



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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Year 6 Camp



Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
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
Fri 11 Nov	Red Ball Tennis Comp - Gladstone
Fri 11 Nov	Remembrance Day Parade 10:50am
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 – Smart Pants Day – Yr 6
Wed 30 Nov	Secondary School Readiness Day 3 – Year 6
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

On parade this week I spent some time talking about what it means to be a successful learner in our school. For me, being successful isn't always about the highest academics, it's about giving 100% no matter what you are doing. For our students, this means giving everything a Red, Hot Go. Trying everything and constantly looking at how to improve, even when we are doing really well at something, we want to continue aspiring to sustain or enhance what we can do. Being successful is also about our perseverance and resilience. The old saying of if at first you don't succeed, try, try again is so important, but with a little twist of stop before you try again and think is there a better way.

As we go into the last few weeks of the 2016 school year, a lot of our end of year assessment commences and there is a real push to ensure that every last bit of learning can occur. It is at this time of the year, that students really need to show that they are a learner, giving everything a Read, Hot Go and showing their resiliency and commitment to learning.

It is also really important that students are at school each and every day and prepared for learning. This means that they have pens and pencils and bring their hat to school each and every day.

Enrolment Survey

The 2017 enrolment survey has one week left to go. It is very important that we get 100% of the surveys returned either in hard copy or digitally as this is our primary source of information that we base our 2017 enrolments upon. Without accurate information it is very difficult to create class lists and allocate staffing. As advised earlier this year, we have continued to see a decrease in enrolment in the area, as a result we will again see a reduction in teachers at Agnes Water State School in 2017. As our enrolments sit on the borderline of changes in teacher numbers every enrolment counts. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/awss> to complete the survey online.

The 2017 class lists and teacher allocations will be published on the noticeboard outside of Prep on Friday 20 January 2017.

Disabled Car Parking

It is recognised that parking at the front of our school during drop off and pick up is a problem and this is something we are continuing to pressure Gladstone Regional Council about addressing. It is important though that the two disabled parking bays at the front of the school are left vacant for eligible drivers only.

Please consider the needs of families in our school who require these car parks.

Reporting

The Semester Two reports will be sent home with the oldest in the family on Thursday 8 December. Please be aware reports will not be available before this date. If a student is absent for the last two days of term, these reports will be posted home. The Semester Two report only reports on student achievement of skills and content covered this semester. As the context and assessment types differ each semester, it is not uncommon for changes in student results to be reflected on the report card. It is important for parents to not only look at the result, but also the level of effort applied to achieve the result.

Year 6 Readiness for Secondary School Days

On Tuesday the 29 November and Wednesday 30 November our Year 6 students will participate in two days at Rosedale as a part of our Readiness for Secondary School. These two days are focused on Secondary School programs, activities and services generally, not just Rosedale P-12 School. Students are provided tastes of the various subjects that are introduced in Secondary School and explore the differences of school operation in a Secondary Environment. Year five students from the two classes will be combined on these days. Permission forms and additional information will be sent home to parents closer to the days.

Year 6 Dinner

Our Year 6 Dinner will be held on Friday 2 December at The Green Turtle Café. Invitations to each of the families from Year 6 have now been sent home. Please note the RSVP date of Friday 18 November.

Remembrance Day Parade

On Friday 11 November, we will **not** be holding our normal parade in the morning. Instead, we will be having a special parade at 10:50am at the memorial stone at the front of the school. This parade will be a short parade followed by a minute silence for Remembrance Day.

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, 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.

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 Library.

Absence Data

Our daily attendances are on the increase again. Thank you parents for ensuring your children are in attendance every day unless ill. We have sustained over 90% attendance each day for the last fortnight. Which is a further improvement from the previous fortnight. Our target is to push this up to 93%.

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.

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 is 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

Using Questioning to Support Understanding

One of the purposes behind the design of our homework matrix was that the activities included for students to complete each week would also enhance home life. The beauty of this style is that homework can be woven into whatever is happening in your lives. We understand how hectic things can get and so something simple you could try when reading books, having conversations or watching movies is a form of questioning called Thick and Thin questions. Thick questions deal with large concepts or big ideas – “Why is it important to treat your friends well?” and Thin questions are closed and can be obvious. This could be something like “When was this story set?” When we practice both types of questions we teach students to recognise the difference between open and closed questions and encourage them to think more deeply and to ask them to walk in the characters or other people’s shoes. It doesn’t have to be just sitting down and reading, it can be related to other things as well. It all builds understanding and empathy.

