



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

EVERY DAY WE ARE LEARNING...and it's not just academics



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Wed 8 Feb	Parent Information Night
Fri 10 Feb	Year 4-6 Sports Commences
Thurs 14 Feb	Year 1-3 Swimming Commences
Mon 20 Feb	P&C Meeting 3:00pm Staffroom
Tues 21 Feb	AFL Gala Day Year 5 & 6
Wed 1 – Fri 3 Mar	Principal Conference Brisbane
Fri 3 Mar	Term 1 Student Leader Elections
Fri 10 Mar	House Captain Elections
Wed 15 Mar	Academic Competition - Maths
Mon 20 Mar	P&C AGM
Mon 20 – Fri 24 Mar	Parent-Teacher Meetings
Tues 21 Mar	Deadly Australians Reptile Show
Thurs 23 Mar	Last swimming lesson
Fri 24 Mar	Last day for sports Year 4-6
Mon 27 Mar	Pass the Poetry Show
Thurs 30 Mar	Cross Country
Fri 31 Mar	Easter Bonnet Parade
Fri 31 Mar	Behaviour Celebration Day



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Wow! What a start to our 2017 school year. The first two weeks have been a whirlwind. Not only did we see our school start with 30 more students than we were expecting at the end of 2016, but a continuation of many teachers in our school that we thought we would have to say goodbye to. We have also invested significantly in asset replacement over the last few weeks, with new classroom furniture, new interactive panels, replacement computers and more sports equipment for lunch time activities and in readiness for our Year 1 to Year 3 swimming program.

I am proud to be commencing my third year with this school and over the last two years we have been working towards ensuring that Agnes Water State School is just as great, if not better than a school you would find in the centre of Brisbane. This has required a lot of investment into our staff, introducing new opportunities for students and reviewing our programs. We have spent a lot of time on lifting our expectations and developing a framework for our school that will enhance the learning for your children. 2017 is about cementing these practices to ensure they become an imbedded part of our school no matter the staffing changes that occur from year to year.

On Wednesday 8 February at 6:00pm – 6:30pm in our school hall, I will share with parents our direction for 2017, our new initiatives and opportunities and how we will continue to ensure that children at Agnes Water State School are receiving a great education. This will be followed by classroom sessions where teachers will share with parents the classroom specific expectations and programs in each class. Our Prep to Year 3 classes will hold information sessions from 6:30 – 7:00pm and our Year 4 to Year 6 classes will hold their session from 7:00 – 7:30pm. I hope that many parents can join us for these sessions over the night. We recognise that for some families, attendance will be difficult, however we will endeavour to ensure all information shared on the night will be made available through our website, email communication and letters over the coming weeks.

Enrolments and class lists

Our final enrolment on Day 8 was 217 students. This secured our 9th teacher for the year. Unfortunately we fell just short of securing our Head of Curriculum position and a 10th teacher. The Head of Curriculum role is an important position in our school and has been fundamental in building our schools direction and supporting staff in implementing the Australian Curriculum. Our school has committed to ensuring that we continue to fund this position for our Head of Curriculum for at least the next twelve months and hopefully with a normal enrolment in 2018, we will see the entitlement of this position return to our school.

As we did not reach our 10th class and several of the non-return enrolments came from the upper school, we have been able to leave our classes as they are. If we grow in enrolment significantly over the year, as we often do, we may have to review our upper school classes from July.

Uniforms

We have several uniform designs for parent feedback over the next two weeks. Two items are a priority for discussion;

1. The inclusion of a bucket hat into our uniform.
2. Changes to our sport shirts and allocating Friday as the day to wear this shirt.

The change in school shirt will be finalised over term with items going into production in June ready for the 2018 school year.

Samples of the designs will be on display at our information session on Wednesday night and will be on display outside of Prep after this. A web survey will be provided to parents shortly to provide their feedback before any final decisions on uniforms are made.

