



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
Mon 6 Mar	Tie Dye for Tembi Fundraiser
Wed 8 Mar	Rosedale Info Session Year 6 @ AWSS.
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
Tues 21 Mar	Qparents, Qschools, School Star parent info sessions.
Thurs 23 Mar	Last swimming lesson
Fri 24 Mar	Last day for sports Year 4-6
Fri 24 Mar	P&C Disco 5-6:15pm Prep to Year 3 6:15pm - 7:30pm Year 4 - Year 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



School Representation

Congratulations to the many students who recently represented our school at the AFL Gala Day and Chess Tournament in Bundaberg. The conduct and school pride demonstrated by these students was exemplary.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

From Wednesday 1 March to Friday 3 March, I attended the bi-annual Principal Conference on the Gold Coast. This State Wide conference, every two years, is the only time that all Principals come together to ensure a consistency of message across our State. It is also an opportunity to share great and innovative practices, review current research and emerging technology, and collaborate on common challenges in the school environment.

This year's conference emphasised the necessity of teamwork, partnership and knowing our students in progressing student outcomes. Research shows again and again that everything we do in schools enhances student learning, however the most significant impact to student learning is not the curriculum or the educational product we present to children, it is the relationship teachers have with their students.

This does not mean teachers have to be friends with their students, nor does it mean that the programs and curriculum we offer are not important. It does mean however that teachers have to be committed to the success of every student, they show empathy to learners, are aware of what is happening in the lives in their students, are consistent and clear – checking in regularly with their students understanding, develop programs that provide engagement and purpose of learning and finally have high expectations for every student in their class and use data to track, plan and adapt their teaching for individual student success.

As I personally know as a parent, understanding what is happening daily for my own children, responding to this appropriately and giving them individual time is difficult enough. Doing this in a class of 28 students with the expectation of building academic success, with very diverse needs, learning styles and all of the complications that each student brings with them to school makes this an extraordinary challenge for teachers. However, this is a challenge that is worth our time and investment and something our teachers try to ensure they are doing every single day.

Our school is committed to knowing our students, how they are progressing in their education and

responding to the needs of individuals. How this is reflected in our school;

- Regular tracking and conversations around student achievement
- Opportunities for teachers to collaboratively develop classroom programs
- Responsive intervention for both academic and social-emotional needs
- Diverse programs and opportunities that build student engagement
- Building consistency and clarity across the school
- Valuing time for responsive, timely and concise feedback to students
- Connecting with our students

We want the best for your children and know that to do this, we have to keep enhancing these practices. In week 8, all teachers will be taken off class for a day to work with our Head of Curriculum, Master Teacher and myself to further these practices. Our teachers will be involved in a whole of school moderation process on the evening of Tuesday 14 March as a part of our commitment to ongoing professional development. We will also be a trial school in Queensland this year, implementing an internationally renowned program for teachers to individually evaluate and enhance the practices in their classes that most effectively contribute towards student outcomes.

In week 9 of this term, there is an opportunity for our teachers to further their connections and understanding of the students in their care, through our parent-teacher meetings. These meetings are an opportunity for teachers to share with parents their child's progress in the classroom prior to formal reporting, individual student strengths and areas for improvement. It is also an opportunity for parents and teachers to connect so we can work together to enhance the level of success for your children in the classroom. I encourage parents to take the opportunity to connect with teachers during this week.

Later this year we will be reviewing our inclusive practices across the school to evaluate whether we are truly an inclusive school for all students. This will be another opportunity for parents, students and staff to contribute their thoughts and help us

grow our school to provide the best education possible for all students.

Attendance

Every day and being on time counts at school. Each day students participate in new learning experiences. Our start of the day sets up our students for success throughout the day. It is important that students are at school every day and on time by 8:40am. The only time students should be away is when they are ill and in emergent family situations. Reasons for absences such as the surf is up, or it's my birthday are not acceptable reasons for early departure or full day absences.

Our current attendance rate is: 93.1% with 0% unexplained absences. Congratulations everyone this is the highest attendance rate for this school. Our goal is to reach 94% attendance overall for the semester. We can easily achieve this with improved attendance on a Monday and Friday. On these days we are seeing an average of 20 students away across the school with most of these absences being non-illness related.

