - Rosedale & DCC
Thurs 30 Nov	Year 6 Transition Day - Rosedale & DCC
Friday 1 Dec	Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Friday 1 Dec	Last day of tuckshop for 2017
Wed 6 Dec	Presentation Night 6:00pm
Thurs 7 Dec	Student Reports & 2018 Booklists Released
Thurs 7 Dec	Behaviour Celebration Day
Fri 8 Dec	Last Day of School 2017
Sat 9 Dec to Sun 21 Jan	Summer School Vacation
Wed 17 Jan 2018	School Office Opens for 2018
Thurs 18 Jan	2018 Class Lists Published
Mon 22 Jan	2018 School Year Commences

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The last two weeks, have been a very interesting and busy period of time for our school, ranging from a very wet week of school, to this week having days full of dancing. The Dance program forms part of our Arts assessment and is timely to help set the tone for this year's presentation night coming up quickly on Wednesday 6 December.

We have also had a significant amount of staff professional development occurring over the last two weeks. On Monday 16 October, 80 staff from Rosedale, Winfield, Wartburg, Lowmead and Agnes Water met to look at ways to build student and personal wellbeing within our schools. We had staff attending regional conferences in enhancing teaching practices and our teachers also participated in Numeracy Moderation.

Moderation is an important part of our assessment program to ensure that the judgements we make about student learning are aligned to the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standard expectations and comparable to other samples of work.

Over the next few weeks, students will be participating in end of year assessment processes and teachers will continue to participate in formal and informal moderation processes.

It is important that students are in attendance every day, on time, to make the most of the learning opportunities. While it is recognised that for some families, particularly in our community with many fly-in, fly-out parents, school term is the only time that the family can get away together. Our location also makes it difficult at times when parents have to travel out of town for the day, however it is important that children are at school for the limited amount of time we have with them each week.

While one day a fortnight of absence, or late by ten minutes each day might not seem much in the short term, over the course of schooling, these absences can quickly add up. A child who is absent for 10 minutes each day misses a total of 86 days in their schooling. This is almost half a school year. For a child that is away once a fortnight this

equates to 338 days, or 1 year and 9 months of school (or finishing school at Year 10).

EVERY DAY OF LEARNING COUNTS

Year 6 Graduation Dinner

The Year 6 Graduation Dinner is a traditional component of our school and an event our senior students look forward to each year. The 2017, Year 6 Graduation Dinner will be held on Friday 1 December at the Green Turtle Café from 6:00pm. Invitations with RSVP information will be sent out in the next week.

Presentation Night

Our 2017 Presentation Night will be held on Wednesday 6 December 2017 commencing at 6:00pm at the community hall, Springs Road. The night will be an opportunity for us to celebrate high performance with class awards for;

Literacy Achievement Award – Highest and most consistent academic achievement in Literacy over the year.

Numeracy Achievement Award – Highest and most consistent academic achievement in Numeracy over the year.

Science Achievement Award – Highest and most consistent academic achievement in Science over the year.

The Arts Award – Highest and most consistent academic achievement in The Arts over the year.

I am a Learner Award – The highest level of commitment to personal learning, individual improvement, perseverance and consistency.

Our Year 6 students are also eligible for;
Chaplaincy Award – for compassion and respect to others.

Sports Award - for highest and most consistent performance in sport.

L.O.T.E. Award – for highest and most consistent performance in the study of Indonesian.

Music Award - for highest and most consistent performance in the study of Music.

The Adopt-a-Cop Award – for significant changes in learning.

RSL Encouragement and Bursary Awards – for consistency in academic, sporting and cultural activities.

Citizenship Award – for active citizenship and positive promotion of our school.

Academic Dux Award and Bursary – for highest academic achievement across all learning areas.

It is also a night for us to celebrate the achievements of our school over 2017 as a community and bring our school year to a close.

The night is open to all school families and I look forward to seeing everyone on the night.