It is a reminder to parents that our school has a uniform and that upon enrolment at Agnes Water State School, parents agree to ensure their children are dressed as per our Code of Dress. I am pleased that the majority of our students are in full school uniform every day. Students who are out of uniform for any reason, are to provide written notification each day as to why they are not in the correct uniform. This includes wearing the correct coloured hats and shorts and ensuring that

children have a hat for school every day. Hair for boys and girls must be kept out of the eyes and if longer than shoulder length must be tied back. As of this week, we will begin reinforcing expectations and applying appropriate consequences where necessary.

Car parking on site

From Monday 6 February, parents will be provided with additional parking on the school grounds. We have moved the staff car parking to the bitumen area and further into the school. This allows for an area to be provided for parents while waiting for progress around permanent parking options. Please see the image at the end of the newsletter.

Please note that parking has been temporarily marked out for front-in parking only. Traffic is one way only, entering the gates and immediately travelling to the left onto the dirt area, then exiting out along the bitumen roadway.

Vehicles exiting the car park are to give way to incoming traffic.

No parking is permitted by parents beyond the pedestrian cross over point or in the staff car parking locations. This also includes access after-hours where parents are in attendance for after school activities.

This area is a parking area only, not a stop, drop and go. This requires that parents park their vehicle and escort their children using the allocated pedestrian area across the school upon drop off. Parents must also collect their children from the classroom at pick up. Students will not be permitted to enter this area without an adult accompanying them. This expectation will also be communicated with students on Monday 6 February.

For this area to remain accessible for parents, it is important that all users abide by these expectations, or access to parking in this area will be removed.

The supervised student collection point will remain at the front of the school until permanent infrastructure is in place. School administration staff will be in attendance at the new parking area

during this week to assist parents and review suitability of this temporary measure.

An additional temporary staff car park will be added shortly at the double gates near A Block. This will have restricted access times to prevent any entering and existing during pickup and drop off times. This area will not be available to parents.

Shed for Tender

During the next few weeks we will be seeking to remove the shed located near the administration block in preparation for future improvements to this area. Instead of wasting this resource, we will place this shed out to tender. The tender will be a bid for the sale of the shed, however will require that the purchaser removes the shed and any fixings to make safe. Once the tender is announced, interested parties will be provided an opportunity to inspect the facility.

Swimming Reminder

Our swimming program commences on Thursday 16 February. This program is for Year 1 to Year 3 students. Please ensure permission forms are returned as a matter of urgency.

Latex, Royal Blue Swimming Caps are now available for sale from the school office for \$2.00 each. Students must have a swimming cap to participate in swimming each week.

Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Sports Reminder

Final information for sports programs will be provided to students in Year 4 to Year 6 on Monday 6 February. Sport programs commence on Friday 10 February. It is a reminder that groups that leave the school for sport (SUP, Surfing, Golf & Tennis) will not be able to order from the tuckshop at 2nd break on a Friday. All other groups will have a normal 2nd break at 1:00pm. Students must pay for their sport each week or can pay up front for the entire term from Monday 6 February when invoices are sent out.

P&C Needs your help

Our P&C Association needs your help. We are desperately seeking volunteers to assist our school

in executive positions and as general members of our P&C. The P&C Association is a great way for parents to become actively involved in our school. Our P&C meets on the 3rd Monday of each month. In 2017, this will be moved to 3:00pm in our staffroom.

Reef Guardian Grant

Our school successfully won a Reef Guardian Grant over the Christmas period to further our practices in waste management and environmental protection. This \$500 grant will purchase a large compost bin and small compost caddies to collect waste from student lunches.

Old Tuckshop

We have the commencement date for our old tuckshop refurbishment. Project works in this area will commence from Monday 20 February and should be finalised by mid-March. The refurbishment will include a new outdoor undercover area for class food preparation, new cabinetry, flooring, stainless steel student work benches and a vertical garden. This forms part of our food gardens that are slowly being expanded from the office, behind Prep and towards A Block.