After a few technical glitches to start the year our text notification system is now operating. The text system will notify parents each morning of an unexplained student absence and can be used for emergency and urgent notifications. All absences for students must be explained on, or prior to the day of absence with a reasonable explanation. Parents have multiple options for notifying the school of absences;

- Send in a note
- Email the school – admin@agnewatess.eq.edu.au
- Notice through QParents
- Sending a message through School Star
- Ringing the office
- Responding to the text messages sent out advising of an absence.

Any planned absences for 10 school days or greater must be pre-approved in writing by the Principal through an exemption to compulsory schooling. Please contact the office well in advance of any absence that requires this exemption.

Behaviour Celebration Day

Our planning for Term 1 Behaviour Celebration Day is well underway with a few suggestions from our student council. The Term 1 Behaviour Celebration event will occur on Friday 31 March (last day of the term). Our behaviour celebration activities are a reward that I offer each term for students who consistently demonstrate the expectations of our school by being respectful, responsible and safe learners. In our school, we understand that childhood is about learning the expectations of society. We all make mistakes and if we learn from these and make the necessary changes, then we can be successful. This principle applies to invitations for behaviour celebration days. If students make a poor choice around their behaviour during the term, we review this prior to invitation and where behaviour has been a one-off and improvements to behaviour have occurred over the term, students will be invited. Where students struggle to meet the expectations, they have the opportunity the following term to demonstrate the expectations and participate. Students not participating in Behaviour Celebration activities are provided a regular classroom program.

Class parties

In 2016, teachers made an agreement that class parties will only occur at the end of each semester as a way to celebrate the end of a reporting period. While classes will often participate in fun activities on the last day of each term, parents will not be asked to contribute to these activities in Term 1 and Term 3.

Easter Bonnet Parade and Transition Day

Our Prep to Year 2 class and Agnes Water Kindy will be participating in an Easter Bonnet Parade on Friday 31 March from 10:30 to 10:50am in our hall. The Easter Bonnet Parade will be the final activity of our first Prep Transition Day for 2017. Children eligible for the commencement of Prep in 2018 are invited to join our school for the morning from 9:00am to 10:50am. Children can attend with the Agnes Water Kindy or with their parents. Children need to bring with them their hat for the morning.

P&C Meeting

The Agnes Water State School P&C Association AGM will be held on Monday 20 March 2017 at 3:00pm in the staffroom. This will be followed by

the March general meeting. Nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are called. General members are also sought.

Disco

The P&C Association will be holding a disco on Friday 24 March in our hall. Our discos run in two sessions. 5:00pm to 6:15pm is our Prep to Year 3 Disco. 6:15pm to 7:30pm is our Year 4 to Year 6 Disco. The theme for this disco is Heroes and Villains. Entry is \$2. Drinks, sausage sizzle and glowsticks are on sale during the night. Parents must sign their children in and out of the event.

School Garage Sale

On Saturday 11 March from 8:00am to 12:00pm our school will be holding a garage sale in our upper undercover area. This will be primarily old furniture in various conditions. Each item is for sale as is, and comes with no warranty or refund. Items must be paid for and collected on the day.

Information Sessions

On Tuesday 21 March the school will be running three repeat information sessions for parents about QParents, QSchools and School Star. These sessions will cover how our school uses these three communication Apps for Apple and Android devices. The sessions will be at 3:00pm-3:30pm, 4:00pm – 4:30pm and 5:00pm-5:30pm. These sessions will be held in our main computer lab (Library block) and does not require pre-registration.

House Shirt Pre-Order

A reminder that the pre-order form for the new house shirts must be returned to the office no later than Friday 10 March 2017. The new house shirt is not a mandatory purchase and existing house shirts are able to be worn until January 2020. The current house shirts will be on sale from Monday 13 March until stocks run out. The code of dress is currently being reviewed with the modification to house shirts being worn on Fridays and sporting carnivals only rather than on the day a student has HPE. This is due to HPE being run over several days each week and the days changing each year. House shirts cannot be worn on excursions.

Head of Curriculum News

How can I help my child?