2018 Class Lists

In the last newsletter, I shared some of the exciting plans for 2018 and the changes this might lead to with our school structure. As always there is a lot of planning involved in class allocations. We structure the school to help ensure a balance of social and academic needs in classes and attempt to provide different learning experiences for our students through different teachers over their schooling. The difficulty for our school in planning, is the level of movement that occurs in our school over the Christmas Break. We normally see a change of 30 – 50 enrolment during this six week period and this can cause significant changes to our classes. Over the last three years, we have released our Day 1 class lists a couple of days before school commences to help minimise the chance of needing to change classes on Day 8. This has worked very successfully and we will continue this for 2018. At present class lists are due for release on Thursday 18 January and will be on display outside of Prep and will be emailed out again. **Please note that requests for changes to class allocations will not be accepted.**

2018 has brought about it some speculation upon whether I am returning or not. The rumour mill has been working on overdrive lately. I want to confirm for parents that I will be at Agnes Water next year and I wouldn't miss the opportunity to cement in place the many great things that we

have been working towards over the last three years.

BUSHKids

We have been very fortunate to have a strong relationship with BUSHKids and have had the support of Jo Horigan as an Early Intervention Facilitator. Sadly Jo will be finishing up this role in the next few weeks to take up alternative career pathways. We wish Jo the very best for her future endeavours.

BUSHKids undertook a highly competitive recruitment process late last term, and Mrs Megan Rodi was successful in her appointment to this position. Megan brings with her a wealth of experience from the health sector and community support and will be a fantastic addition to the BUSHKids team.

Our school looks forward to the continued partnership with BUSHKids and the opportunities this presents for supporting children in their pre and early years of schooling.

Athlete Visit to Agnes Water State School

On Tuesday 7 November we will be holding a special assembly to welcome Ashleigh Southern to our school. Ashleigh is a dual Olympic Water Polo athlete and bronze medallist. Her visit to our school is timely, with the upcoming 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ashleigh will spend 45 minutes with our school talking to students about her experiences and the importance of physical activity and nutrition.

Student Leader Applications

Our Year 5 Student Leader applicants have been busy over the last term demonstrating their skills and suitability for student leadership. Students are reminded that their applications are due to the office by Friday 10 November. Students will then have one week to finalise their speeches ready to present to the upper school on Friday 17 November. Students and staff will have the opportunity to vote on suitable student leaders and school captains and the announcement of our 2018 student leadership team will occur at our presentation night. As always, students can continue to apply for leadership throughout 2018.

Transition Programs

We have begun accepting enrolment forms for 2018. Copies of our 2018 enrolment package are available from our school office or the Agnes Water Childcare Centre.

From Monday 30 October to Thursday 23 November 2017, we will be holding our Prep Enrolment Interviews. Enrolment Interviews are an important part of the enrolment process and take up to 45 minutes. Parents with enrolment packages will have been contacted by our administration staff this week to arrange interview times.

We have two more transition days for Prep in 2018. During these days, information sessions will be run for parents about school routines, enrolment and reading programs. All children attending are required to be with a parent or with the childcare centre. Children need to bring a small snack, hat, waterbottle and sunscreen.

Sessions will commence at 8:40am. This is our school start time and will help families in starting to plan for new morning routines in 2018. Children attending the Kindy on these transition days are asked to ensure they are at Kindy ready for bus pick up at 8:40am.

Term Four Transition Days

Wed 1 November 2017 - 8:40am to 11:00am

Thurs 16 November 2017 - 8:40am to 11:00am

Children do not need to attend all transition days, however it is highly encouraged.

Spelling Competition

The final round of the Academic Olympiad for 2017 was postponed due to wet weather. This event will now be held on Tuesday 31 October at Rosedale P-12 school. This round is the spelling competition and an area we normally excel in. Good luck to the 24 students representing our school at the competition next week.

News from P&C

We have an awesome P&C that work hard to ensure our many extra-curricular activities are able to proceed and provide funding for school projects that are not normally funded through the school's budget. One of the exciting projects the P&C have been working towards is the air-conditioning of classrooms. This will commence as of this year with A Block being finalised before the end of the year and possibly the option of having B Block completed in Term 1, 2018. Air-conditioning will also be looked at for Prep block and possibly our demountable buildings over the coming years. This is an expensive investment from the P&C and requires the continued support of parents and our community to raise the necessary funds to fully equip our school.