Head of Curriculum News

Welcome back to our new school year – where many fabulous learning opportunities await your children. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new parents – becoming part of our Agnes Water State School community will enrich your child's education in so many ways.

In my role as Head of Curriculum I am looking forward to working with the staff of our lovely school to create a rigorous, interesting and relevant curriculum that will enable all children to thrive. I will work with parents in continuing our strong partnership through sharing our practices and seeking your feedback about the wonderful education we will provide for your children. As parents, you are your child's first teacher. You know them better than anyone, so if you establish a strong, open line of communication with your child's teachers, together you will work to give them their very best chance. Our door is always open.

Australian Curriculum at Agnes Water State School.

The wonderful thing about the Australian Curriculum is that as teachers we have the freedom to use the context of our town and school to create units of work that engage and extend students. As our students settle into their new classrooms, our teachers are all teaching a common unit of work called "How do I learn at Agnes Water State School?" Each class is completing a mini unit of work based on the routines and transitions of the school. Teachers have taken time to teach the school values, outline expectations (the way we set up books, where we line up, how we move through the school etc.), learn about multiple intelligences and learning styles, and decide what our school motto LEARN & GROW means to them as a learner. Each class is also choosing a School Pride Project – finding a special place in the school to improve and care for over the course of the year.

Our whole school approach to the delivery of our school programs also encompasses the way we administer homework in our school. Two years ago we underwent consultation as a community and school about how we could make homework more meaningful to families and students. Below is an excerpt from our Homework Policy...

Research about homework.....

One of the most hotly discussed topics in schools is homework – many people are divided about the relevance, amount and difference homework makes, not to mention time following up and marking.

According to David Gillespie (author of Free Schools), "the research reveals that when homework involves the parents as more than just disciplinarians, work done at home can have a powerful effect on student outcomes. If parents have high academic expectations for the child and have the skills to help attain those goals, then the child will perform much better than if they don't. Of course this does not mean the parents do the work for the child, just that they are an informed resource for a student doing the work themselves. But parents have to be motivated to help, know how to help and be able to help. When researchers have looked at learning to read, for example,

they've found that when parents know what's being taught at school (and understand the 'edu-speak' being used to teach it) they end up with very effective readers who race ahead of their peers in leaps and bounds. Indeed, the children of those parents do twice as well as the children of parents who spend the same amount of time just listening to their child read. And the parents who instead spend the time just reading to the child have no effect on reading performance at all. Parents who know and understand what skill was being taught today or this week at school can very effectively reinforce that learning at home."

Ian Lillico (former principal and now international education consultant) outlines the need to reassess the way we deliver homework. Any work that children do at home needs to be counted, and he gives a strong rationale for teachers and parents to work together. "The issue of homework is finally being reassessed in our modern society. Too much repetitive needless homework is given and the wrong type. This has mainly been the result of parents wanting to prepare their children for future study. The reality is, however, that homework has now been a major contributor to childhood obesity and is an impediment to quality family life. At all levels of the education system, homework is being reconsidered. There is a need for some practice of concepts learnt at school, but the need to broaden the definition of Homework. Any work that children do at home needs to be counted, and teachers and parents need to work together to ensure that children do some work at home, but not a lot of sedentary work. The Boys Forward website shows a solution to the problem of getting kids to do something at home and not opt out of family life. It will enable parents to get children to do their share of work in the home including housework, shopping, physical activity such as sport training and engaging in family outings such as walking, fishing and exploring their world - activities which enhance family life. It also covers areas such as reading, being read to, playing a game with parents, research on the computer, music practice and many others."

Homework activities at Agnes water State School will be set in context of the class using the

homework matrix as a template to ensure continuity within the school. This template has been constructed to set clear guidelines about what is valued for homework, yet allowing for individual class and student needs to be catered for. The following key headings will be covered – Spelling/Sight words, DAILY Reading, Physical Activity, Problem Solving/Numeracy, and Work in the Home. Teachers are able to work with students to explicitly teach organisation and planning of the activities to be completed each week. In the lower years the teacher may also decide to nominate certain days that activities are to be completed. Completion of homework will be monitored weekly and feedback will be provided to the students.