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



Teaching our school values of being respectful, safe, responsible and being a learner is a continual and important priority in our school. Being aware of these values and using a common language is a building block for life long skills – and for shaping

behaviour in a positive way. It is essential to know that being a learner isn't just something that happens in the classroom or stops once we finish school. By being active participants in all that life offers and trying something new, students (and adults!) gain fantastic skills, build resilience and increase their capacity to cope because they have overcome the fear that was holding them back. In order to make progress at anything we need to participate. When students are reluctant to have a go it can be because they are scared of failure or ridicule – or looking clumsy or silly. It is really valuable to not only encourage our children to try something new – but praise it when we see it in them and others – and even set the example ourselves. Wilson McCaskill, author of *Children aren't made of China*, states that “Too often, fearing the opinion of others, we fail to try the things that will raise the opinions of ourselves.” As I look back on the year I can see so many opportunities our students have had both in the school and the community – and I have seen firsthand the lessons gained when children have participated in something they thought they couldn't do – the pride from being a part of the spelling competition or the human pyramids in Meraki circus, training for a tennis comp – thanks to everyone who keeps our kids progressing!



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

Recounts of Camp 2016

"Stab the snowman, hang the snowman and stab him in the eye, then hook him to your harness and you're set to go," Leath jokes as she unhooks the safety from my harness. "Straight legs, thumb behind your bum and go whenever you're ready," Leath says.

"I don't think I'll ever be ready, but here goes nothing," I reply as I start to walk backwards and the abseil ropes grow longer. Camp

"Aaaahh!" we screamed as the 3 of us hit the cool surface and plunged downwards into the deep water. I bobbed back up and saw Caryss and Luca's smiling faces next to me, "That was so much fun!" Caryss exclaimed looking at the capsized canoe next to us. "Come on let's go before we start drifting," I said. "Or the lung fish gets us," Luca added laughing and Caryss and I joined in. The paddle back sucked because we were paddling against the wind although just before we pushed off Mrs Hartley and Mrs moody capsized and our whole activity group laughed our heads off.

By Lily Wilkinson I look down and the strips of wood go straight down no curve at all just completely straight. I go into the sitting position and step down a bit, then let go of the rope a bit, then step down a bit until the ladder ends.

"Now you need to jump onto the rocks from the ladder!" Leath yells from the top.

"What? You want me to jump?!" I shout as I start to think of other ways to get down onto the rock.

"It'll be a lot easier than walking off it because the ladder will whack you in the face, so just jump!" Leath convinces me.

I death grip the rope and let go a bit then jump, that wasn't so bad I think to myself. I jump again, "Wham!" I smack into the rock beside me.

"Are you okay Abbie?" Leath yells from all the way up the top.

"Yeah I'm fine!" I yell back, I suddenly realise I've gone down a lot more than I thought I had.

"Smile Abbie!" Mr. Lane yells as he looks over the cliff face with a camera. Before I know it I've already gone down three times.

By Abbie Burton

Camp was amazing. On the low ropes Axl fell on his face twice. When we went to the flying possum we got to hear Mrs Moody swear as she flew through the air. The flying possum was the best. After showers we had free time. For dinner we had roast beef and gravy. The cooks were very nice. After dinner we had night games. We played soccer with a balloon it was fun and we played balloon popping - that was awesome but I got out straight away. After that we played the best game ever Cave Man, Cave Woman.

By Charlie Weir

Sweat drips off my forehead as we climb to the top of the hill. I am about to conquer my fear of heights. As I get my harness on, I start to think about the easiest possible way to get across high ropes. "Ebony you can step up on to the first obstacle," I hear Jodie my Camp Instructor say. I wobble and wobble as I make my way across the first line. Don't look down is what's going through my head. After what feels like hours I reach the flying fox and "whiizzzz," there I go. "Bang" I hit the end, relief floods through my head as my feet hit the ground. "That was the scariest thing I have ever done," I say to Kalana as I unclip myself.

By Ebony Cooper Yr6

I stepped off the ladder and onto the closest branch, Chevy followed me but then refused to go any further, he stepped back onto the ladder, unclipped himself from the rope and climbed down to the ground.

"Good job for trying Chevy," Jetti called from a higher branch. We continued to climb higher and higher, "we're almost at the 1st marker guys, just a little further," she encourages, as she helps Lily get onto the next branch.