A huge thank you to the P&C for their investment into this project.

New School Shirts

Our new school shirts are now in stock in each size. We currently have limited numbers, but more of each size are arriving regularly. The new shirts can now be purchased from our uniform shop on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons and the 1770 clothing Factory. Alternatively parents can complete a uniform order form and leave this with the office. Once the order is ready, parents will be contacted and advised they can collect.

The school's uniform shop will be open on Thursday 18 January and Friday 19 January 2018 from 10:00am to 2:00pm for start of year purchases.

The new school shirt is not to be worn until the start of the 2018 school year. The existing school shirt can be worn until the end of 2019, however all students will require a new shirt for school photos later in the year.

We have now sold out of size 10, 12, 14 & 16 in the existing school shirts. No more of these shirts will be produced. Students can wear their house shirts on each day if needed until the end of the school year.

From January 2018, house shirts are only to be worn on Fridays.

Head of Curriculum News

Promoting Well-being

Thank you for your feedback about how you and your children are enjoying exploring the mindfulness meditation app Smiling Mind. Our teachers and teacher aides attended some very valuable and worthwhile sessions with the Smiling Mind team at our recent Wellbeing Conference. Over the next few weeks I will be working with a team of teachers to implement this strategy in their daily teaching practice. The purpose of this will be to improve student well-being and engagement with learning. If you would like to learn more about this easily accessible, free on-line program please visit <https://smilingmind.com.au/> This program is strongly linked to the Australian Curriculum in the Learning Area of Health and the General Capabilities of Social and Emotional capabilities.

How can I help children with reading in the upper years of schooling?

So often we hear of advice about how to assist our early years students become more proficient at reading. When children continue to struggle with reading as they get older it can prevent learning and comprehension, and also affect their self-esteem as they may become reluctant to read aloud in front of others. If you know this applies to your child, they are certainly not alone and there are some great ideas you can try with them at home in conjunction with the work we are doing at school. Firstly, make sure it isn't a matter of them being unable to break up larger words with several syllables. Words contain structural parts and the school spelling program, Words Their Way, teaches students how to recognise these parts - root words, beginnings and endings. Sit with them and break the words into parts. Discuss smaller words they can find and look for this in reading material that they like. It is OK if they want to read a fishing magazine or a comic – the key is to choose something that they have an interest in and this will motivate them to want to read more. Once you have found something they are engaged with reading, you can sit with them and use your finger to follow the words as you read aloud (this is crucial). Encourage them to read along with you. Read the same passage every day for a week and notice how they improve. They will become more fluent and their reading will speed up with less errors. The key is daily practice – and lots of praise

and positive experiences around this will ensure their confidence to have a go grows too. If you want some specific ideas for your child please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

This week we are excited and proud to celebrate World Teachers Day. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the act of expressing gratitude has a very positive effect on your wellbeing. ‘Writing a gratitude letter is an especially effective way to improve your mind-set, strengthen your relationships and bring more positive emotions into your life – and the lives of others.’ (Wheel of Well-being) What a great opportunity World Teachers Day presents to our students. One idea is to sit down together and share ideas about why your child is grateful for their teacher. Discuss with them how and why that teacher has made a difference, and put this in a letter – your child will learn some valuable life skills and experience the powerful effects of feeling gratitude. The ripple effect that an act of appreciation like this has is tremendous.

I am grateful to work with a team of kind, resourceful and supportive teachers who go above and beyond to make sure our students are learning in innovative ways. Happy Teachers 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



2018 school calendar

Queensland state schools

DECEMBER 2017	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
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School terms
State school holidays
Public holidays
Staff professional development/student free day

There are 197 school days in 2018.

Semester 1 2019 commences for teachers on January 24 and for students on January 29.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Staff professional development days for teachers are January 18, 19, April 11, 12, 13, 16 and October 22. Schools are able to decide when they undertake the required hours for professional development for the flexible days, as long as they are on the flexible days, in the school holidays or out of school hours.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Queensland 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 16 is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. November 30 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 7.

The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication (June 2017) but may be subject to change.

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

www.education.qld.gov.au



Queensland
Government