Please feel free to email me at ltank1@eq.edu.au if you would like further information about the research behind our policy. Agnes Water State School is committed to working in partnership with families to ensure that all learning experiences, including homework, are providing students with opportunities to develop life-long learning habits beyond the classroom.

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

What wonderful things can you see happening in our school? Once we start looking for the positives in a place it is amazing what we can find. This week we celebrate the tireless efforts of our talented new Master Teacher Mrs Nyree Buchanan. Mrs Buchanan brings a wealth of knowledge in technology and innovative teaching, and has created a learning hub in our computer lab rich in resources and ideas. Her technology classroom is a learning space that will enable everyone in our school to learn with the latest technology and enhances the way we implement the Australian Curriculum.

Please share what you see...email me 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

The Master Teacher is a role that has been funded in some Education QLD schools for 3 years from 2015-2017, this year the position of Master Teacher has changed to a new focus of ICT's and Digital Technology Pedagogy. I will be working alongside teachers at both Agnes Water SS and Rosedale SS to help teachers implement the new curriculum and Information Communication & Technology (ICT) general capabilities embedded in all subject areas, with a focus on literacy and numeracy.

Part of the ICT general capabilities necessitates students are taught how to apply personal security protocols for themselves when using the technology, particularly the internet. This is one area that requires parents and teachers to have a united front in helping our children navigate the online world.

This can be a scary time for parents figuring out how to keep your child safe in a world where the child may be more knowledgeable and confident than the adult. A great resource for parents is a website run by the government department, Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner. The website: www.esafety.gov.au has a wide range of information for parents to help educate themselves on ways to keep children safe online.

I encourage you to spend some time having a look at the iParent section of this website for some helpful tips. We will be discussing personal online safety with all year levels in the coming weeks, particularly as next Tuesday 7th February is Safer Internet Day and some classes from year 3-6 will be participating in a virtual classroom exploring internet safety with the eSafety Commissioner.

I will be including more of these technology tips in each newsletter, if you would like more information or advice please contact me through the school office.

Nyree Buchanan
Master Teacher

PARENTS, STAY POSITIVE! GROUP TRIPLE P – Positive Parenting Program

VENUE - AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL
COST - FREE

Group Triple P is a positive parenting course that can help you turn your family life around. You will get many strategies to make raising kids easier. Group Triple P can help manage your child's behaviour. It can help prevent problems too. You will feel more confident about parenting.



And less stressed!

Course is three two hour sessions over three days

Tuesday 21st February 2017 9-11am

Tuesday 28th February 2017 9-11am

Tuesday 7th March 2017 9-11am

Call Agnes Water State School on 4902 1320 to book

Limited to ten places.

Morning tea provided

Sessions co-facilitated by Bushkids- Jo Horigan and Impact-Pip Burton
Please call to express interest if you would prefer another time slot at a later stage.



IMPACT
COMMUNITY
SERVICES



Australian Government
Mobile Service Centre



medicare

child support

Serving Regional Australia

Visit the Mobile Service Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

Staff can provide you with information and support. On this trip, the Australian Taxation Office will be available to assist with advice and information about tax and superannuation.

In front of the Community Centre, Springs Road

AGNES WATER

Wednesday, 8 March 2017

9 am to 4 pm

For more information, go to humanservices.gov.au and search for Mobile Service Centre or call 132 316.



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

humanservices.gov.au

2017 school calendar Queensland state schools



DECEMBER 2016	JANUARY 2017	FEBRUARY	MARCH
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education

Schools of
the future



For more information
on coding and robotics, visit
www.advancingeducation.qld.gov.au

- 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



**Queensland
Government**



- Drawing not to scale
- Staff Parking Only 
- Parent Parking - front-in 
- Vehicle Travel 
- Pedestrian Access 
- Temporary Fencing 