My knees were shaking and my heart was pounding inside my chest, sweat dripped off my forehead and down to the ground. I watched it as it fell, then tightened my grip on the tree trunk as I stared downwards. "Guys I don't think I can go any further," I said trying to get to the next branch.

"Come on Liz, we're almost at the top!" Jake replied, giving me a hand.

"Yeah Liz, you can do it!" Demi exclaimed, holding her balance.

"OK," I said, reaching for Jake's hand and stepping onto the same branch.

"Guys we made it to the top!" Jetti yelled at the top of her lungs as she grabbed the 3rd and final marker. We started to make our way down, which surprisingly wasn't as hard as going up, since this time gravity was on our side.

As I reached the ladder a big wave of relief washed over me. Slowly I stepped of the ladder and planted my feet on the ground. It felt good to be back on earth again.

"I think I just conquered my fear of heights," I sighed, taking my water bottle out of my bag.

"Yeah that tree climb was the best event so far," Demi replied, sitting down next to me.

Jake joined us and we all talked about how much fun that was and that if we didn't participate, how much would we would have regretted it.

By Lizzie Lawson

1770 SHUTTLE

Expressions of interest

R.E. Miriam Vale School Bus Run - High School Students.

With the end of the school year is fast approaching and only a few weeks left in the final term of 2016, we would like to inform you that the Miriam Vale School Run from Agnes Water/1770 will be continuing next year.

For those of you thinking about secondary school options available for your year 6 leaver, a change for their older siblings or even someone you know, you may want to consider Miriam Vale State School as an option for years 7 – 10.

Some Great points about Miriam Vale State School:

- Small classes across campus
- Full grade classes (no mixed grades)
- In ground swimming pool – Swimming programs run in term 1 & 4
- Undercover sports court
- Separate play areas
- Music enrichment program
- School Musicals – Biannually
- School & P & C Subsidised Excursions each Semester
- M.A.D Night every year (Music, arts, Drama)
- LOTE Program offered with a Sister School and Pen Pal Program
- Secondary Electives – Including Horticulture, Business and Economics, metal and Wood Technology & The arts
- Year 10 extensive Careers Program including White Cards, RSA, RSG, CQ Uni Programs, Cert 2 in Tourism with CTIA.
- The bus trip is only 35 minutes from Agnes, this will give your child more time before and after school.

Our new bus is modern, air-conditioned, has reclining seats, is spacious, fitted with over shoulder seatbelts and airbags. Is regularly serviced, is 6 monthly government inspected.

Our friendly professionally trained drivers hold all the relative licence requirements and all background and driving history checks. We are Department of Transport accredited

Due to the popularity with more parents considering Miriam Vale as a schooling option we advise early enrolments with the school and to secure your child seat early on the bus next year - first in best dressed!

There are 13 seats available, we need a minimum of 6 students to be viable operate.

Cost - \$90 per week

To secure a bus seat in 2017, please contact Richard or Nicky at **1770 SHUTTLE** on **04 7770 5934** or email us at 1770shuttle@gmail.com

To enroll your child at **Miriam Vale State School 2017**, please contact **Sharlene** on **(07) 49746333** or email at swats48@eq.edu.au



FREE

PARENT WORKSHOP

You're invited to a **FREE**, informative workshop:

TO BE HELD AT: Agnes Water State School, 1 Donohue Drive

ON: Wednesday 9th November

9.00 - 10.00am



Read and Grow promotes the development of early literacy and language skills, working to give children a good start in life.

Parents are encouraged to read aloud and share books with their children from birth.

Presented in association with, and thanks to:



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



read and grow Parent Workshop

A workshop to help Parents and Carers learn strategies to:

-  Develop early literacy skills in small children through shared book reading
-  Practical skills to enhance book reading to your children
-  Story sharing
-  Provide fun activities to develop a love for reading

Read and grow is a parent-child interactive story sharing program that was developed for the Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children, an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

For more information or to register:

Call Jo Horigan,
BUSHkids Early Intervention Facilitator on
0427 848 239

or

Complete the tear-off slip below and give it to your local BUSHkids team member.

*Presenter: Marianne Taylor,
BUSHkids Social Worker Team Leader*



YES, please! I / we will attend the **FREE** BUSHkids workshop:

At (location) _____ On (date) _____

Name _____ Postcode _____

Name _____ Postcode _____

Contact phone number/s _____

Email address _____

A BUSHkids team member will contact you to confirm your registration and answer any questions you may have.

AGW
9 November
2016