One of the common questions we receive as educators is how we can help our children at

home. Firstly, we strongly encourage open lines of communication. If your child has found a book or piece of homework tricky – let us know. Write a quick note or make a phone-call – often a chat can solve many small issues before they become too big and worrying. You can always make an appointment with a teacher at a time that suits you both so everyone can be prepared. If something is happening in their world that is concerning them, sometimes touching base with the teacher can help with another piece of the puzzle. We all want the very best for your children and it is through a teacher/parent partnership that this can be achieved. You will have an opportunity in Week 9 to have time with your child's teacher in the Parent Teacher Interviews. Even if you don't have any concerns we still strongly encourage you to utilise this time that the teachers make available so you can strengthen the communication between home and school – your child will reap the rewards. The link for the appointment times and more information about this will be emailed to you next week.

Secondly, try to weave school life into your home life in a way that isn't onerous. We have worked hard to design our homework in the form of a family friendly matrix so that it can be flexible and meets the needs of busy homes. Enjoy reading with them – let them flick through the good old Woman's Weekly Birthday Cake books or their dad's boating magazines. Compare movies (eg Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Fantastic Mr Fox) with books and ask them which is better and why. I have a whole series of Star Wars books that I am happy to share! Use reading as an opportunity for a cuddle, and a chance to provide a space for them to chat about anything that is on their mind. Audio books are a fantastic way for everyone to enjoy stories – many of the Roald Dahl classics that are so appealing to children can be found as an audio book – great way to pass time on car trips!

We know that regular practice of sight words and times tables is the way to cement the basics, but it can be hard to think of engaging ways to do this without it becoming a huge chore for everyone. Writing sight words in imaginative places – sticky notes down the hallway that they have to say every time they walk down there, getting chalk and writing it on the footpath, make a game of hopscotch with the sight words or times table in

each box, draw a target game on the wall that they can throw a ball at and say the word or sum as they hit it. My personal favourite is the white-board marker (sight words and times tables) on the bath tiles – they are doing their homework and getting clean at the same time!

Read through the task sheets that are getting sent home to your at various times over the term with your child. Have discussions about the context of their learning - it is often the conversation, and where this can take us that is the most rewarding and educational part for them.

Chess Success

The 16 members of our school Chess team who travelled excitedly to Avoca State School last week are to be highly commended for their attitudes, efforts and manners. They each played seven games of chess – with all students playing against high school student nearly twice their size in some cases! Win, lose or draw they came back from their chess board keen to try again and often with a new strategy they have learnt. The competition was about more than chess – it gave these students lessons in pushing through nerves, how to lose (and win) with good manners, and the feeling of achievement after hard work. Our students were polite and respectful and it was noted by the organiser of the Chess Club that Agnes Water State School has a team of great kids. A big congratulations to Haiden Campbell (year 4) who achieved first place in our school team and a merit award for winning 4 out of 7 games. We have started practice for the next tournament in term 2 and have created a Chess area in a classroom with more resources and boards set up.

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

At Agnes Water State School we pride ourselves on the wealth of opportunity - both in the classroom and extra-curricular – that we provide your children. This week I would like to celebrate the efforts of Mr Richard Gourlay. He dedicates his time to ensuring that our students are given the experience of AFL – each year he trains our teams and organises the participation in the gala days in Bundaberg. Even students who have never heard of AFL become keen and enthusiastic and end up representing our school. It builds teamwork

amongst the students and fosters school pride. Thanks for your dedication Mr Gourlay – both in and out of the classroom – we appreciate you!

Please share what you see...email me at 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

All Queensland state school staff and students can now download multiple free copies of the latest Microsoft Office to their personal home computers and mobile devices. Students and staff will need to use their school email address to sign in. Students who don't know their school email account and password should contact their class teacher.

Microsoft Office 2016 is available for personal devices only. Your Office subscription lasts for as long as you're a Queensland state school student or school-based staff member.

Please see the relevant (PC or Mac) instruction sheet for your computer attached to this newsletter.

Mrs Nyree Buchanan
Master Teacher

Australian Government
Mobile Service Centre



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.

2017 school calendar Queensland state schools



DECEMBER 2016	JANUARY 2017	FEBRUARY	MARCH
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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